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Sept 2019  
to  
Dec. 2019



# Roaring success

Glory for Galway on record-breaking day for camogie

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Picture: INPHO/Tommy Dickson

**Gaillimh abú:**  
The West is awake again after six-year drought

The Galway team poses with the O'Duffy Cup after winning the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final for the first time since 2013 by defeating Kilkenny at Croke Park in Dublin.

PHOTO: RAMSEY CARDY

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# Galway are triumphant but camogie is also a winner



**Malachy Clerkin**  
at Croke Park

Teams' combined total of 3-31 make it the highest scoring final since 1988

Camogie needed this. Not specifically Galway winning their first All-Ireland since 2013, nor Kilkenny's run of lost finals ticking along to three in a row.

Not even the healthy crowd of 24,703, the highest ever for a standalone final (ie, one not paired with an under-21 hurling

final). No, what they needed was the scoreline, 3-14 to 0-17, indicating a different sort of game to the claustrophobic afternoons they've had to serve up as showpieces at the back end of this decade.

Galway came through this as six-point winners after a final that shook and stirred throughout.

The two teams' combined total of 3-31 made it the highest scoring final since 1988. Those 31 white flags raised were the most in any final in camogie history. Kilkenny's losing score of 0-17 would have won all but two of the past 13 finals.

#### Deciders

After a spate of deciders that left people shaking their heads at the struggle of it all, this was a much better look for all concerned.

And for Galway it was a championship that left no room for quarrel. In camogie these days

there are three teams – themselves, Kilkenny and Cork. In a light year you might win an All-Ireland only having to face one of the other two with everything on the line.

#### Underdogs

Galway had to come through against them both this time around, going in as underdogs both days. They more than earned the right to be a little salty about it afterwards.

"We had three goals and we were capable of getting a few more," said corner-forward Ailish O'Reilly, who scored two herself and set up the other for Niamh Hanniffy.

"There was a lot of talk about the Kilkenny forwards but I think every time we ran at them we looked dangerous as well. So look, the pressure was on them. We went out and put everything out there for 60 minutes.

"We beat them in the league final after they came back at us.

They beat us in the first round of the championship. But what was the point of giving anything away then? We were definitely going to have to play them again, and we were definitely going to have to play Cork again.

**“There was a lot of talk about the Kilkenny forwards but I think every time we ran at them, we looked dangerous”**

"I don't think our backs got enough credit all year. Again a lot of talk was about Kilkenny. And that suited us absolutely down to the ground.

"We went out and showed what we were capable of. We beat Cork, we beat Kilkenny, so I think we deserved this one."

On the flipside, a third year in a row sloping out of Croke Park as All-Ireland runners-up will feel like a tonne weight for Kilkenny through the winter.

They were stride for stride with Galway here for long patches but they carried no goal threat and ultimately it cost them.

#### Hungrier

Ann Downey, so often a winner here herself, found it hard to put a finger on why Galway looked the hungrier side.

"Maybe because they haven't been here for so long. Kilkenny have been here for the last few years, and maybe our players were just so afraid of losing and they weren't able to express themselves.

"And, you know, maybe we've lost so many All-Irelands that fear was holding our girls back... You try to address the situation, and you always try to look ahead.

Galway players celebrate at the final whistle after defeating Kilkenny in the All-Ireland senior final at Croke Park yesterday.

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES CROMBIE/INPHO

While we did look at the last two All-Irelands it wasn't our focus point. You can only look back and learn. With new opposition and a new challenge, we were hoping things would go better but they didn't.

"An All-Ireland is a big stage. Some of the young girls played with freedom and maybe some of our older girls know that the end of the line is nearer this year than it was last year.

"Maybe that does hold them back. But I couldn't ask any more of them."

→ **Reports: All-Ireland senior final, intermediate final and premier junior final, page 4**

# Galway for glory in final for the ages



All-Ireland camogie final  
**GALWAY** ..... 3-14  
**KILKENNY** ..... 0-17

**Eoghan Cormican**  
 Croke Park

particularly after the arm-wrestles of 2017 and 2018, both of which were blighted by overly fussy officiating. In that light, referee Ray Kelly is to be commended for not enforcing himself on proceedings here.

Yes, the Galway crowd was none-too-pleased with some of the decisions they didn't get, and yes, there were seven yellow cards doled out, but Kelly was only a bit-part figure in the overall narrative. He didn't at any time seek to cast himself in a leading role.

The contrast between this game and the corresponding fixtures in 2017 and 2018 can be seen in the fact that Galway's half-time total of 3-7 would have been sufficient to win both of those two finals.

It was Galway's first-half performance which laid the foundation for their third O'Duffy Cup triumph, adding to the 1996 and 2013 wins.

As early as the 86th second, Galway had the sliotar in the Kilkenny net. Kilkenny had bagged the opening score, a Michelle Quilty free, but in the ensuing play, Aoife Donoghue and Niamh Kilkenny combined to put through Ailish O'Reilly and, no more than she did in the 2013 decider, the Oranmore/Maree forward



kept her composure to supply the opening goal.

The next six points were evenly split, but Kilkenny asserted themselves thereafter, outscoring their opponents by 0-5 to 0-1 between the 10th and 20th minutes. Quilty was responsible for all but one of these Kilkenny scores, her dead-ball accuracy punishing Galway's indiscipline.

Denise Gaule also wrote her name onto the scoresheet, but she was one of a very small number of players in black and amber making any sort of impression in the opposition half.

Anne Dalton came into this final having hit 6-11 from open play, but was a spectator in that opening half, such was the marshalling job done by forward-turned-defender Caitriona Cormican. There were others who will harbour regrets over their respective performances. That Kilkenny didn't create a single gilt-edged goal chance highlights the extent to which their attack misfired, even if they did post 0-17.

The league champions made the crucial burst on the run-up to half time, hitting 2-3 to Kilkenny's solitary white

flag. Sarah Healy's puck-out strategy of landing possession in the middle of Kilkenny's half-back line, with Galway swarming in numbers under the breaking ball, reaped significant rewards. It was from one such restart that Galway struck for goal number two, Niamh Hanniffy scrambling the sliotar home after Ailish O'Reilly and Sarah Spellman had been thwarted.

That score put Galway into a 2-6 to 0-10 lead and there was five between them little over a minute and a half later as O'Reilly drilled home her second, taking advantage of a

mistake by a Kilkenny defender who failed to hold on to possession when attempting to intercept a Niamh Kilkenny pass.

The winners led 3-7 to 0-10 at the break, but could have had two more green flags as Emma Kavanagh and Kellyann Doyle both produced goal-line heroics in quick succession, while Catherine Foley's last-ditch hook denied Catherine Finnerty.

Galway's intermediate counterparts had held a similar advantage at the interval before losing their way against Westmeath, and this



## 'All the talk about Kilkenny

**Eoghan Cormican**

Ailish O'Reilly was as forceful in her words as she had been in her actions on the field.

The 25-year-old Galway forward tormented Collette Dormer, Kellyann Doyle and, indeed, the entire Kilkenny defence during a first half where she twice found the net and was desperately unlucky not to grab a hat-trick as her groundstroke in injury-time was well kept out by 'keeper Emma Kavanagh.

The pre-match conversation had centred on the potency of the Kilkenny attack — they hit 16 goals in their five games en route to the final —

and how they might rip apart Galway's rearguard.

O'Reilly had heard such chatter and to say she was irked by it would be something of an understatement.

"There was a lot of talk about the Kilkenny forwards [beforehand], but every time we ran at them, we looked dangerous," she said.

"We beat them in the league final and yet all the talk was they beat us in the first round of the championship. What was the point of giving anything away then? We were definitely going to have to play them again.

"We beat Cork by a point [in the All-Ireland semi-final]

but, again, all the talk was about Kilkenny. That suited us down to the ground. I think we've proved a lot of people wrong today. The strategy today was to play it down the middle. Thankfully, we got on the breaking ball and it paid off."

Yesterday was the first championship game this year where Kilkenny failed to mine a green flag. They were held by a Galway defence, claimed O'Reilly, who rarely get the dues they deserve.

"Caitriona [Cormican] went back and you would barely even know that Anne Dalton was in the game.

"I don't think our backs

Galway's Ailish O'Reilly fires home one of her two goals in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie final at Croke Park yesterday; inset Ailish with her grandmother Mary after the win.

Pictures: Inpho

Kilkenny's Katie Power tries to keep possession under pressure from Galway's Heather Cooney and Aoife Donohue during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach

as the finishing line came into view.

They did anything but. Murray's side clipped the last four points of this contest, one of which was a difficult free converted by Dolan, while the inspirational Niamh Kilkenny sent over a brace.

"This is my sixth All-Ireland final and we lost four in 2008, '10, '11 and '15, so I could write a book on losing All-Ireland finals," 30-year old Kilkenny said afterwards.

That may be so, but it was her, more than anyone else, who dictated the narrative of this 2019 All-Ireland final. Just reward for well over a decade of service given.

For Kilkenny, a third straight final defeat, and fifth this decade. They too could write a book on final heart-break.

**Scorers for Galway:** C Dolan (0-6, 0-4 frees, 0-2 45s); A O'Reilly (2-0); N Kilkenny (0-4); N Hanniffy (1-0); S Spellman, N Coen, Sarah Healy (0-1 free), C Finnerty (0-1 each).

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** M Quilty (0-8, 0-7 frees); D Gaule (0-3, 0-1 free); A Dalton (0-2, 0-1 free); D Tobin, M Walsh, A Farrell, A Doyle (0-1 each).

**GALWAY:** Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, S Dervan, H Cooney; E Helebert, C Cormican, L Ryan; A Donoghue, N Kilkenny; C Dolan, S Spellman, N Coen; C Finnerty, N Hanniffy, A O'Reilly.

**Subs:** AM Starr for Coen (43 mins); R Hennelly for Spellman (50).

**KILKENNY:** E Kavanagh; C Dormer, C Foley, G Walsh; K Doyle, C Phelan, E Keane; M Farrell, D Tobin; D Gaule, A Dalton, A Farrell; M Quilty, M Walsh K Power.

**Subs:** A Doyle for Keane (27 mins); D Morrissey for Doyle (56).

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

## How they lined out



### 1. Sarah Healy

3. S Dervan 4. H Cooney  
14. M Walsh 13. M Quilty

6. E Helebert 11. C Cormican 2. Shauna Healy 7. L Ryan  
10. A Farrell 12. A Dalton 11. K Power 15. D Gaule

8. A Donoghue 9. N Kilkenny  
9. D Tobin 8. M Farrell

10. C Dolan 12. S Spellman 13. N Coen  
4. E Keane 6. C Phelan 5. K Doyle

18. C Finnerty  
7. G Walsh

14. N Hanniffy 15. A O'Reilly  
3. C Foley 2. C Dormer

1. E Kavanagh



### IT MATTERED

Galway's 2-2 without reply in the six minutes before half-time. Took the westerners from two down to six clear at the break. It was to prove too substantial a gap for Kilkenny.

### CAN'T IGNORE

The crowd of 24,730, the largest ever attendance at a standalone All-Ireland camogie final. The crowds at the 2007 and 2009 deciders were bigger, but both of those games doubled up with the All-Ireland U21 hurling finals.

### GOOD DAY

Back in 2005, a 17-year old Caitriona Cormican was a sub on the Galway ladies football side which lost the All-Ireland final to Cork. Fifteen years and several attempts later, the 31-year old finally got her hands on an All-Ireland senior medal.

### BAD DAY

For Kilkenny's Collette Dormer, Ann Dalton, Katie Power, Michelle Quilty, and Denise Gaule, this was their sixth All-Ireland final defeat. For Emma Kavanagh and Edwina Keane, it was a fifth final reverse.

### PHYSIO ROOM

Shane Morgan started for Galway after receiving a heavy hit late in the semi-final win over Wexford. He played his part before being hauled off late on.

### SIDELINE SMARTS

The cruciate injury to Galway defender Tara Kenny nine days before the final saw Caitriona Cormican switch from half-back to

centre-back and what a shadow job she performed on Kilkenny's Anne Dalton. Kilkenny's leading score from play coming into the final hardly touched the ball in the opening half an hour.

### BEST ON SHOW

Ailish O'Reilly was the standout player in the first-half, hitting two goals, almost nabbing a third, and having a hand in the creation of Galway's second goal. For consistency over the hour, however, the nod goes to Niamh Kilkenny. She was the perfect link player between defence and attack, as well as contributing three important second-half points.

### MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Ray Kelly showed five yellow cards to Galway (Sarah Dervan, Heather Cooney, Aoife Donoghue, Niamh Kilkenny, and Sarah Spellman), and two to Kilkenny (Catherine Foley and Claire Phelan). Was very infrequent in his use of the whistle early on, which contributed to a cracking first half an hour of camogie.

### NEXT UP?

Ann Downey and the elder members of her panel have hard calls to make as to whether they come back for 2020. They've been here so many times and come back and come back but it'll be a long winter and we'll reassess after it, sit down and see what everyone wants to do.

Words: Eoghan Cormican

# Camogie, as well as Galway, the big winner

Therese O'Callaghan

Croke Park



Out of all of Galway's three All-Ireland senior successes, I imagine this one will tick all the boxes. Not alone because they have beaten two of the best teams in the country — Cork and Kilkenny — but when the Cats brought it down to a dogfight in the second half, their determination and resolve could not be questioned.

They, along with Kilkenny, contributed to the kind of All-Ireland final that camogie supporters had craved. In contrast to the two previous low-scoring finals, there was widespread praise among the 24,730-strong crowd after this edge-of-the-seat encounter. The game of camogie was the big winner, showcased all through as the spectacle it is.

In the end, it was the commitment and sheer brilliance of each and every one of the Galway women that saw Sarah Dervan mount the steps of the Hogan Stand to collect the O'Duffy Cup. For me, the work-rate of Niamh Kilkenny was Galway's inspiration. The midfielder weighed in with four unbelievable points from play. Kilkenny, from the Pearses club, is one of Galway's more seasoned contributors, and her vital presence was felt all through.

Galway didn't have the best start to the day either, which makes this triumph all the more memorable. When news broke yesterday morning in Croke Park that regular wing-back Tara Kenny was out, having suffered a cruciate ligament injury in recent days, the immediate feeling was one of heartbreak for the Sarsfields players, but also concern that there would have to be a significant reshuffle to the Galway back six. Such an alteration would surely have serious consequences, especially against Kilkenny's potent attack.

After all, this was a maroon-and-white defensive unit that had excelled all season. And secured a National League title, which kickstarted this momentous journey.

Incredibly, the Galway management still got all the necessary duels spot on.

Mountebellow/Moylough's Catherine Finnerty was the replacement off the bench. And while it meant that Cathal Murray had to switch some of his key players to facilitate the alteration — Caitriona Cormican moving to half-back to mark Kilkenny dangerwoman Anne Dalton and Finnerty coming into attack — they remained resolute in defence while still

managing to fly out of the traps.

They fired three goals and 14 points in one of their best performances all year. Ailish O'Reilly's goals — one at the start and one at the end of the first half — were sheer quality. She played a part in Niamh Hanniffy's goal too. It was evident O'Reilly was their go-to forward. Her first goal set the tone, rocking Kilkenny to the core. It gave Galway the dream start against a Cats outfit that now has suffered a third straight loss on All-Ireland final day — their fifth in six years.

O'Reilly's second goal — Galway's third — was the killer blow on the brink of half time after a ferocious opening 30 minutes which saw so many players put their bodies on the line. Galway were six points up at the break — the same margin they emerged victorious by. Kilkenny, meanwhile, had relied heavily on the free-taking accuracy of Michelle Quilty and went to the dressing room rattled by what Galway had brought to the table — pure aggression, physicality, and unbelievable will-to-win.

Kilkenny boss Ann Downey needed to get her charges, who were fortunate not to have conceded another couple of goals, into the dressing room — and fast. Kilkenny steadied the ship in the second half, but were always chasing this game. To their credit, they cut the margin to two points and it looked like the comeback was on. But cool heads, and a couple of late Galway scores, saw them through.

All of this after Galway — under the same management — had lost out to Westmeath in the intermediate final an hour earlier. What a turnaround from the Leinster team, who were seven points behind at half time, to win by two. They played in the Premier Junior grade just two years ago, and nobody more than long-serving Pamela Greville (who scored 0-9) deserves to play top-flight camogie.

To conclude, we should also applaud superb Kerry. Led by the excellent Patrice Diggin and having lost 12 months ago to Dublin, they deserved every bit of their victory in the Premier Junior final. Their massive support was evident around the arena, with lots of green and gold flying from early morning.

It was hard luck on Limerick, but they found Kerry that little bit too strong. They say you learn more in defeat, and it was no surprise to see the Ian Brick managed the team back again. It was an extraordinary achievement considering 14 of the starting 15 are from the Clanmaurice club, with Brid Horan from Cillard the only exception.

It's safe to assume the Kathleen Mills Cup got some reception in Causeway last night.

was referenced at half time.

"I didn't mention it, the girls did, though," said Galway manager Cathal Murray. "It was said that we couldn't let the same thing happen and we had to start the second half well. And we did."

Still, four in a row from Ann Downey's charges reduced the gap to three.

Galway reasserted to lead by five again. Another burst of three unanswered Cats points left just two between them on 50 minutes. And when Carrie Dolan sent wide a routine free thereafter, you wondered if Galway were about to stiffen

## suited us down to the ground'

have gotten enough credit all year. We showed what we're capable of. We beat Cork and we beat Kilkenny so I think we deserve this one."

O'Reilly, who was picking up her second All-Ireland medal, one which her 87-year-old grandmother was present for, also paid tribute to the management for the belief they have instilled in this group.

"Whatever Cathal [Murray] has done this year with our team; whatever is thrown at us, we were going to come back fighting even two times harder.

"We were losing to Cork and Kilkenny at the semi-final

stage in recent years, but this year that wasn't going happening.

"The 2013 final win feels like a lifetime ago. I was vomiting all that morning and I flew off on Erasmus a few days later so I didn't appreciate it enough. By God am I going to enjoy this one."

Kilkenny manager Ann Downey, meanwhile, reckoned the fear of losing another final constrained her players. Given Kilkenny had lost four of the last six finals coming into yesterday, she was somewhat at odds to explain their failure to match Galway's hunger.

"We got within two points of

them but never closer. They were never going to leave us in for a goal, it was impossible. They swarmed us and they were hungrier than us," began the Kilkenny boss.

"I've no idea why [they were hungrier than us]. Maybe, it was that they haven't been here for so long. We were here the last few years and, maybe, our players were so afraid of losing that they weren't able to express themselves. Maybe that fear just held our girls back. I know they'll be disappointed with their performances.

"Maybe the end of the line is nearer for some of our older players from last year and

that holds you back [too], but I couldn't ask any more of any of them. They're trained so hard and given such commitment."

For Downey, who sighed "déjà vu" when entering the media room, it was easy to pinpoint where this All-Ireland was won and lost.

"The three goals killed us. They all came from their puckouts that were landing on our centre-back and then they were winning the breaking ball. And from that their centre-field was doing the overlap. We just didn't contain it.

"In fairness, Galway hunted in packs today and we didn't."



# Cats have no answer for Galway's Kilkenny

Midfielder is the standout performer as Kilkenny lose third decider in a row

**Galway** 3-14  
**Kilkenny** 0-17



**Malachy Clerkin**  
at Croke Park

The game ended the only way it was right for it to end. With Galway's helter-skelter midfielder Niamh Kilkenny wiping all mystery from the afternoon by sticking two of the closing three points.

They were her third and fourth of the afternoon, on top of the killer run-through and pass for two of Galway's goals. Player of the match will have been a short conversation.

After a couple of years of stuffy mushroom-factory finals, this felt like someone opened a window and let a bit of air in.

Neither side played a sweeper and, just as significantly, referee Ray Kelly generally kept

his whistle to himself. The free-count was down, a more pleasing level of physicality was licenced and nobody came out of Croke Park grousing at the quality of fare.

All as it should be. Not that any of it will be a comfort to Kilkenny. For the third year in a row, they departed headquarters as beaten All-Ireland finalists. You have to go back 30 years to the Cork team of the late 1980s for the last time that happened to any county. Getting off the canvas can't get any easier.

For long stretches here, they were at least Galway's equal and frequently their better. Problem was, they never came close to scoring a goal.

Up against Galway's first-half trifecta, that was never going to get it done. Ailish O'Reilly bookended the opening period with a goal after two minutes and another two minutes short of the break. Throw in another from Niamh Hanniffy and the weight of it all was always going to be tough to balance out.

"The three goals really killed us," said Ann Downey afterwards. "They came from puck-outs landing down on our centre-back and their centre-fielders came onto breaking

ball from that on the overlap. We just didn't contain it to be quite honest. Galway, in fairness to them, they really hunted in packs today and we didn't."

O'Reilly's first goal came inside the opening 90 seconds and it set the template for a lot of what happened for the rest of the first half. It was Niamh Kilkenny's first entry into the game and it was definitive.

**Scraps**  
The Galway midfielder zipped onto scraps around a puck-out and drew the cover to put O'Reilly away. Not for the last time, the Kilkenny defence was pulled ragged and the Galway corner-forward punished them.

Setback though it was, Kilkenny made light of it for most of the next half-hour.

Michelle Quilty was dead-eyed from frees and was ably-assisted by scores from

**Galway, in fairness to them, they really hunted in packs today and we didn't**

play by Denise Gaule and Davina Tobin.

Quilty took a lovely score from play herself after a clever low ball in from Anna Farrell. By the 20th minute, Kilkenny were 0-9 to 1-4 ahead and worth every bit of it.

But then the floor collapsed on them. Over the closing eight minutes of the first half, they conceded a rat-a-tat 2-2 and needed Kellyann Doyle to clear another certain goal off the line.

Galway's lines of running had the Kilkenny full-back line constantly in retreat, looking like they were trying to tame tornadoes while back-peddalling for their lives.

There was a predictably limited future in that.

O'Reilly thundered down the heart of Galway defence on 28 minutes and though she got bottled up, Hanniffy was able to dispatch the messy ball. It put Galway 2-6 to 0-10 in front and from there to the full-time whistle, they were never caught.

With the next breath, O'Reilly nailed her second of the day, a virtual carbon copy of the first after another incision by Niamh Kilkenny and soon Galway had clear water behind them.

Galway led 3-7 to 0-10 at the break after the sort of half that would leave you dancing. That 3-7 would have won the past two All-Ireland finals and drawn the two before. And still you felt that it wasn't beyond Kilkenny.

For a while, it looked as though they might find a way back. Though Carrie Dolan pointed a free for the first Galway score of the second half soon after the restart, Kilkenny knuckled down and rattled off seven of the next nine points.

**Galway's Sarah Spellman battles with Meighan Farrell of Kilkenny during yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park.**

PHOTOGRAPH: LASZLO GECZO/INPHO

Ann Dalton blazed into the game, Gaule landed a bomb, Miriam Walsh flicked one of her own. With six minutes left on the clock, the gap was down to two points and Galway were wobbling.

At which point, Niamh Kilkenny took over. This was her fifth All-Ireland final - she'd lost three of the four that had gone before and wasn't about to let it happen again.

After Dolan settled things with gutsy free, the Galway midfielder whipped two more of her own, bringing her tally for the day to four.

Galway had Niamh Kilkenny. Kilkenny had no answer.

**GALWAY:** Sarah Healy (0-1, free); Shauna Healy, Sarah Dervan, Heather Cooney, Emma Helebert, Cathiona Cormican, Lorraine Ryan, Aoife Donoghue; **Niamh Kilkenny** (0-4); Carrie Dolan (0-8, 0-4 frees, 0-2-45); Catherine Finnerty (0-1), Sarah Spellman (0-1), Noreen Coen (0-1), Niamh Hanniffy (1-0), Ailish O'Reilly (2-0). **Subs:** Anne Marie Starr for Coen (42 mins), Rebecca Hennessy for Spellman (50 mins).

**KILKENNY:** Emma Kavanagh, Collette Dorrner, Catherine Foley, Edwina Keane, Kellyann Doyle, Claire Pheasant, Grace Walsh, Meighan Farrell, Davina Tobin (0-1); Anna Farrell (0-1), Katie Power, Anne Dalton (0-2, 0-1 free); Michelle Quilty (0-8, 0-7 frees), Miriam Walsh (0-1), Denise Gaule (0-3, 0-1 free). **Subs:** Aoife Doyle (0-1) for Keane (28 mins), Danielle Morrissey for A Doyle (58 mins). **Referee:** Ray Kelly (Kildare).



# GALWAY INTERMEDIATE TEAM

Gaillimh - Bán & Marín



# WESTMEATH INTERMEDIATE TEAM

Iarmhí - Dúghorm



### IONADAÍ

- 16. Fiona Ryan (T. Ní Ráin, Ballynolleen)
- 17. Niamh Murphy (N. Ní Mhuirneartaigh, Clonkiff)
- 18. Rachel Harriffy (R. Ní Aibhinn, Crannagh)
- 19. Niamh Horan (N. Ní Óráin, Killmor)
- 20. Caliona Lee (C. Ní Laoi, Carrigrohane)
- 21. Chloe Broderick (C. Ní Bhrada, Carrigrohane)
- 22. Becky Clivehouse (B. Ní Giolla Chríost, Cappataggle)
- 23. Niamh Black (N. Ní Dhuibh, Drinmore)
- 24. Ciara Helebert (C. Helebert, St. Colmans)
- 25. Deambhla Walsh (D. Bhrainín, Ardahan)
- 26. Leanne Helebert (L. Helebert, Ballydemeran)
- 27. Leah Burke (L. de Bóirca, Kilmordaly)
- 28. Eimear Porter (E. Póirtéir, Killmor)
- 29. Leora Rabbitt (L. Ní Chóirín, Abbeyknockmoy)
- 30. Grace Finerty (G. Ní Fhloinnachta, Mullagh)

### TEAM OFFICIALS

- Manager: Cathal Murray
- Selector: Conor Dolan
- Selector: John Manton
- Selector: Orla Kilkenny
- Physio: Aoife McEligott
- Physio: Ciódhna Costello
- Strength & Conditioning: Robbie Lane
- Kitchen: Micky Grealish
- Kitchen: Frank Duane

### IONADAÍ

- 16. Anna Weir (A. Ní an Mhaol, Rahanny)
- 17. Aisling Egan (A. Ní Egan, Clonkiff)
- 18. Aoife Doherty (A. Ní Dhubhartaigh, Rahanny)
- 19. Aoife Higgins (A. Ní Uiginn, Lough Lene Gaels)
- 20. Ava Balle (A. Balle, St. Brigit)
- 21. Emma Broughan (E. Ní Bhrainín, Cullin)
- 22. Emma Flynn (E. Ní Fhloinn, Castletown Geoghegan)
- 23. Joanne McCormack (S. Ní Cormaic, Castletown Geoghegan)
- 24. Shauna McGrath (S. Ní Craith, St. Munnas)
- 25. Sarah King (S. Ní Chionga, Delvin)
- 26. Sinéad McKenna (S. Ní Chionnadhá, Crosserlough)
- 27. Róisín Scally (R. Ní Scailáil, Crookedwood)
- 28. Jane Nangle (S. de Náigla, Lough Lene Gaels)
- 29. Caoimhe Gaffney (C. Ní Chumha, Delvin)
- 30. Olivia Glynn (O. Ní Fhloinn, St. Munnas)

### TEAM OFFICIALS

- Manager: Johnny Greville
- Selector: Darren McCormack
- Selector: Frank Mullen
- Selector: Jimmy Greville
- Physio: Gerry O'Malley
- Physio: Gavin Murphy

## All-Ireland camogie Intermediate final

# Westmeath stun Galway with second-half rally

Westmeath 1-11  
Galway 1-9

Pamela Greville shot nine points, three of them from play, while Laura Doherty and Amy Scally led an astounding second-half defensive effort that kept Galway to one injury-time point, as Westmeath overturned a seven-point interval deficit.

Westmeath secured senior status for the first time in their history just two years after winning the Premier Junior decider and it was 36-year-old Greville who was at the core of their outstanding achievement. She was well supported in attack by Megan Dowdall and captain Mairéad McCormack, whose 41st minute goal swung the tie in her side's direction.

The game got off to a dramatic start as referee Andrew Larkin awarded a penalty to Galway, after Mairéad Dillon was fouled, but Rachel Monaghan's shot was at a nice height for Meadhb Scally, who made the save. Niamh Horan and the sublime Greville pointed at the other end, the latter's score illustrating the advantage of Hawk-Eye, after Galway goalkeeper Laura Glynn had batted the

shot away but the sliotar had cleared the crossbar.

Westmeath were punished for their wastefulness as Galway hit a goal and six points without reply to put themselves in a very strong position. Monaghan (free) and Karen Kennedy slotted points before Ava Lynskey sent a bullet to the Westmeath net in the 20th minute. Mairéad Dillon capitalised

on a slip by Scally to gather possession and she fed Lynskey, who gave Fiona Keating no chance with a rasper to the far corner. Monaghan added two fine points from play and the margin was seven points.

Two points each left it 1-8 to 0-4 at half-time and it was hard to see anything other than a Galway success. That was to reckon without the fighting spirit of the Westmeath troops and the leadership qualities of Greville in particular, and the remarkable workrate of the entire team.

The key score was the 41st minute goal by McCormack, the Castletown Geoghegan attacker rising high to fetch a delivery to the edge of the small parallel-gram and after being hooked brilliantly by Louise Brennan, sliding a ground shot from the angle to the net.

Galway were reeling and Greville was unstoppable, hitting three of the next four points, though Dowdall and Sheila McGrath played a major role in this period. Galway finally got off the mark for the second half with a point from a free in the fourth minute of injury time by substitute Niamh Horan, who sent her shot whistling over but it was too little too late.

WESTMEATH: F. Keating, A. O'Malley, M. Scally, L. Doherty, A. Cully, F. Leavy, S. McGrath (0-1), M. Scally, N. Horan (0-1), M. McCormack (1-0), S. McGrath, M. Dowdall, M. Murtagh, P. Greville (0-9, five frees, one 45), C. McCrossan. Subs: A. Doherty for Horan (37).

### Ground shot

Greville had a ground shot saved by Glynn straight after the resumption but drove over the 45 and followed up with two frees.

The key score was the 41st minute goal by McCormack, the Castletown Geoghegan attacker rising high to fetch a delivery to the edge of the small parallel-gram and after being hooked brilliantly by Louise Brennan, sliding a ground shot from the angle to the net.

Galway were reeling and Greville was unstoppable, hitting three of the next four points, though Dowdall and Sheila McGrath played a major role in this period. Galway finally got off the mark for the second half with a point from a free in the fourth minute of injury time by substitute Niamh Horan, who sent her shot whistling over but it was too little too late.



Mairéad McCormack's 41st minute goal swung the tie Westmeath's way

## All-Ireland camogie Premier junior final

# Kerry defence stands tall to seal historic title

Kerry 0-11  
Limerick 0-8

Birthday girl Patrice Diggin scored five points and won player of the match honours, while Sara Murphy backed up a powerful defensive effort with a massive score as Kerry secured a historic premier junior title.

Kerry racked up a slew of wides in the closing 10 minutes and finished with 14.

Limerick exerted early dominance in the middle and created chances but were denied by some tremendous defensive work, as Elaine Ryall blocked Michelle Curtin's hand-pass intended for Ella Whelan in the second minute to prevent a goal, and less than 60 seconds later, Murphy hooked Whelan as she shot for a point.

In contrast, Kerry found the target from their first attack courtesy of teenager Brid Horan in the fifth minute. Rebecca Noonan levelled from a difficult free while Diggin and Noelle Curtin exchanged scores. Kerry hit the next four points

via Julianne O'Keeffe, Diggin from play and a free and Jackie Horgan. Limerick showed a lot of grit to ensure they were just a point down at the break, 0-6 to 0-5.

### Cultured strike

Kerry subs introduced at the interval. Ann Marie Leen and Clodagh Walsh, combined for the latter to score within 31 seconds. A cultured strike by Rachel McCarthy followed and though Noonan maintained her 100 per cent record from placed balls to this juncture, an inspirational score from 60 metres by Murphy, followed by another converted Diggin free, put four between the sides once more at the three-quarter mark.

The neighbours wouldn't be shaken off, and sub Shauna D'Arcy followed another Noonan free to halve the deficit but though Kerry generally, and Diggin in particular, were more wasteful than they would like to have been, the midfield general did find the target, and the backs never looked like conceding a goal.

KERRY: A. Fitzgerald, E. Ryall, L. Houlahan, A. O'Connor, N. Leen, S. Murphy (0-1), M. Costello, P. Diggin (0-5, four frees), L. Collins, J. Fitzgibbon, J. Horgan (0-1), R. McCarthy (0-1), B. Horan (0-1), J. O'Keeffe (0-1), O. Dineen. Subs: A. Leen for D'Arcy, C. Walsh (0-1) for Horan (both 11. A. Noonan for O'Keeffe (48)).  
LIMERICK: L. O'Carroll, K. Herbert, Y. Lee, E. Butler, S. Shanahan, A. O'Connell, S. McEligott, O. Kelleher, A. Kennedy, R. Noonan (0-5, frees), G. M. Kelly, N. Curtin (0-1), M. Curtin, B. Lee, E. Whelan (0-1). Subs: L. Browne for Kelleher (35), S. D'Arcy (0-1) for O'Carroll (44), C. Brennan for Lee (45), K. Carroll for N. Curtin (59).  
Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin)

# Westmeath, Intermediate



CLUAIN EOIS



Back Row Left to Right:  
 Fiona Leavy, Emma Broughan, Aileen Dermody, Shauna McGrath, Aoife Higgins, Niamh Horan, Sarah King, Emma Flynn, Pamela Greville, Fiona Keating, Meadhb Scally,  
 Aisling Egerton, Laura Doherty, Amy Cully, Muireann Scally, Michelle Murtagh  
 Front Row Left to Right:  
 Caoimhe McCrossan, Megan Dowdall, Mairéad McCormack (Captain), Sheila McGrath, Sandra McGrath, Joanne McCormack, Olivia Glynn, Caoimhe Gaffney, Anna Weir,  
 Aoife Doherty, Ava Balfé, Sínead McKenna, Aoife O'Malley, Jane Nangle

## Player Profiles - Westmeath



**Fiona Keating**  
 Goalkeeper  
 Cullion  
 Primary School Teacher



**Muireann Scally**  
 Midfield  
 Crookedwood  
 Post-Primary Teacher



**Aoife O'Malley**  
 Defender  
 Raharney  
 Student



**Niamh Horan**  
 Midfield  
 Delvin  
 Pharmacist



**Meadhb Scally**  
 Defender  
 Clonkill  
 Student



**Mairéad McCormack**  
 Forward  
 Castletown Geoghegan  
 Administrator



**Laura Doherty**  
 Defender  
 Raharney  
 Student



**Sheila McGrath**  
 Forward  
 St. Munnas  
 Student



**Amy Cully**  
 Defender  
 St. Brigids  
 Nurse



**Megan Dowdall**  
 Forward  
 Clonkill  
 Student



**Fiona Leavy**  
 Defender  
 Raharney  
 Post-Primary Teacher



**Michelle Murtagh**  
 Forward  
 Lough Lene Gaels  
 Staff Nurse



**Sandra McGrath**  
 Defender  
 St. Munnas  
 Special Education Teacher



**Pamela Greville**  
 Forward  
 Raharney  
 Office Manager



**Caoimhe McCrossan**  
 Forward  
 Lough Lene Gaels  
 Student



**Joanne McCormack**  
 Midfield  
 Castletown Geoghegan  
 Speech and Language Therapist



**Anna Weir**  
 Goalkeeper  
 Raharney  
 Student



**Róisín Scally**  
 Defender  
 Crookedwood  
 Lifeguard



**Aisling Egerton**  
 Defender  
 Clonkill  
 Primary School Teacher



**Sarah King**  
 Defender  
 Delvin  
 Primary School Teacher



**Aoife Doherty**  
 Midfield  
 Raharney  
 Student



**Shauna McGrath**  
 Defender  
 St. Munnas  
 Optical Assistant



**Aoife Higgins**  
 Defender  
 Lough Lene Gaels  
 Pharmacist



**Sínead McKenna**  
 Forward  
 Crosserlough  
 Nurse



**Ava Balfé**  
 Forward  
 St. Brigids  
 Student



**Jane Nangle**  
 Forward  
 Lough Lene Gaels  
 Student



**Emma Broughan**  
 Forward  
 Cullion  
 Primary School Teacher



**Caoimhe Gaffney**  
 Defender  
 Delvin  
 Student



**Emma Flynn**  
 Forward  
 Castletown Geoghegan  
 Animator and Illustrator



**Olivia Glynn**  
 Forward  
 St. Munnas  
 Student



## Galway, Intermediate



Back Row Left to Right:

Grace Finnerty, Catriona Lee, Leah Burke, Niamh Horan, Rachel Monaghan, Elisha Broderick, Kate Screene, Karen Kennedy, Dervla Higgins, Mairéad Dillon, Laura Glynn, Ciara Helebert, Chloe Broderick, Dearbháile Walshe, Fiona Ryan, Niamh Murphy

Front Row Left to Right:

Niamh Black, Leanne Helebert, Ciara Donohue, Ava Lynskey, Louise Brennan, Lisa Casserly, Laura Ward (Captain), Molly Mannion, Lorraine Coen, Tara Rutledge, Eimear Porter, Becky Gilchreest, Leona Rabbittie, Rachael Hanniffy

## Player Profiles - Galway

Intermediate



**Niamh Black**  
Defender  
Oranmore/Maree  
Student Nurse



**Mairéad Dillon**  
Forward  
Kilconerion  
Student



**Louise Brennan**  
Defender  
Turroughmore  
Student



**Ciara Donohue**  
Defender  
Mullagh  
Behavioural Therapist



**Chloe Broderick**  
Forward  
Castlegar  
Student



**Grace Finnerty**  
Midfield  
Mullagh  
Student



**Elisha Broderick**  
Forward  
Castlegar  
Student



**Becky Gilchreest**  
Forward  
Cappataggle  
Student



**Leah Burke**  
Defender  
Kiltullagh/Killimordaly  
Student



**Laura Glynn**  
Goalkeeper  
Sarsfields  
Personal Trainer & Athletic  
Therapist



**Lisa Casserly**  
Midfield  
Ballinaderreen  
Recruitment Consultant



**Rachael Hanniffy**  
Forward  
Oranmore/Maree  
Student



**Lorraine Coen**  
Defender  
St. Thomas  
Quality Assurance Auditor



**Ciara Helebert**  
Forward  
St. Colmans  
Student



**Leanne Helebert**  
Defender  
Ballinaderreen  
Student



**Niamh Murphy**  
Defender  
Clarinbridge  
Secondary School Teacher



**Dervla Higgins**  
Defender  
Athenry  
Athletic Therapist



**Eimear Porter**  
Defender  
Killimor  
Student



**Niamh Horan**  
Forward  
Killimor  
Student Nurse



**Leona Rabbittie**  
Defender  
Abbeynockmoy  
Student



**Karen Kennedy**  
Forward  
Mullagh  
Biomedical Device Engineer



**Tara Rutledge**  
Forward  
Portumna  
Primary School Teacher



**Catriona Lee**  
Defender  
Castlegar  
Doctor



**Fiona Ryan**  
Goalkeeper  
Ballinaderreen  
Student



**Ava Lynskey**  
Forward  
Ardrahan  
Student



**Kate Screene**  
Defender  
Skehana/Menlough  
Student



**Molly Mannion**  
Midfield  
Mountbellew/Moylough  
Student



**Dearbháile Walshe**  
Forward  
Ardrahan  
Student



**Rachel Monaghan**  
Forward  
Mullagh  
Social Care Worker



**Laura Ward**  
Defender  
Sarsfields  
Student

# Just when you think you've it figured, Kerry and Westmeath go and win camogie titles



**Mary Hannigan**  
TV View

## Weather warning fails to dampen women's All-Ireland excitement

It was early in the second half that the highly ominous message briefly scrolled across our screens, putting the severe winds up us and ruining our enjoyment of the senior camogie final. "There is a CODE RED weather warning in place for tomorrow..." it read, before disappearing into the ether, most probably resulting in RTE viewers scurrying from their couches to batten down their hatches.

It was, mercifully, flashed in error, although if our hatches end up in Newfoundland we'll know it was spookily prescient. What was real, though, was CODE MAROON, two first-half goals from Galway's Ailish O'Reilly and another from Niamh Hannifan threatening to blow Kilkenny away.

Before the senior encounter, which followed a zinger of an intermediate final, the RTE panel tried to persuade everyone to stay tuned lest they have been put off by last year's stultifying final which was the very opposite of "a great advertisement for the game". That was the day it felt quite like a free was awarded on every occasion a player looked at an opponent sideways, a mere eight of the game's 27 scores coming from play.

Ursula Jacob, Anna Geary and Ann Marie Hayes, though, reckoned this one might be better, not least because Kilkenny had abandoned the notion that only locating a single player in the opposition half at times, their rearguard having a couple of blankets thrown over it, might negatively impact their scoring ability. And having lost the last two

finals Evanne Ni Chuilinn asked Kilkenny manager Ann Downey how much of a head-wrecking effect that would have on her charges.

"We've moved on," she said, "you can't look back on the past - you can't unscramble eggs." Yet those three goals had them seemingly poached by half-time, the first coming after just a minute and 23 seconds, at which point Marty Morrissey was left speechless. Quite literally for those watching the game on RTE HD on the Sky platform. We didn't hear a word from the fella again. The sound disappeared. You could hear him on the standard definition channel, but that was so grainy the chances of spotting the sliotar in full flight were nought. As First World problems go, this one secures the biscuit.

**Proper final**  
No matter, we had ourselves a proper final, one that was cheese to last year's chalk. A mighty Kilkenny fightback, followed by Galway retaining their nerve to see it out, the majestic Galway midfielder - confusion alert - Niamh Kilkenny earning the award for

**"I can tell you one thing, you're not going to get a Jim Gavin from me!"**

"person you would most like to be by your side in the trenches".

"The Queen of the Middle" as Joanne Cantwell put it as we were shown her "crowning moments" during the game, the showreel a stately one.

Yet brutally tough for Kilkenny. Six finals in the last seven years, five defeats.

"Galway just wanted it more," said Downey to Ni Chuilinn, not sugaring the bitterest of pills. But she saluted her players too.

"They're some bunch of women to keep coming back, the hardship that they've taken the last few years. But they'll regroup, they're strong women. I hope they'll grace Croke Park again."

Meanwhile, up in the Hogan Stand, the list of thank-yous Galway captain Sarah Dervan had to issue was an indication of how far things have come. There was a time it was just the

manager and the sandwich-maker who needed to be acknowledged, now it's strength and conditioning coaches, physios, nutritionists and the like. It's at times like these that you feel the need to quote Loretta Lynn: "We've come a long way, baby".

Earlier in the day Kerry and Westmeath won All-Ireland camogie titles.

Repeat: Kerry and Westmeath won All-Ireland camogie titles.

Kerry, with all but one of their players from the county's single senior club, Westmeath coming from seven points down at half-time to Galway to prevail. Just when you think you've figured out sport, that there's a certain predictability to it, it goes and messes with your head.

How happy was Westmeath manager Johnny Greville? Batten down your hatches.

"I can tell you one thing, you're not going to get a Jim Gavin from me! I'm as excited as any of the players on the field, absolutely unbelievable, this is what dreams are made of, this is why we do this!"

A Code Red-worthy hurricane of happiness.

## History and a title for Kingdom

### All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Championship final

**Kerry 0-11**  
**Limerick 0-8**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
Croke Park

Kerry boss Ian Brick hailed his charges after their historic first All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Championship title at Croke Park. Birthday girl Patrice Diggin scored five points and was player of the match but Brick shared the praise with his entire side.

"We always knew Limerick were going to be very tough, very physical, with great speed all over the pitch. We found it very hard to contain them early on. We did try to impose our physical game on

them but we weren't able to kill off the game. The girls have been fantastic all year. There were hooks and blocks and interceptions all over the field. I have nothing but praise for them."

Limerick were on top early on but good defensive work by Elaine Ryall and Sara Murphy denied them scores. Brid Horan pointed from Kerry's first attack but Rebecca Noonan equalised. Diggin and Noelle Curtin exchanged scores before Kerry hit points from Julianne O'Keefe, Diggin (2) and Jackie Horgan. But Limerick were back to 0-6 to 0-5 at the break, Noonan converting frees either side of a nice finish by Whelan.

Ann Marie Leen and Clodagh Walsh combined for the latter to score right after the restart and by the end of the third quarter, Kerry were four

ahead. Limerick halved the deficit via Noonan and Shauna D'arcy, while Diggin added one more to her tally later on.

The rearguard effort never looked like conceding a goal and Kerry celebrated a magical day.

**Scorers for Kerry:** P Diggin 0-5 (4fs); B Horan, J Horgan, J O'Keefe, R McCarthy, S Murphy, C Walsh 0-1 each.  
**Scorers for Limerick:** R Noonan 0-5 (5fs); N Curtin, E Whelan, S Darcy 0-1 each.

**KERRY:** A Fitzgerald, E Ryall, L Houlahan, A O'Connor, N Leen, S Murphy, M Costello, P Diggin, L Collins, J Fitzell, J Horgan, R McCarthy, B Horan, J O'Keefe, O Dineen.  
**Subs:** A M Leen for Fitzell (16), C Walsh for Horan (16), A Maunsell for O'Keefe (48)

**LIMERICK:** L O'Carroll, K Herbert, Y Lee, E Butler, S Shanahan, A Coughlan, S McElligott, O Kelleher, A Kennedy, R Noonan, G M O'Kelly, N Curtin, M Curtin, G Lee, E Whelan.  
**Subs:** L Browne for Kelleher (35), S Darcy for O'Kelly (44), C Brennan for Lee (45), K Carroll for N Curtin (55).

**Referee:** Gavin Donegan (Dublin)

## Greville proves the hero

### All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie final

**Westmeath 1-11**  
**Galway 1-9**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**

Pamela Greville shot nine points, three from play, while Laura Doherty and Amy Scally led an astounding second-half defensive effort that kept Galway to one injury-time point, as Westmeath overturned a seven-point interval deficit to annex the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship.

The Lakesiders secured senior status for the first time in their history just two years after winning the Premier Junior decider and 36-year-

old Greville was at the core of their achievement.

"It shows, when you put your mind to it, what people can do. It's a brilliant Westmeath team and I've loved every minute of being with them," said Greville.

Up 1-8 to 0-4 at half-time, it was hard to see anything other than a Galway success. That was to reckon without the spirit and workrate of Westmeath and the leadership of Greville. She had a shot saved by Glynn straight after the break but drove over a 45 and followed with two frees.

The key score was the 41st-minute goal by captain Mairead McCormack, the Castletown Geoghegan attacker fetching a delivery and despite being hooked brilliantly by

Louise Brennan, sliding a ground shot to the net.

Galway were reeling and unstoppable Greville hit three of the next four points.

**Scorers for Westmeath:** P Greville (0-9, 5 frees, 1 45); M McCormack (1-0); N Horan, S McGrath (0-1 each)  
**Scorers for Galway:** R Monaghan (0-4, 2 frees); A Lynskey (1-1); T Rutledge (0-2); K Kennedy, N Horan (1) (0-1 each)

**WESTMEATH:** F Keating, A O'Malley, M Scally, L Doherty, A Cully, F Leavy, Sandra McGrath, M Scally, N Horan, M McCormack, Sheila McGrath, M Dowdall, M Murtagh, P Greville, C McCrossan.  
**Subs:** A Doherty for Horan (37)

**GALWAY:** L Glynn, C Donohue, L Ward, L Brennan, K Screeve, L Coen, D Higgins, L Casserly, M Mannion, K Kennedy, A Lynskey, R Monaghan, E Broderick, M Dillon, T Rutledge.  
**Subs:** R Hannifan for Broderick (46), N Horan for Monaghan (48), C Lee for Brennan (56)

**Referee:** Andrew Larkin (Cork)

## Three cheers for Galway girls: Tribeswomen tame Cats to claim third title

Record attendance as 'clubs absolutely stepped up'



**Fiona Dillon**  
AT CROKE PARK

**T**HE O'Duffy Cup is heading west after Galway's camogie team held their focus and determination to become All-Ireland champions for a third time.

Three first-half goals saw the Tribeswomen forge an unbeatable path towards victory at Croke Park, despite a valiant effort by Kilkenny.

It looked at times in the second half as if the Cats were going to edge their way back into the match, point by point, but the momentum remained with Galway. The taste of victory was in the air before the final whistle blew leaving them six points ahead.

The final scoreline was 3-14 to Kilkenny 0-17, with the roars from the crowd throughout the match a testament to the excitement on the pitch.

Attendance at the event set a new record with 24,730 people travelling to see the final.

Sinead McNulty, chief executive of the Camogie Association, told the *Irish Independent* she was "absol-

utely delighted with the turnout.

"Our clubs absolutely stepped up and attended, and all of our members. We had a fantastic crowd and a brilliant atmosphere," she said.

Among the Galway supporters was Claire Kilroy, from Caltra, who travelled to the match with Dervla Burke, Sharon Fay and Helen Glynn, all teachers from Coláiste Bhaile Chláir, outside Galway city. They are colleagues of two team members, Lorraine Ryan and Aoife Donohue, who both teach English and geography at the school, and were delighted with the result.

Ms Kilroy, deputy principal at the school, said: "We are so proud of them, seeing how they excelled. So many of our students look up to them. We met so many of our students there, and they are just unbelievable role models for them."

"We have been cheering them on throughout the week, we have had posters up, we have had campaigns on our social media, and so many of our staff attended."

**Expert view - Aisling Maher:** Mature Galway kept their heads to claim victory in thrilling final p68

"The two of them are so driven, they have such passion for their county. It was a real privilege to travel to see them and see them bring home the O'Duffy Cup."

While there was disappointment for the supporters of the losing team, many agreed the match had been hard fought.

Aisling Dawson, from Kilkenny city, travelled to the game as part of a busload from the Graiguenamanagh Camogie Club, along with her daughter Freya (8).

"It was a good game, and all the children enjoyed it," she said. "Galway were just the hungrier team, I think. The minute they came out, I knew they were full of energy and wanting to get going."

"We thoroughly enjoyed it even though it wasn't the best result on the day. Kilkenny put in a great effort, every one of them. We will see them for the homecoming"

One of Galway's best weapons yesterday bore a 'Kilkenny' surname. Niamh Kilkenny was voted player of the match and paid tribute to the management team, including manager Cathal Murray.

When the final whistle went, 'Galway Girl' blared through the loudspeakers, which was apt given how many of the supporters lost their heart to this team yesterday.



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**Liberty Insurance®**

**Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship Top Scorers**



Beth Carton (Waterford) 5-37 (52)



Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick) 2-42 (48)



Cáit Devane (Tipperary) 0-37 (37)



Jane Dolan (Meath) 0-32 (32)



Carrie Dolan (Galway) 0-32 (32)

**#GoTogether**



**THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION**  
An Cumann Camógachta

Beth Carton (Waterford)



Captains Sarah Devane of Galway and Meighan Farrell of Kilkenny



Captains Maíneal McCormack of Westmeath and Laura Ward of Galway



Limerick captain Grace Lee and Laura Collins of Kerry

Meet the Match Officials



Senior Final  
Galway v Kilkenny

REFEREE:  
Ray Kelly  
(Kildare)

Club:  
Robertsdown GAA Club

Appointments to date:  
All-Ireland Senior Championship Final 2019  
All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Final 2014  
National League Division 1 Final 2018  
National League Division 2 Final 2018



Intermediate Final  
Galway v Westmeath

REFEREE:  
Andrew Larkin  
(Cork)

Club:  
Ballygarvan Camogie Club

Appointments to date:  
All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship Final 2016  
All-Ireland Intermediate  
Club Championship Final 2018



Premier Junior Final  
Kerry v Limerick

REFEREE:  
Gavin Donegan  
(Dublin)

Club:  
Trinity Gaels GAA Club

Appointments to date:  
All-Ireland Minor A Championship Final 2019  
All-Ireland Minor B Championship Final 2019  
All-Ireland Minor C Championship Final 2019

**GALWAY**

**Group 1**

- 15/06/2019 Galway 0-14 Kilkenny 1-13 (L)
- 22/06/2019 Offaly 0-6 Galway 3-15 (W)
- 14/07/2019 Galway 2-12 Limerick 1-10 (W)
- 20/07/2019 Wexford 0-4 Galway 3-25 (W)

**Quarter-Final**

3/08/2019 Galway 2-16 Waterford 2-8 (W)

**Semi-Final**

17/08/2019 Cork 1-10 Galway 0-14 (W)

**KILKENNY**

**Group 1**

- 15/06/2019 Galway 0-14 Kilkenny 1-13 (W)
- 22/06/2019 Wexford 0-6 Kilkenny 7-28 (W)
- 29/06/2019 Kilkenny 2-17 Offaly 2-7 (W)
- 20/07/2019 Kilkenny 4-23 Limerick 1-13 (W)

**Semi-Final**

17/08/2019 Kilkenny 2-21 Tipperary 3-12 (W)

**GALWAY**

**Group 2**

- 15/6/19 Galway 4-12 Antrim 1-9 (W)
- 22/6/19 Westmeath 1-14 Galway 3-9 (W)
- 29/6/19 Galway 1-11 Cork 1-8 (W)
- 13/7/19 Galway 2-16 Kildare 0-7 (W)
- 20/7/19 Dublin 2-5 Galway 2-17 (W)
- 3/8/19 Kilkenny 1-10 Galway 1-10 (D)

**Semi-Final**

17/08/2019 Galway 2-9 Tipperary 2-5 (W)

**WESTMEATH**

**Group 2**

- 15/6/19 Kildare 3-8 Westmeath 2-14 (W)
- 22/6/19 Westmeath 1-14 Galway 3-9 (L)
- 6/7/19 Kilkenny 1-11 Westmeath 2-15 (W)
- 13/7/19 Westmeath 2-16 Dublin 1-9 (W)
- 28/7/19 Westmeath v Antrim  
– Conceded by Antrim (W)
- 3/8/19 Westmeath 0-14 Cork 0-10 (W)

**Semi-Final**

17/08/2019 Down 1-13 Westmeath 2-11 (W)

# Limerick, Premier Junior



Back Row Left to Right:  
 Leah O'Carroll, Siobhán Tangney, Orlaith Kelleher, Ella Whelan, Aisling Kennedy, Eva Butler, Aine Tangney, Sinead McElligott, Shauna Foley, Geri Mai O'Kelly, Ann Kennedy,  
 Kate Herbert, Emma Barry, Shauna D'Arcy, Caroline Brennan

Front Row Left to Right:  
 Katie Heelan, Aoife Coughlan, Katie Carroll, Grace Lee (Captain), Yvonne Lee, Rebecca Noonan, Sarah Gillane, Brenda O'Keefe, Michelle Curtin, Sarah Shanahan, Leanne Browne, Noelle Curtin

## Player Profiles - Limerick



 <b>Leah O'Carroll</b> Goalkeeper Patrickswell Student	 <b>Orlaith Kelleher</b> Midfield Croagh/Kilfinny Student	 <b>Ella Whelan</b> Forward Newcastle West Student	 <b>Katie Heelan</b> Forward Murroe Boher Student
 <b>Kate Herbert</b> Defender Ahane Student	 <b>Ann Kennedy</b> Midfield Ahane Army	 <b>Sarah Gillane</b> Goalkeeper Patrickswell Student	 <b>Siobhán Tangney</b> Forward Croagh/Kilfinny Student Radiograph
 <b>Yvonne Lee</b> Defender Newcastle West Primary School Teacher	 <b>Rebecca Noonan</b> Forward Granagh Ballingarry Sports Advisor	 <b>Caroline Brennan</b> Defender Bruff Student	 <b>Leanne Browne</b> Defender Newcastle West Teacher
 <b>Eva Butler</b> Defender Bruff Student	 <b>Geri Mai O'Kelly</b> Forward Newcastle West Student	 <b>Brenda O'Keefe</b> Forward Granagh Ballingarry Care Assistant	 <b>Emma Barry</b> Defender Patrickswell Student Nurse
 <b>Sarah Shanahan</b> Defender Killeedy Food Scientist	 <b>Noelle Curtin</b> Forward Templeglantine Student	 <b>Aine Tangney</b> Defender Croagh/Kilfinny Student Nurse	 <b>Shauna Foley</b> Midfield Kilmallock Student
 <b>Aoife Coughlan</b> Defender Crecora Student	 <b>Michelle Curtin</b> Forward Templeglantine Student	 <b>Shauna D'Arcy</b> Forward Ahane Student	 <b>Aisling Kennedy</b> Goalkeeper Monaleen Student
 <b>Sinead McElligott</b> Defender Murroe Boher Student	 <b>Grace Lee</b> Forward Newcastle West Trainee Solicitor	 <b>Katie Carroll</b> Forward Ballygran Student	

# Kerry, Premier Junior



Back Row Left to Right:  
Eilish Harrington, Norette Casey, Alanna Maunsell, Patrice Diggin, Jackie Horgan, Julianne O'Keefe, Michelle Costello, Aine O'Connor, Laura Collins, Liz Houlihan, Elaine Ryall, Aoife Fitzgerald

Front Row Left to Right:  
Megan Weir, Rachel McCarthy, Emma Lawlor, Jessica Fitzell, Niamh Leen (Captain), Olivia Dineen, Sara Murphy, Ann Marie Leen, Brid Horan, Clodagh Walsh

## Player Profiles - Kerry



**Aoife Fitzgerald**  
Goalkeeper  
Clanmaurice  
Plumber



**Patrice Diggin**  
Midfield  
Clanmaurice  
Community Sports  
Development Officer



**Olivia Dineen**  
Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Teacher



**Alannah Whelan**  
Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Student



**Aine O'Connor**  
Defender  
Clanmaurice  
Student



**Laura Collins**  
Midfield  
Clanmaurice  
Self-Employed



**Alanna Maunsell**  
Goalkeeper/Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Medical Scientist



**Ann Marie Leen**  
Midfield/Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Student



**Liz Houlihan**  
Defender  
Clanmaurice  
Fitness Instructor



**Jessica Fitzell**  
Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Student



**Clodagh Walsh**  
Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Student



**Aoife Behan**  
Defender  
Clanmaurice  
Student Teacher



**Michelle Costello**  
Defender  
Clanmaurice  
Teacher



**Jackie Horgan**  
Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Student PE Teacher



**Norette Casey**  
Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Student



**Niamh Leen**  
Defender  
Clanmaurice  
Science Teacher



**Rachel McCarthy**  
Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Student



**Eilish Harrington**  
Defender  
Clanmaurice  
Student



**Sara Murphy**  
Defender  
Clanmaurice  
Administrator



**Brid Horan**  
Forward  
Cillard  
Student



**Megan Weir**  
Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Quality Control Technician



**Elaine Ryall**  
Defender  
Clanmaurice  
Bus Driver



**Julianne O'Keefe**  
Forward  
Clanmaurice  
Student Teacher



**Emma Lawlor**  
Defender  
Clanmaurice  
Student



# LIMERICK PREMIER JUNIOR TEAM

Luimneach - Dúghorm



### IONADAÍ

- 16 Sarah O'Leary  
S. Ni Chortáin  
Patrickswell
- 17 Caroline Brennan  
C. Ni Bhróinín  
Bruff
- 18 Brenda O'Keefe  
B. Ni Chaoimh  
Cranagh Ballygarra
- 19 Aine Tangney  
A. Ni Theangana  
Craugh Kilteely
- 20 Shauna D'Arcy  
S. Ni Dhorchaí  
Ahan
- 21 Katie Carroll  
C. Ni Cheanúill  
Ballygarra
- 22 Katie Heelan  
C. Ni Aodáin  
Murree Bóher
- 23 Siobhán Tangney  
S. Ni Theangana  
Craugh Kilteely
- 24 Leanne Browne  
L. de Brún  
Newcastle West
- 25 Emma Barry  
E. de Barra  
Patrickswell
- 26 Shauna Foley  
S. Ni Fhoghla  
Kilmallock
- 27 Aisling Kennedy  
A. Ni Chinnéide  
Monaleen

### TEAM OFFICIALS

- Manager: Kevin Connolly
- Coach: Shane O'Neill
- Stats/Coach: Rachel MacAulley
- Selector: Donie Browne
- Selector: Teresa Noonan
- Physio: Colá Níolan Cawley



# KERRY PREMIER JUNIOR TEAM

Ciarraí - Or



### IONADAÍ

- 16 Alanna Mairneál  
A. Mairneál  
Clanmaurice
- 17 Clodagh Walsh  
C. Bhréatrach  
Clanmaurice
- 18 Nonette Casey  
N. Ni Chathasaigh  
Clanmaurice
- 19 Eilish Harrington  
E. Ni Arracháin  
Clanmaurice
- 20 Megan Weir  
M. Nic an Mhaoláin  
Clanmaurice
- 21 Emma Lawlor  
E. Ni Leathbóhair  
Clanmaurice
- 22 Alannah Whelan  
A. Ni Fhaoilín  
Clanmaurice
- 23 Ann Marie Leen  
A. Ni Láiglin  
Clanmaurice
- 24 Aoife Behan  
A. Ni Bheanáin  
Clanmaurice

### TEAM OFFICIALS

- Manager: Ian Brick
- Selector: Pete Young
- Selector: Owen Lawlor
- Strength & Conditioning: Roy Guerin
- Physical Therapist: Erin Sheehan

## Liberty Insurance Players of the Match 2019



Bronagh Coughlan of the Camogie Association presents to Clara Murphy of Galway v Offaly 22.06.2019



Hazel Broderick of Liberty Insurance presents to Niamh Mulcahy of Limerick v Wexford 29.06.2019



Laura Byrne of the Liberty Insurance presents to Linda Collins of Cork v Dublin 10.07.2019



David Colley of Liberty Insurance presents to Mary Ryan of Tipperary 10.07.2019



Bronagh Coughlan of the Camogie Association presents to Denise Coyle of Kilkenny v Limerick 20.07.2019



David Colley of Liberty Insurance presents to Aislin O'Riady of Galway 05.08.2019



David Colley of Liberty Insurance presents to Cailín Dwyer of Tipperary 09.08.2019



Laura Byrne of Liberty Insurance presents to Michelle Quilty of Kilkenny 10.08.2019



Laura Byrne of Liberty Insurance presents to Niamh Kilkenny of Galway 10.08.2019

SEPT. 2019



FRONT, LEFT TO RIGHT: MICHELLE FEMNELLY, MARINA DOWNEY, TRACEY MILLEA, ANN DOWNEY, CATHERINE DUNNE, SINEAD COSTELLO, GILLIAN DILLON, SINEAD MILLEA. BACK, LEFT TO RIGHT: ANGELA DOWNEY, BRIGID MULLALLY, MARIE MAHER, DEIRDRE MALONE, TOM RYAN (TRAINER).

## Celebrating 25 Years since Kilkenny's 12th All-Ireland Senior Championship Triumph, 1994

# Camogie 'on a crest of a wave' with more to come

**Declan Bogue**



**T**HE record-breaking attendance of 24,730 at Sunday's camogie finals was one of many highlights of a dizzying day for the sport, but in keeping with expectations for a game that has gone stratospheric in recent times.

In the past year, female sport has enjoyed an explosion of interest. Last September the record attendance of over 50,141 at the ladies' football finals became the best attended female sporting event in Europe. Some 60,739 watched Atletico Madrid's women face Barcelona in March. This summer was synonymous with the success of the women's soccer World Cup, with the winning team of America containing many outspoken and charismatic members.

Since the All-Ireland camogie finals became stand-alone sports events, the attendances have steadily risen. In 2014, 12,476 came through the gates. That rose up to break the 20k mark in 2016 with 20,037 and while they fell just marginally short of the 25,000 mark they had targeted this year, the level they have reached is remarkable.

President of the Camogie Association, Kathleen Woods, says it came as no surprise from those involved in promoting the game.

"We were expecting to beat it," says the Armagh native, from the Derrynoose club.

"One of the major things about this season has been the number of games to have been streamed live throughout the Championship. There was a game streamed live every weekend, and AIB did the same during the club Championship."

She explained: "So, more people are being exposed to the top quality of the sport. The notion that there are wee girls running around the pitch pretending to be hurlers... That's gone."

"They are strong, determined, highly-tuned and toned athletes who spend four, maybe five days a week honing their skills and improving their physical competencies. And that has been the case for a number of years. It's taken a while to build it up and I really believe camogie is on the crest of a wave, I truly do and I have high hopes for our game over this next decade."

New technology has helped their cause. Sky TV broadcasting the game was a statement of intent also and Woods paid lavish tributes to the employees of the Camogie Association.

"I have to say the team of dedicated employees that we have, you couldn't pay them for what they do," she said. "Everybody comes into work with a job description, but to achieve what they have yesterday, it takes everybody on board and everybody driving forward."

Part of the appeal of this year's final was how referee Ray Kelly handled the occasion, allowing a certain amount of physical contact that was disappointingly absent in the previous year's decider. Woods re-

vealed that work is well underway to implement a number of experimental rule changes for the 2020 leagues, with the level of physicality expected to be addressed.

The first draft of rule changes is expected to be back to Ard Chomhairle for their October meeting.

"We are hoping for no more than three rule changes at a time - I think we have learned that as a way forward. You have to allow referees, coaches, players a chance to come to terms with changes," said Woods.

"They will put forward their recommendations to us and we have past players, present players, we have health and medical specialists on this Rules group and it is chaired by Liam O'Neill (former President of the GAA)."

The Camogie Association have also plans to increase participation levels in the large urban areas of Belfast and Derry, joining in with the greater efforts of the 'Gaelfast' financial package aimed at strengthening the GAA in Belfast, and a similar scheme in Derry city.

Woods stated, "The staff member over this will be funded by the Camogie Association at national level. We will be working very closely with the Belfast 'Gaelfast' initiative. Our rural clubs are more secure than our urban clubs. We have huge urban populations that are missing out on our game, so we really want to be going to those girls. Schools will be a big target. I know Ulster administrator Julie O'Neill is doing major work in schools and colleges across Ulster. She is having great results. She is the administrator in Armagh."

"Integration with the GAA and camogie in Ulster is very, very strong and leading the way, on the ground."

## Downey steps down as Kilkenny boss

Kilkenny boss Ann Downey stepped down from her role after Sunday's All-Ireland senior final defeat to Galway.

Kilkenny Camogie chairperson Sheila Norris said Downey's dedication to her county "has been second to none".

Norris said: "Having done a two-year stint from 2008-2009 and reaching the All-Ireland in 2009, she again took over the reins in 2016, bringing the team to claim their first All-Ireland in 22 years."

Meanwhile Donal O'Rourke has stepped down as Waterford senior camogie manager after two seasons, writes Tomás McCarthy. The Cappoquin man brought the Déise to back-to-back All-Ireland quarter-finals.

Waterford led eventual O'Duffy Cup winners Galway by five points during this summer's quarter-final in Thurles before Galway reeled them in.

The former Waterford keeper will take up a coaching role with Erin's Own in Cork next season. "It's a club with massive plans over the next 12 months."



**CROKE PARK BOUND;** Galway senior camogie players Emma Helebert (Ballindeereen), Niamh Hanniffy (Oranmore-Maree) and Heather Cooney (St. Thomas').



Galway camogie players Niamh Black, Ailish O'Reilly, Niamh Hanniffy and Rachel Hanniffy, all from Oranmore-Maree.



Galway intermediate captain Laura Ward with the Jack McGrath Cup at the launch of Sunday's All-Ireland camogie finals day at Croke Park.



Looking ahead to Sunday's All-Ireland intermediate final against Westmeath are, from left: Ava Lynskey (Ardrahan), Mairead Dillon (Kilconieron) and Molly Mannion (Mountbellew-Moylough).

**Meighan Farrell**



**Michelle Quilty**



**Niamh Deely**



**Mary O'Connell**



**Miriam Walsh**



**Michaela Kenneally**



**Steffi Fitzgerald**



**Michelle Teehan**



**Miriam Bambrick**



**Denise Gaule**



**Anna Farrell**



**Aoife Norris**



**Catherine Foley**



**Claire Phelan**



**Grace Walsh**



**Aine Phelan**



**Edel Coonan**



**Davina Tobin**



**Katie Power**



**Danielle Morrissey**



**Katie Brennan**



**Grace O'Donnell**



**Aoife Doyle**



**Eva Hynes**



**Kelly Ann Doyle**



**Collette Dormer**



**Emma Kavanagh**



**Anne Dalton**



**Edwina Keane**





# The players chasing All-Ireland glory for Kilkenny

Meet the Kilkenny players who will be gunning for glory in Croke Park on Sunday.

**Aine Phelan (Kilmacow).**  
Student. Position - back/midfield.  
Honours - county: under-15 All-Ireland, 1 Leinster senior; club: Leinster junior league, minor league and championship, under-14. She also won Leinster junior and senior colleges with Abbey CC and two All-Ireland athletics medals.

**Anna Farrell, joint captain (Thomastown).**  
Bank Official. Position - midfield/forward.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 2 National Leagues, 3 All-Ireland minor, 3 Leinster senior; club - 2 Leinster senior, 3 senior county, 2 under-21 Medals, 2 minor.

**Anne Dalton (St Lachtain's).**  
Bank Official. Position - back/midfield/forward.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, All-Ireland minor, 6 Leinster senior, 4 National Leagues, 6 All Stars, Camogie Player of the Year 2009, captained Kilkenny in 2009; club - numerous county, 3 Leinster senior, 3 All-Ireland senior club. She also won 3 Ashbourne Cup medals.

**Aoife Doyle (Piltown).**  
Student. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: under-14 All-Ireland, under-15 All-Ireland, under-16 Leinster, 2 National Leagues, 1 Leinster senior; club - under-14, 16 and 21 honours. She won Munster senior medal, All-Ireland junior C schools football, All-Ireland relay under-17 Schools 2016 and club champions 2017.

**Aoife Norris (Piltown).**  
Student. Position - goalkeeper.  
Honours - county: 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 1 minor All-Ireland, 1 Leinster senior; club - 1 county, Leinster and All-Ireland intermediate club championship.

**Catherine Foley (Windgap).**  
Microbiology Analyst. Position - defender.  
Honours - county: 2 National Leagues, 2 Leinster senior, 1 Soaring Star, 1 All Star. Shee also won 3 All-Ireland handball titles, 1 All-Ireland Macra volleyball title.

**Claire Phelan (Lisdowney).**  
Primary school teacher. Position - defender.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 3 National Leagues, under-16 All-Ireland, minor All-Ireland, 4 Leinster senior; county: 1 intermediate county. She also won 3 All-Ireland senior colleges, 3 Leinster senior colleges, 2 All-Ireland junior colleges, 2 Leinster junior colleges.

**Colette Dormer (Barrow Rangers).**  
Architect Technologist. Position - defender.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 1 under-16 All-Ireland, 2 All-Ireland minor, 4 National Leagues, 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 6 Leinster senior, 2 All Stars; club - junior medal. She also won football, school camogie and 4 Ashbourne Cups.

**Danielle Morrissey (Conahy Shamrocks).**  
Student. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: 2 Leinster under-16, 1 Leinster minor, 2 National Leagues, 1 Leinster senior; club: minor A, under-21 and numerous under-age medals.

**Davina Tobin (Emeralds).**  
Barber. Position - defender/midfielder.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 3 National Leagues, All-Ireland minor, 4 Leinster senior, Leinster minor.

**Denise Gaule (Windgap).**  
Engineering student. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 2 under-16 All-Ireland, 2 All-Ireland minor, 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 5 Leinster senior, Camogie Young Player of the Year 2009, 3 National Leagues, Player of the Year 2016, 2 All Stars. She also won 2 All-Ireland senior colleges, 2 Leinster senior colleges, 4 Ashbourne Cups.

**Edel Coonan (St Martin's).**  
Student. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: 1 All-Ireland minor, 1 Leinster minor, 1 intermediate All-Ireland, 1 Leinster senior.

**Edwina Keane (St Martin's).**  
Farmer/teacher. Position - defender.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 2 under-16 All-Ireland, 2 minor All-Ireland, 4 National Leagues, 5 Leinster senior, 1 All Star; club: senior league, under-16, minor, under-21 and intermediate. She also won 1



The stars of the show, the players, listen attentively during the introductory address at the Kilkenny media night in Nowlan Park. Picture: Vicky Comerford

Ashbourne Cup, Shield Cup football, club football championship with Riallard.

**Emma Kavanagh (Rower Inistioge).**  
PE and Biology Teacher. Position - goalkeeper.

Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 3 National Leagues, 4 Leinster senior, Leinster minor, 1 All Star; club - 1 intermediate, 1 Leinster intermediate, minor and under-21, 1 Feile medal 2007.

**Eva Hynes (Thomastown).**  
Student. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: under-15 All-Ireland; club: 1 senior league and championship, 1 minor league and championship. She also won 1 senior club football medal.

**Grace O'Donnell (Young Irelands).**  
Student. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: 2 National Leagues, 1 Leinster senior; club: intermediate, junior Club and numerous under-age medals. Won All-Ireland colleges junior and senior.

**Grace Walsh (Tullaroan).**  
Nurse. Position - defender.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, Leinster under-16, minor and senior, All-Ireland under-16 and minor, 3 National Leagues, 1 All Star; club - 1 intermediate, 1 Leinster intermediate club. Won 2 Leinster and All-Ireland junior colleges, 3 Leinster and All-Ireland senior colleges.

**Katie Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks).**  
Student. Position - defender.  
Honours - county: under-14 and 15 All-Ireland, 1 Leinster senior; club: minor A and junior county. Won 2 Junior Leinster and All-Ireland Colleges, 2 Leinster senior and All-Ireland colleges.

**Katie Power (Piltown).**  
Receptionist/PA Michael Lyng Motors. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 6 Leinster senior, 3 All-Ireland minor, under-16, 4 National Leagues, 4 All Stars; club - 1 junior, 1 intermediate championship and league, 1 Leinster and All-Ireland intermediate club. Also won 4 Ashbourne Cups and captained WIT to Ashbourne Cup 2012.

**Kelly Ann Doyle (Piltown).**  
Biomedical Engineering student. Position - back/midfield/forward.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 1 National League, 1 Leinster and All-Ireland minor, 1 under-16, 1 Leinster senior; club: 1 intermediate club county, Leinster and All-Ireland title.

**Mary O'Connell (Clara).**  
Student. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: 2 Leinster senior, 1 All-Ireland minor, under-14 and 16 Leinster. She also won senior Leinster and All-Ireland colleges.

**Meighan Farrell, joint captain (Thomastown).**

Early Childhood Practitioner. Position -midfield.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 1 minor All-Ireland (captain, 2013), 3 Leinster senior, 3 under-16 Leinster, 3 National Leagues, 3 All Stars; club: under-14, 16, minor and under-21, 3 senior, 2 Leinster senior. Also won senior A and B All-Ireland colleges, 2 inter-provincial colleges with Leinster, 3 Leinster senior colleges.

**Michaela Kenneally (Windgap).**  
Human Resources and Recruitment. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: under-14 Leinster and All-Ireland, under-16 Leinster, minor Leinster and All-Ireland, 1 Leinster senior; club: under-16, minor and under-21 county. She won senior colleges Leinster and All Ireland, 2 Western Australia championship medals.

**Michelle Quilty (Mullinavat).**  
Operations manager. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 4 National Leagues, 3 All-Ireland minor, 2 All-Ireland under-16, 7 Leinster senior, 2 All Stars; club: Leinster senior, 4 county senior.

**Michelle Teehan (James Stephens).**  
PE and Maths Student. Position - defender.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 1 minor All-Ireland, 1 Leinster minor, 2 National Leagues, 2 Leinster senior.

She won 1 Leinster and All-Ireland senior colleges.

**Miriam Bambrick (Barrow Rangers).**  
Student. Position - defender.  
Honours - county: under-14 and 16 Leinster, Leinster and All-Ireland minor, intermediate Leinster and All-Ireland, 1 Leinster senior. She also won a Fr Meagher Cup

**Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan).**  
Montessori teacher. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, Leinster under-14, 16 and minor; 1 All-Ireland minor, 3 Leinster senior, 3 National Leagues, 1 All Star; club: 1 county and Leinster intermediate. Won 3 Leinster and All-Ireland junior colleges, 4 Leinster and All-Ireland senior colleges, captained Loreto SS in 2013.

**Niamh Deely (James Stephens).**  
Student. Position - midfield/forward.  
Honours - county: 1 senior All-Ireland, 2 National Leagues, 1 Leinster senior; club: under-16 'B' county plus 3 Leinster and All-Ireland colleges, captained Loreto SS in 2017.

**Steffi Fitzgerald (Young Irelands).**  
Student. Position - forward.  
Honours - county: under-16 Leinster, 1 senior Leinster; club: minor A county, junior and intermediate county plus 3 senior Leinster colleges, 2 senior All-Ireland colleges, 3 junior Leinster and All-Ireland colleges.



Cork players celebrate with the trophy after beating Tipperary in the U-14 National Blitz Division 1 final at Abbotstown in Dublin on Saturday.



Amy Cody of Glenmore-Tullagher-Rosbercon, Co Kilkenny takes a sideline cut against Moycarkey-Borris, Co Tipperary in the Camogie U14 final during Day 1 of the Aldi Community Games August Festival, which saw over 3,000 children take part in a fun-filled weekend at UL Sports Arena in University of Limerick, Limerick.  
PHOTO BY DAVID FITZGERALD/SPORTSFILE



County Camogie Board officers looking ahead to Galway's All-Ireland double bid at Croke Park on Sunday, from left: Gerry Hennelly (Chairman), John O'Gorman (Vice-Chairman), Ann Kearney (Secretary) and Dessie O'Brien (Treasurer).



Galway's Niamh Kilkenny, in action against Cork's Orla Cotter and Hannah Looney, will be critical to their hopes of All-Ireland senior camogie glory at Croke Park on Sunday.



The Oranmore/Maree duo of Ailish O'Reilly and Niamh Hanniffy pictured with the O'Duffy Cup after Galway won the All-Ireland senior camogie final on Sunday. Ailish (2) and Niamh scored Galway's three goals in the final.

**CAMOGIE**

The SE Systems Senior Championship moves up a gear with several big games down for decision with the board's splendid pitch in Castle Road hosting most of them on Sunday.

First up is the Round 2 meeting of St Catherine's and Cloughduv at 12pm, Orla Cotter and Fiona Neville are key players for the East Cork side while Aoife Murray and Briega Corkery will anchor the Cloughduv challenge, but a nod to Catherine's to win.

There's an intriguing contest at 2.30pm between former champions Millford, who can call on the Watson sisters and Ashling Thompson, and an up and coming youthful Sars' team, but the experience of Millford gives them an edge.

The final game at the venue at 5.30pm is a Muskerry derby with champions Inniscarra facing neighbours Éire Óg who hammered Douglas in the last round.

This one is hard to call, but with Rena Buckley, Niamh McCarthy and Treasa McCarthy in good form, it may be enough to get them over the line.

Brinny at 5pm hosts the clash of Ballincollig, with Ashley Lovett and Linda Dorgan needing to be at their best, against a Carbery side that can call on Libby Coppinger and Orla Cronin, and with a strong panel at Carbery's disposal, they look better equipped to win.

There are also two junior finals in Castle Road on Saturday; in the C grade, Blarney meet Aghada at 2.30pm and this is followed at 5.30pm by the B decider, Ballinora vs Castlebrons.

# 'Teamwork will deliver success'



CAMOGIE

Barbara O'Connell

TEAMWORK will bring St Finbarr's success in this year's senior camogie championship, says centre-back Carole Ryan.

The 'Barr's play Courcey Rovers on September 22, in what is expected to be a thriller. Ryan is hoping the solid unit's bond, along with their skill and heart, will see them through to the last-four.

Playing with the 'Barr's since she was 12, Ryan's first success was the junior B league at the age of 16. From then, she was hooked, but it was a further six years to winning the league in 2018.

With additions to the squad this year, the qualified secondary school teacher believes the 'Barr's have what it takes.

"This year has been extremely positive," said Ryan. "The blocks of training we've completed have stood to us greatly, which is a credit to our management and strength-and-conditioning coach. They've been there to answer any of our questions or meet our needs and demands. We've had a few hiccups along the way, but I think that's only natural and builds us as a stronger unit, for when things come down to the wire.

"In fairness, throughout the year, Brian O'Sullivan, Anthony O'Neill, Paul Harte, and Ken McCarthy have organised an abundance of challenge games for us, but, certainly, the challenge game against the Cork minors, and our first round of championship, against Ballygarvan, stand out as two of the toughest games we've had."

They learned from the mistakes and they build on each positive. They are through to the final of the Summer Cup, as well as the championship quarter-final.

"It's safe to say, the competition for a jersey or position this year is far higher than any other. Everybody has upped the ante, from last year.

"Everyone brings something to the panel, which is why this year has been so enjoyable. The 'young ones' bring



Carole Ryan, St Finbarr's, shoots for goal as Brid Stack, Killeagh, tries to block.

Picture: David Keane

the speed and competitive edge to training and the games, the 'golden oldies' (I won't mention any names) bring the experience, wisdom, and settle us as a squad.

"We in the middle bracket try to keep things fun and work on making sure we bond and gel, from the youngest to oldest, so I really think we have a good thing going in the team this year."

The Courceys clash promises to be a belter. "Any championship game is a tough ask these days. Courcey Rovers are a strong panel, who play a physical game of camogie and I can't see them taking this quarter-final lightly. However, you could say the same about ourselves. I think it will be a tight, point-for-point type of game, with strong battles all over the pitch, but we are focusing on our game, our preparation, our training, and making sure we are in peak condition.

"To be honest, I think I talk on the

pitch more than I move on the pitch, but it helps with our organisation, game-management, and confidence. So, as long as I can contribute to that, I'll be happy. Our team isn't about individuals. We all play well when we are fighting for each other and we can see the people right and left of us working their socks off for the better of the team — that's what keeps us on form and moving, even when you think your legs won't move anymore."

The management have left no stone unturned in preparing them.

"So, the head honchos are Brian O'Sullivan, Anthony O'Neill, Paul Harte, and Ken McCarthy. This bunch just work tirelessly to make sure training is organised, matches are scheduled, we are taking care of ourselves with regards recovery, and that we are always working to the best of our potential. They are lighthearted and well able to take a joke and they make sure that, among all the work, there is al-

ways a small bit of time allocated for us to let our hair down, as well.

"Then, you have Kevin Mulcahy, who is our strength-and-conditioning coach. He has also been with us for two years, working on injury prevention, our strength/power work, and also fitness conditioning. He incorporates this work into a game setting, so we are always keeping it related to camogie. We have definitely seen a huge improvement, since he has come on board. Lastly, but most certainly not least, you have Marian McCarthy and Jennifer Mehigan. These two are just saints, constantly cleaning jerseys and making sure we have everything we need before matches and training. You couldn't ask for better.

"While on the pitch, I have two of my sporting idols in Lynda O'Connell and Rachel Myers. Obviously, I believe we are strong contenders, but Killeagh, Inniscarra, and Sars look impressive, too."



Karen O'Connell, Glen Rovers, tries to hold off Rachel Myers, St Finbarr's, in the camogie league final replay.



Cloughduv's Briege Corkery breaks past St Finbarr's Carole Ryan.

Picture: David Keane

Ahead of Carbery's senior camogie championship Round 3 game against Ballincollig this Sunday in Brinny, let's get to know the clubs involved in putting Carbery camogie on the map

# Local clubs help put Carbery camogie on the county map

**BALLINASCARTHY** Camogie Club was set up 50 years ago in 1969 and was known then as Castleview, wearing amber jerseys and maroon divided skirts at the time with minor and junior teams taking to the field.

After a decade of enjoyable and successful years, the club's main cohort of girls went further afield to either get married or for work, and camogie suffered as a result. However, the club was revived in the mid-1980s to become known as Ballinascorthy, sporting the current colours of red and black, but mainly concentrating on underage teams.

It was during the nineties that the adult teams were formed. Many players have had the honour of representing their county at various levels and indeed the Carbery division too, most recently Moira Barrett who captained the Cork minors to All-Ireland glory in 2018 and Claire Kingston who captained the Cork U16As to a Munster victory the same year. Caroline Sugrue, the club's highest scorer historically, won Cork intermediate league and championship medals in 2018 and Clara Crowley won an All-Ireland intermediate medal with the University of Limerick in 2019.

Today, Ballinascorthy Camogie Club is more vibrant than ever with the adult team playing junior A, having conquered the junior C county title in 2011 and the junior B county title in 2018, adding the West Cork junior A cup in a double in 2018.

A lot of Bal's girls play camogie with Sacred Heart Secondary School in Clonakilty and have enjoyed major success over the years. In 2015 they went to an All-Ireland senior final with Michelle Dullea, Clara Crowley, Megan Ryan and Ciara Barrett on the team. In 2019 they won the junior All-Ireland final with Bal players Annie Condon, Anna Flynn, Kate Ryan, Sinéad McCarthy, Maeve Kingston, Millie Condon and Siofra Pattwell on board.

Bandon Camogie Club was newly reformed in April 2017 to cater for girls in the area who played on the boys' GAA teams up to U12 but had no club in the town after that. The driving force behind the new club were former camogie players who had daughters in this age bracket.

The 'Hurl with Me' programme was

**Mairéad Crowley is the only Kilbree player on the Carbery senior camogie panel.**

introduced in Bandon to kick-start the club. This was for six weeks where parents learned basic skills alongside their daughters and culminated in a blitz in the National Games Development Centre in Dublin where parents played the first half and the girls played the second half of three matches. This helped foster a club atmosphere with a sense of ownership and belonging from very early on.

This resulted in parents getting involved and staying involved in the club. There were 72 girls registered in 2017 and just two years later, almost 100 girls have registered with teams from U8 up to U14. Three of Bandon's girls are participating in the Carbery U13 development training.

One of the highlights for the club this year was the John West Féile na nGael weekend when two teams were entered in this U14 competition. Camogie teams from Kildare and Louth were hosted in Bandon. Last year Bandon's U10s were runners up in the prestigious Declan Crowley Memorial Blitz and the U14s won the West Cork C final. Also, last year's U12 players participated in the Camán to Croker initiative where they joined over 1,000 other girls in Croke Park on Easter Monday 2019 for mini-games and a tour of the museum. At present, the club doesn't have an adult team but some previous players have expressed an interest in dusting off their skorts so watch this space!

Enniskane Camogie Club was formed in 1995 by Angela Corcoran, Tony Coughlan, Catherine Barron, Joan O'Sullivan and Finbarr Lynch, amongst others. It will be proudly celebrating its 25th anniversary next June with an abundance of achievements accomplished to date.

Enniskane-camogie have a range of players from bordering clubs, including St Mary's, Diarmuid Ó Mathúna, Dohenys and Randal Óg. The majority of the players would have played with these clubs up to the age of 12.

This year Enniskane has 192 registered players and 33 registered mentors/committee members with teams from U8 up to Intermediate grade.

Outstanding achievements for the club include the first-ever intermediate county league title in 2019, and Danielle Carroll and Siobhán O'Driscoll winning the Ashbourne league with



Kilbrittain/Timoleague's Carbery senior players are, from left, Caroline Murphy, Marian Murphy, Sarah Burke, Orla Fahy, Hannah Sexton, Kate Wall and Áine Crowley.



The Barryroe players on the Carbery senior camogie team this season are Eimear White (captain), Meadhbh Sexton, Elaine Ryan and Rachel Sheehy.



Libby and Maggie Coppinger from St Colum's are on the Carbery senior panel.

Waterford IT in 2018. Dáire O'Brien (captain), Eimear O'Brien, Emma O'Driscoll and Brian Daly (trainer) won junior Munster and All-Ireland finals with Sacred Heart Secondary School, Clonakilty this year. In 2017 Orla Cronin was Player of the Match in the All-Ireland senior final and in 2013 Enniskane were crowned junior A county champions.

There are six Enniskane players on this year's Carbery senior panel - Orla Cronin, Danielle Carroll, Laura Mannix, Sinéad Hurley, Tara Sheehan and Dáire O'Brien.

Kilbrittain/Timoleague Camogie Club: There was a camogie club in Kilbrittain in the 1950s for a few years, and as well as home-based players, it included girls from Clonakilty, Enniskane and Riverstick.

Kilbrittain had a very successful ladies' football team from the mid-1970s to the mid-80s, but following a fixtures dispute, the team was withdrawn. In 1988, along with players from Timoleague, a camogie club was formed.

In the first seven years there were ten county finals contested, from U14, U16, U18, junior B, junior A

and intermediate. Four teams were successful and brought home the silverware. Over the years since then, the club has played in all grades of camogie from U8 right up to senior A. Many county titles have been won at underage and a few at adult level. Numerous players have worn the Cork jersey at all levels and county teams have been captained by players from the club, some achieving All-Ireland success.

In 2000, Marian Murphy won the Cork Féile na nGael skills competition and was runner-up in the All-Ireland final. As well as providing many players to Carbery over the years, club players have made a big contribution to college teams like Sacred Heart in Clonakilty and Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Bandon, and third level colleges like UCC, UL, CIT and Mary Immaculata.

Miriam Deasy was successful with Cork seniors and won All-Ireland medals in 1995, 1997 and 1998. In 2002 Eilish O'Sullivan was the recipient of an All-Ireland intermediate medal. Recently Kate Wall won an All-Ireland intermediate medal with Cork in 2018 and Hannah Sexton won an All-Ireland minor A with Cork in 2019.

On a club level Kilbrittain/

Timoleague won an U16A county in 2013, and U18C and U12B counties in 2018, as well as senior B in 2003 and senior A in 2004.

In Clonakilty, camogie was first played in the area in 1919 and evidence suggests that Clonakilty were the first West Cork champions that year. Camogie in the Carbery division has an on-off existence with Clonakilty appearing only now and again.

A fairly active team existed in the 1960s but facilities were scarce and the lack of a permanent base was a major problem. The players back then would meet in the old Town Hall and play their games in the Showgrounds, which had been vacated by the GAA club in the late 1950s. However, when camogie clubs like Kilbrittain, Newcestown and Barryroe began to emerge strongly in the 1980s there was no sign of Clonakilty Camogie Club.

The present club began on a very small scale in the mid-1990s, with concentration on the underage teams. Success was again limited because of the lack of facilities and a permanent base, but with a dedicated group of mentors putting in a big effort,



Four of the six Enniskeane players on the Carbery team are Danielle Carroll, Laura Mannix, Daire O'Brien and Sinead Hurley. Missing from photo are Tara Sheehan and Orla Cronin.



Carbery senior camogie coach Jerry Ryan with players from Ballinascorthy club, Clara Crowley, Moira Barrett and Claire Kingston.



The Newcestown players on the Carbery senior team are, front from left, Maeve Lynch, Ciara O'Sullivan and Maria Kenneally. Back from left, Orla Dinneen, Mary MacSweeney, Aisling O'Donovan. Missing from photo is Meabh O'Donovan.

performances improved. The club is now based in Ahamilla, where it rents playing facilities from Clonakilty GAA Club, which gives the club a permanent base to train and play.

Success began to arrive with the U16C in 2003 and U16B the following year. The junior B team finally made the breakthrough in 2006 by winning both championship and league to secure promotion from the junior B grade which had eluded them for years previously.

Players like Hazel O'Regan, Sharon Whelton, Aoife Deasy and Juanita Brennan had spent seasons in the red jersey and the club was seeing the benefit of the example these girls, and more, were setting. Minor county and adult titles were secured in 2007 as the club continued to grow stronger. 2009 was an exceptional year as Clon won the intermediate county title and were runners up in Munster, a first for the club. A senior B and county league in 2016 was the last county achievement in adult grade.

While underage success has eluded Clon in the intervening years, they have had some encouraging results in the last few years. So far, 2019 has been a fantastic year with players representing Clon in Cork U14,

U15 and U16 teams. The U14 girls entered two teams in the All-Ireland Féile competition with the first team winning Division 2, a first camogie All-Ireland title for the club.

St Colum's Camogie Club in Kealkil was formed in 2009 and field teams in U12, U14, U16, minor and junior C. Their biggest achievement to date was winning the junior C 13 a-side competition league and championship in 2018 which meant they could compete in the junior C 15 a-side competition this year. This was the club's first year entering in an adult junior competition. The minors also reached the U18D county final last year. This club is very proud of Libby Coppinger's outstanding achievements with Cork seniors, winning two All-Ireland medals. Maggie Coppinger also plays for the Cork junior team and Seadna O'Sullivan lines out for the Carbery team along with Libby and Maggie.

Barryroe Camogie Club draws its players from the villages of Courtmacsherry, Butlerstown, Lislavane and surrounding areas,

were winners against St Finbarr's in the county senior B final.

In 1999 the Clonakilty's Sacred Heart Secondary School won All-Ireland honours with ten Barryroe girls on the team, captained by Geraldine Collins. In 2007 the club beat St Finbarr's in the county senior A league final. Also, 2012 was a special year winning both league against Glen Rovers and championship against Clonakilty in senior B county camogie. The club's most recent success came in 2017 when Barryroe won the U16C title against Youghal.

Barryroe has supplied numerous players for the Carbery divisional team over the years. Currently, Eimear White (captain), Meadhbh Sexton, Elaine Ryan and Rachel Sheehy are playing on the Carbery senior A team in 2019.

The most decorated player from Barryroe is Jennifer O'Leary, winner of eight All-Star awards and four All-Ireland medals with Cork senior camogie, along with five national league medals and three Ashbourne Cup titles in a row when she played with the University of Limerick.

Other players who won All-Ireland senior medals with Cork are Cora Keohane, Rosarie Holland, Eimear White and Síle Burns. Senior B All-Ireland medals went to Ann Marie Fleming, Geraldine Collins and Eimear White. From the current generation Jessica McCarthy (U16) and Tara Fleming (U14) are part of the Cork underage development squads.

Kilbree Camogie Club was formed in 2005, in its current form. A club connected with Macra existed in the 1960s. The current club initially had teams from U8 up to U14. An U16 team was entered in all competitions two years ago. The club fielded a minor team for the first time in 2019 and it has been a most successful year winning the county league title.

A junior team was formed in 2018. The team qualified for the county league final, losing out to Rockbán earlier this year. There were great scenes of delight on Saturday, August 31st last when the junior team defeated Rockbán to win the junior county championship in Castle Road.

The club has strong numbers from U6 up to adult level. The underage camogie club has been most successful in recent years, winning county titles at U12 and U14 level as well as many Carbery divisional titles. The club has players on Carbery and Cork teams, currently at U14, U15 and U17.

In its current form Newcestown Camogie Club was established on October 14th, 1983, fielding U14 and junior B in 1984. The club won its first county title at junior B level in 1989, thus moving up to junior A. Newcestown subsequently reached the junior A county final three years in a row, but it was to be the third year, 1993, that proved successful for this young club.

Having reached the intermediate county finals

## CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, Sept 15th  
Cork Camogie Senior  
Championship Round 3  
Ballincollig v Carbery  
Brinny, 5pm

in 1994 and 1995, winning the latter, for the first time in the club's short history the adult team joined the big guns at senior level in 1996. During this 13-year period, the underage set-up was gathering momentum, expanding to participate at all levels of underage, and in 1999 Newcestown secured the club's first underage camogie title in the U16B county final.

The success at both underage and adult level was self evident in the number of players participating at both club and county. Most notably Hilda Kenneally, who is current chairperson and intermediate player, and Antoinette O'Connell, both of whom played at Cork junior and senior level in the 1990s. Hilda had the honour of captaining Cork to an intermediate All-Ireland title in 2002. Yvonne O'Callaghan, Colette Desmond, Suzanne Deasy and Sinéad O'Donovan all played for Cork and All-Ireland winning teams with Colette receiving All-Star recognition in 2006 with UCC's Ashbourne Cup team.

Whilst success continued for players at inter-county level during this time, Newcestown, as a club, struggled to perform successfully at senior level so opted to re-grade down to junior A and minor D, to allow the club to rebuild. This proved to be a good move as in 2015 they won the junior A county and two years later the intermediate. They would then have progressed to senior B but a new system came in to play in Cork clubs in 2018, removing the senior B competition so they stay and play at a more competitive intermediate level now.

Just like earlier years, a number of Newcestown players' success at club level paved the way to play for their county too, emulating the success of the older club members in times gone by, such as Therese McCarthy, Suzanne Deasy and Aisling O'Donovan. Newcestown currently has four players participating on Cork teams in 2019, Maeve Lynch with the intermediates, Ciara O'Sullivan starred for the minor A team and juniors, Emma Tarrant for the U17s and Grace Ryan with the Cork U16As, all these girls having won Munster and All-Ireland titles with Cork.

Newcestown Camogie Club has definitely reaped the benefits too at club underage level, winning numerous West Cork titles, U14 county and Féile titles and U16A county final in 2018. Club numbers have grown considerably in recent times with the club fielding two U12 teams last year and this year. The future certainly looks bright.



Clonakilty's Laura Burke is on the Carbery senior panel.

# More than 2,000 take part in blitz

Bumper weekend of club clashes

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE Camogie Association hosted the grand finale of the U14 blitz season when 28 counties and 55 teams took part in blitz competitions in six different venues.

A total of 1,223 young camogie players and over 250 mentors from around the country were involved in a fantastic day of camogie. This followed on from two national blitz days at regional locations and at a provincial day.

For Cork it was a hugely successful weekend with all three teams bringing home the spoils and it was a wonderful sight to see all the young teams parading into Croke Park on Sunday last led by the Cork contingent.

The Cork U14 A squad was captained in final by Shauna Sheehan from Eire Og. Cork defeated Kilkenny 1-7 to 1-3 in their first game and then went on to beat Dublin 2-5 to 1-4 and lost to Wexford in the third game.

Making it to the semi-final, Cork overcame Galway and went on to beat Tipperary 2-8 to 0-6 in final.

The Cork U14 B squad went the whole day undefeated beating Clare A 2-5 to 1-7. They went on to overcome Laois A, 3-3 to 0-3, Galway B, 0-7 to 0-2, before getting the upper hand on Tipperary B in the semi-final.

The final against Kilkenny B was a close encounter but Cork, captained by Roisin Murphy from Laochra Og, held on to run out winners with two points to spare.

The U14 C squad had victories over Kilkenny C and Derry A in the group stage before being well beaten by favourites Meath A in the last group game.

Cork then accounted for Galway C in the semi, but turned in a superb display to overcome a strong Meath after extra-time in the final winning by two points led by captain Aobha Coleman from Sliabh Rua.

The fourth Cork U14 squad, while not participating last Saturday, had a busy year also where they won five tournaments this season.

Well done to all on their great achievements last weekend the future is certainly bright.

All-Ireland minor, U16 and three U14 titles are all safely in the cabinet with red and white ribbons attached.

What more could we ask for?

### MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The draws for the back door rounds of the SE Systems minor championship in the four grades took place on Monday last and the following are the groupings. In the SE Systems Minor A Championship losers round will see the winners of the Ballygarvan-Aghabullogue game playing Charleville, Ballincollig will play Courcy Rovers while Eire Og have got a bye to round three.

In the SE Systems Minor B Championship, Bride Rovers will meet Blackrock, Killeagh take on Kilbrittain-Timoleague, St Catherine's meet Cloughdub and Fr O'Neill's take on Blarney.

In the SE Systems Minor C Championship, Mallow will host Tracton in Mallow, Castlelyons met Rockban and Bishopstown have a bye to round



The three Cork U14 camogie teams in Croke Park for the All Ireland finals on after their victories in the U14 blitz finals.



The Cork U14 A squad celebrate with the trophy.

Picture: INPHO/Laszlo Geczo

three.

The back door clashes in the Minor C Championship have the losers of the St Colum's-Clonakilty clash meeting Watergrasshill, Cobh will take on Kilworth with Erin's Own getting a bye to round three.

All of the games in the back door round are to be played on or before September 22.

### CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER OF THE MATCH AWARDS

The county board also announced the continued sponsorship of their

Player of the Match awards for their entire championship final by *The Echo*.

Treasurer Marion McCarthy expressed the board's thanks to *The Echo* who have for many years been involved in this scheme.

Chairperson Mary McSweeney thanked *The Echo* for continuing the long-standing tradition which is a huge boost to the clubs who participate in the various championships.

There is always huge excitement when the Player of the Match announcement is made.

With two finals scheduled this weekend with the SE Systems junior B and C titles down for decision we will have two Player of the Match recipients so keep an eye to next Saturday's *Echo* where we will have full match reports from both finals.

It promises to be an action-packed few weeks of top club camogie so make sure to get out and lend support to at all the games.

### U12 LEAGUE FINALS:

The juvenile board hold the first of their league finals today Saturday in Castle Road and at 10.30am in the U12 A1 final Ballinhassig meet St Finbarr's.

This is followed by the U12 A final where Eire Og met Sarsfields.

Tomorrow in the U12 A2 final Milford meet Ballincollig in the Colleges Pitch, Castle Road at 10.30am.

THERE'S a huge weekend of club games at all levels on the agenda this weekend, with the senior matches previewed on P52.

### INTERMEDIATE

Blackrock came from seven points down at half time to record a four-point win as they booked their place in the SE Systems Intermediate championship semi-final by beating Fr O'Neill's last weekend.

The second quarter-final ended all square, Kilbrittain/Timoleague 5-6 Carrigaline 4-9, after an exciting contest and they will have to do it all again today in Brinny at 12.30pm as they battle for the semi-final spot.

The semi-finals line-up will then be complete with Newcestown, Enniskeane and Blackrock already through. The ties will take place on September 28-29.

### JUNIOR

In the junior A championship Ballyhea, Charleville, St Vincent's and Ballinacorthy are through to the semi-finals and ending the result of the last group game it will decide who tops group two.

There are two SE Systems junior finals to be decided today and they promise to be exciting affairs. In the SE Systems Junior B final, Ballinora and Castlelyons meet at 5.30pm.

It's a repeat of the league final in which Ballinora took the honours on a 1-8 to 0-5 scoreline. Ballinora had to battle to the finish before they retained their title on an evening where a strong wind made it a game of two halves as both sides battled to gain a grip.

Castlelyons, coached by former Cork All-Ireland winning hurler Timmy McCarthy, will be determined to reverse the result of the last meeting of the sides. They have fine players in Cork U16 Lucy McNulty, Mellissa O'Sullivan, Isobel Fenton and Aine O'Brien. Ballinora will look to Kate O'Shea, Sarah O'Keefe, Aoife Nic Abhaird and Cliona Dooley to help them secure the double and propel them to Junior A.

The SE Systems Junior C championship final is the curtain-raiser today in Castle Road when Blarney and Aghada go head-to-head.

Blarney are also chasing a double, having edged out St Colum's in high-scoring league final. They were very impressive as they overcame St Fanahan's in their semi-final outing 1-13 to 0-5 and they have fine players in Orla Cremen, Emma Power and former Milford senior Aoife Dillon. Aghada overcame St Colum's in the semi and earlier in the season they took the Minor B league crown. All Smith, Eimear Cronin, Ciara McGrath and Aisling Crowley are their key players.

“For Cork it was a hugely successful weekend with all three teams bringing home the spoils”

# No Cork but final was a joy to see

Camogie



Linda Mellerick

WHAT an All-Ireland final we had. A free flowing, high scoring, fast paced game which we badly needed. The last few All-Ireland finals have been poor in that regard, Cork winning aside. What a performance by Galway. They were immense, having improved even further on their semi-final win over Cork.

They beat both Cork and Kilkenny to take the title so no one can say they don't deserve it, or that they got lucky.

Winners of the 2019 National League, it's been an amazing season for them.

Very few saw it coming. Yes, Galway have been hovering around the semi-finals this past four years, but just couldn't get over the line.

Last year they lost to Kilkenny by a goal in the closing minutes. That hurt them. The last five times Kilkenny and Galway have met in championship Kilkenny have come out on top, the most recent being last June.

The confidence, the belief, the physical strength, attacking style, and speed of Galway has improved tenfold and Cathal Murray has done a wonderful job.

I gave the stats last Saturday that Kilkenny had scored 16 goals and 102 points in five games and conceded 6-52.

Galway had scored 8-80 and conceded 3-43 against the same opposition as both teams were in the same group, indicating that Kilkenny had the more lethal forwards, goalscoring forwards in particular, but Galway were far tighter at the back.

And God were they tight. It's hard to believe that Kilkenny never got a sniff of goal after scoring 16 to reach the final.

Sarah Healy didn't have to make one save. Incidentally, what a brilliant point she scored from a free in additional time to put Galway five up.

Brilliant for an 18-year-old. Kilkenny scored just seven points from play despite playing a more attacking style this year. That's down to the tremendous Galway defence who also did marvellously against Cork.

In addition, Galway's forwards raised the bar. Three top class strikes that hit the net and they were unlucky not to get another two. They tore Kilkenny apart.

Over the past couple of years Ann Downey has been criticised for her defensive approach. I've too been critical of it. Yet she was somewhat vindicated on Sunday as her defence were split open.

I think she had to go on the attack this year, but maybe keeping Ann Dalton at centre-back might have helped that defensive problem.

Kilkenny did eventually go more defensive and stopped the Galway goals, but the damage was done. Ann has stepped down as manager after three years of heartache.

Huge credit must be given to Cathal Murray. Once again, he had his homework done. The magnificent Niamh



Galway's Sarah Spellman and Meighan Farrell of Kilkenny battling in Croke Park.

Picture: INPHO/Laszlo Geczo



Grace Walsh of Kilkenny leaves the field.

Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Kilkenny lined out up front against Cork. She was outstanding that day.

To play her at midfield, where she totally dominated, Niamh made two goals and struck four magnificent points.

Another masterstroke was placing Catriona Cormican on Ann Dalton. Tara Kenny, a stalwart for Galway, injured her cruciate in a recent challenge game.

In stepped Catherine Finnerty and what a contribution she made. She was extremely hard working and excellent as a playmaker.

It's gut wrenching to lose three finals in a row, there's just no other way to describe it. To be in six finals in the last seven years and win just one is tough.

The last two final losses seemed to

have had a negative effect in Kilkenny minds last Sunday rather than be a motivating factor and that can happen.

The strength and conditioning that Galway have introduced has worked wonders, but more evidently is the confidence they now play with. We saw it against Cork, and we saw it again against Kilkenny.

When the Cats narrowed a seven-point lead down to two with 10 minutes remaining, Galway just stepped it up a notch again, hitting four points without reply to win by six. Historically they have folded.

I thought Michelle Quilty and Denise Gaule in particular had very good games for Kilkenny. At the other end Kellyann Doyle found the first half particularly difficult.

Grace Walsh was surprisingly off,

“When the Cats narrowed a seven-point lead down to two with 10 minutes remaining, Galway just stepped it up a notch again, hitting four points without reply to win by six. Historically they have folded”

although she made a great save in additional time in that opening half to save a certain fourth goal for Galway.

What now for the All-Ireland champions?

Having also been in the intermediate final and winning U16A titles from 2015-2018, while also losing to Cork in 2019, means the future looks bright again.

When Galway won their last title in 2013, I didn't feel they were a great side. I think things fell their way.

But I'm really impressed with this Galway side and if Cathal Murray stays on board they'll have a big say again in 2020.

Top marks to referee Ray Kelly who played his part in a great final even if I did feel that one or two yellow cards were harsh.

# Wonderful Westmeath make history as vital goal turns tide

Courageous comeback secures All-Ireland camogie crown

Westmeath  
Galway

1-11  
1-9

GERRY BUCKLEY

THE rise and rise of Westmeath camogie continues apace! Seldom have success-starved Westmeath GAA fans in any code experienced such a roller-coaster of emotions as the large contingent did in pleasant autumnal conditions at Croke Park last Sunday afternoon when the Lake County ladies produced a stunning second-half display to edge out Galway, thereby claiming a first-ever All-Ireland intermediate title in front of close on 25,000 spectators.

When one considers that a first junior title was won just two short years ago - and with many of the same players involved - the enormity of the achievement of Johnny Greville's superbly-managed and coached side can be put into perspective.

Looking dead and buried at half-time when trailing by seven points - and having saved a penalty to boot - the girls in a changed blue and maroon strip hurled with consummate skill and admirable passion in a never-to-be-forgotten second half to deservedly claim the Jack McGrath Cup.

The Galway girls, wearing white and maroon colours, showed their intent with a first-minute attack which yielded a penalty when Mairéad Dillon was fouled. However, Meadh Scally saved Rachel Monaghan's ensuing puck from the spot.

Westmeath nudged ahead when Niamh Horan pointed neatly in the third minute and they doubled

Westmeath's Megan Dowdall on the attack as Galway's Laura Ward tries to stop her.

their lead courtesy of 'Hawkeye' after Pamela Greville's shot initially appeared to have been prevented from going over the crossbar by Galway goalkeeper Laura Glynn.

Galway regained the initiative and were full value for their 0-4 to 0-2 lead at the end of the third quarter, their four points coming from the sticks of Tara Rutledge (from a tight angle), Monaghan (a brace of frees, both from around the 50-metre mark), and Karen Kennedy (a fine solo score).

Conversely, their opponents were displaying signs of big match nerves throughout the pitch. One such unforced error by Scally allowed Dillon to tee up Ava Lynskey for a clinically-taken goal in the 20th minute. When Monaghan added two fine points from play (the first also something of a gift), the champions-elect looked in deep trouble.

An inspirational point from Pamela Greville and a converted free by the same lady reduced the deficit, but the Tribeswomen cancelled these out by half-time with a point under pressure from Rutledge and another from Lynskey, the centre half-forward having done well to cut in goalward. Greville was wide from a sideline cut with the last puck of the half, with the scoreboard reading: Galway 1-8 Westmeath 0-4.

It would have been a brave Westmeath person who might have predicted what unfolded on the change of ends. Greville's first-time pull some 30 seconds after the resumption of play drew a good save from

Glynn at the expense of a '45' which the Raharney veteran duly converted. Umpire Niamh Lake County girls were



Mairéad McCormack scores Westmeath's goal in last Sunday's All-Ireland final despite the best efforts of Galway goalie Laura Glynn. PHOTO: JOHN MCCAULEY.

## In a nutshell

### Player of the match

Pamela Greville (Westmeath). The evergreen Raharney lady recovered from an untypically patchy first-half display to show immense leadership qualities during her side's superb comeback.

### Key moment

For Westmeath to have had any chance of retrieving what looked like a lost cause, they needed a goal. Accordingly, skipper Mairéad McCormack's 41st-minute three-pointer was absolutely crucial.

### Match stats

**Wides:** Westmeath 9 (first half, 5); Galway 3 (3).  
**'45's:** Westmeath 1 (0); Galway 0 (0).  
**Yellow cards:** Westmeath 4 (Meadhb Scally, A Cully, F Leavy, N Horan); Galway 2 (L Ward, L Coen).

already unrecognisable from their off-colour selves in the first half, with Scally, Fiona Leavy, Caoimhe McCrossan, Sheila McGrath and Megan Dowdall among those impressively leading the charge. However, Greville was especially inspirational and her two successful frees, resulting from fouls on Dowdall and McGrath respectively, had her side trailing by 1-8 to 0-7 with 40 minutes on the clock.

A minute later, the vociferous Westmeath fans were on their feet celebrating a vital goal scored by team captain Mairéad McCormack, who found the net at the second attempt from a tight angle near the Galway goalmouth, at the end of a Dowdall delivery. Soon afterwards, McGrath pointed stylishly to tie up the scoring.

It was all Westmeath now and Fiona Keating's long-range free caused an element of panic in a by-now rattled losers' rear-guard. Greville hit the winners' first wide of the half in the 49th-minute, but her next placed ball found the range to edge her side ahead. Keating and Greville were narrowly wide of either side of the goalposts from long-range frees, but the latter lady doubled Westmeath's advantage from a free via the upright in the 59th minute.

After shooting a wide from a very difficult opportunity from open play, Greville made amends when she put Westmeath three points clear in the third minute of added-time after being teed up by Dowdall. The latter - a player of immense talent - almost scored an opportunist goal before Galway got their only score of the second half in the dying moments via sub Niamh Horan's low-trajectory free.

Ecstatic scenes followed the final whistle moments later. As Mairéad McCormack and Megan Dowdall climbed the famous Hogan Stand steps to receive the Jack McGrath Cup and official player of the match statuette respectively, scorer-in-chief Pamela Greville and her bainisteoir brother Johnny were being interviewed by RTE.

The latter joyously stuck to his promise that he would "not do a Jim Gavin" (well known for avoiding any displays of post-match emotion). Indeed, the Deelsider's passionate contribution went vital as the afternoon progressed. However, Messrs Gavin and Greville undoubtedly share one common trait - they are both superb managers of superb teams.

### SCORERS

**Westmeath:** P Greville 0-9 (5f, 145), M McCormack 1-0, N Horan and Sheila McGrath 0-1

each. **Galway:** R Monaghan 0-4 (2f), A Lynskey 1-1, T Rutledge 0-2, K Kennedy and N Horan (f) 0-1 each.

**WESTMEATH:** Fiona Keating; Aoife O'Malley, Meadh Scally, Laura Doherty; Amy Cully, Fiona Leavy, Sandra McGrath; Muireann Scally, Niamh Horan; Mairéad McCormack, Sheila McGrath, Megan Dowdall; Michelle Murtagh, Pamela Greville, Caoimhe McCrossan. **Sub used:** Aoife Doherty for Horan (37 mins).

**GALWAY:** Laura Glynn; Clara Donohue, Laura Ward, Louise Brennan; Kate Screene, Lorraine Coen, Dervla Higgins; Lisa Casserly, Molly Mannion; Karen Kennedy, Ava Lynskey, Rachel Monaghan; Elisha Broderick, Mairéad Dillon, Tara Rutledge. **Subs used:** Rachael Hanniffy for Broderick (48 mins), Niamh Horan for Monaghan (48), Catriona Brennan (56).

**REFEREE:** Andrew (Cork).





Westmeath, 2019 All-Ireland intermediate camogie champions. Back row, from left: Fiona Leavy, Muireann Scally, Emma Broughan, Emma Flynn, Caoimhe McCrossan, Aisling Egerton, Sarah King, Pamela Greville, Fiona Keating, Amy Cully, Niamh Horan, Méadbh Scally, Sandra McGrath, Shauna McGrath, Sinead McKenna, Aileen Dermody, Róisín Scally, Jane Nangle. Front row, l-r: Ava Balle, Joanne McCormack, Mairéad McCormack (capt.), Laura Doherty, Sheila McGrath, Anna Weir, Aoife O'Malley, Aoife Doherty, Olivia Glynn, Aoife Higgins, Megan Dowdall, Michelle Murtagh, Caoimhe Gaffney. PICTURE: INPHO/TOMMY DICKSON



Westmeath players celebrate after their All-Ireland final victory at Croke Park last Sunday. PICTURE: INPHO/TOMMY DICKSON.



Westmeath captain Mairéad McCormack lifts the Jack McGrath Cup after her side defeated Galway in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship final at Croke Park. PICTURE: INPHO/BRYAN KEANE.

## 'These are memories the players will never forget' - Johnny Greville

GERRY BUCKLEY

WESTMEATH camogie manager par excellence Johnny Greville was probably unaware that he was the talk of the country after his hilarious and passionate on-field interview by RTE a half an hour earlier when he spoke to the midlands media outside the winning dressing room in Croke Park last Sunday afternoon.

The Raharney man was asked the obvious question at the outset, as to what he said at half-time to inspire his team to a Lazarus-like second half comeback. He responded: "There was no magic formula at half-time. I've been involved as a manager in plenty of these scenarios and it was a few tweaks here and there. It was the same process as every year. We knew if we got going and managed to win, it was of their key players

that we could maybe get on top and keep plugging away.

"The goal (scored by Mairéad McCormack) was probably the crucial score of the game in the second half. I thought the chance had gone but then she hit it into the floor and into the back of the net. We had to take that chance. I said to the girls inside there now that I didn't realise that Galway hadn't scored in the second half until the 64th minute. It felt like we were always clawing them back, and we missed a few frees here and there which I thought might come back to bite us."

He continued: "The girls were very resilient at the back - their energy, their enthusiasm and their work rate was phenomenal. It was probably one of the best performances in a second half in All-Ireland camogie final day in a long time. The goal they got was from one of our mistakes. But when they got the early penalty

and we saved it, I felt that's a sign that today could be our day if we keep at it. Aoife Doherty came on and she shored up the midfield area."

His sister Pamela had a superb second half, while their brother Jimmy was a selector, so it was a great day for the Greville family. Johnny was understandably delighted with this, but he was keen to hone in on the collective effort, as follows: "We're all family in there. We had Conor Moore down during the week doing a few sketches to lighten the mood (he later declined to comment whether the Mullingar mimic had perfected his impersonation of the winning manager!) and there's plenty of actual sisters on the team. We're a family as a whole. That showed through. We win together and we lose together.

"The journey we had to get here today was phenomenal, but to come

out with a performance like that against a really good Galway team was great. I have to hand it to Cathal (Murray) - he did two (managerial) jobs at the one time and had to juggle them all on All-Ireland final day. Their intermediate side is an U20/U21 group and they have some serious players. Our fitness is good and we finished the second half very strongly."

And what celebrations were in store? "I told the girls we'd savour the moment. It's

about making sure that these are memories they will never ever forget. If I end up a disco tonight, I'll stay a while and slip out another door and get a taxi home," the bainisteoir concluded with a smile.



Westmeath manager Johnny Greville celebrates after the game with Sandra McGrath. PICTURE: INPHO/TOMMY DICKSON.

# ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

## It's more Croke heartache for the gifted ladies

Not since the eighties has a county lost three All-Ireland senior finals in-a-row. Kilkenny battled and battled, but it wasn't to be, writes John Knox



**GALWAY** 3-14  
**KILKENNY** 0-17

On the day when a stunning victory in a magnificent contest saw Galway reach the Promised Land in camogie, hard chasing Kilkenny had their hopes and dreams buried again.

All-Ireland final day never looked as dark for Kilkenny as it did at around 5.30pm on Sunday after the Cats slumped to their third consecutive defeat in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie final.

This was a first time experience for the county; heart breaking stuff. Not since the Noreiders were the dominant force in the eighties has a county been beaten in three finals in-a-row. However, the fate has befallen Cork on no less than three occasions.

The last time was against Kilkenny in 1987, 1988 and 1989 when the Cats were on a glory run that saw them own the O'Duffy Cup for seven straight years between 1985 and 1991.

In simple terms, all action

Galway claimed their third O'Duffy Cup win because they scored three goals during the first half. Indeed, it might have been four or five as their opponents solid game up to that staggered for a while following the concession of two goals in as many minutes nearing the end of the half.

Kilkenny put in a battling, well structured effort afterwards and the second half exchanges were even at 0-7 each. However, the day belonged to Galway's gifted class of 2019 with the likes of



Kilkenny goalkeeper Emma Kavanagh hand-passes the sliotar away as Galway's Ailish O'Reilly closes in during Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final PICTURE: BRYAN KEANE/INPHO

Niamh Kilkenny, Sarah Spellman, Ailish O'Reilly and company never looking like surrendering following that volley of goals.

With 10 minutes remaining Kilkenny were still chasing hard, still in the hunt after Denise Gaule landed a super point from a free from 65 metres on the left sideline after the tenacious Anna Farrell had been fouled. The score was 3-10 to 0-17.

### CHASING HARD

Scores didn't come easy and there was no real goal threat, but Kilkenny were chasing hard, and with method as they used the ball well and worked it through the lines as best they could.

However, in the final straight Galway produced a sprint finish. Unanswered scores came from free taker, Carrie Dolan, the magnificent Niamh Kilkenny, goalie Sarah Healy from a free beyond midfield and Niamh Kilkenny again as they signed off with a devastating flourish.

Croke Park can be a theatre of dreams on days such as Galway enjoyed as they captured their first title since 2013, but for beaten Kilkenny is must now seem like a cursed place.

Kilkenny nabbed the opening score from a free by

the sure firing Michelle Quilty following a foul on Anne Dalton. With barely 90 seconds showing on the clock Galway struck for a goal.

Niamh Kilkenny, who appeared to be everywhere in the early stages, made a lightening break from the '30' at the Hill 16 end and off-loaded the ball to Ailish O'Reilly on her right. From no more than eight metres the latter rifled a bullet into the net.

With the addition of a quick point from Kilkenny (Niamh) that was worked by driving centre-back, Emma Helebert, the winners enjoyed a perfect spell that helped them settle.

Kilkenny gave chase. With the addition of a great point off the left from Denise Gaule and another at the end of a storming run by Davina Tobin, plus a couple of frees from Michelle Quilty, they caught up at 0-6 to 1-3 after 11 minutes.

An exchange of points followed before Kilkenny hit the front for the second time in the 16th minute when Gaule pointed. Quilty doubled the lead from a free after Miriam Walsh had been fouled (0-9 to 1-4).

The exchanges were magnificent; touch and vision class, and all at a deadly

pace.

During the following five minutes Galway cut the gap to the minimum before the second goal arrived. Full-forward Niamh Hanniffy put her name on the score after Sarah Spellman broke a fast delivery from defence.

That was the 25th minute. In the 27th the green was flying again, this time after Ailish O'Reilly got a long run at goal before finishing after a delivery from wing-back, Lorraine Ryan, got through to her.

Without having suffered a mauling in the open exchanges, and without having played to a level expected, Kilkenny reached half-time a hefty 0-10 to 3-7 behind.

That would have been worse but for the fact goalie Emma Kavanagh brought off a smashing late save from O'Reilly before a sizzling second drive by Spellman was deflected out for a 45, which Carrie Dolan pointed.

For the new half the losers had that usual bundle of energy Anne Dalton in midfield, but things didn't improve in the short term. They got worse when Dolan extended the Galway lead when converting a point.

Credit to Kilkenny, they dragged their game back



Kilkenny, All-Ireland camogie finalists 2019 PICTURE: VICKY COMERFORD



## HOW THEY LINED OUT

**SCORERS**  
**Galway** - Ailish O'Reilly (2-0); Carrie Dolan (0-6, 0-5 frees, 0-1 45); Niamh Kilkenny (0-4); Niamh Hanniffy (1-0); Noreen Coen, Sarah Spellman, Catherine Finnerty, Sarah Healy (0-1 each).  
**Kilkenny** - Michelle Quilty (0-8, 0-7 frees); Denise Gaule (0-3, 0-1 free); Anne Dalton (0-2, 0-1 free); Davina Tobin, Aoife Doyle, Miriam Walsh, Anna Farrell (0-1 each).

**TEAMS**  
**Kilkenny** - Emma Kavanagh (Rower-Inistioge), Collette Dormer (Barrow Rangers), Catherine Foley (Windgap), Edwina Keane (St Martin's), Kellyann Doyle (Piltown), Claire Phelan (Lisdowney), Grace Walsh (Tullaroan), Meighan Farrell (Thomastown), Davina Tobin (Emeralds), Anna Farrell (Thomastown), Katie Power (Piltown), Anne Dalton (St Lachtain's), Michelle Quilty (Mullinavat), Miriam Walsh (Tullaroan), Denise Gaule (Windgap). Subs: Aoife Doyle (Piltown) for Keane, 29 mins; Danielle Morrissey (Conahy Shamrocks) for A Doyle, 56 mins.  
**GALWAY** - Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, Sarah Dervan, Heather Cooney, Lorraine Ryan, Catriona Cormican, Emma Helebert, Aoife Donohue, Niamh Kilkenny, Sarah Spellman, Noreen Coen, Catherine Finnerty, Niamh Hanniffy, Ailish O'Reilly. Sub: Anne Marie Starr for Coen, 42 mins.

**REFEREE** - Ray Kelly (Kildare)  
**ATTENDANCE** - 24,730



**ROLL OF HONOUR**  
**Cork (28)** - 1934, 1935, 1936, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018.  
**Dublin (26)** - 1932, 1933, 1937, 1938, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1984.  
**Kilkenny (13)** - 1974, 1976, 1977, 1981, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 2016.  
**Wexford (7)** - 1968, 1969, 1975, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012.  
**Antrim (6)** - 1945, 1946, 1947, 1956, 1967, 1979.  
**Tipperary (5)** - 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004.  
**Galway (3)** - 1996, 2013, 2019.

together. The chase was always tough, however. The gains were painstaking slow against opposition with a tremendous work ethic. Katie Power was fouled. Michelle Quilty pointed. Miriam Walsh and Anna Farrell put scores together and it appeared Kilkenny had generated serious momentum.

Galway broke up the field when goalie Sarah Healy drove a ball to Niamh Kilkenny, who landed a magnificent pressure relieving point from 60 metres (3-9 to 0-14). A like score from a 45 by Carrie Dolan knocked the Cats back again, but they doggedly lifted their challenge again.

**DETERMINED**  
 Anne Dalton made a determined break and nabbed a point. Then she landed a second from a free on midfield, and with a third from Denise Gaule in the 50th minute the losers were right back in it (3-10 to 0-17).

Galway looked a bit unsteady for a moment when Dolan missed a handy enough free, which was only their third wide of the match, and this was the 51st minute.

Not long afterwards Galway took off on their devastating spring finish. It was magnificent stuff.



The face is visible on the faces of the Kilkenny players as they watch Galway pick up the O'Duffy Cup PICTURE: VICKY COMERFORD



Miriam Walsh goes on the attack PICTURE: VICKY COMERFORD



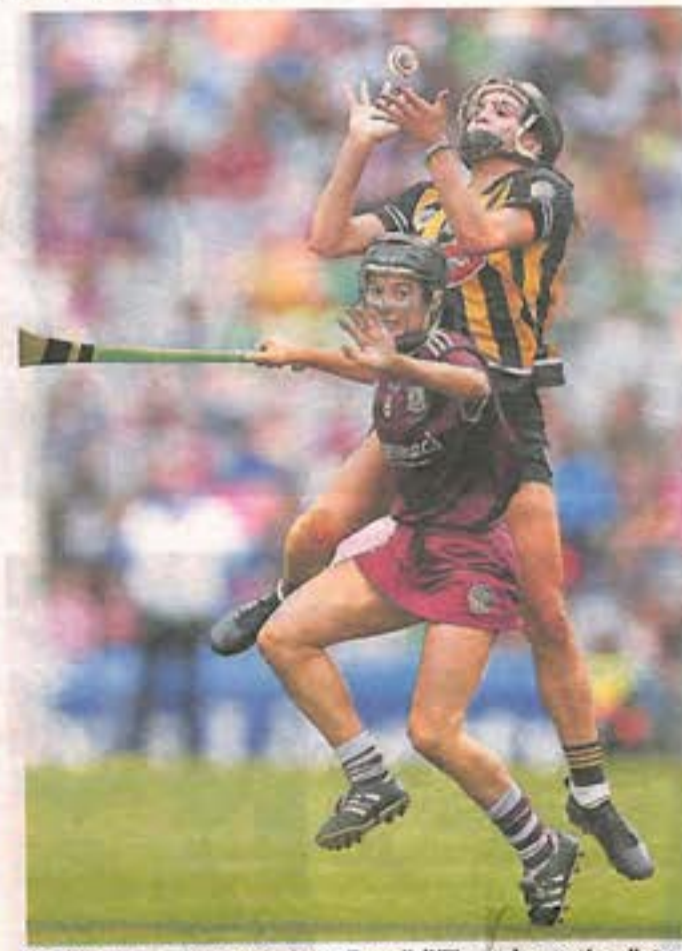
Claire Phelan (Kilkenny) and Niamh Hanniffy (Galway) keep a close watch on the sliotar PICTURE: VICKY COMERFORD



Denise Gaule (Kilkenny) gets away from Emma Helebert (Galway) PICTURE: LASZLO GECZO/INPHO



Anne Dalton (Kilkenny) goes on the attack



No hurley, no problem as Anna Farrell (Kilkenny) gets the sliotar away from Aoife Donohue (Galway) PICTURE: BRYAN KEANE/INPHO

**Fantastic final victory for Murray's squad over luckless Cats**

GALWAY	3-14
KILKENNY	0-17

JOHN MCINTYRE  
AT CROKE PARK

ANY lingering doubts about the Galway camogie team's bottle and fortitude in the white heat of battle were gloriously swept aside on the back of a magnificent performance at Croke Park on Sunday.

Since Galway's previous All-Ireland triumph in 2013 - only the county's second ever - the theory that they didn't like too much hardship had gained some traction, but that shadow no longer stalks Sarah Dervan and her colleagues.

This was the day Galway answered every call. They went after the strong pre-match favourites from the off, built up a significant lead, and still had the resolution to push on again when Kilkenny threatened a successful second-half revival.

After edging out champions Cork in a titanic semi-final, Galway were every bit as relentless in terms of their work ethic and commitment on the sport's biggest occasion. Cathal Murray's wonderfully prepared charges were in no mood for compromise having seen what had worked so well against the Rebels. They brought the same levels of verve and energy into Sunday's memorable decider.

In front of a record-breaking attendance of almost 25,000, Galway continued their transformation of the past few months. Having already claimed the league title against the same opposition earlier in the year, the Tribeswomen are now the standard bearers in camogie and may take some shifting from their pedestal in the seasons ahead.

Though Galway produced almost the perfect team display, highlighted by their defensive match-ups proving so effective - Denise Gaule was the only Kilkenny forward to score more than once from play - the heroic exploits of several individuals was critical to the O'Duffy Cup returning west.

Topping the bill was the long-serving Niamh Kilkenny who produced an astonishing performance of the highest quality which helped to break the opposition's hearts. The Galway midfielder, who covered acres of ground, set the tone from the start and her haul of four points from play ensured that there was no deliberation when it came to the Player of the Match award.



# GALWAY'S DAY

But Kilkenny got sterling support all over the field. Goalkeeper Sarah Healy was faultless and her second-half point from a long-range free was the crowning glory. Her defensive back-up was magnificent, none less so than Catriona Cormican, who was successfully redeployed to centre-back after a knee injury ruled out Tara Kenny.



**BUT GALWAY'S RESPONSE WAS EMPHATIC. THEY HIT THE FINAL FOUR POINTS OF THE MATCH TO FINISH IN A BLAZE OF GLORY**

With Heather Cooney, Dervan, Shauna Healy, 2013 captain Lorraine Ryan and Emma Helebert also in the zone, Kilkenny's famed attack, which didn't create a goal chance of note, was held well in check on a day the Noresiders' poor finals record - they have now lost nine of their last 10 ap-

pearances - took another turn for the worst.

Aoife Donohue helped considerably to establish Galway's midfield dominance, while two-goal hero Ailish O'Reilly really tormented the Cats in the opening-half. In that forward division, Sarah Spellman, Niamh Hanniffy, whose early surges rattled Kilkenny, Noreen Coen and Catherine Finnerty all tellingly featured on the scoreboard while the free-taking of young Carrie Dolan stood up to the pressure.

In essence, Galway didn't have a weak link and the belief the players carried into their final on the back of their unexpected victory over Cork was plain to see. The conviction in their overall play typified a team on good terms with itself mentally.

Though Kilkenny opened the scoring with a first-minute Michelle Quilty point, Galway made a major statement just seconds later when Donohue and Kilkenny combined to release O'Reilly and she nearly took the net off its rigging with the power of her shot.

That goal was the product of a Healy puck-out straight down the centre and it was a tactic



Galway's Sarah Spellman getting the better of Kilkenny's Edwina Keane at Croke Park on Sunday.

Galway repeatedly used to telling effect in the opening-half, especially with Kilkenny

and Donohue swooping on the breaks. Subsequently, Emma Hele-

bert set up Kilkenny for a neatly-taken score and with Noreen Coen also splitting the

# First-half goals help to lift Galway to All-Ireland title

■ Hero Kilkenny also pays tribute to her team-mates and big role of management

EANNA O'REILLY

PLAYER of the Match Niamh Kilkenny paid tribute to her team-mates after Galway upset the odds against Kilkenny at Croke Park on Sunday, stressing the importance of the three first half goals in lifting the team.

"Our approach all year was to try and get the ball as fast as possible into our full forward line, the girls inside have proven all year that they can score goals if they're given the right amount of ball. It was always in our heads to try to get good ball into Ailish (O'Reilly), Noreen (Coen) and Niamh Hanniffy and they showed today the damage they can do inside. The three goals gave us a great boost and we had a good lead at half time.

"We knew then that we couldn't be complacent, Kilkenny were always going to come back and have a purple patch. We just focused on keeping the scoreboard ticking over and working hard and, thankfully, we came out on top."

Having been part of the Galway panel since 2008 and going through many highs and lows, the Galway midfielder was clearly savouring the feeling of victory. "I've had some really tough days here, losing three All-Ireland Ffnals and the hurt that goes with that. It's a really special feeling today.

"Huge credit has to go to the management. They've been so professional this year and they've instilled huge belief in us. We've lost semi-finals in the last few years and we always seemed to fall away near the end and drop our heads. This management team gave us massive belief and focused on the strongest aspects of our game and we utilised those very well today, I think.

"We were probably considered to be the third best team in the country by a lot of people, but our management gave us the belief that if we knuckled down, we could beat any team that was put in front of us."

Kilkenny referred to the importance of the All-Ireland quarter-final win in Thurles as a key moment in the season, when the Tribeswomen had to battle tooth and nail to get past a dogged Waterford side. "We really had to raise our game in the second half against Waterford and we managed to grind

out the win.

"We learned a huge amount from that game, and we took the momentum into the Cork game after that. The test we got against Waterford really stood to us. Beating Cork then was a huge confidence boost and we knuckled down then for three weeks and, thankfully, it all worked out for us today."

She also paid tribute to her injured teammate Tara Kenny, who was desperately unfortunate to tear her cruciate ligament in training the week before the All-Ireland final. "For any sports person to tear their cruciate is a really difficult experience. But all credit to Tara, she put her own misfortune aside and really drove on the team. It gave us an extra incentive to go out and win it for her. We were lucky to be able to go out and play, she would have given anything to be able to play today. So that really pushed us on to go out and give it our best."

For her four magnificent points, Kilkenny was keen to give credit to her teammates for the work done in the build-up. "The work rate from the girls inside is what makes it happen. I just try to be an outlet for a pass and you're just waiting for the ball to be recycled out, so they've done all the hard work by the time it gets to me."



**TODAY IS ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT FOR GALWAY CAMOGIE AND, HOPEFULLY, THE LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM GET ON WELL NEXT WEEKEND**

The presence of a huge Galway support was another factor which lifted the team, according to Kilkenny. "We felt that noise when we were running out and to see the maroon and white everywhere was brilliant. We've had great support all year but to get a crowd like that today was really fantastic.

"There was so much talk down in Galway about the two finals and to see all the kids out during the week with Galway jerseys pucking a ball around was brilliant. Hopefully, we can get more young girls involved



Galway's Niamh Kilkenny with the All-Ireland camogie final Player of the Match award at the team's victory banquet in the Bonnington Hotel on Sunday night.

in sport and keep them past the age of 16 or 17, which is when we often see a drop off. But today is absolutely brilliant for Galway camogie and, hopefully, the ladies football team get on well next weekend and get the same support that we got today," added Kilkenny.

After the match, goal scoring hero Ailish O'Reilly said that the overwhelming emotion at the final whistle was one of relief. "I don't think it's even sunk in yet. I don't think I appreciated 2013 enough at the time. It feels like a lifetime ago and we've had some tough defeats since then so by God, are we going to enjoy this one!"

O'Reilly credited the work done by the backs during the game against the highly rated Kilkenny forward line. "Losing Tara was a huge blow for us, but we wanted to win it even more for her. Teeny went back there and for most of the game you wouldn't even know that Anne Dalton was playing, I though Teeny did a brilliant job. I don't think our backs get enough credit, the likes of Shauna, Heather, everyone, they were all brilliant today.

"I think the biggest thing that's changed under Cathal is that we play as a unit throughout the whole team from 1 to 15 and we have done all year. Every time Kilkenny came back



Galway goalkeeper Sarah Healy shows her delight after overcoming Kilkenny in Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park.

at us, we reacted. Just like the Waterford game and the Cork game, we reacted when we really needed to and that shows the character of the girls and the belief the management have given us.

O'Reilly credited her team-

mates for presenting her with the goal opportunities which she finished in style. "The girls out the field sent in some great ball and I suppose you need the instinct to be in the right place at the right time. Myself and Niamh Hanniffy were joking on

the way up that we were going to be scoring goals today, but that's exactly how it turned out! Its great to share that as well with someone from your own club. I think we put Oranmore on the map today," she concluded with a smile.

# CAMOGIE FINALS DAY



**CHAMPIONS:** The Galway senior camogie team which overcame Kilkenny in Sunday's All-Ireland final at Croke Park. Back row, left to right: Sarah Healy, Tara Kenny, Ciara Murphy, Leanne Freaney, Niamh Kilkenny, Anne Marie Starr, Maria Cooney, Slobhan Coen, Heather Cooney, Sarah Dervan, Niamh Hanniffy, Dervla Higgins, Ava Lynskey, Niamh Murphy, Niamh Horan, Lisa Casserly, Molly Mannion, Karen Kennedy, Laura Glynn, Leah Burke. Front row: Caitriona Cormican, Rebecca Hennelly, Sarah Spellman, Catherine Finnerty, Shauna Healy, Aoife Donohue, Lorraine Ryan, Emma Helebert, Noreen Coen, Ailish O'Reilly, Carrie Dolan, Caitriona Lee, Laura Ward, Mairead Dillon, Elisha Broderick, Ciara Donohue.



Galway's Emma Helebert and Shauna Healy celebrate their All-Ireland final triumph.



Galway defenders Lorraine Ryan, Heather Cooney and Sarah Dervan with the O'Duffy Cup.



The Galway intermediate camogie team which lost to Westmeath in Sunday's All-Ireland final at Croke Park. Back row, left to right: Ciara Helebert, Grace Finnerty, Niamh Murphy, Dearbhla Walshe, Leanne Helebert, Caitriona Lee, Ciara Donohue, Kate Screene, Dervla Higgins, Karen Kennedy, Rachel Monaghan, Louise Bronnan, Niamh Black, Niamh Horan, Leah Burke, Molly Mannion, Leona Rabbitte. Front row: Fiona Ryan, Becky Gilchreest, Eimear Porter, Ava Lynskey, Laura Glynn, Laura Ward, Lisa Casserly, Mairead Dillon, Tara Rutledge, Elisha Broderick, Lorraine Coen, Rachel Hanniffy, Chloe Broderick.



Kilkenny's Denise Gaule comes under pressure from Galway's Catriona Cormican and Sarah Dervan during Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park. PHOTOS: INPHO/TOMMY DICKSON

## MURRAY THE MANAGER WITH THE MIDAS TOUCH STEERS GALWAY OVER THE LINE

JOHN MCINTYRE

CATHAL Murray was reluctant to partake in the post-match media interviews. He wanted to stay on the field and savour the Tribeswomen's celebrations after their epic All-Ireland final over Kilkenny. And who could blame him?

RTE managed to drag him away for a TV briefing, but once that obligation was out of the way, Murray sprinted down the tunnel and back onto the Croke Park surface where the triumphant Galway camp were giving full vent to their emotions.

Having first shown his sideline pedigree when guiding Sarsfields to the 2015 senior hurling title as player/manager, Murray's success with the Galway camogie team last Sunday underlined his qualities as the head honcho.

Having only been parachuted into the post after last year's league campaign, Murphy has since helped to transform Galway's fortunes by completing the All-Ireland and National League double.

"It's unbelievable and hard to put into words. I am thrilled for the girls, they worked so hard for this. It's immensely satisfying and the players were the ones driving the standards. There are huge leaders in our dressing-room.

"We got a tonic start and the goals from Ailish (O'Reilly) and Niamh (Hanniffy) gave us a lot of momentum. We don't win too many All-Irelands and this is only the third for Galway which makes it all the more special."

Murray said that the misfortunes of the Galway intermediates in their All-Ireland final against Westmeath had helped to "brace them" for anything Kilkenny would throw at them in the second-half.

"When Carrie (Dolan) nailed that diffi-



Galway manager Cathal Murray follows the action.

cult free after just missing one, I felt we had it. Niamh (Kilkenny) got some unbelievable scores, but the team effort was outstanding. It's a great achievement and a huge honour to be part of it."

Murray praised the support of his back-room team, especially Strength & Conditioning Coach, Robbie Lane. "After last year, we knew we had to get fitter and Robbie did a terrific job."

The Galway manager also noted the input of Johnny Kelly, Aidan Ryan, Therese Maher and David Morris for their assistance over the past few months. "It was just a massive effort from everybody."



Galway's Niamh Hanniffy heading towards the Kilkenny posts during the All-Ireland senior camogie final.

posts after a strong Hanniffy run, Galway led by 1-2 to 0-3 after eight minutes. The accu-

rate Quilty was keeping Kilkenny in touch as Galway were coming out the worst of

the free count, with a couple of referee Ray Kelly's decisions difficult to fathom.

For much of the second quarter, Kilkenny enjoyed the upper-hand. Although Dolan (two frees) and Spellman found the target for Galway, the Cats had established a 0-10 to 1-5 advantage by the 22nd minute with Quilty, Gaule and midfielder Davina Tobin raising white flags.

But there was an obvious goal threat at the other end of the field and the Kilkenny dam burst when their lines were twice breached within less than 90 seconds. O'Reilly and Spellman featured in the build-up as Hanniffy was in the right place to steer the sliotar home in the 26th minute before Kilkenny again put O'Reilly clear and the Oranmore/Maree player was coolness personified as she beat Emma Kavanagh for the second time.

The maroon flags were flying around Croke Park and with Catherine Finnerty and Dolan (45) splitting the posts, Galway enjoyed a healthy half-time cushion of 3-7 to 0-10. Mindful, however, of the intermediates' second-half collapse against Westmeath earlier, there was surely nobody in their camp thinking that the job was done. And though Dolan (free) had

the first score of the second-half, Kilkenny began to work their way back into a high-quality showdown. They had four unanswered points from Quilty (free) substitute Aoife Doyle, Miriam Walsh and Anne Dalton, now positioned at mid-field.

A precise Sarah Healy clearance set up Kilkenny for a badly-needed Galway point in the 45th minute, while Dolan sent over an excellent '45 to leave the Tribeswomen 3-10 to 0-14 ahead, but Kilkenny were still in the hunt, especially after frees from Gaule, Dalton and Quilty closed the gap to two again with just ten minutes remaining.

But Galway's response was emphatic. They hit the final four points of the match to finish in a blaze of glory. Having just missed a free, Dolan showed nerves of steel to convert a difficult place ball from the right wing, while 'keeper Healy and, fittingly, a brace of cracking efforts from Kilkenny, put the seal on an unforgettable afternoon for the women in maroon.

Substitutes Anne Marie Starr and Rebecca Hennelly also contributed to Galway's stir-

ring finale and having overcome the sport's top two teams on their way to championship glory only adds lustre to the county's achievement. In contrast, Kilkenny were left grieving a third consecutive final defeat.

On an afternoon when Galway undeservedly picked up five yellow cards, Cathal Murray and his management team deserve huge acclaim too for turning their squad into champions. Fitness coach Robbie Lane had the players in superb physical condition and when you have Niamh Kilkenny serving up arguably the game of her life, no wonder Galway are the undisputed Queens of camogie.

**Galway:** Sarah Healy (0-1, free); Shauna Healy, S Dervan, H Cooney; E Helebert, C Cormican, L Ryan; A Donohue, N Kilkenny (0-4); C Dolan (0-6, 0-4 frees, 0-2 '45s); C Finnerty (0-1); S Spellman (0-1); N Coen (0-1); N Hanniffy (1-0); A O'Reilly (2-0).  
**Subs:** A M Starr for Coen (42), R Hennelly for Spellman (50).  
**Kilkenny:** E Kavanagh; C Dormer, C Foley, E Keane; K Doyle, C Phelan, G Walsh, M Farrell, D Tobin (0-1); A Farrell (0-1), K Power, A Dalton (0-2, 0-1 free); M Quilty (0-8, 0-7 frees), M Walsh (0-1), D Gaule (0-3, 0-1 free).  
**Subs:** A Doyle (0-1) for Keane (28), D Morrissey for A Doyle (58).  
**Referee:** R Kelly (Kildare).

# The fear of losing may have been factor in Cats latest All-Ireland loss

John Knox  
at Croke Park

The mental baggage of Kilkenny losing consecutive All-Ireland finals and five in the previous 10 seasons could have inhibited the Cats in their bid for senior camogie glory in Croke Park.

The Nonesiders became the first county in 30 years to lose three deciders in-a-row when falling to Galway in Croke Park on Sunday, and there were suggestions that the fear of losing might have got to them.

Former great and team manager, Ann Downey, was at a loss to explain Sunday's below par showing that followed previous losses to Cork in the last two seasons.

"Maybe our players were so afraid of losing they weren't able to express themselves," the 12 times former All-Ireland medal winner suggested. "I know some of them will be disappointed with their performances."

"When you get to an All-Ireland final and you are

playing in Croke Park the whole thing can take on a life of its own. You have to be able to shut everything out and just try and perform."

"I have never asked the girls to go out and win a match. I have always asked them to perform, perform, perform. Unfortunately for some of them it did not happen today."

"When you get to an All-Ireland final you need the XV and subs to do that."

## STANDING DOWN

The former St Paul's and Lisdowney star told the players in the dressing-room after the game that she was standing down from the position she has held for the last four years.

During that time the county won the O'Duffy Cup once, plus three National League titles.

This was Ann's second stint as manager, and the fact the county contested seven national finals in that time would suggest she and the selectors got a lot out of the squad.

"The three goals conceded in the first half killed us to be

honest," she continued. "They probably all came from their puck-outs and they won the breaking ball. Their centrefield were doing the overlap and we didn't contain them."

Galway hunted in packs, she insisted.

"In the dressing-room at half-time the girls were disappointed with the way they played," the manager revealed. "They knew there was more in them and that they hadn't worked hard enough."

"We changed things around for the second half. We put Claire Phelan at full-back and moved Meighan Farrell back and Anné Dalton into midfield. That helped the situation and we got back to within two points of them."

"Again, Galway were never going to let us in for a goal. It was impossible against them. They swarmed us. They worked so hard. They were so much hungrier than we were. That was the bottom line."

Why might Galway have been that bit hungrier, she was asked?

"I have no idea at this early



Kilkenny manager, Ann Downey, who stepped down from the position after the game

stage," she replied. "Maybe it was that they haven't been here for so long, and Kilkenny have been here for the last few years."

"There was too much space. There was an ocean of space when they scored the goals and we never created that kind of space. They had no fear. We have lost so many All-Irelands here, maybe that fear was holding the girls back."

"They came up with great hope. They knew they would have to battle hard to beat Galway. If we wanted to have a

chance, we had to go toe-to-toe with them and we were not able to do that today."

When asked how in the lead up to the final Kilkenny had handled the losing finals issue, Ann said the situation was addressed but there was only so much looking back that could be done.

"You must always look ahead," she insisted. "While we did look at the last two All-Ireland finals, they weren't our focus point to be honest. You can only look back and learn."

## BIG STAGE

"With new opposition and a new challenge, we were hoping things would go better for us. They didn't. All-Ireland day is a big stage. Some of the young girls played with freedom."

"Our older players are nearer the finishing line than they were last year, so maybe that was holding them back."

"I couldn't ask any more of the girls. They have trained so hard and put in so many hours. They have been watching their diet and they have been fully committed."

"You couldn't fault them. It is all about the day, and it didn't happen for us today."

She felt Galway defended very well and they hunted in packs, thereby limiting space in front of goal to the opposition.

"I think we got only one run at goal, and that was early on. All year that was something that was happening for us," she pointed out.

"Obviously Galway had their work done on us, and they stopped that overlap. It all comes down to the will to win. Galway had it in spades."

Rising the girls now would be difficult, but the manager said getting back playing with their clubs would be the first step on the road to lifting the gloom.

"It is very hard," she assured. "They have been here so many times and they have come back and come back. It is going to be a long winter for them."

"They will go back to their clubs, and everyone will be there to help and support them to try and get over this bitter disappointment."

## Gifted players must continue to believe - Dowling

Kilkenny's constant involvement at the highest level of camogie over the past five years or so suggests there is something big there, so the quest for All-Ireland glory has to go on.

"These are no ordinary players," insisted new coach, Brian Dowling, in the aftermath of Sunday's hugely disappointing All-Ireland final defeat against Galway.

"These are tremendous Kilkenny players. They are massively committed."

"They have played in three consecutive All-Ireland finals and won three National Leagues."

**"I marvel watching them in training sometimes they are so good. Sunday's defeat wasn't easy to take, but the girls have to continue to believe."**

"That suggests there is something there, something huge. It has to happen for Kilkenny at some stage."

"I have to say I marvel watching them in training sometimes they are so good. Sunday's defeat wasn't easy to take, but the girls have to continue to believe."

The O'Loughlin Gaels clubman, who joined the backroom teams this season, said losing the third consecutive final was hard going.

There were no words to express the disappointment, even allowing for the fact that Galway are a very good team.

"We have been playing well all year, but we just didn't play to our ability," he said of the losing effort in Croke Park.

"That is not a criticism, just a summary of what happened."

"When you concede three goals in the first half as we did you make life hard on yourself. We got back into the game in the second half, but we needed a goal to help us drive on."

"We got the arrears back to two points. If we had scored a goal it would have given us the



The Kilkenny players lining up for battle

momentum to kick on, but it didn't happen."

"What has happened is hard to believe, hard to take."

He insisted there was a huge belief in the Kilkenny dressing-room at half-time, even after conceding three goals and with the Cats six points behind (3-7 to 0-10).

"Six points is nothing in hurling," Brian insisted. "Momentum is a great thing and we got the gap down to two points. If we had to get a goal I think we would have kicked."

"When we got back close to Galway they kept tacking

on the points. They fully deserved their win and we congratulate them."

He was at a loss to explain Kilkenny's ordinary form on Sunday after a season of strong showings.

## FEAR

It may be fear crept in after losing the last two All-Ireland final, he suggested.

"Maybe it was that the girls wanted it so much," he added.

"They wanted it so badly. Sometimes if you want something so badly it just won't happen the harder you try."

and help them win the All-Ireland. Sadly it didn't happen."

"Some of those girls are after losing five or six All-Irelands. There are no words to compensate for the effort they put in."

"In sport you don't get what you deserve, you have to go out and earn it."

"It will be a long winter. It is hard enough to cope after losing one All-Ireland, but three in-a-row is entirely different."

"The girls can be proud of themselves. The effort they put into preparing for this final was second to none. I wish I had the answers to what went wrong, but I don't."

Everything, he insisted, seemed nicely set on Sunday morning.

"The mood was good," Brian revealed. "Everything was great in the morning. The players were relaxed. I can't put my finger on why we didn't perform, and that is the thing that will hurt most over the coming months."

"I don't care, I still class them as great competitors, great players. They represent Kilkenny with huge pride."



# INSIDE TRACK JOHN MCINTYRE



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## Galway the best team in the land after fronting up in terrific decider

**T**HE best All-Ireland camogie final in years at Croke Park on Sunday saw Galway shed their reputation as something of a flaky team when the pressure came on. They never blinked in an absorbing battle for supremacy and are worthy new champions.

In the process, the Tribeswomen also improved slightly the county's terrible record in All-Ireland finals, having only won two of their previous 17 championship deciders stretching back to 1932. We daren't have mentioned that terrible statistic in the build up to Sunday's showdown, but it's doubtful if it would have fazed Galway in any event.

This was a team with a different and more positive mentality. It didn't matter to them that they were the 7/4 outsiders against Kilkenny. After all, they had taken out title holders Cork in a high-wire semi-final and if Galway hadn't buckled in that challenging environment, why would they do so against a Kilkenny outfit which also had their own All-Ireland final demons?

Sarah Dervan and company would have gained huge belief and confidence from coming out on top after going toe to toe with Cork. It showed on Sunday. The old frailties were gone; replaced by a new sense of self-assurance. They carried the day by six points and were in no way flattered by the margin.

Under the progressive management of Cathal Murray and a committed backroom staff of Orla Kilkenny, Conor Dolan, John Connor and Robbie Lane, together with the associated medical and logistics support, Galway were women on a mission in 2019. Having already overcome the Cats in the league final, they were not intimidated by what lay ahead of them at GAA headquarters.

Camogie deservedly got a bad rap after the previous two All-Ireland finals which allowed for minimal physical contact. With players countrywide demanding scope for matches to be less rigorously officiated, the sport has enjoyed a renaissance this summer which has led to a sharp increase in affection from the terraces.

The crowd of nearly 25,000 was a ringing endorsement of camogie players being allowed to give and take hard hits. Galway still got five yellow cards and for a horrible moment in the first-half we thought Dervan was heading for an early shower after what was just a tangle of legs. Thankfully, common sense prevailed and the popular Mullagh clubwoman was able to lift the O'Duffy Cup on the Hogan Stand afterwards.

There was big Galway support at Croke Park and why should it be any different. This group of players were utterly professional in their preparations, have made the same sacrifices as their male counterparts and are playing the game to an admirably high standard. They were magnificent ambassadors for the county and deserve all the acclaim coming their way.

Coming out on top by a decisive six-point margin, Galway rarely allowed the dangerous Kilkenny forward division the time or space to exert to its expected influence. All of the winners' backline were alert and aware of the task in hand, while their exceptional goalkeeper, Sarah Healy, again



Galway's Emma Helebert tries to halt the progress of Kilkenny's Denise Gaule during Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park.

PHOTO: INFO LASZLO GECZO

enhanced a growing reputation.

Defenders like Dervan, Heather Cooney and Lorraine Ryan know all about the big stage, while Catriona Cormican, making light of her switch to defensive duties to cover for the injured Tara Kenny, Shauna Healy and Emma Helebert lent unstinting support. Galway also possess the best midfield partnership in the country. Both Aoife Donohue and Player of the Match Niamh Kilkenny were sharp of mind and foot.

In attack, Ailish O'Reilly did serious damage in the first-half with her brace of superbly taken goals, with Niamh Hanniffy's power also causing Kilkenny all sorts of problems. Carrie Dolan, apart from one blemish, was terrific from the frees while Noreen Coen, Sarah Spellman and Caitriona Finnerty all registered important points.

In essence, Galway peaked for their biggest game of the game - an ambition which regularly goes unfulfilled by most teams in finals - and everybody involved should be proud of an outstanding achievement.



Westmeath camogie stars Mairead McCormack (team captain) and Pamela Greville (right) with the Jack McGrath Cup at Croke Park last Sunday. PHOTO: JOHN MCCAULEY.



Ballygarvan's Michaela Buckley wins a battle for possession in last month's clash against Milford. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Mouthwatering clashes in store as Milford face showdown with Sars

WE have some truly mouth-watering clashes tomorrow in the SE Systems-sponsored Cork Senior Camogie Championship.

Four more teams will be eliminated by tomorrow evening as the final backdoor game between St Catherine's and Cloughduv starts the day and six other clubs take to the championship field for round three.

Pick of the weekend should be the Sarsfield's versus Milford game. With Sarsfield's one of the fastest growing clubs in the county and boasting underage teams from U8s to U16s, their success at Féile is a testament to the huge work being done at the club.

Take in the fact that Sarsfield's are back playing senior championship camogie since 2016 and making strides in that regard, and the future looks bright.

Milford hit back with a vengeance after an opening round shocker when they recorded an 11-point victory over Ballygarvan. Now taking on Sars, this could be a cracker of a game.

Sars are the Milford of 10 years ago, a side bursting with underage medals, and sure to explode into the senior championship final in time. When that time comes is anyone's guess. Milford were without five of last year's side against Ballygarvan, including Elaine O'Riordan who has been outstanding for the club over the past decade.

It was reported that they have retired. Whether that changes remains to be seen but Milford will look forward regardless.

Sars will definitely need to up the physicality stakes for this one. I say that in the most commendable way as Milford bring a fair but strong presence to their games. Sars gained invaluable experience this past two years in particular, they are maturing, and they certainly look a more rounded and confident side, once they shake the early nerves. I'm looking forward to this game.

Catherine's and Cloughduv could be another close affair.

Agonisingly losing out in round one by a single point for the second year in a row, after extra time, the Saints will have to dig deep and start getting over the line in the tight battles they've found themselves in, in the last 12 months.

They will face a Cloughduv side who lost by two points to Carbery in round one. Catherine's have a seasoned and

strong side and will be favourites for this one, but Cloughduv can wear their hearts on their sleeve and make life very difficult.

It's somewhat unfair that Inniscarra and Eire Og meet again in round three after Inniscarra had a 1-15 to 0-6 victory over their near-neighbours earlier on. Eire Og, however, have improved significantly since that first-round defeat, where victory for Inniscarra was never in doubt.

Eire Og then gave a confident display against Douglas. Granted, Douglas were very poor on the day but Eire Og did have good hurlers all over the field. Their work-rate against Douglas and off the shoulder support was impressive.

They'll come into the Inniscarra game lifted to give a better account of themselves in their first year back in the senior ranks. Aileen Hennessy, Aoife Hennessy, Aileen Buckley, Emma Quigley, Siobhan Hutchinson and Aoife O'Callaghan are strong defenders while Marie Gleeson, Emma Crowley and Margaret O'Herlihy are key players up front.

### Focus

The management's main focus in Inniscarra will be ensuring their players don't get complacent and to realise that this will be a different challenge altogether than their previous clash.

The fourth game of tomorrow's action sees Ballincollig and Carbery taking to the field in Brinny. With the inter-county scene well and truly over we can expect to see Carbery with a full complement of players available to them.

Libby Coppinger and Orla Cronin missed the backdoor game against Cloughduv and will be huge additions. Eimear White is one of the best club keepers in the game and gives the outfield players confidence.

Ballincollig were beaten at the death by Glen Rovers in their opening round game where Linda Dorgan was the best player on the field.

In round two they had a strong win over Muskerry which gave the group the opportunity to regain their composure. They'll face a big test against the divisional side and will need to significantly up their performance to advance.

## Inniscarra have big challenge ahead

### CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

WE'VE reached the top eight of this year's senior championship as the SE Systems quarter-finals take place this weekend.

Inniscarra and St Catherine's meet on Saturday and what a game this could turn out to be. Considering the heavy challenge Inniscarra received last weekend from Eire Og you would have to be impressed with the way they saw it out.

Eire Og would have beaten most sides with that display. Inniscarra's hunger matched their opponents and that spoke volumes for a side going for their fourth title in a row. Inniscarra aren't satisfied yet. They're minus a few players from last season most notably Mary Buckley and Rosie O'Mahony but are still a force.

St Catherine's are back to their best. Their hurling was fast and impressive last Sunday. With a balanced outfit of good scoring forwards and a solid defence this will be a massive challenge for the champions.

There's another triple-header on Sunday. Carbery looked to be blitzing past Ballincollig in their second-round tie only for Ballincollig to stage a comeback where time ran out on them. Carbery will need a full sixty minutes of their best against Sars.

Sars are getting better with each outing. With no intermediate championship game Carbery should have their full squad and when they have, they're a strong side. This is another which should go to the wire.

Coursey are the side everyone is talking about these past 12 months. They followed up on their fantastic 2018 season with a demolition of Milford in round one. They're a young side, they're a very confident side and are exciting to watch. How St Finbarr's handle Linda Collins and Fiona Keating will go a long way to determining their fate.

Ashling Moloney leads from defence while Saoirse McCarthy has lighting pace.

St Finbarr's had a one-point victory over Ballygarvan in round one. It's been close to two months since either Coursey or the Barrs have had a championship game.

The Barrs have experience in their side and have younger talent blending in.

Glen Rovers and Killeagh, hard to call this one as I think there is more in both sides than what they showed in their opening first round victories over Ballincollig and St Catherine's.

The Glen denied Ballincollig at the death and their never say die attitude was worthy of that win. Killeagh had a one-point victory over Catherine's after extra time but poor shooting and wayward passing will need to be a lot better this time around to advance to the semi-finals.

## Galway top All-Star shortlist but only four Cork nominees

Eoghan Cormican

### Camogie

All-Ireland camogie champions Galway have picked up 14 All-Star nominations, but there is surprise at Cork having just four shortlisted.

Sarah Spellman and Catherine Finnerty are the two players from Galway's All-Ireland final starting team to not make the cut. Finnerty would have been used as an impact sub for most of the championship, earning a call-up on All-Ireland final day for the injured Tara Kenny. The latter is among the 14 Galway players nominated. Spellman can count herself unfortunate to lose out.

Beaten All-Ireland finalists Kilkenny have 13 players nominated. The team they beat by six points in the All-Ireland semi-final, Tipp, received nine nominations,

whereas fellow All-Ireland semi-finalists Cork, who thumped the Premier County by 2-20 to 1-8 in the group stages, have just four players — Hannah Looney, Pamela Mackey, Linda Collins, and Amy O'Connor — on the shortlist. Waterford, who reached this year's quarter-finals, also have four nominations. They were well beaten by Cork in the group stages. Niamh Mulcahy is Limerick's sole nominee.

The three All-Ireland winning-managers — Cathal Murray (Galway, senior), Johnny Greville (Westmeath, intermediate), and Ian Brick (Kerry, junior) — are on the manager of the year shortlist. See Digest on P19 for list of nominees.

### CAMOGIE

Soaring Stars Awards sponsored by Liberty Insurance, nominees

**Goalkeepers:** Laura Glynn (Galway), Fiona Keating (Westmeath), Leah O'Carroll (Limerick); **Full-Back Line:**

Eva Butler (Limerick), Aine Crowley (Cork), Laura Doherty (Westmeath), Nicole Kelly (Down), Meadh Scally (Westmeath), Laura Shinnis (Tipperary), Laura Ward (Galway); **Half-Back Line:**

Clara Donohue (Galway), Denia Higgins (Galway), Sabrina Larkin (Tipperary), Fiona Leavy (Westmeath), Kate Screene (Galway), Karen McMullan (Down), Sara Murphy (Kerry) **Midfield:** Patrice Duggin (Kerry), Katie McAleese (Antrim), Aine McAllister (Derry), Hannah Scott (Kilkenny), Muireann Scally (Westmeath); **Half-Forward Line:**

Megan Dowdall (Westmeath), Ava Lynskey (Galway), Kate Nolan (Kilkenny), Rebecca Noonan (Limerick), Mairead McCormack (Westmeath), Sheila McGrath (Westmeath), Gráinne McNicholl (Derry); **Full-Forward Line:** Pamela Greville (Westmeath), Andrea Loughnane (Tipperary), Niamh Mallon (Down), Sorcha McCartan (Down), Gráinne McGoldrick (Derry), Clodagh McIntyre (Tipperary), Tara Rutledge (Galway).

### CAMOGIE

All-Stars Award nominations sponsored by Liberty Insurance.

**Goalkeepers:** Caoimhe Bourke (Tipperary), Emma Kavanagh (Kilkenny), Sarah Healy (Galway).

**Full-Back Line:** Julianne Bourke (Tipperary), Sarah Dervan (Galway), Catherine Foley (Kilkenny), Shauna Healy (Galway), Edwina Keane (Kilkenny), Tara Kenny (Galway), Eimear Loughman (Tipperary), Pamela Mackey (Cork), Grace Walsh (Kilkenny).

**Half-Back Line:** Lorraine Bray (Waterford), Heather Cooney (Galway), Killyann Doyle (Kilkenny), Emma Helebert (Galway), Karen Kennedy (Tipperary).

Hannah Looney (Cork), Claire Phelan (Kilkenny), Clodagh Quirke (Tipperary), Lorraine Ryan (Galway).

**Midfield:** Aoife Donohue (Galway), Meighan Farrell (Kilkenny), Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Aine Lyng (Waterford), Mary Ryan (Tipperary), Davina Tobin (Kilkenny).

**Half-Forward Line:** Anne Dalton (Kilkenny), Carrie Dolan (Galway), Eirena Fryday (Tipperary), Denise Gaulie (Kilkenny), Eibhlís McDonald (Tipperary), Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick), Amy O'Connor (Cork), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Niamh Rockett (Waterford).

**Full-Forward Line:** Beth Carton (Waterford), Noreen Coen (Galway), Linda Collins (Cork), Catherine Cormican (Galway), Cait Devane (Tipperary), Niamh Hanniffy (Galway), Ailish O'Reilly (Galway), Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny), Minam Walsh (Kilkenny).

**Manager of the Year:** Ian Brick (Kerry), Johnny Greville (Westmeath), Cathal Murray (Galway).

# Cotter inspires St Catherine's

## St Catherine's

Camogie



Linda Mellerick

St Catherine's 0-17  
Cloughduv 1-8

THE opening game of a triple header in Castleroad yesterday whet the appetite as St Catherine's and Cloughduv served up a feast of a battle for spectators.

St Catherine's deservedly advanced over the hour with the better spread of scorers and a resolute defence.

Despite getting a fright on 48 minutes after Aoife Barry-Murphy netted to put just one between the teams, Catherine's pulled away with Orla Cotter (three frees), Aoife Hurley and Finola Neville hitting the next five points to win by six.

It was a hectic opening ten minutes to the game.

Both sides gave full commitment to the jersey as the game attempted to open up.

St Catherine's had the best of the possession in the opening quarter and led five points to two.

Cloughduv had their share of attacks but met a tough St Catherine's defence where Rachel O'Callaghan and Evelyn Ronayne led a strong back six.

Cloughduv were probably guilty of too much short passing instead of attempting to play it fast and create space.

They got more into the game though and with Catherine's hitting three wides it gave them the lift that they needed.

Brieger Corkery had a shot well saved by Denise Twomey on 26 minutes for the only goal chance in the opening half.

Clearly on her game at left corner-forward, Joanne O'Keefe scored two excellent points from distance for Catherine's.

Such was the close marking, first touches and passing needed to be at its best but both sides found that difficult to master at the start of the second half.

Frees became a premium for 10 minutes as the game endeavoured to open



St Catherine's Orla Cotter gets away from Cloughduv's Aishling Kelleher to score a point, during their Cork Senior Camogie Championship clash at Castle Road. Picture: David Keane.

up again.

Cloughduv, gaining an upper hand at midfield and now in a much more attacking mode, drove forward but again the Saints were brilliant at the back.

With two points between them Joanne O'Keefe and Laura Hayes increased it to four.

Aoife Barry Murphy's goal had the sizeable crowd vocal, but it was St Catherine's who finished the strongest to advance to round three.

Scorers for St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-9 (0-7 f), J O'Keefe 0-3, L Hayes 0-2, N O'Regan, F Neville, A Hurley 0-1 each.

Cloughduv: S Bateman 0-7 f, A Barry-Murphy 1-0, C O'Leary 0-1.

Cloughduv: A Murray, A Buckley, E Dunne, L Buttner, C Hughes, N O'Leary, A Corkery, B Corkery, A Kelleher, R Hurley, C O'Leary, A Barry-Murphy, A M Ryan, M Corkery, S Bateman.

Subs: N McCarthy for A Buckley (25), A Twomey for A M Ryan (51), J Downs for C O'Leary (56).

ST CATHERINE'S: D Twomey, O Neville, C Motherway, A M Rohan, R O'Callaghan, E Ronayne, L Wallace, O Cotter, M O'Keefe, L Hayes, F Neville, L O'Donnell, A Hurley, N O'Regan, J O'Keefe.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



St Catherine's attacker Finola Neville races past Cloughduv defender Aileen Corkery at Castle Road. Picture: David Keane.

## Sars make it look simple as depth of squad shows

Sarsfields 1-13  
Milford 1-7

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

OFTEN the game you most look forward to may not live up to expectations and certainly the opening half between Sars and Milford was one such game in the SE Systems third round clash in Castleroad.

Lining out without centre-back supreme Áine Watson, who is due to have a cruciate operation tomorrow after getting injured in the win over Ballygarvan, in addition to a number of retirements didn't help Milford's cause. On the scoreboard Milford were in this game for long periods, but playing defensively while having the wind, they struggled to get scores up front, Eimear Watson's four frees their total first-half return.

Sars, on the other hand, looked far more dangerous with five scorers on the board in the opening

thirty. The game improved in the second half. You felt Sars were never in danger of losing, despite a huge effort by Milford. Once Hollie Herlihy goalied after two minutes of the restart it seemed the game was going run away from Milford. It became a physical encounter which will bring Sarsfields on hugely. In what was a great win for them you could see their maturity building.

Katie Barry at full-back had a big presence as Sars held their own against the seasoned North Cork side.

They stood up to the challenge and picked off some lovely points. What a great battle Hollie Herlihy had with Ashling Thompson. Claire Mullins and subMichelle Barry were troublesome for Milford with Eimear Ronayne her usual consistent self. With the

game opened up Sarsfields hit five without reply to give them a healthy 1-11 to 0-6 lead. Milford continued to press forward but the calibre of the substitutes Sars introduced such as Olivia McAllen, Claire Holland and Edel Lonergan shows the strength in depth in the squad.

Scorers for Sarsfields: E O'Farrell 0-4 (0-1 45, 0-1 f), H Herlihy 1-2, C Mullins 0-2, L Allen 0-2 (0-1 f), R O'Mahony, M Barry, E Lonergan 0-1 each.

Milford: E Watson 1-6 (0-6 f), M Watson 0-1.

Sarsfields: M Lynch, K Walsh, K Barry, N O'Callaghan, E Murphy, M Mullins, E Casey, L Kelly, C Casey, C Mullins, H Herlihy, R McCarthy, E Fennell, L Allen, R O'Mahony.

Subs: M Barry for R McCarthy (23), E Lonergan for C Casey (51), C McAllen for R O'Mahony (54), C Holland for H Herlihy (31).

Milford: C Buckley, D Hayes, K Galvin, A Galvin, S Sexton, A Thompson, O Lenihan, O O'Mahony, S Shoshan, E O'Gorman, E Watson, G O'Connor, M Watson, L Stack, M Fitzgibbon.

Sub: N O'Connor for G O'Connor (34).

Referee: John Hogan (Glenn na Laoi).

# Carbery into the last eight



ABOVE: Carbery forward Tara Sheehan (Enniskeane) forces her way past Ballincollig's Sarah Buckley. LEFT: Carbery's Hannah Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) keeps her eyes on the ball during the Round 3 win against Ballincollig in Brinny last Sunday. (Photos: Trevor Patchett)



Carbery's Orla Cronin (Enniskeane) get her shot away despite the attentions of Ballincollig's Sarah Buckley.

Powerful first-half display lays platform for victory as Carbery through to county quarter-final against Sarsfields on Sunday

## CORK SENIOR CAMOGIE

CARBERY	1-17
BALLINCOLLIG	1-13

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

CARBERY booked their place in the last eight of the SE Systems Cork Camogie Senior Championship – and a date against Sarsfields this weekend – but not before surviving a stern second-half test from Ballincollig at Brinny last Sunday.

At half time Carbery led by ten points after a one-sided opening 30 minutes in this Round 3 clash, however Ballincollig rallied and gave a mammoth second-half display that forced the divisional side to dig deep to stay in front.

The reward for Carbery is a quarter-final spot against Sarsfields (who beat Milford by 1-13 to 1-7 last weekend) this Sunday – and this will be another tough test.

'Sars will be hot favourites going in, they've been around the block and they have some excellent players,' Carbery captain and goalkeeper Eimear White says.

Still, Carbery can take plenty of learnings from last weekend's win against Ballincollig, there was the impressive first-half display followed by an off-colour second-half performance, but what stood out was the collective spirit of the divisional side.

'We had a fantastic start and we looked like a club team with our inter-play, our forwards worked really well and our

backs were on top, but we like to make hard work of it,' White says.

'In the second half we fell asleep and lost a bit of momentum. I know we were well up at half time but we didn't kill the game off.

'We fought until the very end and what was rewarding to see was that for a divisional team who is together every now and then, we were like a club team – our backs were so tight, we fought for every ball and we had a never-say-die attitude.

'I saw Orla Cronin, Libby Coppinger and Ciara O'Sullivan inside in our full-back line towards the end which is a testament to our work-rate. The hunger is there.'

It was Carbery who were first on the scoreboard courtesy of influential Cork senior Orla Cronin when she fired over the first of six placed balls. Maeve Lynch pushed the West Cork outfit two clear before Hannah O'Leary got Ballincollig up and running with a free.

Carbery's response was to score three unanswered points via Ciara O'Sullivan, Tara Sheehan and Moira Barrett, as they led 0-5 to 0-1 after just six minutes. Scores from Cronin (free) and Libby Coppinger stretched the lead to six.

After Ballincollig's Patricia Buttimer saw her drilled, low 30-metre free cleared, her side won a free that O'Leary converted.

Two Cronin frees either side of a superb Sheehan point pushed the Carbery lead out to eight after 20 minutes. Cronin

## ★ THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Tara Sheehan was in top form for Carbery and the Enniskeane player scored four points from play and was lively in attack throughout.

**Star moment:** In terms of importance, it's Hannah Sexton's close-range goal that pushed Carbery's lead out to 11 in the second half. At the time it seemed like the cherry on top of the cake, but given Ballincollig's comeback, this goal gave Carbery breathing space they needed.

**Talking point:** From dominating in the first half, Carbery fell asleep for 15 minutes in the second half to allow Ballincollig back in – they'll need to be more consistent against Sarsfields this weekend.

**What's next?** Carbery move on to a county quarter-final against Sarsfields at Castle Road this Sunday at 12 noon.

and Orla McCarthy exchanged scores before Sheehan, who was in sublime form, drilled over a great effort on the run to send Carbery nine clear. There was still time for Ciara O'Sullivan to add another as Carbery led 0-13 to 0-03 at half time.

Maeve Lynch increased the Carbery lead to 11 early in the second half, but Ballincollig were growing into the game and hit back with three frees in a five-minute spell from O'Leary (2) and Buttimer.

After Cronin and O'Leary traded frees, Carbery struck for a goal in the 39th minute. Ballincollig goalkeeper Anna Hartnett initially brought down a high ball but failed to control it and when it spilled across the goal-line Hannah Sexton was on hand to pull on the ground to the net to push Carbery 1-15 to 0-7 ahead.

From here to the end, Ballincollig outscored Carbery by 1-6 to 0-2. Sheehan and McCarthy exchanged points before O'Leary, Buttimer and Denise Cronin cut the gap to 1-16 to 0-11 at the three-quarter mark.

A Cronin long-range free extended Carbery's lead to 1-17

before Buttimer's brace cut-trimmed the Carbery lead to seven points with nine minutes left. In the 55th minute, Ballincollig goaled when a long-range Buttimer free bounced in the square and went over the head of Carbery goalkeeper Eimear White. The gap was now just four points, 1-17 to 1-13. One minute later Buttimer floated in a free from 45 metres, but the Carbery defence dealt with the threat and cleared their lines.

Carbery held firm in the closing minutes to deservedly advance to the county quarter-finals and they'll hope to create some momentum off the back of this win.

### Scorers

**Carbery:** O Cronin 0-7 (6f); T Sheehan 0-4; H Sexton 1-0; C O'Sullivan, M Lynch 0-2 each; M Barrett, L Coppinger 0-1 each.  
**Ballincollig:** P Buttimer 1-4 (1-3f); H O'Leary 0-6 (6f); D McCarthy 0-2; D Cronin 0-1.  
**Carbery:** E White (Barryroe, captain); A O'Donovan (Newcestown), D Carroll (Enniskeane), A Crowley (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), M

Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C Kingston (Ballinascarthy), M Sexton (Barryroe); M Lynch (Newcestown), L Coppinger (St Colum's); H Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), O Cronin (Enniskeane), M Barrett (Ballinascarthy); T Sheehan (Enniskeane), C O'Sullivan (Newcestown), S Burke (Kilbrittain/Timoleague).  
**Subs:** K Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) for M Lynch (40), D O'Brien (Enniskeane) for M Murphy (46), M Coppinger (St Colum's) for A O'Donovan (46), S Hurley (Enniskeane) for M Barrett (59).  
**Ballincollig:** A Hartnett; M O'Leary, S Keating, C Healy; D Cronin, S Buckley, A Cotter; L Dorgan (captain), H O'Leary; D McCarthy, S Cooney, P Buttimer; D Keating, C Hennigan, A Lovett.  
**Referee:** G Ahern.

## AND THEN THERE WERE EIGHT ...

The four quarter-finals of the Cork senior camogie championship take place this weekend – all four at the Camogie Grounds at Castle Road. On Saturday, it's St Catherines v Inniscarra at 5.30pm, while there are three games at Castle Road on Sunday, starting at 12 noon when Carbery take on Sarsfields, followed by the meeting of Courcy Rovers and St Finbarr's at 3pm, with the clash of Glen Rovers and Killeagh at 5.30pm.

# Carbery hold off Collig comeback

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Carbery	1-17
Ballincollig	1-13

CARBERY had to survive a spirited Ballincollig comeback in the third round of the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship, despite a 0-13 to 0-3 half-time lead.

If Ballincollig had played with the same determination as they did in the second half for the hour they might have won. Carbery were pinned to their collars to hold on.

As the half-time score indicated, the divisional side dominated the opening 30 minutes and they hit Ballincollig with huge intensity as they opened up a 10-point interval lead. Orla Cronin converted four frees and with Tara Sheehan causing Ballincollig huge problems in the corner to the tune of 0-3, and Maeve Lynch, Libby Coppinger, and Ciara O'Sullivan chipping in, Ballincollig were dazzled by the headlights.

Hannah O'Leary's pair of frees and an Orla McCarthy score were all that Collig managed and they were relieved to be able to regroup at half-time.

Lynch extended Carbery's lead with an early second-half point, but a much improved Ballincollig began to come at their opponents. O'Leary converted a couple of frees before Cronin and Patricia Buttimer swapped points.

### Over

Hannah Sexton finished a ground shot to the net with 12 minutes remaining, followed by Sheehan adding a point and it looked all over.

Ballincollig refused to wilt and came at Carbery with four points on the trot. Cronin steadied the Carbery nerves with a free, their last score of the game.

Buttimer converted a long-range effort from a free before striking another point from play from distance. Then another free bounced to the roof of the net and just four points separated the sides with five minutes remaining.

Battling hard, Carbery had to defend with all their might as Ballincollig laid siege. The game was now being played in the Carbery half.

Ballincollig won a free and chose to drop it in as they battled for a goal, but the effort was blocked and maybe they



Libby Coppinger, Carbery, breaks past Aoife Cotter of Ballincollig during their senior championship round three camogie match at Brinny. Picture: Dan Linehan

should have pointed and tried to get it down to a single score.

In the minutes that remained Carbery had to stand tall to protect their lead, which they did under a lot of pressure.

They were grateful to an excellent opening half display which ensured they booked their quarter-final place against Sarsfield's.

**Scorers for Carbery:** O Cronin 0-7 (0-6 f), T Sheehan 0-4, H Sexton 1-0, C O'Sullivan, M Lynch 0-2 each, M Barrett, L Coppinger 0-1 each.

**Ballincollig:** P Buttimer 1-4 (1-2 f), H O'Leary 0-6 f, O McCarthy 0-2, D Cronin 0-1.

**CARBERY:** E White, M Sexton, D Carroll, A Crowley, M Murphy, C Kingston, M Sexton, M Lynch, L Coppinger, H Sexton, O Cronin, M Barrett, T Sheehan, C O'Sullivan, S Burke.

**Subs:** K Wall for M Lynch (43), D O'Brien for M Murphy (47), S Hurley for M Barrett (56).

**BALLINCOLLIG:** A Hartnett, M O'Leary, S Keating, C Healy, D Cronin, S Buckley, A Cotter, L Dorgan (c), H O'Leary, O McCarthy, S Coomey, P Buttimer, O Keating, C Hennigan, A Lovett.

**Sub:** O O'Leary for C Hennigan (56).  
**Ref:** Ger Ahern (Cloughduv).



Sarah Burke, Carbery, handpasses the ball from Ballincollig players Orla Keating and Niamh O'Leary at Brinny. Picture: Dan Linehan

# Éire Óg make a strong debut but not strong enough

Inniscarra	0-14
Éire Óg	0-10

## CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

CHAMPIONS Inniscarra got the toughest of tests from debutants Éire Óg in a pulsating third-round tie in Castleroad on Sunday evening.

I said in my preview that Éire Óg had good hurlers in every line of the pitch and they enhanced their reputations yesterday. Éire Óg worked like savages.

In attack they refused to let Inniscarra out with any easy ball and that pattern filtered throughout the field. Siobhán Hutchinson, Isobel O'Regan and Margaret Herlihy led the way as every ball was feverishly fought for by both sides.

We had 14 opening-half frees and it was a testament to neither side giving the other an inch.

Katie O'Mahony was prominent in the middle of the pack but she was working hard for it. Aileen

Sheehan also making her presence felt as both O'Mahony and Sheehan struck two first half points each.

It was point for point, Éire Óg taking the lead on 11 minutes only for Inniscarra to strike the next three. Just two separated the sides at the break, Inniscarra leading by two but Éire Óg coming out strong.

The second half was as edgy as the first. Inniscarra took a four-point lead, Éire Óg narrowed it to two. It became three again, but the game was level on 47 minutes after three Margaret Herlihy points, one from play. Isobel O'Regan was excellent around the middle for Éire Óg but so too was Katie O'Mahony.

Experience is momentous and Inniscarra had it in abundance. Rena Buckley, Aileen Sheehan, Niamh Dilworth, cuteness when it mattered most, as Inniscarra

finished with four points on the trot. Aileen Sheehan's on 55 minutes after a great Rena Buckley pass, the highlight. But what a performance from Éire Óg. They are one of the strongest debutants I've seen step up to the senior in a long time.

**Scorers for Inniscarra:** N Dilworth 0-5 f, A Sheehan 0-4, K O'Mahony 0-2, T McCarthy, C Keane, N McCarthy 0-1 each.

**Éire Óg:** M Herlihy 0-7 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), E Quigley, M E Desmond, O'Regan 0-1 each.

**INNISCARRA:** S Walsh, D O'Callaghan, C Looney, A O'Regan, C Keane, R Buckley, A Dineen, E Looney, K O'Mahony, T McCarthy, I McCarthy, A Sheehan, E Murphy, N Dilworth, J Burke.

**Subs:** R Keane for J Burke (h-t), C Ring for D O'Callaghan (50), Lyons for T McCarthy (58).

**ÉIRE ÓG:** R Murray, Aileen Hennessy, A Hennessy, A Buckley, E Quigley, S Hutchinson, A O'Callaghan, A McSweeney, I Sheehan, Murphy, M Herlihy, M Gleeson, E Crowley, M E Desmond, P Murphy.

**Subs:** R Sheehan for F Murphy (h-t), K McCarthy for A Hennessy (h-t), C Sheehan for A McSweeney (50).

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

# Late surge takes title for Ballinora

Girls' Own adventure continues into semis

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE U14 championship continues at a fast pace as the concluding stages have been reached.

At U14 A championship level, Inniscarra advanced to the semis as they recorded a four-point win over Eire Og 2-9 to 2-5, while Sarsfields overcame Midleton 4-7 to 1-2.

Erin's Own continue to impress as they defeated Valley Rovers while Clonakilty booked their place in the last four with a win over Cobh.

The semis will take place tomorrow and are as follows: Sarsfields v Inniscarra in Sarsfields at 5pm while Erin's Own are at home for their meeting with Clon at 5pm.

The U14 A championship plate saw Blackrock overcome Cloughduv, while Ballinora got the upper hand on Sliabh Rua and Laochra Og defeated Youghal.

The Plate semi-finals are also on the fixture schedule for tomorrow and are as follows, Fr O'Neill's are at home at 5pm for their meeting with Blackrock, Ballinora host Laochra Og this is also at 5pm.

In the U14 B championship Bishopstown had a victory over Milford, Ballygarvan overcame Millstreet, Glen Rovers defeated Ballincollig, Rockban got the upper hand over Douglas 2, and just two points separated Newcestown from Enniskeane as Newcestown advanced.

It was a similar situation with Castlemartyr and St Fannahans with Castlemartyr advancing with a point to spare 1-13 to 3-6. Na Piarasigh defeated Kilbrittain/Timooleague to book their quarter-final place.

The quarter-finals all go ahead as follows: Today Glen Rovers meet Mallow in Glen at 10.30am, tomorrow Bishopstown are at home for their meeting against Ballygarvan at 11.30am, Rockban make the trip to play Newcestown at 5pm and Castlemartyr travel to meet Na Piarasigh at 5pm in Na Piarasigh.

The U14 B plate Aghada defeated Ballinascorthy, Aghabullogue overcame Watergrasshill, Carrigtwohill beat Killeagh, Buttevant got the upper hand on Carrigaline, Tracton were too strong for Blarney and Barryroe defeated Douglas.

The quarters are tomorrow and will be as follows: Aghabullogue are at home for their meeting with Aghada at 5pm, Carrigtwohill host Buttevant at 5pm, Tracton face Courcy Rovers in Courcy's at 12pm and Sarsfields 2 make the trip to Barryroe for a 5pm start.

In the SE Systems Minor A Championship backdoor round Courcy Rovers meet Ballincollig on Wednesday next in Courcy's. In the SE Systems Minor B backdoor rounds Kilbrittain/Timooleague play Killeagh on Wednesday next and tomorrow Fr O'Neill's meet Blarney.



Ballinora, the winners of the SE Systems Junior B Camogie Championship after their victory against Castlelyons.

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Ballinora	1-16
Castlelyons	2-5

AFTER many years of trying, Ballinora finally made the breakthrough and were crowned SE Systems Junior B champions recently.

In the process, they made it a double having taken the league title earlier in the season when they also overcame Castlelyons.

Despite what the final scoreline may suggest, they didn't have it all their own way with just three points separating the sides with 11 minutes remaining.

A strong finish from Ballinora, which saw them hit five points without reply, finally killed off the challenge of Castlelyons who, in their first year in the junior B grade, did remarkably well to reach the final.

Castlelyons were crowned junior C champions only last season, so to reach both championship and league finals in their first year promoted is a huge achievement.

While they will be disappointed to have lost out, this match showed that they have a solid base to work on into the future.

Just two points separated the sides at the interval and it was Castlelyons who led 1-4 to 0-6 thanks to a goal 25 minutes in from a Grainne McCarthy penalty.

The opening stages were close, with the sides level on three occasions before Castlelyons took the lead with McCarthy's penalty after Lucy McNulty had been brought down en route to goal.

Jennifer Murphy and Kate Dooley had given Ballinora the early advantage, but this was cancelled out with Alanna Beirne and Grainne McCarthy pointing.

McCarthy converted a free to put Castlelyons in front, but Alanna Linehan and Cliona Dooley edged Ballinora back into the lead.

Ava Hallihan had the side's level be-



Mary Newman was on hand to present The Echo Player Of the Match award to Ballinora corner-forward Jennifer Murphy after the SE Systems Junior B camogie final.

fore McCarthy's penalty on 24 minutes boosted Castlelyons.

Ballinora responded well and had two points on the trot from a Siobhan O'Regan 45 and one from play from Lauren Walsh to narrow the lead to go into the dressing room trailing by a point.

Ballinora attacked from the off after the break, and they soon took the lead with a goal from substitute Rose Murphy who was to have a big influence of the game as the second half progressed.

Her quick turn of pace saw her taking on the Castlelyons defence on numerous occasions to huge effect.

McCarthy pointed a free in response, but Rose Murphy showed the Castlelyons defence a clean pair of heels twice in as many minutes to fire

over two points.

With Alanna Murphy, Cliona Dooley, and Jennifer Murphy also on target, it was 1-11 to 1-5 as the game entered the final quarter.

Castlelyons battled to get a foothold in the game, and a great move saw McNulty and Avril Beirne combine for Beirne to fire a superb effort to the Ballinora net.

Castlelyons pressed for more, but crucially they failed to breach the Ballinora defence and they squandered a chance to cut the Ballinora lead with a bad wide from close range.

That proved to be a wake-up call for Ballinora, who immediately upped the pace.

Substitute Kate O'Shea confidently converted two 45s before Judy Murphy and Rose Murphy nabbed one each

from play and Kate O'Shea converted her third 45.

That ensured there was no way back for a Castlelyons side who battled hard but found the going tough against a strong Ballinora unit that looks well-equipped for the move up to Junior A next year.

The strength in depth they possessed was very evident, no more so than in the high-calibre substitutes they were able to introduce to the game, with Rose Murphy coming on and notching up 1-2 while Kate O'Shea also entered the fray and confidently stood over three 45s and dispatched them over the bar with impressive accuracy.

Substitute Judy Murphy also contributed to their scoreline, adding a point, and when one considers their winning margin was eight points it's significant that their three substitutes contributed a goal and seven points between them.

Having lost out at semi-final stage last year, Ballinora have worked hard to take the Junior B crown, and they will be a force to be reckoned with and a match for any Junior A or even higher-graded sides next season.

After turning in an excellent, hard-working performance, Ballinora corner-forward Jennifer Murphy was named as *The Echo Player of the Match* and was presented with a memento of the occasion.

Captain Aoife Nic Abhaird was presented with the trophy by Mary McSweeney, chairperson of the camogie board.

**Scores for Ballinora:** R Murphy 1-3, K O'Shea 0-3 (0-2 45 0-1), C Dooley, Jennifer Murphy, A Linehan 0-2 each, S O'Regan (45), Judy Murphy, K Dooley, L Walsh 0-1 each.

**Castlelyons:** G McCarthy 1-3 (0-3 f, 1-0 pen), A Beirne 1-1, A Hallihan 0-1.

**BALLINORA:** O O'Shea; K A Crean, K O'Halloran, S O'Keefe; J McAuliffe, S O'Regan, B Holmes; A Nic Abhaird (c), N McCarthy; L Walsh, A Linehan, C Dooley, K Dooley, K Lane, Jennifer Murphy.

**Subs:** R Murphy for K Lane (3-4), K O'Shea for A Linehan (50), Judy Murphy for B Holmes (52).

**CASTLELYONS:** AS O'Brien; C McCarthy, N Barry, O Sheehan; M Hartnett, M O'Sullivan, Z Power; C O'Flynn, B Shanahan; A O'Sullivan, A Greaney, L McNulty, A Beirne, G McCarthy, A Hallihan.

**Subs:** I Fenton for A Greaney (43), M Murphy for A Beirne (58).  
**Referee:** William Wallace (Aghada).

“Ballinora have worked hard to take the Junior B crown, and they will be a force to be reckoned with”

# Cork short-changed in All-Star nominees

Long free settles it in favour of Blarney

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Blarney 1-6  
Aghada 0-8

BLARNEY had to defend with all their might to protect their narrow one-point lead under huge Aghada pressure before taking the SE Systems Junior C championship title.

It was close all through, but vital for Blarney was the game's only goal which came 13 minutes in when Megan Murphy's long-range free went all the way to the net for what turned out to be a crucial score.

Up to this, it was nip and tuck as the sides battled to gain a grip on the game.

Megan Murphy and Orla Cremen had given Blarney an early lead with a point apiece but Ali Smith responded with two pointed frees to level matters before the goal gave Blarney the advantage.

It was close all through as both defences were busy and with Ali Smith adding two points to Aghada's tally and Murphy converting a free Blarney held a goal half time lead 1-5 to 0-5.

The second half was close with both defences on top.

It was 18 minutes into the half before we had the first score.

Ali Smith converted a free to narrow the gap, Aoife Dillon and Smith traded points as Blarney clung to a two-point advantage.

Aghada put huge pressure on in search of scores but credit the Blarney defence, who stood strong.

Full-back Jennifer Murphy was superb breaking up attack after attack, ably assisted by Sadhbh McCarthy and Niamh Twomey, who were excellent as Aghada came at them in waves.

As the game entered injury time Aine McGrath had the deficit down to a point but despite huge Aghada pressure they were unable to get on level or grab a goal to give them the title as Blarney huge on to the final whistle.

Blarney full-back Jennifer Murphy was named as The Echo Player of the Game after a performance that was inspirational and crucial to her side's victory.

Scorers for Blarney: M Murphy 1-4 t, O Cremen, A Dillon 0-1 each.

Aghada: A Smith: 0-7 (0-5 f) A McGrath 0-1.

BLARNEY: S Bannon; K O'Keefe (c); J Murphy, E Quinn; E O'Regan, S McCarthy, N Twomey; A Cotter, Y Horgan; M Murphy, E Murphy, T Martin; O Cremen, A Dillon, E Power.

Sub: A Linehan for T Martin (44).

AGHADA: E Terry; K O'Farrell, L McAllister, A Rose; M Leahy, Aileen McGrath, A Crowley; ER Boylan, C Walsh; S Geary, Aine McGrath, A Horgan (c); K Torry, E Cronin, A Smith.

Sub: C Dixey for S Geary (45).

Referee: Alex Morrissey (Newtownshandrum).

Camogie

Linda Mellerick



Cork vs Galway Cork's Orla Cronin tries to get away from Galways's and Shauna Healy during their All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at LIT Gaelic Grounds.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Blarney captain Kate O'Keefe received the Junior C championship trophy from Mary McSweeney, chair of the Cork Camogie Board.

“Picking an All-Star team is a challenge. But picking 45 nominees shouldn't be. If anything, you struggle to find 45 players worthy of nomination”

THERE'S been surprise and negativity around the All-Star nominees selection this year.

There's always divided opinion and that's healthy. No two groups would select the same players. But Tipperary receiving nine nominations is a bit strange.

Congratulations to the Tipp girls named. They're named, that's that, and let them enjoy their night.

But let's consider this. Cork lost the All-Ireland semi-final to the eventual All-Ireland champions Galway by a point, Tipp lost to the All-Ireland defeated finalists by six points and were 12 points down with a couple of minutes to go, but grabbed two goals when Kilkenny lost concentration.

Tipp didn't inspire that night. That's just one game, so you would need to look at the league and championship campaigns and decide based on that.

During the league Tipperary won one game from four. They lost to Wexford, Galway and Cork. They scored 3-51 and conceded 8-46. Cork were in the same group. They won four games from four and advanced to the semi-final with 5-54 scored and 4-35 against.

To be fair, Tipperary regrouped and had a much better championship where they won four games out of five.

Cork topped the group with five wins from five. There was a 78-point scoring difference between Cork and Tipperary. Cork hit 12-91 from five games and conceded 2-38. Tipperary, scoring 8-57 and conceding 5-61. Again, against the same opposition.

So how can Tipperary have five defenders nominated and Cork just two?

I thought Laura Treacy had a fine season and was worthy of a nomination. Cork have just Linda Collins and Amy O'Connor nominated from their midfield and forwards combined while Tipperary have four. Again, an anomaly when one considers the results.

It doesn't make sense. Is it that Cork have raised the bar so much as a team and more appropriately, in this case, as individuals, that unless they have a superb season they are considered below par?

Is it a case of Cork having won enough, and we need to promote the game in other counties?

I think there's something in that. Are we now picking All-Star teams based on what's nice rather than who's worthy?

There is certainly a case of wanting to spread the awards amongst struggling counties to drive their momentum. Tipp did have a fine championship campaign, but I don't believe they were worthy of such an All-Star selection number.

The selection is supposed to be based on 'the best player in a particular position during the course of a season'.

It's difficult to pinpoint a player to a particular position such is the way the game has gone, but picking 45 players, it seems to be a case of what county and what players had a good season by their standards' rather than the best overall.

Picking an All-Star team is a challenge. But picking 45 nominees shouldn't be. If anything, you struggle to find 45 players worthy of the nomination.

The final team will be announced at the 16th annual awards banquet, sponsored by Liberty Insurance, in Citywest Hotel on Saturday, October 19.

This year's winning team will also have the added incentive of the second All-Stars tour to New York in November to look forward to, where they will be joined by the 2018 winners.

So, Galway have 14 nominations. Runners up Kilkenny receive 13, Tipperary nine, Cork four, Waterford four and Limerick one.

Limerick, who reached the knock-out stages for the first time this year, have one nomination in the form of their top scorer Niamh Mulcahy. No one will argue with that. Another great

season by Niamh.

Ian Brick (Kerry), Johnny Greville (Westmeath) and Cathal Murray (Galway) are among the nominees for Manager of the Year, which will also be announced on the night. Each of them was successful in leading their sides to All-Ireland glory this year.

The nominees for the 2019 Soaring Stars Awards for the Intermediate and Premier Junior Championships will be announced later this week and nominees for the Camogie Association/WGPA Senior, Intermediate and Junior Players' Player of the Year Awards sponsored by Liberty Insurance will be announced next week.

## Camogie All-Stars Awards 2019 nominees

Goalkeepers: Caoimhe Bourke (Tipperary), Emma Kavanagh (Kilkenny), Sarah Healy (Galway)

Full-back line: Julianne Bourke (Tipperary), Sarah

Dervan (Galway), Catherine Foley (Kilkenny), Shauna Healy (Galway), Edwina Keane (Kilkenny), Tara Kenny (Galway), Eimear Loughman (Tipperary), Pamela Mackey (Cork), Grace Walsh (Kilkenny)

Half-back line: Lorraine Bray (Waterford), Heather Cooney (Galway), Kellyann Doyle (Kilkenny), Emma Helebert (Galway), Karen Kennedy (Tipperary), Hannah Looney (Cork), Claire Phelan (Kilkenny), Clodagh Quirke (Tipperary), Lorraine Ryan (Galway)

Midfield: Aoife Donohue (Galway), Meighan Farrell (Kilkenny), Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Aine Lyng (Waterford), Mary Ryan (Tipperary), Davina Tobin (Kilkenny)

Half-forward line: Anne Dalton (Kilkenny), Carrie Dolan (Galway), Eirena Fryday (Tipperary), Denise Gaulie (Kilkenny), Eibhils McDonald (Tipperary), Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick), Amy O'Connor (Cork), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Niamh Rockett (Waterford)

Full-forward line: Beth Carton (Waterford), Noreen Coen (Galway), Linda Collins (Cork), Catriona Cormican (Galway), Cait Devane (Tipperary), Niamh Hannon (Galway), Alish O'Reilly (Galway), Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny), Miriam Walsh (Kilkenny)

Manager of the Year: Ian Brick (Kerry), Johnny Greville (Westmeath), Cathal Murray (Galway)

# Late goal by Fennell seals it for Sarsfields

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Sarsfields	2-14
Carbery	2-13

(after extra time)

SARSFIELDS booked their place in the last four of the SE Systems Senior championship thanks to an Emer Fennell goal in injury time of extra time in Castle Road yesterday.

They hit the front for only the second time when it mattered most in a game where little divided the sides over the hour and in extra time.

Carbery led at the interval 2-4 to 0-5 thanks to two Clara O'Sullivan goals but Sars took the lead briefly with a Lucy Allen point after an Emer Fennell goal. Orla Cronin responded to get Carbery back on level and with Cronin and Fennell swapping pointed frees the clock ticked towards full time. When Cronin converted a 45 on 59 minutes Carbery looked to have done enough. They attacked from the puck out but a battling Sarsfields won a long-range free and then another inside.

Fennell tapped it over the sound of the full-time whistle and at 2-8 to 1-11 it was all square and it was onto 10 minutes a side of extra time. Carbery had two points through Cronin and O'Sullivan.

With four minutes injury time added Sars forced a superb save from Eimear White at the expense of the 45 that Fennell converted.

Sars levelled with a point but Cronin converted two frees to edge Carbery back in front. Crucially they missed a chance to go three clear sending a free wide directly in front of goal. Sars began to win ball around the middle and pushed players forward.

They pressed and it paid off when they grabbed a vital goal a minute into added time when Fennell lurking on the edge of the square finished a ground shot to the net.

Carbery's Moira Barrett responded with a point but a strong Sars defence held firm to advance.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** E Fennell 2-12 (0-9 L, 0-2 45), L Allen, C Mullins C Casey 0-1 each.

**Carbery:** O Cronin 0-8 (0-6 L, 0-2 45), C O'Sullivan 2-2, L Coppinger, M Barrett 0-1 each.

**Sarsfields:** M Lynch; N O'Callaghan, K Barry, K Walsh; E Casey, M Mullins, E Murphy; L Kelly, C Casey; C Mullins, H Herlihy; R O'Mahony; M Barry, L Allen, E Fennell.

**Subs:** O McAllen for R O'Mahony (28), E Loneragan for K Walsh (29), C Irwin for C Mullins (54), C Holland for C Casey (82).

**CARBERY:** E White (Barryroe); M Sexton (Barryroe), D Carroll (Enniskeane), A Crowley (Kilbrittain/Enniskeane); M Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C Kingston (Ballinascahy), A O'Donovan (Newcestown); M Lynch (Newcestown), L Coppinger (St Colum's); H Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), O Cronin (Enniskeane), M Barrett (Ballinascahy); T Sheehan (Enniskeane), C O'Sullivan (Newcestown), M Kennelly (Newcestown).

**Subs:** D O'Brien (Enniskeane) for M Sexton (h-t), S Hurley (Enniskeane) for A O'Donovan (40).

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

# Champs 'Scarra ease past Saints

CAMOGIE

■ John Leonard

Inniscarra	1-14
St Catherine's	2-8

Defending champions Inniscarra have kept their aspirations of a third successive title on track as they defeated St Catherine's in the first quarter-final of the SE Systems Cork Senior Camogie Championship in blustery conditions at Castle Road on Saturday evening.

This game was dictated by the wind as St Catherine's made a promising start with a goal from the throw-in, while Inniscarra took a grip on proceedings as they restricted the Imokilly side to two further scores in the opening half. St Catherine's outscored the Muskerry side by 1-6 to 0-4 after the break, with five points from placed balls by Orla Cotter.

Aoife Hurley put the Imokilly side in front with a goal following a solo run through the Inniscarra defence before Niamh Dilworth replied with a pointed free for the Muskerry side. Cotter pointed a free for St Catherine's before the Ballynoe side found themselves pinned back for most of the opening quarter.

Aileen Sheehan put the Muskerry side ahead for the first time and they were awarded a penalty from which Rena Buckley's shot was deflected over the bar in the 13th minute. Wayward puck-outs were proving to be costly for St Catherine's as Sheehan capitalized on a defensive error to stretch the margin to 1-4 to 1-1.

Hurley tagged on a point from play for St Catherine's in the 17th minute but Inniscarra replied with six unanswered points, with Dilworth converting two frees and Ellen Murphy slotting over two points from play. Erin Looney and Treasa McCarthy where the Mid Cork side's other point scorers as they led by 1-10 to 1-2 at the break.

With the wind at their backs for the second half, St Catherine's were quick off the mark as Laura Hayes scored their second goal following a puck-out in the 32nd minute, to reduce the margin to five points.

Dilworth and Cotter traded points from frees before Katie O'Mahony scored Inniscarra's only point from play of the second half. Cotter then



Niamh McCarthy, Inniscarra, about to grab the sliotar ahead of Carolyn Motherway, St Catherine's, at Castle Road on Saturday.

Pictures: Jim Coughlan

slatted over three unanswered points from frees to leave four points between the sides entering the final quarter.

Dilworth tagged on two pointed frees for the Muskerry side as St Catherine's laid siege to the Inniscarra goal in the closing stages. Cotter pointed her fifth free and the Ballynoe side had two 45s in stoppage time, with Cotter converting the second. Finola Neville scored the Imokilly side's only point from play in the second half deep into stoppage time.

**Scorers:** Inniscarra: N Dilworth 0-7 (0-6); A Sheehan 1-1; E Murphy 0-2; R Buckley 0-1 pen; K O'Mahony, T McCarthy, E Looney 0-1 each.

**St Catherine's:** O Cotter 0-6 (0-5), 0-1 45; A Hurley 1-1, L Hayes 1-0; F Neville 0-1.

**INNISCARRA:** S Walsh; A O'Regan, C Looney, D O'Callaghan; A Sheehan, R Buckley, C Ring; C Keane, K O'Mahony; R Keane, N Dilworth, E Looney, T McCarthy, N McCarthy, E Murphy.

**Subs:** A Kavanagh for O'Callaghan (44); E O'Reilly for O'Regan (60, inj).

**ST CATHERINE'S:** D Twomey; O Neville, C Motherway, AM Rohan; R O'Callaghan, E Ronayne, L Wallace; O Cotter, M O'Keefe; F Neville, L O'Donnell, L Hayes; A Hurley, N O'Regan, J O'Keefe.

**Sub:** M Rohan for O'Regan (h/t).

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



Claudia Keane, Inniscarra, is tackled by Denise Twomey, which resulted in a penalty.

# Killeagh finish with flourish to advance to semi-finals

Killeagh	1-15
Glen Rovers	0-12

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

A STRONG last 10 minutes saw Killeagh hit 1-3 to advance to the semi-finals of the Cork Senior Camogie Championship.

Trailing by two at the break, Glen Rovers hit the first four points after the restart to lead by two. They needed to drive on with the momentum they had. They didn't, and Killeagh deservedly advanced.

Glen Rovers played a two-player full-forward line of Michelle Browne and Ashling Wallace. This left senior inter-county player Laura Treacy often alone and she was hugely influential in Killeagh's win.

There was little between the sides in the opening 30 minutes. Both goalkeepers, the Glen's Lisa O'Riordan and Killeagh's Stephanie Beausang, were busy, with both sides guilty of dropping the ball into the keeper's hands.

The Glen's Katie Walsh was lively, Denise Luby was operating well at centre forward, and Emma Murphy showed good speed down the right flank. Hannah Looney was dangerous, but Kelly Falvey was marshalling her well. At times Killeagh were guilty of poor distribution, striking into open space where the Glen had the advantage.

Killeagh led by seven points to three after the first quarter but two good points by Luby and Lydia Cunningham had the gap to two at the break.

With the Glen leading on 32 minutes after Walsh (2), Wallace, and Luby (45) pointed, Killeagh responded. Hannah Looney and two from Chloe Sigerson from placed balls saw the pendulum swing back in their favour. It was level again with a Luby

free, but the final 15 minutes saw Killeagh take control. The Glen's defence weakened, gaps opened up, which Killeagh exploited. Lisa O'Riordan was called upon to make two saves to keep the Glen in it. She was blindsided though on 58 minutes as Killeagh got the all-important goal and finished the game out.

**Scorers for Killeagh:** C Sigerson 0-10 (0-8 L, 0-2 45), L O'Gorman 1-0, J O'Shea 0-2, C Harney, H Looney, R Sheehan 0-1 each.

**Glen Rovers:** D Luby 0-5 (0-3 L, 0-1 45), K Walsh 0-3, L Cunningham, A Wallace, M Browne, E Murphy 0-1 each.

**KILLEAGH:** S Beausang; E Treacy, L Treacy, A Walsh; C Daly, L McElvoy; J O'Gorman; N O'Keefe, R Sheehan; C Harney, C Sigerson, J Luby, N O'Riordan; K Walsh, M Browne, A Wallace.

**Subs:** A O'Driscoll for K Ahern (h-t), C Walsh for E Treacy (38), C Barry for J O'Gorman (51).

**GLEN ROVERS:** L O'Riordan; S Fahy, K Falvey, K O'Connell; S Hayes; L Callanan, L O'Sullivan; T McCarthy, L Cunningham; E Murphy, D Luby, N O'Riordan; K Walsh, M Browne, A Wallace.

**Sub:** N O'Brien for S Hayes (48).

**Referee:** Michael O'Mahony (Bandon).



Scarra still  
in the hunt  
for a third  
title on trot

CAMOGIE

John Leonard

INNISCARRA'S bid for a third successive SE Systems Cork Senior Camogie Championship title is still on track following their 1-14 to 2-8 win over St Catherine's at Castle Road last Saturday evening.

Following their hard-fought win last week over Eire Og 0-4 to 0-10, the champions received another stiff test from St Catherine's where again the Inniscarra defence stood resolute in the second half when they faced the strong elements.

Inniscarra's team manager Kevin Murphy was delighted with the win as he gave the following reaction on the final whistle: "I suppose we came here and we knew St Catherine's were a very good team. They play a great brand of hurling and we knew we were in for a savage battle and that's what we got here today. We were ready for it. It was just a savage battle. We just matched up as best as we could and we just went for it."

They had outstanding players such as team captain Niamh Dilworth, who scored seven points of their total. "Absolutely, and we are just about one panel. It's a panel of 28 and everybody who was out on the pitch today was immense from start to finish and everybody who came on. It was just an immense performance by everybody."

Next weekend's semi-final will be Inniscarra's third successive weekend of action. "It's just another game, it's another week and we have no problem."

Inniscarra team captain Niamh Dilworth was also delighted with her side's victory. "It was a fantastic battle from both sides in very difficult conditions."

"St Catherine's intensity and strength in the second half really tested us. They really put it up to us and our backs and all of us worked really hard to grind out the result in the end, in such greasy and difficult conditions."

As regards her own personal tally of seven points, she added: "That's down to the work-rate from all the other individuals on the pitch. The work-rate from the forwards, the back-line and the midfield was phenomenal and we really worked well as a team today."

With the semi-finals due to be played next weekend and it being the Muskerry side's third successive weekend of action she added: "We're used to it at this end of the season. It's just the way the games are really planned out."

"I suppose the most important thing now is that we'll rest up and get a good recovery at the start of the week, go back training on Wednesday and look forward to whatever opponents we'll have next weekend and really look forward to it."

# Barrs demolish Courcey Rovers



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

St Finbarr's	5-12
Courcey Rovers	1-5

FOUR first-half goals lay the foundations for a strong St Finbarr's victory in their quarter-final championship clash with Courcey Rovers on Sunday.

It was going to take something special from Courceys to get back into the game, but they couldn't find it.

Courceys were only a shadow of how they can play and that was primarily down to two reasons. One, the work rate and hunger of a Barr's team that has significantly improved and second, the loss for Courcey Rovers of Jacinta Crowley ruled out with a back injury and star forward Fiona Keating with Glandular fever.

Jacinta's loss around the middle of the park was sorely felt while Linda Collins was missing the support of Keating up front.

But let's not take from the excellent Barr's performance. Stephanie Punch and Aoife O'Neill were very solid in the defensive corners. Gemma O'Connor, named at midfield dropped back and lorded it, brilliantly assisted by the teak-tough Lynda O'Connell in the middle of the park.

Based on that, the Barrs forwards got a plentiful supply and the on-fire Keeva McCarthy, stalwart Rachel Myers, Eimear Ryan and youngster Nicole Olden made the most of it.

Aided by the wind, which wasn't that strong in the opening half, the Barrs led by 2-3 to 0-1 after the end of the first quarter. Rachel Myers and Eimear Ryan hitting the net. Myers again seemed to get the final touch in the goalmouth on 26 minutes before the impressive Nicole Olden pulled on the bounce to blast the net and it was getting harder to see a way back for Rovers.

The wind picked up for the second half but despite Linda Collins goaling after 42 minutes it was the Barrs who continued to pile on the pressure. O'Connor cleaned up in defence. Meabh Cahalane launched a few attacks and Keeva McCarthy picked



Lynda O'Connell of St Finbarr's being challenged by Courcey Rovers players Eimear O'Reilly and Caron O'Reilly in the clash at Castle Road. Pictures: Denis Mihan

off a further three points, all from play.

Courceys never gave up the chase and had their good moments but didn't have the spread of forwards to make it count against a firm Barrs defence.

The game was long over before McCarthy struck the Barrs' fifth goal with 11 minutes remaining.

St Finbarr's versus Sarsfields now makes for a great semi-final.

**Scorers for St. Finbarrs:** K McCarthy 1-6 (0-2 f), Olden 1-2, R Myers 2-0, E Ryan 1-0, E Olden 0-2, G Cahalane, G Olden 0-1 each.

**Courcey Rovers:** L Collins 1-4, S McCarthy 0-1.

**ST FINBARR'S:** E Hurley, S Punch, A Egan, A O'Neill, C Ryan, L O'Connell, M Cahalane, G O'Connor, R Finn, N Olden, E Olden, A Shannon, K McCarthy, E Ryan, R Myers.

**Subs:** C Golden for R Myers (38), G Cahalane for E Ryan (52), E Wigginton Barrett for L O'Connell (56).

**COURCEY ROVERS:** S O'Reilly, S O'Sullivan, C Hayes, E O'Regan, O Twomey, A Moloney, A O'Reilly, E O'Reilly, S McCarthy, L Collins, E O'Reilly, C O'Neill, G Hannon, L Collins, C O'Reilly.

**Subs:** E Maguire for C O'Reilly (25), G O'Reilly for G Hannon (h-t), A M Collins for E O'Reilly (47), L Holbrow for S McCarthy (48).

**Referee:** Cathal McAllister (Aghada).



Emma Olden of St Finbarr's shooting over the Courcey Rovers defence.



Cork's goalkeeper Aoife Murray clears the sliotar despite Miriam Walsh of Kilkenny closing in.

Picture: INPHO/James Crombie

# The quest for perfection

## CAMOGIE

John Bohane

NIALL Collins has worked closely with the Cork camogie management team in his position as lead performance analyst, a role in which he excelled once again this year.

The Dunmanway native initially joined the inter-county camogie team set-up in 2014, and has enjoyed his role with the Rebels immensely.

"I was contacted by Paudie Murray to work in area of performance, statistical, and video analysis as part of the management. My role has evolved, helped by the fact that all members of the management have embraced the information produced. This year I completed my accreditation with the GAA, becoming a Level 4 GAA performance analyst," he revealed.

Niall has been ably assisted by Colm Casey and Mike Twomey in his role as lead performance analyst.

"Our area involves gathering relevant data, processing it, and ensuring the information produced for consumption provides value and assistance to the people involved. Our key roles would include the pre and post-game statistical and video analysis, complemented with GPS and heart-rate monitoring, harvesting sufficient information to contribute to the decision-making process of both management and players.

"I was initially involved with both the senior and intermediate teams. This year, however, my sole focus has just been with the senior team. I am very proud of my record, being involved with different management teams and contributing to five All-Ireland wins in this period."

The Cork camogie team's winning mentality and relentless quest for perfection has greatly impressed him.

"We push each other to ensure that we are getting the maximum out of our performance. In my role, it is important to understand the audience that information is being provided to, and vary it based on how they best accept it. It is a key attribute in my role to deliver detail in a way best consumed, all contributing towards a learning environment.



The Cork senior and intermediate camogie management teams, including Niall Collins.

"Working with elite athletes is an honour, and doing so in an area that contributes to producing stronger decision-makers makes it rewarding."

The Cork camogie management team and backroom staff assembled in recent years have blended brilliantly together to ensure the players' needs have been met on every occasion.

"Paudie, as manager is very professional in his approach. Everyone has a defined role. His success over recent years is a testament to the different set-ups that he has put in place. Kevin Murray, operating as the hurling coach, is extremely modern, addressing the coaching role with his game-based coaching methodology. The strength in the management team though is the strength of the people that fulfil their different roles.

"The cutting-edge approach of Martin O'Brien to strength and conditioning, Teddy O'Donovan ensuring goalkeepers are trained for all situations, to the organisational and logistical abilities of Damien Murray and Anthony O'Neill, all complemented with Liam O'Reilly providing physio to the squad.

"Over the past year, I have been lucky enough to have Colin Casey and Mike Twomey providing their expertise to me

in the area of analysis. Lenny Browne in the Mardyke Arena is always available to assist us in providing top-quality video footage of games."

His workload naturally increases in the run-up to championships games.

"My main focus is understanding in detail the opposition. Analysing their style of play, approach in different situations strengths and weaknesses and key players. The information is presented to the management in the form of a pre-game report, along with video-based presentation. I then work with Paudie to understand the tactical approach for the game presenting this with Paudie to the players and ensuring all members of the team and management understand the challenge ahead. I attend all training sessions, videoing most."

The analyst's role is always growing.

"It is becoming more important for teams to include a member whose main focus is the measurement of performance. This helps track if the team is progressing, hitting targets and evolving as needed to achieve their goals. It is important that mine and all management roles, along with expertise, evolve and develop. To be ahead, we constantly need to be looking for the edge."

# Carbery dreams dashed

## CORK SENIOR CAMOGIE

**CARBERY** 2-13  
**SARSFIELDS** 2-14

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

THE dream is over for Carbery after they were knocked out of the SE Systems Cork Camogie Senior Championship on Sunday.

It took extra time to decide this quarter-final played at Castle Road on Sunday afternoon with Sarsfields equalising in injury time at the end of normal time and then scoring the match-winning goal in the second half of extra time.

It was cruel luck on a Carbery team that had chances to advance to the last four but while they led at several stages in normal time and extra time, they couldn't shake off Sarsfields, who had Emer Fennell scoring 2-11 of their total.

Carbery were first on the scoreboard when Cork star Orla Cronin nailed a 20-metre free after seven minutes. Sarsfields responded when a great offload by Clare Mullins set up Chloe Casey to level proceedings.

Points from the influential Emer Fennell and Mullins sent Sars two points clear before Maria Kenneally pulled one back for Carbery, 0-3 to 0-2.

It looked a lot better for Carbery after 19 minutes when, after a strong run from Orla Cronin, Ciara O'Sullivan shot low to the net for a goal. O'Sullivan followed it up with a tight-angled effort to see the West Cork outfit lead 1-3 to 0-3.

Fennell kept the East Cork side in touch when she pointed a 40-metre free but Carbery's stock was soaring after 25 minutes when an innocuous O'Sullivan delivery towards goal deceived everyone and landed in the back of the net. Now Carbery led by five.

Sarsfields rallied and pushed forward. Lucy Allen unleashed a goal-bound shot that needed a superb diving save from Carbery goalkeeper Eimear White to deny her. Despite clearing their lines Carbery conceded a free which Fennell pointed. But that was cancelled out by Libby

Coppinger when she fired over after a great run to see Carbery lead 2-4 to 0-5 at the break.

Fennell and the outstanding Cronin traded scores early in the second half, and after Sarsfields had a goal ruled out, Fennell landed two more frees to cut the gap to 2-5 to 0-8 after 40 minutes.

Sarsfields had their tails up and on the three-quarter mark Fennell blasted to the Carbery net to level the game, and then Lucy Allen nudged Sarsfields ahead.

The game swung from one end to the other now, and after Cronin tied the sides in the 50th minute with a long-range free, she added two of the next three scores – Fennell scoring a Sars free in between – as Carbery led by one after 58 minutes.

In injury time the unerring Fennell scored another free to send the game to extra time after the sides finished level, 2-8 to 1-11.

In the first half of extra time, Cronin (free) and O'Sullivan pushed the divisional side two ahead.

After Hollie Herlihy forced Carbery goalkeeper White to pull off a diving save, Fennell fired over the resultant 45 to leave Sarsfields trailing by 2-10 to 1-12 at half time in extra time.

Early in the second half Fennell fired over a free to level proceedings but back came Carbery with two quick frees from Cronin to lead by two.

Then came the game's crucial score when Fennell slotted to the Carbery net after great passing to set her up; this pushed Sarsfields one clear, 2-13 to 2-12. Fennell extended the lead to two before Moira Barrett pulled one back for Carbery. However, despite a late Carbery rally Sarsfields held strong to book themselves a semi-final spot after a thrilling encounter.

### Scorers

**Carbery:** C O'Sullivan 2-2; O Cronin 0-8 (4f, 2 45s); M Kenneally, L Coppinger, M Barrett 0-1.

**Sarsfields:** E Fennell 2-11 (10f, 145); C Mullins, C Casey, L Allen 0-1 each.

**Carbery:** E White (Barryroe).



Sarsfields' Meabh Mullins and Carbery's Ciara O'Sullivan (Newcestown) collide during their county senior championship quarter-final at Castle Road last Sunday. (Photos: Trevor Patchett)



Carbery goalkeeper Eimear White (Barryroe) tries to stop Sarsfield's Emer Fennell scoring their second goal.

**captain:** M Sexton (Barryroe), D Carroll (Enniskeane), A Crowley (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), M Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C Kingston (Ballinascarthy), A O'Donovan (Newcestown), M Lynch (Newcestown), L Coppinger (St Colum's), H Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), O Cronin (Enniskeane), M Barrett (Ballinascarthy), T Sheehan (Enniskeane), C O'Sullivan (Newcestown), M Kenneally (Newcestown).

**Subs:** D O'Brien (Enniskeane) for M Sexton (ft), S Hurley (Enniskeane) for A O'Donovan (40).  
**Sarsfields:** M Lynch; N O'Callaghan, K Barry, K Walsh; E Murphy, M

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Orla Cronin, as usual, was top class for Carbery and she led the charge but **Emer Fennell** did score an incredible 2-11 for Sars, including the match-winning goal in extra time.

**Star moment:** It has to be Fennell's goal in the second half of extra time that pushed Sars ahead, and they held the lead from here to the end.

**Talking point:** Another quarter-final exit for a Carbery team that has so much potential. They are not too far away from making it through to the last four.

**What's next?** Sars advance to the county semi-finals while Carbery's journey is over.

Mullins, E Casey; L Kelly, C Casey; C Mullins, H Herlihy, R O'Mahony; M Barry, L Allen (captain), E Fennell.  
**Subs:** E Lonergan for K Walsh (27).

O McAllen for R O'Mahony (27), C Irwin for C Mullins (54), C Holland for C Casey (81).  
**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

## Inniscarra defence of crown still on track

INNISCARRA are still on course for the three-in-a-row after they beat St Catherine's by 1-14 to 2-8 in their Cork Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final at Castle Road on Saturday evening.

The defending champions laid the base for this win in the opening half as they led by 1-10 to 1-2 at half time, and while St Catherine's did outscore Inniscarra in the second half, it wasn't enough.

Aileen Sheehan scored her side's only goal of the game in the first quarter, coming after Rena Buckley's penalty was deflected over the bar, as Inniscarra held an early 1-4 to 1-1 lead. Aoife Hurley had scored a goal for St Catherine's. Six unanswered first-half points – with top scorer Niamh Dilworth hitting two – saw Inniscarra lead by eight at the break.

St Catherine's had the wind at their backs in the second half and an early goal from Laura Hayes reduced the gap to five, and with Cork star Orla Cotter on target from frees, St Catherine's were never too far away, but Inniscarra always managed to stay four points ahead until the end when they came under pressure, but held out to advance to the last four.

Meanwhile, in the other quarter-finals, Courcey Rovers lost 5-12 to 1-5 against St Finbarr's while Killeagh beat Glen Rovers by 0-15 to 1-12.

# Barrs look to end the long wait



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

SUNDAY

SE Systems Cork Camogie semi-finals: St Finbarr's v Sarsfields, 1.30pm; Inniscarra v Killeagh, 4.45pm, Castle Road.

IT'S been 10 years since St Finbarr's made the last four of the Cork Senior Camogie Championship. It's a long time for such a prestigious club.

Ten years ago, they came up against St Catherine's in the semi-final. When Viv Harris pointed a pressure free with time almost up it looked as if the Barrs had done enough to see them through to their fourth final on the trot.

But Catherine's substitute Lisa Higgins had the final say with an equally sublime point in injury time to justifiably force a replay. The Saints won the replay, 1-20 to 2-9 and went on to beat Milford in the final.

Small margins determine so much. Joyous scenes welcomed St Finbarr's first and only senior title win in 2006 against Imokilly. They were final favourites against Muskerry in 2007 and met Douglas in 2008 but came up short on both occasions.

Hard to believe that it's taken 10 years to get back to a semi-final spot. But they have and that's down to tremendous work at underage over the past decade and to the work of manager and coach Brian O'Sullivan.

You typically get a couple or more inter-county players on most club sides. What's important is how good your 'club only' players are. Having a 'rounded' team, with good players in every line of the pitch is more crucial to a club's success than having a few stars.

The Barrs have that this year. It's great to see the Barrs emerge as a strong club again, just as it's great to see Sarsfield's at this level, also after years of hard work. After many years working their way back, 2016 saw Sarsfield's step up to the senior ranks once more. They've been learning every year, getting stronger every year, in a short space of time, and this semi-final makes for a great one.

Sars too are very rounded. Emer Fennell however still plays a huge role in the side and how she is managed on



Erin Looney, Inniscarra, and Orla Cotter, St Catherine's reach for the dropping ball.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Sunday will go a long way to determining who reaches the final.

Inniscarra and Killeagh make up the second of a double-header in Castle Road. Inniscarra are vying for their fourth title in a row. They are challenged by good sides, but they dig deep every time with strong discipline and spirit. You have to admire the ferocity of how they are defending their title this past three years.

After a comfortable opening round victory over Eire Og, Inniscarra had tough games against Eire Og again, who were much improved, and Catherine's.

In addition to a strong defence, Aileen Sheehan and Katie O'Mahony are again having great seasons. Up front Inniscarra have a good spread of scoring forwards with super sub Claudia Keane guaranteed to once again come into the fray. If they hit form, they'll be hard to stop.

Killeagh overcame a strong Glen Rovers quarter-final challenge, pulling away in the final 10 minutes. I still think there's more to come from this side, that they haven't yet peaked.

A little bit more composure when in



Nicole Olden of St Finbarr's soloing downfield chased by Courcsey Rovers' Orla Twomey.

Picture: Denis Minihane

possession and finding team mates will finish off a lot of the openings they create, and they'll then be a force. It could be Sunday.

## Brave Ballinascorthy bow out

### CORK JUNIOR A CAMOGIE

BALLINASCORTHY 2-4  
CHARLEVILLE 4-11

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

DESPITE holding a three-point lead at half time, Ballinascorthy came up short when Charleville found another gear in the second half of this SE Systems Cork Camogie Junior A Championship semi-final at Castle Road on Saturday.

After edging Bride Rovers in a thrilling encounter in the 2018 junior B final, Ballinascorthy can be very proud of their achievement in reaching the semi-finals of the junior A in their first year at this grade.

Indeed, it was Ballinascorthy who opened the scoring

when Caroline Sugrue put over a 45-metre free. Shortly after, her goal-ward shot was deflected over by Charleville net-minder Caitlin Reynolds. It took Charleville eight minutes to get on the scoreboard and when they did it was via the impressive Fiona Nelligan when she pointed a close-range free.

Two more Nelligan placed balls saw the lead change hands, as the north-Cork side went one clear after 23 minutes. However, an unanswered brace from Anna Flynn and Sugrue had the West Cork team back in front two minutes later.

Teresa Dore levelled proceedings when she split the posts, but a frantic injury-time saw three goals in a two-minute

spell. Elaine O'Brien goaled for Ballinascorthy when she was on hand to bat to the net after Reynolds had initially pulled off a fine save from Sugrue.

Charleville rallied and when Meadh Buckley took a shot from 30 metres, it dipped wickedly past the experienced Martina O'Brien in the Bal goal to level proceedings for the second time.

However, in an exhilarating end to the half Bal responded instantly when Sugrue collected and drilled to the net to see the West Cork side head to the dressing 2-4 to 1-4 to the good.

Despite their tenacious opening half and with Moira Barrett, Michelle Dullea, Anna Flynn and Sugrue giving their all up front, the second-half display by Charleville proved too much.

Despite conceding 3-7 in the second half, Claire Kingston,

Donna Moloney, Kaela O'Driscoll and O'Brien stood strong in the Bal defence. However, Nelligan, Buckley and Dore proved too much of a handful and with Laura Doyle pivotal at centre back, Charleville found another level to book their place in the county junior A final. Nelligan accounted for 2-3, Buckley added to her first-half goal with a second, Kate Liddy scored 0-2, and Dore and substitute Sinead Dennehy rounded off the scores with a point apiece to see Charleville book their place in the final against Ballyhea.

#### Scorers

Ballinascorthy: C Sugrue 1-3 (145); E O'Brien 1-0; A Flynn 0-1.  
Charleville: F Nelligan 2-6 (3f, 2 45s); M Buckley 2-0; K Liddy, T Dore 0-2 each; S Dennehy 0-1.  
Ballinascorthy: M O'Brien; S Hayes, K O'Driscoll, L Hegarty; D Moloney.



Moira Barrett played well for Ballinascorthy.

C Kingston, N Sugrue; M Barrett, C Crowley; A Flynn, M Dullea, A Condon; K O'Donovan, C Sugrue, E O'Brien.

Subs: S McCarthy for A Flynn (Inj. 30), A Flynn for S McCarthy (36), M Ryan for E O'Brien (47).

Charleville: C Reynolds; K Dore, M Jones, L Costelloe; M Murphy, L Doyle, C Sheehan; K Liddy, E O'Flynn; K O'Reilly, F Nelligan, L Corrigan; A Jones, M Buckley, T Dore.

Subs: S Dennehy for L Corrigan (53), M Jackman for T Dore (53).  
Referee: Arthur Murphy.

# Moynihán magic seals Éire Óg title

Blackrock, Ballinora first of busy schedule

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THERE'S another hectic weekend coming up from under-age to adult championship competitions today and tomorrow. Action gets underway today at 10.15am in Castle Road with the U14 A plate final between Blackrock and Ballinora.

On the colleges pitch at 10.30 the U12 C1 final between Bandon and St Fanahan's take place. At 12.30pm in Castle Road it's the U14 A championship final between Sarsfields and Clonakilty.

Some under-age championship and plate results in the week gone by saw Clonakilty overcome Ballygarvan in the U16 premier plate semi-final and they will meet either Middleton of Milford/Ballyhea, who clash at 2pm tomorrow in Middleton.

In the U16 premier championship semi-finals Sarsfields had a win over Aghabullogue and they will face St Finbarr's, who overcame Castlemartyr. In the U16 A Championship Aghada defeated Glen Rovers and Cobh overcame Castlelyons to book their places in the final.

In the U16 plate semi-finals Ballincollig meet Fr O'Neill's tomorrow at 12pm in Ballincollig and Mallow take on Newcestown in Mallow at 3pm.

In U16 B championship Valley Rovers are against Courcey Rovers and the winners will face Kilbrittain/Timoleague who had a semi-final win over Dungourney.

In the U16 B plate Laochra Óg are at home for their meeting with Banteer and Tracton take on Blarney, both are on tomorrow at 12pm.

The U14 B championships semi-finals have neighbours Glen Rovers heading to Na Piarasigh today Saturday at 4.15pm while Ballygarvan and Newcestown meet tomorrow at 12.

In the U14 B plate semi-finals Aghabullogue overcame Aghada and Carrigtwohill defeated Buttevant after extra time.

Tomorrow the S E Systems Senior Championships semi-finals have Sarsfields taking on St Finbarr's at 1.30pm and this is followed by the meeting of Killeagh against four-in-a-row chasing champions Inniscarra.

Also on tomorrow is the first semi-final of the SE systems Intermediate championship takes place when Newcestown and Blackrock meet at 12pm in Ballygarvan. The second semi-final between Carrigaline and Enniskeane goes ahead on October 6.

The second semi-final in the SE Systems Junior A championship is also down for decision tomorrow Sunday when Ballinascarty and Charleville meet in Castle Road at 2.30pm, Ballyhea booked their place in the final when they recorded a victory over St Vincent's last Sunday.

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Éire Óg 5-3  
Sarsfields 3-3

IN the U12 A camogie final Éire Óg turned in a superb second half to overtake Sarsfields and take the title.

Sarsfields lead by five points at the break, 3-3 to 2-1, and it took a huge Éire Óg defensive effort in the second half to hold them at bay as they pushed to add to their interval lead.

Saoirse Moynihán had given Éire Óg an early lead in reply to an Aisling Desmond point but Sars then raced ahead. Desmond hit two points before Aoife Tracy sent the ball to the net.

Sarsfields had added two goals with the impressive Desmond again on target but Éire Óg hung in there with the deadly Moynihán adding a point before snatching an important goal just before the break.

Six minutes after the break Moynihán broke the deadlock with a superb effort to put two points between the sides. Erin Healy narrowed the gap with a free before a Phoebe Warton ground stroke to the net gave Éire Óg the lead for the first time.

Despite their best efforts, Sars could find no way past the Éire Óg defence and at the other end Healy converted a free.

Battling to hold their lead they came under huge pressure but stood up to the challenge and a goal two minutes into injury time from Healy sealed the title after an excellent contest.

Scorers for Éire Óg: S Moynihán 3-1, E Healy 1-2 (0-2 f), P Warton 1-0.

Sarsfields: A Desmond 2-3 (0-1 f), A Treacy 1-0.  
ÉIRE ÓG PANEL: K O'Riordan, J O'Sullivan, L Sheehan, G Young, L Healy, C Murphy, C Fitzgerald, M McCarthy, F Malone, J Power, E Healy, S Moynihán, R O'Leary, M Barry-Murphy, C O'Regan, P Warton, S Murphy, A Boland, G White.

SARS PANEL: J O'Keefe, J Furlong, L Lynch, L Carroll, E Mulkenins, S Pomeroy, J O'Brien, L Scannell, L Walsh, E O'Callaghan, A Treacy, A Desmond, U McCarthy, R O'Sullivan, K Walsh, L Murray, S Howley.

Ballinhassig 5-3  
St Finbarrs 1-2

BALLINHASSIG took the U12 A1 title with an impressive display as they overcame St Finbarrs in Castle Road.

Ballinhassig took an early lead and held it to the finish. Ballinhassig had five scorers on target with Aisling Lombard grabbing two second-half goals.

The early exchanges were close. Aoife Cottrell and Elmeare Casey had Ballinhassig points, while Liz O'Donovan replied. With Cottrell adding to their tally Ballinhassig settled into the game and an Avril Lucey goal sent them five points clear.

St Finbarr's worked hard and were rewarded with a Caoimhe McCarthy goal from a free but Ballinhassig finished the half well through Aisling Lombard and Kate O'Leary's goals.

Liz O'Donovan pointed a Blues free nine minutes into the second half.

The clinical Lombard added two goals to ensure Hassig took the crown.

Scorers for Ballinhassig: A Lombard 3-0, A Lucey (f), K O'Leary 1-0 each, A Cottrell 0-2, E Casey 0-1.

St Finbarrs: C McCarthy 1-0, L O'Donovan 0-2 (0-1 f).

BALLINHASSIG PANEL: A Lynch, A Lombard, A Daly, A Cussen, A Dennehy, A Cottrell, A Collins, A



Killeagh, the recent winners of the U12 B1 camogie title.



The Éire Óg team after winning the U12 A camogie title recently.

Lucey, E Casey, E O'Sullivan, E Downey, I Mulcahy, K O'Leary, K Nowack, L O'Sullivan, L M Donagh, Lombard, S Connolly, S Whyte, T O'Farrell.

Valley Rovers 6-3  
Middleton 4-3

IN the U12 B final Valley Rovers and Middleton had to go to extra time before Valleys Rovers prevailed. It was level at full time at 4-2 each but a strong extra time performance saw Valleys add to their tally with 2-1 to which Middleton replied with a point.

Bishopstown 3-1  
Courcey Rovers 0-3

THE U12 B2 title was won by Bishopstown as they edged out Courcey Rovers. First-half goals from captain Roscha Grant and Maeve Forrest and a point from Leonie Lynch gave them a 2-1 to 0-1 interval advantage with Lydia O'Sullivan replying for Roverst.

The second half was close as Bishopstown captain Roscha Grant led the

way as she added her second and her side's third goal.

Courceys never took their foot off the pedal and they were rewarded with points from Hannah Coakley and Sinead Hynes but the strong Bishopstown defence held out.

Scorers for Bishopstown: R Grant 2-0, M Forrest 1-0, L Lynch 0-1.

Courcey Rovers: L O'Sullivan, H Coakley, S Hynes 0-1 each.

BISHOPSTOWN: X O'Driscoll, A Cuthbert, E Cooney, C Barry, L Scully, K Somers, L Lynch, R Grant (c), A Buckley, A Twomey, M Forrest, K Murphy, E Honohan, R Buckley, G O'Rourke, E Keane, L Manning, C Savage, S Looney, F O'Mahony, S Hetherington.

COURCEY ROVERS: L Glavin, Annemarie Maloney, R O'Donovan, S Napier, A Crean, Aoife Maloney, H Coakley (c), S Hynes, L Murphy, L O'Sullivan, R Griffin, L Crowley, A Cahalane, E Whitehead, L Casey, S O'Riordan.

Killeagh 3-2  
Watergrasshill 2-2

JUST a goal separated the sides in an exciting U12 B1 final.

“Despite their best efforts, Sars could find no way past the Éire Óg defence”

Killeagh held a two point interval lead, 2-1 to 1-2, goals from Clodagh Scully and Molly O'Regan and a Clodagh Scully point had them ahead of a Hill outfit that had a goal from Amy Roche and two Eadaoin Tracey point.

The second half continued to be close but a second goal from Scully and an Aoife O'Regan point helped get Killeagh over the line despite a Watergrasshill goal from Holly O'Brien.

Scorers for Killeagh: C Scully 2-1, M O'Regan 1-0, A O'Regan 0-1.

Watergrasshill: A Roche, H O'Brien 1-0 each, E Tracey 0-2.

KILLEAGH PANEL: E Barry, K Fitzgerald, E O'Driscoll, M Guscin, R Wholan, A Feeney, A Ashman, A O'Regan, O Murphy, C Scully, M O'Regan, E Long-Kearney, R Long, N Barry, O Heffernan, A Cronin.

WATERGRASSHILL PANEL: L Krol, L O'Mahony, S Russell, S O'Mahony, O Darragh, H O'Leary, C Harrington, E Tracey, K Enright, S O'Neill, L Moore, R Collins, E Ryan, S Doyle, A Roche, E O'Riordan, E Curtin, H O'Brien, M Murphy, K Moran, S Murray, L Galvin, C McCarthy, E Daly.

# O'Connor upset over All-Stars



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

SINCE its inauguration in 2004, Gemma O'Connor has been nominated 14 times for an All-Star, winning 11 statues, even though she missed one season while overseas with the Irish Army.

The nominations speak for themselves, the awards even further, of the consistency of one of camogie's greatest players. Gemma sets high standards and I know that she would take pleasure in those nominations and awards, not because of the personal accolade but because they gave confirmation that she had done her best on the field for her teammates and county.

She's extremely disappointed and upset that Cork were left so short on the nomination front this year, not because she wasn't nominated, but because some of her teammates weren't when they clearly deserved to be.

"I want to make this clear; I'm not whingeing or being unsporting because I didn't get one. And I didn't expect me or Cork to get six or seven All-Stars because of how the championship finished for us but I just think that from the nominations point of view to only get four from 45?"

"If you look back over the years at the semi-finalists, it's a long time if ever that they only picked four from those counties. I can't get over it. It's almost as if we're punished in a way for the group we were in, in that, because we were beating teams comfortably, we weren't being challenged, when really, it's because of how well we were performing is why we won those the way we did.

"None of our group games as All-Ireland champions for two years in a row were televised/streamed either. The publicity nationally around our games wasn't as high as for others.

"The nominations for the 'Player of the Week' - I recall our game against Meath, they may not be as strong as other teams, but Cliona Healy played up front for us and scored five points from play. If that was any other team, she would have been nominated for Player of the Week.

"We were winning our games well and there were weeks when no Cork player was nominated. I don't want to go down the line of thinking there's this thing against Cork, but little things have happened over the past couple of years that has me leaning towards that way of thinking.

"I know the Association might want a change. It's like they don't want us to reach an All-Ireland final. As captain and having watched the players train and play all year and watch how some of them performed I feel I have to say it, speak on behalf of the Cork team, when I say that giving four nominations is completely disrespectful to us as a group of players." Gemma feels a number of her team-mates did more than enough to be recognised.

"Orla Cotter, do they mean to tell me that she didn't deserve a nomination? Same as Orla Cronin. Chloe Sigerson scored points from play and frees that you wouldn't see in a senior hurling



Gemma O'Connor in action for Cork against Meath this summer.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Orla Cronin, Carbery, is surrounded by Ballincollig players Aoife Cotter, Sarah Buckley and Linda Dorgan. Cronin wasn't nominated for an All-Star.

Picture: Dan Linehan

game. I just feel that as captain I need to represent the players and say we were wronged.

"It's nothing against Tipperary, I'm not trying to steal other team's or players' thunder, but we played them three times this year, the facts are there. Comparing our players and their players on a semi-final stage and what we scored and conceded during the championship versus what they did, it just doesn't make sense.

"Their players did not perform better than our players and they've nine nominations." The St Finbarr's club stalwart, who faces Sars in a county semi-final tomorrow, has never been slow to speak her mind.

"I find the association at times so frustrating. They can be unreasonable and unaccommodating. I've played the game all my life.

"I hate when it gets negative publicity but for example, a few players from

a number of counties went and met them this year about the rule changes. Here we are, players from different counties with the same view.

"But all we were told was players shouldn't be giving negative opinions, that we need to say the right thing to the press when interviewed. Players have a right to express their views."

I find that bizarre when anyone who watched the 2017 and 2018 finals could see for themselves how the game wasn't flowing. For players like Gemma to deny or defend that would make them look ridiculous.

Reflecting on Cork's season it's difficult to pinpoint what went wrong in their bid for three in a row.

"I think people tried to do the right thing this year but maybe without realising it some weren't as focused as they should be. Our stats showed that we were off the pace. What's particularly disappointing is that we wanted

**"I can't get over it. It's almost as if we're punished in a way for the group we were in"**

to reach another level. I thought we were mentally tougher than what we were in the semi-final, but that bite and hunger wasn't there. I thought it was.

"And look you'll always have two or three players that might not play their best in any game but when you've six or seven and only losing by a point to the All-Ireland champions, I think that's the hardest thing to take."

It's a big weekend for the Barrs and her club's progression has made up somewhat for Cork's loss.

"It's great, it's exciting. There's a great buzz in the club. A mixture of the huge underage work and Brian O'Sullivan over the past couple of years is why we're here.

"We've a young team overall. We're balanced which is what we lacked for a number of years. Sarsfields are also young and they're well balanced. I think we've a good chance."

# Ballincollig U12s hold on for title

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Ballincollig** 5-8

**Milford** 5-5

BALLINCOLLIG made all the running and led 3-7 to 0-3 at the half time break in this U12 A2 final in glorious sunshine in Castle Road.

A stronger start and excellent first half performances saw Ballincollig rule proceedings thanks to goals from Tara Goulding, Heather Power and Kate O'Flynn along with points from Susanna Healy and Chelsea Jordan.

Milford's Melissa Enright, Holly Buckley and Katie Lawlee had raised white flags but Ballincollig looked in control.

Milford came thundering back into the game in the second half with their captain Holly Buckley leading the way. She struck a goal and while the superb Katie Lawlee blasted in four goals.

That cut the gap to three points, before Meadhbh Boland helped to settle the Ballincollig nerves.

Ballincollig goalkeeper Maeve Lonergan and defenders Cara O'Sullivan and Laura McElwain were impressive as Ballincollig hung on.

**MILFORD:** H Buckley (c), K Lawlee, E Buckley, N Davidson, M Donegan, H White, J Linehan, S O'Connor, A McGrath, S Walsh, L Vaughan, S Herbst, M Enright, A O'Leary, J Geary, C Geary, S Murphy, A O'Gorman, M McCarthy, I Deely, A Collins, D O'Leary.

**BALLINCOLLIG:** M Lonergan, D O'Sullivan, C O'Sullivan, Cara Lynch, Caoileann Lynch, S O'Shea, L McElwain, T Fleming, C Jordan, T Goulding, L Buckley, M Boland, T Cooper, C Slievewright, A O'Brien, F Walsh, S O'Donnell, E Carew, H Power, K O'Flynn, Suzanne Healy, Simone Healy, E Hickey.

**Bandon** 4-1

**St Fanahan's** 1-4

BANDON captured the U12 C1 title, a first since the club newly reformed.

Bandon laid the foundations for victory with two first-half goals from Dolreann Kelly and Clodagh Barry while Keava Power added a point.

A strong Bandon defence held firm under a lot of St Fanahan's first-half pressure. In the second half, St Fanahan's found their range with four Aoife Moriarty points and a goal from Maeve Geary.

Bandon were not going to be denied and further goals from Keava Power and Clodagh Barry ensured they were crowned winners.

**Scorers for Bandon:** C Barry 2-0, K Power 1-1, D Kelly 1-0.

**St Fanahan's:** A Moriarty 0-4, M Geary 1-0.

**BANDON:** M O'Regan, E O'Connell, K Twohig, J Fleming, M Doyle, E McCarthy, D Kelly, M O'Donovan, K Collins, C Barry, E Mc McCarthy, K Power, A Glavin, C O'Sullivan, J Walsh, E Lucey.

**ST FANAHAN'S:** E O'Sullivan, C Walsh, A O'Regan, A Finn, B Motherway, C Condon, M Geary, G Forde, E Fohy, A Moriarty, C Hogan, A Bargalyte, M McSweeney, A Luddy, B O'Gorman, M Power, E Fitzgerald, E Cleary, M Coleman, A Williams, K Sheehan, S Hennessy, A Sheehan.

**Sarsfields** 4-10

**Clonakilty** 1-3

SARSFIELDS took the U14 A championship crown as they overcame the challenge posed by Clonakilty in Castle Road.

Earlier this season the Sars girls lost out in the All-Ireland Féile to an excellent Éire Óg side but they put that defeat behind them as they captured this title.

Sarsfields showed that they meant



Ballincollig, winners of the U12 A 2 camogie title.



Bandon camogie team recently won the U12 C1 crown.

business as they turned in superb second half display. They led by four points at the break, 2-3 to 1-2, but with Player of the Match Kate Fennessy driving them on, ably assisted by Megan Sheehan at full-forward, Sinead Hurley in defence and midfielders Ava Fitzgerald and Rachael Roche, they pushed on.

The opening 30 minutes were close. Nevaeh O'Connell and Rachael Roche had Sarsfields goal to which Clonakilty replied with a Katie O'Driscoll goal. Sarsfields had points from Sheehan, Fitzgerald and Aoife Mullins while O'Driscoll and Kate Nolan had one each for Clonakilty.

The second half belonged to Sarsfields as they upped the pace considerably.

Up front Sarsfields began to pick off score with Sheehan getting them off the mark with a free before adding a goal. Fennessy added two points and in between Ciara Keohane grabbed a goal.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** M Sheehan 1-3, K Fennessy 0-3, C Keohane, N O'Connell, R Roche 1-0 each, Ava Fitzgerald 0-2, A Mullins, N Treacy 0-1 each.

**Clonakilty:** K O'Driscoll 1-2, K Nolan 0-1.

**SARS:** L Lynch, C Rice, L Sheppard, A Nestor, L Durlea, S Hurley, H Murray, A Fitzgerald, R Roche, K Hackett, A Mullins, K Fennessy, N O'Connell, M Sheehan (c), N Treacy.

**Subs:** A Desmond for N O'Connell, O Walsh for C Rice, C Keohane for A Mullins, L O'Brien for A Nestor, T Twomey for N Treacy.

**CLON:** D Geaney, A White, A Meade, M Murphy, A Whelton, C White, N Kennedy, C Hourihane, A McCarthy, K O'Driscoll, A O'Flynn-Meade, C Barrett, K Nolan, A Ni Mathuna, O Whelton.

**Subs:** S O'Sullivan for O Whelton, A Giles for C Barrett, C McEvoy for Aoife Ni Mathuna, C Allman for D Geaney, A Malik for A O'Flynn-Meade.

**Blackrock** 5-7

**Ballinora** 2-4

THE U14 A plate final was a closely contested game with only a point separating the sides at the interval as Blackrock held the slender lead.

In the second half Blackrock began to gain a grip and in the finish they kicked for home.

Louise O'Neill was in top form for a young Ballinora side. She notched up 1-4 of their total.

Ella Coleman opened the Blackrock

“A stronger start and excellent first half performances saw Ballincollig rule proceedings”

account with a goal before adding a point along with Erinn Curtin.

On the turnover the sides swapped scores. Lily Twohig added a goal for Ballinora with Louise O'Neill again on target with two points.

The quick-thinking Hazel O'Connell seized an opportunity with a free from the half-back line to Coleman on the wing whose found the net.

Blackrock then grabbed their third goal with Bronagh O'Shaughnessy linking up with Julia Byrne.

And with Coleman and Curtin on target with points Blackrock were in control. Kate Weldon finished the scoring with their fifth goal, while keeper Jala-si, Coleman and Curtin were to the fore.

**Scorers for Blackrock:** E Coleman 3-3, E Curtin 0-4, J Byrne, K Weldon 1-0 each.

**Ballinora:** L O'Neill 1-4, L Twohig 1-0.

**BLACKROCK:** Y Jala-si, J Kenny, D Horgan, C Kingston, L O'Callaghan, H O'Connell, R Quirke, E Curtin, B O'Shaughnessy, M O'Sé, L Murphy, E Coleman, M Creedon, L McCarthy, J Byrne.

**Subs:** E O'Donovan for Lucy McCarthy, A Hayes for J Byrne, A O'Connor for L Murphy, K Weldon for Meabh Creedon, R Lee for L O'Callaghan.

**BALLINORA:** C Ahern, A Lane, E Murphy, E O'Flynn, S Conway, N Kingston, A Quirke, E Mc Alliffe, A O'Riordan, C Quirke, L O'Neill, R Murphy, L Twohig, J Larkin, K O'Leary.

**Subs:** E O'Driscoll for A Quirke, S Werner for L C Neill.

# PLAY IT AGAIN Inniscarra and Killeagh draw county semi-final



Inniscarra's Niamh McCarthy looks on as captain Niamh Dilworth get her shot away in the drawn senior semi-final against Killeagh. The game finished 0-10 apiece after Niamh Dilworth scored a late free for defending champions Inniscarra at Castle Road. (Photo: Trevor Patchett)

## Inniscarra's title defence still on track

### CORK SENIOR CAMOGIE

INNISCARRA	1-13
KILLEAGH	1-12

REIGNING Cork senior camogie champions Inniscarra were pushed all the way before they survived a fierce challenge from Killeagh in this thrilling semi-final replay in CIT on Friday night.

Their reward is a county final against Sarsfields this Sunday, October 13th, in Castle Road at 3pm.

There are a lot of positives that Inniscarra will take from the win against Killeagh, and

chief among them is how they dug out this win in an epic match that swung back and forth.

Inniscarra led 1-4 to 0-3 after the first quarter but Killeagh battled back to level at the break, 1-7 apiece.

The second half was just as epic, as Niamh Dilworth, Rena Buckley and Aileen Sheehan came to the fore for Inniscarra who built a two-point lead. Back came Killeagh again to level. Then Niamh Dilworth edged Inniscarra back in front, and while Killeagh had chances to level, they didn't take them.

#### Scorers

**Inniscarra:** N Dilworth 0-5 (4f); T McCarthy 1-2; N McCarthy, E Murphy, E Looney 0-2 each; K O'Mahony 0-1

**Killeagh:** C Sligerson 1-8 (5f, 145); L Treacy 0-2; N O'Connor, H Looney 0-1 each.

**Inniscarra:** S Walsh, A O'Regan, C Looney, D O'Callaghan; R Keane, R Buckley, C Ring; A Sheehan, K O'Mahony; E Looney, N Dilworth, C Keane; T McCarthy, N McCarthy, E Murphy.

**Subs used:** A Kavanagh, R Quigley, M Lyons.

**Killeagh:** S Beausang; E Treacy, A Walsh, L Treacy; L McEvoy, C Daly, N O'Keefe; C Sligerson, J O'Shea; C Harney, R Sheehan, H Looney; L O'Gorman; C Walsh, A O'Driscoll.

**Subs:** N O'Connor, C Barry.



Inniscarra's Niamh McCarthy attempts a hand pass to goal despite the attentions of Killeagh full back Aoife Walsh during the senior camogie semi-final replay. (Photo: Trevor Patchett)

## Five-star Newcestown win county camogie title

### U16A CAMOGIE FINAL

NEWCESTOWN	5-6
FR O'NEILLS	3-2

FIVE first-half goals laid the foundation for Newcestown's brilliant win in the Cork camogie U16A Plate final last Saturday morning at Castle Road.

Played in horrendous weather conditions, Newcestown were quicker to settle and Orla Barrett tagged on two early points for the Carbery club.

Both teams were fighting hard for possession, with Newcestown's Tara Buckley, Brid Desmond and Rachel Hallahan in flying form in defence, while Grace Ryan and Jane Buckley, working in tandem, were sup-



The Newcestown team that won the U16 Cork Camogie Plate final against Fr O'Neills at Castle Road last weekend.

plying ball into the forward line.

Fr O'Neills were then stunned by three Newcestown goals in a devastating two-minute spell, the first by wing back Grace Ryan who had an outstanding game and also won Player of the Match, followed by goals from

forwards Eabha Collins and Aoibhe Sheehan.

Sheehan added another goal five minutes later and while Fr O'Neill's forward Amy Doyle hit the back of the net for her side and Kate O'Brien added a point, the unstoppable Aoibhe

Sheehan completed a first-half hat-trick for Newcestown, who led 5-2 to 1-1 at the break.

Orla Barrett stretched Newcestown's lead with an early second-half point before Fr O'Neill's Kate O'Brien responded with a goal from a 20-yard

free. Newcestown goalkeeper Katie Hannon was coming under pressure and she pulled off three fine saves while at the other end, Caoimhe McCarthy added a point for the winners.

To counteract a late comeback by the opposition, Newcestown introduced fresh legs in the final quarter with Margaret Scanlon and Ashling Crowley introduced. Fr O'Neill's goalkeeper Shannon Mulcahy then made two great saves to deny Orla Barrett and Aoibhe Sheehan. Soon after, centre forward Caoimhe Wilson scored two points in succession to copper-fasten the West Cork side's lead.

With just seven minutes to go, Fr O'Neill's star player Kate O'Brien added to her tally with a further goal and point from play, but this was too little too late. Newcestown stood firm to be crowned U16 county champions. The Newcestown man-

agement team includes Eamonn Buckley, Sean Dinneen, John Wilson, Jerry Ryan and Margaret Desmond.

**Newcestown:** Katie Hannon; Tara Buckley (C); Eimear Dinneen, Alice Buckley; Aoibhinn Wilson, Rachel Hallahan, Brid Desmond; Jane Buckley, Grace Ryan (1-0f); Caoimhe McCarthy (0-1), Caoimhe Wilson (0-2), Katie Twohig; Orla Barrett (0-3), Aoibhe Sheehan (3-0), Eabha Collins (1-0).

**Subs:** Margaret Scanlon, Ashling Crowley, Meabh Kieley, Jenna Deane, Bronagh Wilson, Andie Desmond.

**Fr O'Neills:** Shannon Mulcahy; Lorraine Murphy, Roisin Murphy, Ellen Millerick; Abigail Cody, Mary Millerick, Grainne O'Neill; Emma Fitzpatrick, Ail Wiggins; Grace Rooney, Kate O'Brien (2-2), Aoibhe Brosnan; Rebecca Kelleher, Amy D'Byle (1-0), Shauna Mulcahy.

**Subs:** T Mullane, E Turvey, M Lowney, S O'Riordan, C Hodnett, SK Dorgan.



## ENNISKEANE PREPARE FOR COUNTY INTERMEDIATE FINAL

**ENNISKEANE CAMOGIE:** All roads will lead to Castle Road this Sunday, 13th, after Enniskeane reached the county intermediate final after a hard-fought 4-11 to 1-8 win over Carrigaline last weekend. They will play local rivals Newcestown after they won their semi-final on Tuesday night.

Enniskeane raced into a 1-2 to 0-0 lead against Carrigaline with the goal coming from Slobhan O'Driscoll and the points from Tara Sheehan and Clara Aherne. Carrigaline settled into the game and good goalkeeping from Kate Corcoran ensured Carrigaline could not get a goal. At half time Enniskeane led 1-5 to 0-4. Enniskeane were much more economical in

the second half with the scores coming much easier. Tara Sheehan scored two goals and Claire O'Mahony got the other with also points coming from Slobhan O'Driscoll, Orla Cronin and Tara Sheehan. The final is this Sunday, 13th, at 12pm, again in Castle Road.

**Team:** Kate Corcoran, Kate McCarthy, Celine Nyhan, Louise Duggan (captain), Aisling O'Driscoll, Daire O'Brien, Caitlín O'Donovan, Sinead Hurley (0-1), Danielle Carroll, Orla Cronin (0-2), Clara Aherne (0-1), Laura Mannix (0-1), Claire O'Mahony (1-1), Tara Sheehan (2-2), Slobhan O'Driscoll (1-3).

**Subs:** Emma O'Driscoll, Eimear O'Brien, Clara O'Donovan, Ruth O'Driscoll, Megan O'Regan.



The Enniskeane camogie intermediate panel and management - Anthony O'Sullivan, Dermot Curtin and Brian Daly - that have reached the county final.



SELF-PUBLISHED: Emma Larkin with her book 'Izzy's Magical Football', inspired by her granny, the legendary Maureen Hennebery (nee Cashman), Blackrock.



TRAIL BLAZER: Maureen Hennebery, of Blackrock, who won three in a row All-Ireland titles from 1939 to 1941.



CUP GLORY: Maureen (circled) with her All Ireland winning team.

## Sars bidding to end 30-year famine

Camogie

Therese O'Callaghan

It is 30 years since Sarsfields claimed their one and only Cork senior camogie championship title.

Like most clubs, they have experienced peaks and troughs but now they are back in the big-time, and it is a dream come true for all involved to be contesting tomorrow's final against four-in-a-row seeking Inniscarra at Castle Road, 4pm.

Needless to say, there is an incredible buzz around Glanmire ahead of the showdown, and a huge crowd is expected at the Camogie Grounds.

"It is unbelievable," said manager Emmet Fennell, a former Sarsfields hurler who is in his first year in charge.

"Not one of these girls ever played in a senior county final. The last time Sars won was 1989 and it is bringing back fond memories of that occasion. But that is a long time ago. We are up senior four years, having won the senior B championship and the intermediate championships previous to that. The backbone of our team would come from those panels and we would have girls from the 2016 Féile team as well."

Underage success, undoubtedly, is providing the platform for their swift rise up the ranks. They secured successive All Ireland Féile na nGael triumphs between 2016 and 2018 and they reached this year's decider. They vied for honours in three consecutive Cork minor finals — winning in 2014 and 2016 which is praiseworthy especially in such a short space of time.

Fennell has an accomplished management team around him, while his wife Emer is well used to match-day nerves, the talented attacker who lined out with Cork continues to serve her club with distinction.

"The average age of our team is 23. We have a good balance throughout, and we have joint captains in Ellen Murphy and Lucy Allen and that has worked well. We would have leaders in different areas of the field."

They would include Katie Barry, Niamh O'Callaghan (Cork senior), Michelle Barry, Hollie Herlihy and Edel Loneragan.

"I took over from Tadhg Óg Lynch this year and I have Joe Barry, Brendan O'Callaghan, Jeff Leopold, Sinead O'Leary and Mossy O'Sullivan with me in management."

"We were able to push on with the training. We had most of our squad available as we have just one member on the county senior team and that gave us great scope. We know Inniscarra have a wealth of experience. It is going to be a massive occasion for us."

# Nana inspired my book for kids

**T**HE bracelet an All-Ireland winning Cork camogie player had made from her medals was the inspiration behind her granddaughter's first book, which she hopes will encourage more girls to play sport.

Emma Larkin's granny was the legendary Maureen Hennebery (nee Cashman), of Blackrock, who won three in a row All-Ireland titles from 1939 to 1941.

One of her brothers was Mick Cashman, who played for Blackrock and was goalie on the Cork senior hurling team.

Chrissie Ahern, former Lord Mayor of Cork, was one of her sisters. Tom and Jim Cashman, who also played hurling for Cork, were her nephews.

Emma, an accountant who grew up in Boycestown (halfway between Carrigaline and Crosshaven), explains how the book came about: "I wanted to write something about my grandmother. She came from a family rich in GAA history, the Cashmans of Blackrock in Cork, and is even mentioned in a poem by the famous Irish poet, Patrick Kavanagh, entitled *Camogie Match*."

"While thinking of writing about Nana, I was also looking for books to buy for my daughter Isabelle, who was seven at the time. In my search, I noticed there were very few books about young girls playing sport. Isabelle loves so many sports, including football, soccer and athletics. There were plenty with boys as the main character, but not many for girls, and certainly none that I could see about a girl playing Gaelic Football. One day, I was thinking about

**Emma Larkin has published a book aimed at encouraging girls to play sport — inspired by her All Ireland winning gran, reveals EMMA CONNOLLY**

the bracelet that my grandmother had had made from her All-Ireland camogie medals, and inspiration struck! I decided then that I would write my own book about a girl playing football, and the bracelet would feature, to bring a fun and magical theme to the book, *Izzy's Magical Football*."

Emma is a mum of four children — Damian, 19; Paddy, 10; Isabelle eight, and Robbie, five — and works as a financial controller of The Rose Hotel in Tralee. Married to Robbie, they live near Listowel where he's from.

She has been working on the book since last January and admits it was sometimes hard to find the time with work and family activities.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm going to drop the ball somewhere! But I do enjoy both my jobs, and I also enjoy the writing process and all that goes with it, so it has been fun to do. I wrote the book quite quickly, once the idea came, the words started flowing! I actually self-published the book."

"When I didn't hear back from any Irish publishers, I researched a lot about self-publishing and I joined ALLI, the alliance of independent authors."

"I also hired an illustrator, Paul Nugent, who was just fantastic throughout the whole process."

Before Emma embarked on the

book, she flexed her writing muscle by penning pieces on both park runs and the Gaelic4Mothers & Others initiative.

In a blog post, she wrote: "I started playing Gaelic4Mothers and Others football with my local club in 2012. I had three of my four children in the four years between 2009 and 2013, and it's fair to say that getting time for fitness or anything at all really was a challenge in those years! When I look back, it does really seem like I was just muddling through and that old cliché, it is all a bit of a blur!"

"I really do think, however, in hindsight, that the Gaelic4Mothers & Others initiative in our local club was my first step to rediscovering the great feeling that exercise brings, something that I had neglected in my twenties. In addition to getting me back exercising, it introduced me to an absolutely fantastic gang of women."

"By getting involved in my club and playing football, I soon started running as well, as lots of the women in the club were running. This led to me becoming very involved in our local parkrun, and now I love running and wouldn't feel right without getting a few runs in every week. It also meant, as my kids got older and started playing football themselves, that they got a great kick out of seeing me practising my skills in the back

garden with them!"

"This has all played a part in leading me to where I am now, writing and publishing a children's book about girls playing sport, with the hope that it will encourage girls both to read and play sport, and to keep playing sport."

As well as her Nana, Emma credits her mother as a big inspiration: "She always wanted myself and my sister to be independent women and to follow our own path in life."

Already in the middle of her next book, which features Izzy playing camogie, she credits her husband with coming up with that plot idea and for also for being a fantastic support. In hindsight, Emma says she's in awe of the fact Maureen and her teammates played camogie at such a high level at a time, in Ireland, where a woman's role was predominantly to be a wife and homemaker.

"I wish I had asked her more about what it was like. We just took it as normal that Nana loved hurling and football — I even remember her in her eighties, taking my son Damian, her great-grandson, out in the back garden with a hurley and a sliotar!"

There's a Cork, Dublin and Kerry edition of *Izzy's Magical Football* which is available from emmalarkinbooks.com, on Amazon and bookshops.



Niamh McCarthy, Inniscarra, battles Carolyn Motherway, Catherine's, in the quarter-final. Picture: Jim Coughlan

## McCarthy is not taking anything for granted despite Inniscarra success

INNISCARRA mentor Joe McCarthy is no stranger to county finals having been involved in all the club's successes in recent years.

However he knows just how lucky his side are to be contesting Sunday's SE Systems Senior Camogie decider after having to battle with all their might to hold off the huge challenge of a strong Killeagh side.

"We are thrilled to have got over the line and to be honest we know how lucky we are, Killeagh could have forced extra time with the last puck of the game and I suppose really it was a hard way for them to lose."

"It took two games to separate us and again the replay was a superb game full of everything that is good about the game, great skill and a terrific pace."

"We had to call on all our experience to make it to the final but now we have to put that behind us and concentrate on the job in hand."

That is taking on a youthful Sarsfields outfit and Joe is under no illusions as to the huge task facing Inniscarra.

While the Mid Cork outfit will be favourites given their dominance on home soil and in Munster in recent years, replacing the previously all-conquering Millford as the team to beat, Sars are a coming force at all levels, recently collecting U14 and U16 county crowns.

"Sars are a good team, they are used to winning all along the line they have good young teams used to success and it comes as no surprise to see them in the senior final."

"They have a huge catchment area and a huge volume of players coming through the ranks and all credit to them."

"They have beaten good teams to reach the final and they are there on merit. They had to go to extra time also to overcome Carbery but they held their heads and closed that game out and we know it will take a huge effort from us to retain the title."

Joe McCarthy is well used to challenges he has been involved with camogie in Inniscarra at various levels for 25 years.

He is also chairman of the County Board Development Committee that put the fantastic Castle Road facility in

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

place and his drive and enthusiasm for this continuing project is to be applauded.

Along with selectors Martin Murphy, Kevin Murphy, Andrew McCarthy, Joe O'Herlihy and coach Ger Dinan, he is now one win away from four in a row.

"I suppose we won the first one and then had to work hard to put back to back titles together and last year I suppose there might have been pressure to do three in a row but really we didn't talk about it."

"When we achieved it the feeling was great, so there is no talk of four it is just work hard and hold onto our crown if we can but we know it will be hard."

He had huge praise for the manner in which Inniscarra overcame Killeagh, when the veterans showed all their class and cuteness to hold out.

"We went into the lead midway through the first half but full credit to Killeagh they fought back and at half time it was level but we didn't panic we simply re-jigged a few things and they worked out for us."

"I suppose really the experience helps as well and with players such as Rena, Treasa, captain Niamh Dilworth there leading the way the younger ones respond well."

Inniscarra have had to compete to the last throughout the campaign.

"We have seen some excellent games in this championship all very close and really for us it has been just one game at a time we defeated Eire Óg in round one and met again and had a fierce hard battle with them."

"It was the same against St Catherine's where we again had to call on all our resources to get over the line."

"I think these games stood to us as we faced Killeagh and had to call on all our resources."

"We have a nice blend of experience and a few younger players stepping up this year to the starting team so these games have all stood to them and we are looking forward now to the huge challenge Sarsfields will pose."



Emer Fennell of Sarsfields and Aisling Shannon of St Finbarr's going high for the ball. Picture Denis Minihane

# Proud day for Sars stalwarts



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

FORMED in 1969, Sarsfields Camogie Club is now one of the largest growing in the county.

Winning the Junior A championship in 1973, intermediate in 1979 and senior in 1989, there followed a baron period for the club to the point where a club meeting was held in the early noughties to consider disbanding.

But people like Eithne Allen and Maria Dinan just wouldn't let it happen.

Eithne went between the posts at junior level to fill in numbers. Star forward in the team that takes to the field on Sunday, Emer Fennell, was another who kept playing throughout those tough years and, slowly but surely, they turned the things around. Currently secretary of the club, it's for people like Eithne that you love to see clubs reaching the pinnacle.

All her life Eithne has been involved with Sars. She played senior back in the 80s, but the one year she decided to go to London for 12 months, 1989, was the year the club won their first and only senior title. Eithne didn't mind.

"I genuinely didn't mind missing out. I was just thrilled for the girls and the club that we won it."

Eithne shies away from taking credit for the Trojan work she has done.

"Actually, Maria Dinan did far more than me, she was a constant during all the years, she kept it together."

Eithne, mother of current full-forward Lucy Allen, and Julie Allen, also on Sunday's panel, and Maria began back in the day working with U6s, and U7s.

They went into the local schools and got numbers out. Eventually the tide turned.



Sarsfields players celebrate at the end of the 2016 Féile victory. Picture: INPHO/Ken Sutton

"Every club goes through what we went through, those difficult years. We won the U16 D title in 2006 when Aine Barry was captain."

"Then Glanmire got bigger, we went into the schools and I think a big turning point for us was when the club developed the all-weather pitch. We could train during the winter in pleasant conditions and that was key for us."

Moving on, it was 2008/2009 when Sars pushed up the ranks. They won the U14A title in 2011, managed by Bryan O'Leary, and that team makes up the majority of the squad taking to the Castle Road pitch on Sunday, players like Hollie Herlihy, Lucy Kelly, Chloe and Emma Casey, Katie Barry, and Maeve McCarthy.

That was a key moment for the club, and they've gone from strength to strength at underage. That U14 team contested three minor finals in a row from 2014-2016, winning two, O'Leary and

Tadhg Óg Lynch the coaches. The club also reached four All-Ireland Féile finals between 2016-2019, winning three in a row, losing the 2019 final.

The population explosion in Glanmire greatly enhanced numbers for the club but without their fantastic facilities and an excellent underage coaching structure, Sars would not be in the county final this Sunday.

It's 30 years since they last danced on this stage. Many members of that 1989 team have daughters and nieces playing today. As well as the Allens, you have another famous Sars name in the Barrys. I spent a lot of time in the Barry household as a teenager where hurling and camogie was huge, Billy Barry coaching me at underage in Brian Dillon's.

Katie Barry, Ruth McCarthy, and Michelle Barry are all nieces of Geraldine Barry who postponed her honeymoon in 1989 to help her side to that senior title. Michelle is the daughter of Vincy Barry, coach of the 1989 side.

Often, we speak about the characters in Cork camogie. Marie Kearney, Munster camogie delegate to Ard Comhairle is one of those. Her love for Sarsfields alongside people like Lillian Zinkant, who starred in that 1989 win, are still involved in the game and for them Sunday is a huge occasion.

It's the ethos of the club that we all love. People like Eithne and Maria are in every club around the country. Many give their lives to it and by doing so, enhance the lives of so many others. It's a big day on Sunday for Sarsfields. It didn't come easy. That shouldn't be forgotten.

At senior level this Sars team are relatively inexperienced, having made the step up in 2016. Four seasons later they are in a county final. Eithne acknowledges that they are up against it.

"Inniscarra are so experienced, they're a great team. But we'll give it our best."

Regardless of the result it's a proud day for Glanmire.



Inniscarra's Niamh Dilworth scoring a goal against Ahane.  
Picture: Denis Minihane

## 'We know we are a good side ... we are ready to win'

IT'S hard to believe that Inniscarra captain Niamh Dilworth has been playing camogie for close on 24 years but when she explains that she was just four when she took the hurley in her hand it is then understandable.

"We used have great fun with our neighbours, the O'Callaghans, they had a huge garden and we made a pitch on it.

"We had goal post and it was half the size of a real pitch and we played and played all day long."

The 'we' Niamh is referring to are her brother, John, and the six O'Callaghan neighbours, three boys and three girls.

With two mixed teams of four they had their own mini leagues.

"We continued it up until we were around 14 and by then there were just three of us left — the older ones had found better things to do by then.

"It was here we really learned the game and from there I began playing in Berings NS and then joined Inniscarra."

Niamh won an U16 county championship and league with the club and speaks fondly about her mentors Terry McMahon, Rita Kavanagh and Betty O'Mahony who guided the team all the way up.

Despite playing on Cork teams from U14 up to Senior B there was little success.

"We always lost! We lost two All-Ireland minor final in a row to Kilkenny but at least we got a Munster title out of it but I suppose it was disappointing on the inter-county stage alright."

Whilst she has not had much luck with Cork it has been a dream with her beloved Inniscarra.

Now the holder of three senior county championship medals, she did miss out in 2016 when Inniscarra defeated Milford.

"I was studying midwifery so I dropped out in 2015/2106 but sitting out in CIT that night watching the final as we defeated Milford in cracking game I knew I wanted to get back."

Back she came in 2017 as Inniscarra made it back to back titles defeating Glen Rovers in an exciting final and then

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

again last year as they made it three in a row as they overcame the challenge of Courcy Rovers.

This year has seen the champions taken to a replay by Killeagh before they edged it with a late point from a free converted by Niamh and she credits the many hours of work put in by trainer Kevin Murphy who was a former hurling goalkeeper with Inniscarra.

"Kevin is great and he is so good he will go to the field even if we are not training and put in hours of work with me doing free taking, he stays back after training or arrives before we start and again puts in the work and we are so lucky to have that commitment."

Speaking about the championship so far Niamh thinks the standard has been very high and that a lot of the clubs are very evenly matched.

"In all the game they have been very close and really in think all teams are evenly matched and any team could have won out on any given day."

"We were so lucky to get over Killeagh but it was good test of us and thankfully we stood up and were counted and just got over the line."

Looking ahead to Sunday's opponents Niamh has huge respect for a Sarsfields side contesting the final for the first time in over 30 years.

"Sarsfields are one of the coming teams they are young and very skilfully, we know what it is like to be playing in your first final and they will be hungry for success."

"They have got hard games through the campaign but they came out of them, they battled hard against Carbery and got back on level and then won it in extra time, same in the semi-final they came from behind to win."

"They are a side who have won things all the way up from underage and they know how to win so being in a final won't be new to them."

"We know they are a good side and it will take a huge effort from us to win but we are ready and looking forward to the challenge."



Sarsfields' manager Emmet Fennell watching his side against St Finbarr's.

Picture: Denis Minihane

# Fennell's Sars aim to flower



Linda Mellerick

SO many mentors have played key roles over the years in bringing Sarsfields to only their second county senior title on Sunday.

Bryan O'Leary and Tadhg Óg Lynch are two of those. Tadhg stepped back this year and in January, Emmet Fennell took over as Sars senior manager.

He had high hopes for his team. When questioned if he envisaged Sars in this position, in their first senior county final in 30 years, he replied: "I did of course!"

"I suppose when you set up a management at the start you set out your plan, you have a vision, sometimes it doesn't always go to plan but the draw we had and the response we got from the girls, things lined up for us very well."

The management team consists of Joe Barry, Brendan O'Callaghan, Mossie O'Sullivan, Sinead O'Leary, Jeff Leopold and Donal Kenneally.

Sars' win over Carbery in the quarter final was a real turning point in their season?

"Yeah, we trained very hard for it. Carbery are a fantastic team. I believe fourteen of their players played intercounty at some stage. People underestimated them and I'm glad we met them when we did, in the earlier stages. So, it was a turning point and it showed us that the girls can go all the way."

"They didn't tire and won it in the last couple of minutes which is a great sign of a team. I thought we also did well against a good St. Finbarrs team in the semi-final."

Reflecting on the other semi-final which saw Inniscarra beat Killeagh by a point last Friday night in a replay, Emmet said that it's a good team that can pull out a win in the tightest of positions.

"Killeagh had their chances and Inniscarra looked on the rocks but they're a good team and they came back and won



Keeva McCarthy of St Finbarr's has her shot at goal blocked by Meabh Mullins of Sarsfields.

out. When you're winning by fine margins like that it's a sign of a good team."

Emmett played hurling with Sars all his life at both junior and senior level. He married Sars camogie player Emer Farrell and they have two children. The oldest on the team, Emer is a true leader with strong and impact performances every time she takes to the field.

Much credit must go to Emer for helping throughout the years to bring Sars to the position they now find themselves in on Sunday. This is Emer's third county final, two with Imokilly in 2006 where they lost to St Finbarr's and 2010, a defeat to Inniscarra, and now with her club, Sarsfields, which means the most of all.

Emmet has a long involvement with Sars camogie.

"I took over the junior camogie team years ago. The first training session we had, we had six players. We got to a county final two years later and we had 42 on the panel."

"I stepped away and they soldiered on. I came back then again for another two years and we got to another final. Then the lads came in, the likes of Tadhg Óg Lynch. They brought success. Tadhg stepped down after five years this year and I was approached."

The last time Emmet was involved in a

senior county final was when he was manager of Imokilly in 2010 which the East Cork side subsequently lost to an injury time goal to Inniscarra in a replay. Leading by two points entering the fourth minute of injury time it looked as if Imokilly had done enough to win their first title in 34 years.

But Rena Buckley connected in a goalmouth scramble to send the ball to the net. Imokilly lost by one.

Emmett's hoping history won't repeat itself. He has the utmost of respect for Inniscarra.

"They're on the road a long time. They know how to work the lines. They're very confident in their ability."

"When they have a puck-out they'll run at it. They're cute and you can't buy that."

"But we've a good side. We've a panel of 28 and any one of those are capable of coming on and doing a job for us. Depending on the position that's needed, a different player could come on each time."

"We're going to concentrate on ourselves. We believe in our own girls. We've trained very hard. We were always hoping that we'd be in a final. So, we've no excuses."

"We've a full panel, injury free. I hope the occasion doesn't get to the girls. We're going to go out and enjoy it."

# Final joy for Cobh and Ballyhea

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cobh	5-7
Aghada	4-9

IT went down to the wire before Cobh captured the U16 A championship title as they battled in both the heavy rain and a fine Aghada team at Castle Road recently.

Both sides gave it their all as Cobh led 2-7 to 2-5 at the break, having played with the aid of the wind in the opening half.

Three second-half goals for Cobh proved vital as they fought back after going four points down to be crowned champions.

The players threw everything they had into the game from the off and spectators were treated to some excellent scores.

Roisin Keane and Abigail Ring impressed for Aghada with a goal each and they also added some excellent points with Aoife Healy also on target.

Caitlin Farrell had a Cobh goal after 12 minutes.

And with Amy Duggan, Ava Meaney, Lauren Crotty, and Caitlin Farrell firing over points — not to mention a Meaney goal on 22 minutes — they stayed in touch and trailed by just two at the break.

It went score-for-score as they battled it out in the second half. Isabelle Barry, Roisin Steel, Abigail Ring, and Aoife Lee Leahy kept the scoreboard ticking over for Aghada.

Abbie Mackessy slotted home a goal for Cobh seven minutes into the second half, but from there to the 53rd minute they had to play second fiddle as Aghada piled on the pressure.

Aghada opened up a four-point lead as May Collins grabbed two goals, before Meaney replied with a Cobh goal with seven minutes remaining.

Cobh kept at it, and it was a late score from Abbie Mackessy that finally ended the Aghada challenge.

**COBH:** M O'Brien, L O'Rourke, E O'Donovan, M O'Keefe, H Hurley, S Crotty, C Bardsley, E Diggin, A Meaney (c); L Crotty, D Diggin, J O'Donovan, C Farrell, A Mackessy, A Duggan.

**Subs:** A McKewon for C Farrell (45), V Frawley for L Crotty (50).

**AGHADA:** C McIntyre, R Steele, E Lewis, A Gilroy, M McGrath, C Boylan, C Taromoy, R Leahy, A Leahy, R Keane, A Ring, I Barry, M Collins, A Wallace, K Owers.

**Subs:** H O'Sullivan for K Owers, A Lee for A Geary.

Ballyhea	3-10
Charleville	2-7

BALLYHEA captured the SE Systems Junior A Championship title after they got off to a dream start against neighbours Charleville in the final.

They quickly settled after laying the foundations for victory with three early scores. This lead proved vital to fall back on as Charleville later applied the pressure to get back into the game.

Ballyhea were also grateful to the excellent goalkeeping of Chloe Keogh who kept Charleville at bay, particularly in the closing stages when they fired everything at her in an effort to close the gap.

So impressive was her display that she was named *The Echo Player* of the



The inclement weather hardly mattered to the Cobh U16 A camogie team when they were crowned county champions recently.



Mary Newman presented *The Echo Player of the Match* in Junior A county camogie final to Ballyhea goalkeeper Chloe Keogh.

Match — an announcement that was greeted with huge cheers from the Ballyhea supporters.

Ciara Harty fired over an early free to give Ballyhea the lead, and when Jane Foley found the net for a goal, Ballyhea were motoring. Ciara Harty extended the lead with her second free before Fiona Nelligan responded with one from play for Charleville.

Battling hard, Charleville found no way past a solid Ballyhea defence where Grainne O'Leary and Roisin Killeen were in superb form. Driving forward, Ballyhea hit three points without reply — a Killeen free and efforts from Elaine Crowley and Harty — as they stretched their lead to seven points.

Charleville finally began to settle, and responded through Nelligan and Teresa Dore, but in between Harty converted a 45 and Crowley added one, making it 1-7 to 0-4 at the interval.

Charleville got off to the best possible start to the second half with a Dore goal to cut the Ballyhea lead to three. Now hurling with new-found confidence, they matched their rivals in all areas of the pitch.

Harty relieved the pressure with a Ballyhea point, but Charleville responded through Nelligan again. The Ballyhea defence were now coming under a lot of pressure, but they stood firm, and winning a long-range free, they brought full-back Killeen out to strike it and were rewarded when her effort deceived everyone and nestled into the corner of the net.

Nelligan converted a Charleville free to which Jane Foley replied, before Chloe Keogh was twice called into action. With eight minutes remaining Ballyhea stretched their lead with a Rachel Harty goal and with Foley pointing, they looked to have done enough.

“Ballyhea were also grateful to the excellent goalkeeping of Chloe Keogh who kept Charleville at bay”

But fighting with all their might, Charleville grabbed a goal after Dore finished well. Nelligan added a point but despite efforts to cut the deficit, they were denied by the strong Ballyhea defence, marshalled superbly by their Player of the Match goalkeeper Keogh, Killeen, and Grainne O'Leary.

**Scorers for Ballyhea:** J Foley 1-2, C Harty 0-5 (0-3 f), R Killeen 1-1, R Harty 1-0, E Crowley 0-2.

**Charleville:** T Dore 2-1, F Nelligan 0-6 (0-1 45, 0-1 f).

**BALLYHEA:** C Kehoe, L Dillon-O'Toole, R Killeen, L Dundon, G O'Leary, M C Carroll, I Mortel, K Kilcommins, J Hooper, J Foley, E Crowley, C Dundon, T O'Sullivan, R Harty, C Harty.

**Subs:** I Harty for L Dillon-O'Toole (37), S Kelly for C Dundon (49), C Watson for T O'Sullivan (52), G Crowley for E Crowley (58).

**CHARLEVILLE:** C Reynolds, K Dore, A O'Keefe, M Jones, C Sheehan, L Doyle, M Murphy, K Liddy, E O'Flynn, K O'Reilly, F Nelligan, L Corrigan, A Jones, M Buckley, T Dore.

**Subs:** M Jackman for C Sheehan (48), L Costello for L Corrigan (48).

**Referee:** Mark Murphy (Bride Rovers).

# Underage glory for Sars and Banteer

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Banteer	2-3
Laochra Óg	-4

JUST two points separated Banteer and Laochra Óg in what was an exciting U12 C decider in Castle Road.

With both defences in outstanding form, we had just one score in the opening half with Darcy O'Brien the only player on target as she gave Laochra Óg the lead.

Throughout the opening half, the Banteer backs were outstanding and it took a tremendous save from Leah Donoghue just before the break to deny Laochra Óg a goal.

All the action was in the second half with Laochra Óg adding to their tally with a Darcy O'Brien point.

Mareile McSweeney replied with Banteer's opening point before Grainne O'Neill grabbed a goal to edge Banteer in front.

Edel O'Donoghue gave Banteer a huge boost with their second goal, and with Leanne O'Leary pointing, they went two goals in front.

Laochra Óg responded well with points from Clara O'Connell and Lily Desmond, but again Banteer replied with a Grainne O'Neill point.

With five points between the sides, Laochra Óg battled with all their might and grabbed an Eimear Healy goal.

Despite pressing, they could not get past a solid defence, superbly marshalled by outstanding keeper Leah Donoghue, as Banteer took an U12 county title for the first time.

**Scorers for Banteer:** G O'Neill, 1-1, E O'Donoghue 1-0, M McSweeney, L O'Leary 0-1 each.

**Laochra Óg:** E Healy 1-0, D O'Brien 0-2, C O'Connell, L Desmond 0-1 each.

**BANTEER:** L O'Donoghue, C Buckley, G Buckley, A Sheehan, E O'Connor, O Brennan, G Arnold, M McSweeney, B McMahon, A O'Sullivan, E O'Donoghue, L O'Leary, G O'Neill, A O'Connor, H Collins, A O'Reilly, R O'Connor, L Noonan, L Lane, E Barrett, S Vaughan, A Casey, S Casey.

**LAOCHRA ÓG:** D A Hetherick, E Healy, C O'Connell, E J Walsh, L Desmond, D O'Brien, E Duggan, A M Sweeney, A Murphy, M Murphy, O Raba, L Bradley, E Lyons, A Crowley, R O'Shea, T Twomey.

Sarsfields	5-16
St Finbarr's	1-10

SARS added the Premier U16 Championship to their trophy cabinet.

Katlyn Sheehan gave the winners the perfect start at Castle Road with an early goal. St Finbarr's stayed in the hunt with good play from Ella Wiggington-Barrett, Ciara Golden, and Orla Cahalane.

Sars led at the interval 1-9 to 0-4, after points from Sheehan, Cliona Lynch, Olivia McAllen and Saoirse Desmond.

Barrs gave it everything after the break but with Sheehan and Eve McMahon goaling and Ellis Hegarty also getting on the scoresheet, Sarsfields ran out winners.

The Player of the Match Award went to Evie Twomey.

This final could be a cracking affair

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

**TOMORROW**  
SE Systems Senior County Championship final: Inniscarra v Sarsfields, Castleroad, 4pm  
IT may seem that tomorrow's county final is the old versus the new but while a senior county final is new to Sarsfields, they are far from raw regarding big games.

From a young age the majority of this senior team have been winning u14 and minor titles. Much of the team are in their early twenties now. But it is different winning at underage and senior, the step up is huge.

The hype is something that Sars will also have to be careful of. Sarsfields only came back into the top flight in 2016 so to find themselves in the final just four years later, well many might feel they are in bonus territory. But when you're there you want to win it. And without question Sars will go all out on Sunday to do just that.

Despite the fact that Sars look as if they could dominate the next decade based on their underage success, there are no guarantees, and you've got to take the opportunities when they arrive. Sars have taken some big clubs down to reach the final, their win over Carbery maturing them no end at this level.

The pressure is all on four in a row chasing Inniscarra. They have to be favourites, but finals are hard to call and this one is no different. So much can go right and so much can go wrong.

The physicality of the semi-final replay between Inniscarra and Killeagh was breath-taking.

The blocks, hooks, rucks and overall pace was the game of the season. Sars wouldn't have come across a game like that before and if that occurred, you'd expect Inniscarra to prevail.

But Castle Road is a different pitch to CIT, a different atmosphere and I don't think the two games will be alike in that regard. Inniscarra have had some tough battles this year, their winning margins not significant by any means.

They have pulled games back that seemed gone. Their never say die attitude is immense. Whether the replay will have an affect on what must be tired bodies remains to be seen and how Inniscarra recovered during the past week will be crucial. Inniscarra aren't hitting the net as much as Sars. Sars have struck nine to Inniscarra's three while having an extra game. They have a tremendous defence but need to get a better return up front from the possession they achieve. How they position their forwards will be crucial in that regard.

Katie Barry at full-back is a big player for Sars. If Niamh McCarthy heads for the square, she'll have a tough hour. But Sars have other strong defenders too and a midfield/forward line all capable of picking off their points.

You'd expect that Sars will play Emer Fennell out in the corner to either keep her away from Rena Buckley or try and entice Rena out of the centre. I don't think she'll follow.

This could be a cracking final!

# Sars on the verge of a bright future



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

I'M really looking forward to tomorrow's county final.

The never say die attitude of an experienced Inniscarra side against Sarsfields, who though relatively new at this level, have enjoyed underage success possibly only previously achieved by Milford.

We've all said for a while now that when Sarsfields make the breakthrough they'll be there for years.

But it doesn't always happen that way. I remember back in 2004 when a fancied Milford met Carrighoun in the final. They were beaten.

It took a further eight years before they won the title, having lost two more finals along the way. Eight years!

They went on to win four in a row between 2012 and 2015 and won three All-Ireland titles. But you can't help feeling they should have achieved more.

Eight years is a long time and by the time the players won their first title they were a long time on the road.

It's something the Sars players should think about. It won't be the end of the world if they are beaten tomorrow, but I wonder how many of the team would still be there in eight years if history were to repeat itself.

I'm sure it won't, as the key difference between Sars and Milford is that Sars have tremendous players coming down the track, with their recent four National Féile final appearances, winning three.

Milford didn't have a strong underage and they'll find it hard to get back up there again because of it.

So, while it's nice for Sars to be in tomorrow's final, and maybe some feel it's come a year to two too soon for them, they'll be all out to grab this title, and rightly so.

For the likes of Emer Fennell this could be her one and only chance of a senior county medal. Although they way she's playing, there's still more in her so she may not hang up the boots just yet.

Inniscarra have been tremendous champions. Will they also make it four tomorrow and match Milford?



Rena Buckley, Inniscarra, battles with Emma Murphy and Lydia Cunningham, Glen Rovers in the 2017 final.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

Of course, they also have that 2010 win in their back pocket. They've been pushed to the pin of their collars this year, but they have dug deep every time. Their desire to hold on to their title is impressive and admirable.

A couple of neutrals said to me after the semi-final replay last week that it would have been nice to have had an all East Cork final between Sars and Killeagh. But Inniscarra weren't having any of that.

Of course, the neutral always wants to see new champions and as time goes by, some can even resent clubs that regularly win.

I never feel like that. Whoever wins, wins and full credit to them. I truly ad-

mired Milford. I greatly admire Inniscarra.

I admire Sars for getting to where they are today and for what the future might hold. Every club puts in trojan work and deserve the success when it comes their way.

The replay last week was something else. From the off, the pace was electrifying. I didn't expect the sides to maintain that for the full hour. But they did.

I can't recall a game like it in recent times. Killeagh had their chances to win. They overpassed at times with the posts in front of them.

Had Inniscarra pulled in the square once or twice instead of trying to pick

the ball they could have got another goal or two. Killeagh have massively improved this year. Fabulous to see that.

I mentioned only a couple of weeks ago that to see three new clubs in the semi-finals this year was brilliant. St Finbarr's, Sars and Killeagh.

It's been a great championship. With 15 clubs it's arguably the best in the country and it's hard-earned when won. Some easy wins for some in the earlier rounds. Some shocks along the way. It'll all culminate tomorrow unless it's a draw and we get to see it all over again in a week's time.

We wish both teams the very best of luck.

## KILMEEN AND KILBREE

**Minor Camogie girls are county champions:** Kilbree camogie girls completed the "double" on Saturday. They defeated Clonakilty to win the minor camogie county championship. The girls had won the county league, defeating Castlemartyr, earlier in the season. This is the first year that Kilbree camogie club has fielded a minor team so this is a truly incredible achievement.

They girls defeated Erins Own, Cobh and Castlemartyr in the earlier rounds of the championship. The club's junior team also won the county championship against Rockban in 2019. There will be great celebrations at the club's victory dinner dance on January 4th 2020.

Kilbree lost the toss and played against a strong wind in the first half. However, Kilbree started very brightly and led by 2-1 to 0-1 within ten minutes, thanks to scores from Caoimhe Murphy, Aife O'Neill and Mairead Crowley. However, from this point on, Clonakilty took advantage of the wind especially with frees. The score at half time was Kilbree 2-2 Clonakilty 0-7.

Against the run of play, Clonakilty scored an early second half goal to put them two points up. This was the only time in the match where Clonakilty took the lead. In the final twenty minutes of this match, Kilbree dominated all over the field.

Heather Brimble made some fine saves in goal. Kilbree's backs led by Rachel Deasy and Emily O'Donovan were rock solid throughout the entire match. A sublime overhead swing in front of goal netted Caoimhe Murphy a super goal. Maeve O'Neill ably assisted by her sister Aife netted another great goal. Mairead Crowley's accuracy from frees settled the team and put the final result beyond doubt. There were great scenes of jubilation when the final whistle sounded. The final score was Kilbree 5-7 Clonakilty 1-7.

Mairead Crowley was awarded the "player of the match" accolade. Captain Leanne Sheehy was delighted to accept the cup on behalf of her team.

Well done to Tony O'Neill, Aidan O'Shea, Anna O'Neill and Deirdre O'Leary for their great work with this team. Thanks to all the parents who have helped out during the year, the loyal supporters and most of all the girls themselves for an incredible year.

**Team:** Heather Brimble, Sarah O'Donovan, Rachel Deasy, Katie Lancaster, Margaret Collins, Kate O'Donovan, Jessica O'Driscoll, Mary Murphy (0-1), Emily O'Donovan, Rebecca Hurley, Caoimhe Murphy (2-1), Mairead Crowley (1-5), Aife O'Neill (1-0), Leanne Sheehy (captain), Maeve O'Neill (1-0), Lorna O'Brien, Alice O'Donovan and Alison Collins.



# INNISCARRA

		
Sheila Walsh		
		
Aine O'Regan	Caitlin Looney	Deirdre O'Callaghan
		
Rebecca Keane	Rena Buckley	Ciara Ring
		
Claudia Keane	Katie O'Mahony VICE CAPTAIN	
		
Erin Looney	Niamh Dilworth CAPTAIN	Aileen Sheehan
		
Treasa McCarthy	Niamh McCarthy	Ellen Murphy

### SUBS:

- |                     |                      |                      |                   |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 16. Caoimhe Buckley | 20. Aoife Dineen     | 23. Marguerite Lyons | 26. Aine O'Connor |
| 17. Aoife Kavanagh  | 21. Siun O'Callaghan | 24. Aoife Condon     | 27. Eileen Lyons  |
| 18. Rebecca Quigley | 22. Ciara Doyle      | 25. Eimear O'Reilly  | 28. Lucy Desmond  |
| 19. Jenny Burke     |                      |                      |                   |

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

- |                 |               |                 |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Kevin Murphy    | Martin Murphy | Frankie Quigley |
| Joe McCarthy    | Joe O'Herlihy | Shauna Kavanagh |
| Andrew McCarthy | Brid O'Keefe  | Ger Dinan       |

# SARSFIELDS



		
Molly Lynch		
		
Edel Lonergan	Katie Barry	Emma Casey
		
Meabh Mullins	Niamh O'Callaghan	Ellen Murphy JOINT CAPTAIN
		
Lucy Kelly	Chloe Casey	
		
Hollie Herlihy	Olivia McAllen	Lucy Allen JOINT CAPTAIN
		
Clare Mullins	Emer Fennell	Michelle Barry

### SUBS:

- |                     |                  |                     |                    |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 16. Ellen Twomey    | 20. Becky Morgan | 23. Maeve McCarthy  | 26. Donna Kerrigan |
| 17. Katie Walsh     | 21. Ciara Irwin  | 24. Julie Allen     | 27. Ruth McCarthy  |
| 18. Claire Holland  | 22. Ella Woods   | 25. Saoirse Desmond | 28. Aine Mullins   |
| 19. Rionna O'Mahony |                  |                     |                    |

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

- |                     |                |                             |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Joe Barry           | Sinead O'Leary | Maor Uisce: Donal Kenneally |
| Brendan O'Callaghan | Jeff Leopold   | Sponsors: Ryans SuperValu,  |
| Mossie O'Sullivan   | Emmet Fennell  | Acorn Life & VBC            |



# The Final



# Sarsfields celebrate after 30-year wait ends

## Cork Senior Camogie final

Sarsfields 3-9

Inniscarra 0-15

### Therese O'Callaghan

Castle Road

The long wait has ended for Sarsfields, finally crowned Cork senior camogie champions at Castle Road yesterday.

They were put to the pin of their collar by three-in-a-row titleholders Inniscarra but they responded in style to end a barren spell of 30 years.

For a team that hadn't big-day experience - they were not in a senior final either since 1989 - they started

wonderfully but were pegged back and trailed by two points early in the second half.

They were unperturbed, full forward Emer Fennell drilling two vital goals, and there was another from Michelle Barry.

This is a young team, but 38-year-old Fennell - wife of manager Emmet - has played camogie for almost three decades.

"It has been a long road," she said. "But the girls are inspirational, they never give up. They have total faith in their ability. We had the belief and when you have that, you can do anything."

"What a year to win it, 30 years on. We knew we could do it, and we did it." Inniscarra led 0-7 to 0-6 at the break, but it was Sarsfields who were quicker to start with five points without reply on the board in the first 10 minutes. They thundered into the action, Fennell, Olivia McAllen (2) and Hollie Herlihy (2) on target.

Niamh McCarthy got Inniscarra up and running in the 11th minute, and by the end of the half, the sides were tied 0-6 apiece after Aileen Sheehan replied to a Fennell point.

Niamh Dilworth then shot them into the lead in stoppage time.

As well, Inniscarra goalkeeper Sheila Walsh pulled off two good saves from Clare Mullins and Fennell.

Inniscarra got the better of the early second half exchanges but Sarsfields had the perfect response when Fennell bagged her first goal after Mullins put her through, 1-7 to 0-9 on 40 minutes.

Dilworth and McCarthy ensured parity twice before Sarsfields got another injection of confidence through Fennell's second goal - great work this time by Barry. Barry's goal then sealing the matter.

Inniscarra battled and struck the next three points to make for a nervous finish but Sarsfields held on to record their second title.

This win was built around a magnificent defensive display, and it was none other than

Fennell helped them clear their lines in the last piece of play, and for the celebrations to begin.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** E Fennell (2-3, 0-2 frees), M Barry (1-1), O McAllen and H Herlihy (0-2 each), C Casey (0-1 free).

**Scorers for Inniscarra:** N Dilworth (0-7, 0-6 frees), N McCarthy (0-4), K O'Mahony, C Keane, A Sheehan and E Murphy (0-1 each).

**SARSFIELDS:** M Lynch, E Lonergan, K Barry, E Casey, M Mullins, N O'Callaghan, E Murphy (Joint Capt); L Kelly, C Casey, H Herlihy, O McAllen, L Allen (Joint Capt); C Mullins, E Fennell, M Barry.

**Subs:** C Irwin for L Allen (42).

**INNISCARRA:** S Walsh, A O'Regan, C Looney, A Kavanagh, R Keane, R Buckley, C Ring; C Keane, K O'Mahony; E Looney, N Dilworth (Capt), A Sheehan; T McCarthy, N McCarthy, E Murphy.

**Subs:** R Quigley for C Ring (half-time).

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



Sarsfields' Lucy Allen and Emma Casey celebrate after defeating Inniscarra in the Cork Camogie SE Systems Senior final at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



CHAMPIONS: Sarsfields players celebrate after defeating Inniscarra in the Cork Camogie SE Systems senior championship final at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# CHAMPS Bal win West Cork camogie title



The Ballinascarty Junior A team that captured the West Cork Junior A camogie cup on Sunday when they beat St Colum's by 5-11 to 1-7 in the final played in Clonakilty. The team is managed by Micheal McCarthy, Francis O'Driscoll, William McCarthy, Ann Player, Kate Crowley and Imelda Cahalane. Pictured, back from left, Niamh Sugrue, Kaela O'Driscoll, Anna Flynn, Claire Kingston, Lisa Hegarty, Breda McCarthy, Aoife Nyhan, Martina O'Brien, Sarah Cahalane, Hannah O'Donovan, Donna Moloney and Ella Murray. Front from left, Anna Cullinane, Annie Condon, Clara Crowley, Kate O'Donovan (captain), Caroline Sugrue, Moira Barrett, Shona Hayes and Elaine O'Brien.

# Super Sars edge out

It's those smallest of margins that can make the difference



Sarsfields' Emer Fennell hammers home a goal.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

JOYOUS scenes greeted the full-time whistle in Castleroad yesterday as Sarsfields took their first senior county title in 30 years, and only their second in the club's 50-year history.

With a record crowd, this game could have gone the way of either side until the final whistle blew.

Sars looked to be fairly comfortable with a six-point lead on 56 minutes, but Inniscarra, as they have done all year, never gave in and reduced the gap to three before the whistle blew.

Sars had led by five points 11 minutes into the game but scored just one more for the remainder of the half, while Inniscarra scored seven and led by one at the turnaround.

There was no panic on the line or on the pitch when they went five down — they just worked it back.

One aspect that stood out in that second half was just how much Sars have matured this season.

They came back out totally unfazed, even when Inniscarra stretched their lead to two.

Their heads never once hung. They had belief.

It was always going to take goals to beat the champions. In the end, it took three.

Emer Fennell's absolute top-class finish on 39 minutes gave Sars the lead, and they never fell behind again, even though the sides were level again on 53.

In every sport, small margins can often make a biggest difference. On 55 minutes, an Inniscarra strike came off the crossbar, and the ball fell to the goalline.

Despite the frantic efforts of Inniscarra, it just didn't pass it. The ball was cleared up the field, and Fennell got her second goal.

A six-point swing!

I mentioned before the game that Katie Barry would give Niamh McCarthy a tough hour. She would give any player a tough hour.

McCarthy is Inniscarra's main goal threat. She did nothing wrong, but came up against the best full-back in this year's championship. Niamh moved around, but Katie was right there with her, wherever she went.

McCarthy moved further out the pitch during the second half. Niamh Dilworth went inside, but Barry still commanded the area.

Indeed, all over the pitch every Sars player was doing their bit and it feels almost wrong to mention just a few of them here.

Ellen Murphy at left half-back had a fine game, as did Michelle Barry. Hollie Herlihy and Olivia McAllen got two great points each early in the first half as Sars were far faster out of the traps.

And what about Emer Fennell? She made her case with two tremendous goals and driving out with the ball from her own defence in additional time as Inniscarra pushed for the

## Match analysis



Linda Mellerick

goal that would force a replay. How apt that it was Emer who was on the ball when that final whistle blew.

Sport can be cruel, but it was oh so sweet yesterday that a player who has given so much to her club finally won a senior title. Joint captains Ellen Murphy and Lucy Allen paid a fitting tribute to the player the entire panel look up to.

Inniscarra had a couple of goal chances as they got on top in the second quarter. As Aileen Sheehan came more into the game, they drove forward.

They should have been more clinical with one chance on 15 minutes instead of hitting it over the bar, and they shot three wides, one enforced with a tremendous Katie Barry hook on Claudia Keane.

Sars, too, had a goal chance when Sheila Walsh saved from Fennell and the ball stalled on the line. If we hadn't had such torrential rain in advance of the game and if the goalmouths weren't heavy as a result, we would have witnessed more goals from both sides.

The drawn game last week looked to take its toll on Inniscarra's legs, in addition to the fact that the team are on the road a while now, as Sars certainly looked fresher in the closing 10 minutes.

But all year Inniscarra were finding it hard to get goals while Sars had scored nine heading into the final and you just knew that they were going to add to that tally yesterday.

Sars had that bounce in their step. They have such a spread of fine hurlers, and when you can bring on impact subs, it really makes all the difference.

Inniscarra struggled a bit with their bench this year, having lost four of last year's panel and then being without corner-back Deirdre O'Callaghan for yesterday.

Sars, on the other hand, had talent in abundance — Ciara Irwin adding to the strength of the team when she was introduced in the second half.

It's been a dream come true for so many in Sars. They didn't have an easy path to the final.

They took serious clubs down along the way, and yesterday managed to take down the champions.

It just doesn't get much better than that — so sincere congratulations to them.



Sarsfields' joint captains Lucy Allen and Ellen Murphy raise the trophy after defeating Inniscarra.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Sarsfields' Emer Fennell shows her emotion.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Sarsfields' supporters Emily Hackett and Sally Barry.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Story of the Game

**Player of the Match:** There were many contenders for *The Echo* award but Sarsfields defender Katie Barry was a worthy recipient. She was confident around the square and displayed huge calmness, especially when Inniscarra came at them in waves in the closing stages.

**Score of the Match:** Niamh Dilworth hit a

massive long-range effort straight between the posts from a free almost back in her own half. It was a difficult angle and a pressure shot but it sailed high and true.

**Turning Point:** Without doubt the game turned in Sars' favour with six minutes left, with the sides level at 1-9 to 0-12.

Inniscarra failed to get the ball over the line when it looked a certain goal was on. Sars somehow cleared and grabbed a vital goal, with Emer Fennell blasting Holly Herlihy's pass to the net.

**Ref Watch:** As always the ref never wins. A few decisions may have been questionable but to his credit, the game was allowed flow.



# a thrilling decider



Sarsfields' players celebrate after defeating Inniscarra in the Cork Camogie SE Systems Senior Championship final at Castle Road.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Sarsfields	3-9
Inniscarra	0-15

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

SARSFIELDS bridged a 30-year gap as they took the SE Systems Senior County Championship title for the second time in their history, fittingly in the year they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Down through the years, they've endured heartache but it's a new era in their club's proud tradition and, having now broken the hoodoo, we can expect to see them around for a long time to come, given their underage production line has harvested a succession of A titles.

Inniscarra, bidding for four in a row, looked nervous and it was the challengers who made all the early running as they played with a huge confidence.

They started in a blaze of determination and had hit the champions with five points inside the opening 11 minutes before Inniscarra regained their composure and got on the scoreboard.

Emer Fennell pointed a free to give Sars the lead, and with Olivia McAllen

and Holly Herlihy firing over two apiece, Sars settled into the game their pace and determination troubling Inniscarra.

Inniscarra hit two wides before they opened their account with a Niamh McCarthy point and with Ellen Murphy and Niamh Dilworth adding to their tally they had the deficit at two as they began to find their shape. Playing with a lot more composure the Inniscarra rearguard was superb as they closed down any attack Sars made and we had to wait 11 minutes for the next score from either side with Fennell knocking over a Sars point from play.

From here to the half-time whistle, Inniscarra took over and four points without reply from Dilworth (2), Aileen Sheehan, and McCarthy saw them lead 0-7 to 0-6 after six minutes of injury time elapsed as Dilworth converted a free on the half-time whistle.

On the resumption, the sides swapped pointed frees before Claudia

Keane edged Inniscarra in front with a neat score.

Sars then hit the front on nine minutes when good work by Claire Mullins around the middle saw her send a long delivery to the edge of the square where Fennell outpaced her marker to finish to the net.

However, back came Inniscarra with Dilworth leveling and from here to the 53rd minute the sides were level on three occasions.

With both sides digging deep to gain the upper hand it was a battle and all over the pitch there were fierce tussles for possession.

On 54 minutes, Inniscarra missed a chance to go three points clear as somehow the Sars defence scrambled to safety after a great shot from McCarthy. Despite three attempts by the Inniscarra attack the ball seemed to stick in the mucky goalmouth conditions.

Down the field at speed came Sarsfields, with Holly Herlihy's pass across the goal mouth grabbed by Fennell and finished to the net. Soon Michelle Barry hand passed high to the net and Sars were six points clear and

heading for home.

Champions die hard, of course and Inniscarra never gave up. Three points in a row, one from Katie O'Mahony and two from Dilworth, ensured a tense finish but Sars hung on to stop Inniscarra's four in a row bid and give themselves the dream golden anniversary present.

The win could very well signal a new era of dominance in Cork camogie as Sarsfields, with a huge volume of successful underage players at their disposal, are well placed to be the new Queens Of Cork Camogie, following on from Milford and Scarra.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** E Fennell 2-4 (0-3 f), M Barry 1-1, O McAllen, H Herlihy 0-2 each.

**Inniscarra:** N Dilworth 0-8 (0-6 f), N McCarthy 0-3, A Sheehan, C Keane, E Murphy, K O'Mahony 0-1 each.

**SARS:** M Lynch, E Lonergan, K Barry, E Casey, M Mullins, N O'Callaghan, E Murphy, L Kelly, C Casey, H Herlihy, O McAllen, L Allen, C Mullins, E Fennell, M Barry.

**Sub:** C Irwin for L Allen (42).

**INNISCARRA:** S Walsh, A O'Regan, C Looney, A Kavanagh, R Keane, R Buckley, C Ring, C Keane, K O'Mahony, E Looney, N Dilworth (c), A Sheehan, T Mc Carthy, N McCarthy, E Murphy.

**Sub:** R O'Quigley for C Ring (n-t).

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



Claudia Keane and Ellen Murphy.

## Fennell delights in Sarsfields 'fairytale'

REACTION

■ Linda Mellerick

"UNBELIEVABLE, surreal, absolutely fantastic, delighted for the girls, it's fairytale stuff."

Those were the words from Sarsfields manager Emmet Fennell after their senior title win yesterday.

"I felt confident," he said. "We were hopping at training. The girls were up for it, and I felt if we performed, we'd be there or thereabouts. We got the goals at the right time."

"There's great character in the team, the work-rate was phenomenal. We knew we had the fitness, we had the girls and we knew that if we worked hard, we'd get the breaks."

"The goals were crucial?" "Yeah, we should have had two goals in the first half, I suppose," said Fennell.

"We let Inniscarra back in. They got seven [points] then. They went in one up, but I was happy enough with that, as we had started very well but had eased off. We went into the dressing room, regrouped and that was the thing — not to panic."

"We had the perfect run into it. Two weeks off, everyone was fresh, up for it, injury-free. Jeff Leopold in at the start on strength and conditioning, and then Joe's training was phenomenal, and then the two-week break was perfect because we had three hard games, with the extra time as well [against Carbery], and that had sapped us. And now we've the fairytale stuff."

Inniscarra manager Kevin Murphy was gracious in defeat.

"The goals made the difference, I suppose," he said. "When they got that goal after half time it knocked us back a bit, but our girls came back and brought it close again, but those other two goals near the end gave them space. But our girls pushed on again and brought it back to three and anything could have happened if we got a chance of a goal."

"Sars were hungrier and the better team on the day. We've no complaints, no issue from our point of view."

"To be fair to the girls, they're four or five years on the road and whilst it's not the same team we've had a lot of changes and they're incredible ambassadors for the sport, for their families and more importantly for themselves.... We can be proud of the girls."

## Three reasons Sarsfields are back at the top table

### 1. GOALS:

Goals win games, most of the time anyway, and three Sars goals at crucial times during a close contest were without doubt the main reason they won.

Trailing by two points, they hit the front with a goal nine minutes into the second half.

Inniscarra battled back but two goals inside a minute on 54 and 55 gave Sars a cushion as the clock ticked towards full time.

They need every bit of it too, because, as we

headed into injury, Inniscarra fought back in customary fashion. Ultimately, Sars had enough done.

### 2. HUNGER TO SUCCEED:

While most of this Sarsfields side have enjoyed huge underage success, they hadn't seen the senior title last resting in Riverstown since 1989.

The desire to get over the line was evident to see, on the pitch, the sideline and from the their large and vocal band of supporters.

### 3. BELIEF IN THEIR ABILITY:

Sarsfields showed huge confidence from the throw in and didn't look at all nervous.

They didn't look like a side playing in their first senior county final, probably due to that strong underage base, and took the game to Inniscarra from the throw in as they raced into a five-point lead.

This confidence helped carry them over the line when the game was in the melting pot as well. Fearless stuff.

# Family, friends, team-mates and TV stars see Anna and Kevin tie the knot in Killeagh



Former Cork players Sarah O'Donovan, Rena Buckley, Colette Desmond and Jennifer O'Leary at the wedding of Anna Geary and Kevin Sexton at St John The Baptist church at Killeagh yesterday. Pictures: Eddie O'Hare



Sealed with a kiss: Former Cork camogie captain Anna Geary and Kevin Sexton after their wedding ceremony.



Camogie players Lynda O'Connell, Aoife Cotter and Hazel O'Regan at the wedding.



Rob and Marian Heffernan chatting with Davy Fitzgerald outside the church after the wedding ceremony.

## It's a match made in heaven for Anna

SPORTSWOMAN and television star Anna Geary tied in the knot in a stylish wedding in her home county of Cork this weekend. Anna wed her long-term partner Kevin Sexton in front of friends and family during a ceremony at St. John the Baptist church in Killeagh, followed by a reception

in the Castlemartyr Resort on Friday. Anna wore a white sweetheart princess gown from Ballymount bridal boutique Michael Tandem, which appears to be a celebrity bridal favourite of late, as they also dressed actress Jenny Dixon for her wedding to politician Tom Neville this summer.

Ireland's fittest family star Anna was joined by her celebrity friends Mairead Farrell, Maia Dunphy and Derval O'Rourke for her big day. On Saturday, the celebrations continued as the wedding party headed to the Old Thatch Pub for some good old-fashioned post-wedding craic agus ceol Cork style.

## Anna finds her match!



Former Cork camogie captain Anna Geary and Kevin Sexton, who were married at St John The Baptist church in Killeagh yesterday.

## Camán everybody



Cork camogie players formed a guard of honour at the wedding of former Cork camogie star and 'Ireland's Fittest Family' coach Anna Geary and Kevin Sexton at St John The Baptist church in Killeagh, East Cork, yesterday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

WEDDING BELLE:  
Cork camogie star  
Anna Geary  
married Dubliner  
Kevin Sexton last week.  
Photo: Evan Doherty



## New husband, new job, new home: just as well Anna has fitness factor

**Donal Lynch**

IT'S been a heady few months for *Ireland's Fittest Family* star Anna Geary. She got a new job — as a presenter on Today FM, which she will do in addition to her work as a coach for the new GAA season. She got a new house — in Sallins, Co Kildare, and last week she got a new husband, Dublin man Kevin Sexton. The ceremony was at the Castlemartyr resort in Cork and Anna wore a handmade Tamem Michael dress.

"I've never been as happy as I was on the day," she says. "Often with weddings there can be a lot of pressure, but for us it was all about how you felt in the moment. There's so much stuff put on social media and we wanted to take it away from that and enjoy what was happening in real time."

Not that she is averse to

some social media — last week she posted a picture of her incredible washboard stomach, prompting admiration from Deirdre O'Kane, Mairead Ronan and other stars.

"Look I'm not going to pretend that the stomach just happens," Anna laughs. "It does take a bit of work. Obviously everyone wants to look great for their wedding day but I wasn't training specifically for it. Exercise is a huge part of my physical and mental well being. I'd be lying if I said I always had confidence about my body."

"Sport allowed me to look at my mindset in terms of what I can do, not just in terms of how I look. My body looked different from other girls growing up because I was sprinting and training in the gym."

Anna is a legend of Cork camogie. She captained the county team to an All Ireland win in 2014 and won



four All Star awards. Her personable manner and ease on camera made a media career an obvious choice.

The appearance of everything coming easily to her is deceptive, however, she says. "I don't know would I recommend to people to do all those things — wedding, job, home, in

one go. It was a lot of stress, but it was good stress. I could hardly absorb that I'd achieved an ambition of having a national radio show. Of course, I've had a bit of imposter syndrome. But I've had a lot of support there as well. My entire life has been about teamwork so I know how to do that."

She says she is happy to take Kevin's name but will use her own name for work.

"We were checking into a hotel and they called me Anna Sexton and that was lovely but I'm known from camogie as Anna Geary."

They were taking a "mini moon" at Lough Eske in Donegal: "We're like every young couple — we just bought a house and got married — I don't know where we'd be getting the money for a big trip. But we'll do that next year."

*Ireland's Fittest Family* returns to RTE One next Sunday, 6.30pm



# Newcestown land intermediate crown



Newcestown's Emma Tarrent is tackled by Enniskeane's Emer O'Brien.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## CAMOGIE

■ Eolan Allen

IN a thrilling all-west Cork affair, it was Newcestown who managed to fend off their local rivals Enniskeane by the narrowest of margins in the SE Systems Intermediate Championship final at Castle Road last Sunday.

Captain Mary McSweeney was delighted receiving the trophy after the game.

It was a hard week for her team. They had to battle hard to sneak past Blackrock in a semi-final the previous Tuesday leading to a short turnaround. They conceded an early goal but McSweeney never doubted her team's ability.

"It was tough coming into today's game alright. We didn't really train too much. We just had a light puck around during the week and minded ourselves.

"We knew that it was going to be tough and we knew that Enniskeane were going to give it their all. We gave it our all again so we are delighted to come out with the win.

"There was fire in the belly and fire in the heads because we really wanted to win this.

"A lot of players from the two teams would have known each other very well from playing with Carberry. When they did get that early goal, that was not going to get us down. We kept our heads held high.

"That was one thing that was said to us at half-time, to keep our heads held high if they get above us at some stage because we are going to get above them again. We showed plenty of grit and courage. We never put our heads down at any stage, which was good.

"Part of our team identity is that we never give up. After the Blackrock game, we came back in the last few minutes to win the game. It was just great that the girls were able to keep their composure after the goal at the start. We all just turned it around and gave it our all."

There was plenty of joy and jubilation in the Newcestown camp after winning a great final. McSweeney and her team were also relishing the step up at senior next season but their initial celebrations would be slightly delayed with their footballers playing their semi-final shortly after.

"We are proud to be winning the county final today and be ready to go up senior and we will be looking forward to the challenge of that next season.

"We are all very happy out now to be back at senior where Newcestown belong. There will be plenty of celebrations, but for now, we are looking to get straight out to support our footballers in their semi-final."



Newcestown with the Nano Nagle Cup after defeating Enniskeane.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Newcestown's Aisling O'Donovan hand-passes away from Enniskeane's Emer O'Brien and Orla Cronin.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Newcestown's Orla Dineen saves from Enniskeane's Siobhan O'Driscoll.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Newcestown captain Mary McSweeney with the Nano Nagle Cup.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Sr Patricia O'Shea, South Presentation presents the Nano Nagle Cup to Newcestown captain Mary McSweeney. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Newcestown's Aoife O'Sullivan shoots from Enniskeane's Daire O'Brien. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Newcestown edge local power struggle

## CAMOGIE

■ Eolan Allen

Newcestown	2-9
Enniskeane	2-8

THE local rivals put on a big show in the SE Systems Intermediate Camogie Championship final at Castle Road with plenty of skill and grit on show.

The neighbours were well matched but a strong showing midway through the second-half saw Newcestown emerge victorious against their local rivals. It was a jubilant Mary McSweeney who received the Nano Nagle Cup.

Enniskeane's Orla Cronin, who finished with a goal and five points almost snatched a late draw. She had a difficult free right on the left touchline but her effort sailed narrowly wide of the uprights. Cronin had made an immediate impact on the game, as she goaled within a minute. Her initial attempt was blocked down but she re-gathered and smashed the ball past Orla Dineen.

The 'Player of the Game' Ciara



Newcestown, who defeated Enniskeane to win the Cork Camogie SE Systems intermediate championship at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

O'Sullivan helped Newcestown respond with two quick points. The second of which almost led to a goal after she made a great surge forward. Enniskeane's defence closed down her space and she slotted it over the bar instead.

Enniskeane created a couple of

goal chances; with Sinead Hurley settling for a point while Tara Sheehan had a chip flicked away by goalkeeper Orla Dineen. Cronin slotted over the resulting 45; to help establish a 1-3 to 0-4 lead after twenty minutes.

Ciara O'Sullivan then produced

some magic. A ball was played in by Aoife O'Sullivan and Ciara flicked it around the defender and struck first-time into the net. She and Cronin then traded points before Maria Kenneally helped Newcestown to a 1-6 to 1-4 lead at the break.

The game remained nip and tuck

until a great burst by Aisling O'Donovan set up Aoife O'Sullivan for a goal with O'Sullivan adding a further point to put her side five points up. Enniskeane rallied but Newcestown's rear-guard action was strong; led by Captain McSweeney. A long-range Daire O'Brien free sailed into the net and Cronin reduced the gap to a single point with her fifth free. Her last effort proved a bit too difficult as Newcestown held out for a thrilling victory.

Scorers Newcestown: O'Sullivan 1-5 (0-2), O-1 45), Aoife O'Sullivan 1-1, M Kenneally 0-2, E Crowley 0-1.

Enniskeane: O Cronin 1-6 (0-5), O-1 45), D O'Brien 1-0 (1-0), S Hurley, E O'Brien 0-1 each. NEWCESTOWN: O Dineen; M McSweeney, A O'Sullivan, S Kelleher; G Ryan, M Lynch, A O'Donovan; E Tarrant, L Whelan; S Deasy, C O'Sullivan, M O'Donovan; E Crowley, M Kenneally, Aoife O'Sullivan.

Subs: A Murray for S Deasy 48, H O'Mahony for S Kelleher 55.

ENNISKEANE: K Corcoran; L Duggan (capt), C Nyhan, K McCarthy; A O'Driscoll, D O'Brien, C O'Donovan; D Carroll, L Mannix; C Aherne, O Cronin; S O'Driscoll; S Hurley, C O'Mahoney, T Sheehan.

Subs: E O'Brien for C Aherne 26, E O'Driscoll for D Carroll 43.

Referee: C McAlister (Aghada).



Newcestown's Maria Kenneally shoots over a point against Enniskeane. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Eolan Allen, The Echo presents the 'Player of the match' award to Newcestown's Ciara O'Sullivan. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Enniskeane's Claire O'Mahony racing away from Newcestown's Aoife O'Sullivan. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

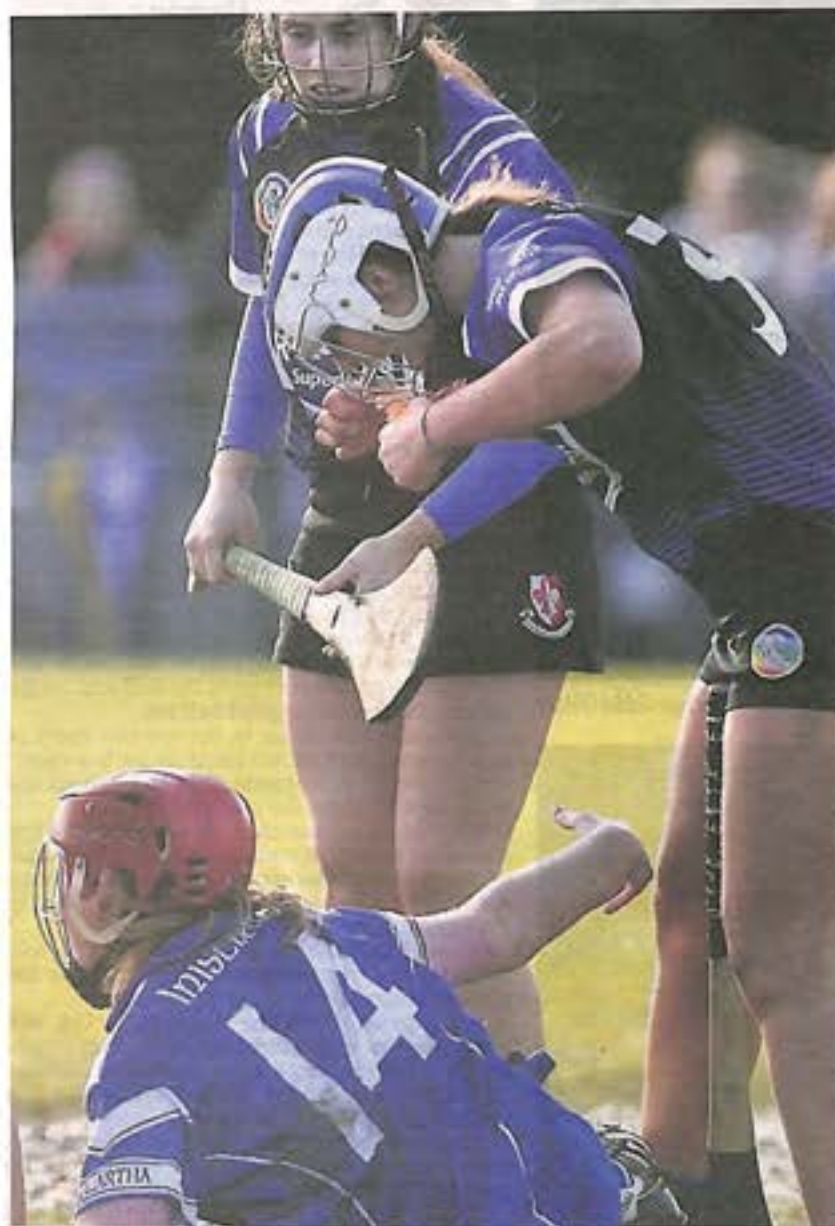


Linda Mellerick, presents *The Echo Player of the Match* award to Sarsfields' Katie Barry.



Picture: Eddie O'Hare Sarsfields' Emer Fennell celebrates a goal with Lucy Allen.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Sarsfields' Katie Barry shows her delight after winning a free against Inniscarra.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Barry has been a Sars revelation

THERE was a record crowd in Castle Road on Sunday in what was truly a fabulous day. To see so many of the 1989 team there just added to the wonderful occasion it turned out to be for Sarsfields.

Players such as Liz Dunphy, Sheila Barry, Susan Bermingham, Ger Barry, Lil Twomey, Lillian Zinkant and many more were in attendance to see the current crop of players take over the mantle of senior county champions.

There was torrential rain for a good 45 minutes beforehand but as the ball was being thrown in, the sun shone.

Full-back Katie Barry was named *The Echo Player of the Match* after another excellent performance. She has been a revelation this season and is sure to receive a senior inter-county call up for 2020. Tall and strong, a



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

great reader and a tremendous marker, she was instrumental in Sars' victory. Katie has the basics of the full-back role mastered and having still not peaked at her potential, the future looks very bright.

Emer Fennell, scorer of 2-3, 2-1 from play, and also providing the assist for Michelle Barry's goal was again just brilliant and a close contender. In my opinion, she is the player of the year from the championship and at 38 years of age that belies the belief that players are past their best at a certain age.

All over the field each Sars player played their part. Their defence was outstanding; a strong midfield and scoring forward line. Joint captain Ellen Murphy and Lucy Allen gave great speech and recognised as many people as she could, who made Sunday's win possible.

The management team of Emma Fennell, Jeff Leopold, Sinead O'Leary, Joe Barry, Brendan O'Callaghan and Mossie O'Sullivan, the Maria Dinan, Eithne Barry and former coaches of the winning side over the years, Paddy Connery, Bryan O'Leary and Tadgh Óg Lynch.

Yes, players win games but without the support of so many behind them it wouldn't happen. For those it's not about receiving credit, it's about the feeling of pure satisfaction which so many must feel in Glanmire over the past couple of days.



Part of the large attendance watching the Sarsfields and Inniscarra game.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Inniscarra's Rena Buckley is held by Sarsfields' Hollie Herlihy.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Victorious Valley take home title

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Valley Rovers	2-10
Kilbrittain/Timoleague	1-4

A STRONG second-half performance where two vital goals were struck helped Valley Rovers capture the U16 B championship title in Castle Road. Hitting seven points in the opening half, all from play, helped lay the foundations for victory and they led by five points 0-7 to 0-2 at the break.

Orla O'Sullivan was on target with three first half points and with Fiona Twohig adding two and one a piece from Kate Lynch and Grace O'Dwyer as they took the game to Kilbrittain/Timoleague.

With their defence solid and reliable Valley Rovers maintained the upper hand to take the title.

Scorers for Valley Rovers: F Twohig 0-5 (0-2 L, 0-1 R), O O'Sullivan 0-3, T Gill G O'Dwyer 1-0 each, K Lynch, G O'Dwyer 0-1 each.

VALLEY ROVERS: C Prendergast, S McCarthy, R Dawkins, S Crowley; A Collins, L Collins, L McCarthy, M Lynch, C Higgins; O O'Sullivan, K Lynch, E Barry, T Gill, F Twohig, G O'Dwyer.

Sub: G Geary for T Gill.

Midleton	2-6
Clonakilty	1-9

THE U16 Premier Plate final proved to be a thrilling contest as Clonakilty fought back from being seven points in arrears at the interval to force a draw.

Midleton raced into a 2-6 to 1-2 interval lead thanks in the main to Clara McCathy who hit a goal and four points. Abbie Foley had a goal and Vivienne Gleeson and Chloe Garde got a point each. Clonakilty kept in touch with an Orla Deasy goal and with Lydia Sutton pointing twice they went in at the break trailing by seven points.

Clonakilty dominated possession and they hit seven unanswered points with Lydia Sutton helping herself to five and Kate Nolan adding two as Clonakilty got back level as the game entered injury time. Midleton did have a late chance to win it but a great effort just drifted wide. And so the sides meet again today in Castle Road at 3.30pm.

Scorers for Clonakilty: L Sutton 0-7, O Deasy 1-1, K Nolan 0-2.

MIDLETON: C McCarthy 1-4, A Foley 1-0, V Gleeson, C Garde 0-1 each.

CLON: L McCarthy, M Collins, R Wilson, V Wycherley; E Harrington, A O'Brien, C White, C Hourihane, A Whelton; E O'Donoghue, O Deasy, L Sutton; K O'Gorman, A Barry, A Harrington.

Subs: K Nolan for A Harrington, K O'Driscoll for A Barry, N Kennedy for M Collins.

MIDLETON: J Connaughton; A Fitzgerald, L Hogan, M Daly; C Cronin, Y Abernethy, C McCarthy; J Keegan-O'Connell, H Wall; M Kelly, V Gleeson 0-1, R Hennessy; A Foley, O Evans, C Garde.

Sub: E O'Sullivan for R Hennessy, G O'Leary for J Keegan-O'Connell.

Tracton	1-9
Banteer	1-3

TRACTON laid the foundations for victory in the U16 B plate final in the Colleges Pitch Castle Road with a strong opening half display that saw them strike six opening half points.

They hurred with huge determination in the opening thirty minutes but all credit to Banteer who worked hard and came right into the game in the second half as they pinned down



Mary McSweeney, chair of the Cork Camogie Board, presenting the U16 B championship trophy to Valley Rovers captain Orla O'Sullivan.



Donncha Broderick, chairman of Cork Camogie Juvenile Board, presenting the U13 B Cup to Hazel O'Connell following Blackrock's win over St Vincent's. Picture: Mike English

the Tracton attack.

Megan Doody had an early Tracton point and with Orlagh Dempsey striking three points and Anna Fahy on target with two they opened up an advantage to lead at the interval 0-6 to 0-1.

Elizabeth Philpott on target with a Banteer first half point as they battled hard against a very strong Tracton defence that kept a tight rein on the Banteer attack and never allowed them much room.

The second half was nip and tuck as both sides showed huge commitment and with play ebbing and flowing from end to end both defences had to be at their best as the battle for vital scores continued.

The Banteer defence was now much tighter and Tracton found it much harder to break them down.

Banteer had a Nancy Lehane goal followed by points from Saoirse Foley and Hannah O'Callaghan but Tracton

kept their lead thanks to an Orlagh Dempsey goal and three Anna Fahy points to ensure they ran out winners to take the plate.

Scorers for Tracton: O Dempsey 1-3, A Fahy 0-5, M Doody 0-1.

BANTEER: N Lehane 1-0, S Foley, E Philpott, H O'Callaghan 0-1 each.

TRACTON: A Lyons; E O'Donoghue, K Murphy, J Figgott; A Cummins, K McCarthy, C Ryle; E McGuinness, O Dempsey, L Healy, M Fahy, M Doody; S Dempsey, A Lowrey, A Fahy.

BANTEER: H O'Connell; A O'Neill, S Shaughnessy, C Brennan; K O'Connor, S Foley, S Oberzane; N Lehane, L Doody; C Philpott, H O'Callaghan, L Donoghue; E O'Sullivan, E Philpott, S Keely.

Minor championships continue today in the SE Systems Minor A Championship quarter-finals Sarsfields head to Ballinora for a 12.30pm throw-in again the home side, Aghabullogue and Inniscarra meet in Coachford at 4.30pm, at 5pm in Ovens Éire Óg take on Charleville and in Ballincollig host Newcestown at 6.30pm.

“Midleton raced into a 2-6 to 1-2 lead thanks in the main to Clara McCathy who hit a goal and four points”

In the SE systems Minor B championship there were quarter-finals victories for St Finbarr's over St Catherine's, Glen Rovers defeated Milford/Ballyhea, Carrigaline had a win over Douglas and the remaining quarter-final to be fixed its between Bride Rovers and St Finbarr's.

In the SE Systems Minor C Championship Midleton defeated Tracton, Grenagh accounted for Valley Rovers, Ballinhassig overcame Sliabh Rua and Bishopstown defeated Barryroe. Today Ballinhassig travel to Grenagh at 12pm, last night Youghal and Castlelyons were in action, the Midleton versus St Vincent's/Brian Dillon's game was cancelled due to weather conditions.

In Minor D quarter-finals Castlemartyr defeated Erin's Own and Clonakilty overcame Nemo to set up the semi-final as follows Kibree v Castlemartyr and Banteer versus Clonakilty.

## Early goals win U16A plate for Town

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Newcestown	5-6
Fr O'Neill's	3-2

NEWCESTOWN and Fr O'Neill's battled it out in atrocious weather in a bid to capture the U16 A plate.

Newcestown dominated from the throw-in and built up a 5-2 to 1-1 lead at half-time.

Orla Barrett had settled Newcestown with two early points, before Grace Ryan scored a goal from a free. Those gave Newcestown an early, 1-2 to 0-0 lead.

Newcestown applied huge pressure on the Fr O'Neill's defence and hit three goals in six minutes, Eabha Collins scoring one and Aoibhinn Sheehan two.

Amy Doyle opened the Fr O'Neill's account with a goal, 21 minutes into the half, and this was followed by a Kate O'Brien free.

The second-half was much closer, as O'Neill's really upped their game and dug deep and gave it everything they had.

Orla Barrett got the second-half off to a good start for Newcestown, with a point inside six minutes, but it was to be ten minutes before they scored again, as a much-tightened O'Neill's defence closed them down.

O'Brien scored a goal from a free to narrow the gap, but Newcestown hit back with three points in a row, one from Caoimhe McCarthy and two from Caoimhe Wilson. They steadied the Newcestown girls.

But Fr O'Neill's got two late goals, the first from O'Brien, the second from Amy Doyle.

Scorers for Newcestown: A Sheehan 3-0, O Barrett 0-3, E Collins, G Ryan (F) 1-0 each, C Wilson 0-2, C McCarthy 0-1.

FR O'NEILL'S: K O'Brien 2-2 (1-1 F), A Doyle 1-0.

NEWCESTOWN: K Hannon, T Buckley (C), E Dineen, A Buckley; A Wilson, R Hallahan, G Ryan; C McCarthy, C Wilson, K Twohig; E Collins, A Sheehan, O Barrett.

Subs: M Scanton for K Twohig, A Crowley for A Buckley.

FR O'NEILL'S: S Mulcahy; L Murphy, R Murphy, E Millerick (C); A Cody, M Millerick, G O'Neill; E Fitzpatrick, S O'Riordan; G Rooney, K O'Brien, Ali Wiggins; A Brosnan; A Doyle, R Kelleher.

Today, at 10.30am on Colleges Pitch, the last of the U12 finals takes place. In the second-teams competition, Midleton meet Douglas.

At 10.30am, on the Castle Road pitch, it's the U14 C championship final: Bandon and Castlelyons.

At 1pm, in the U14 B championship final, Glen Rovers and Ballygarvan meet on the Castle Road pitch, whilst, over on the Colleges pitch, at 1pm, in the U14 B Plate final, Tracton will meet Aghabullogue.

At 3.30pm, in the U16 C final, BallinacCarthy and Sliabh Rua come face to face on the Castle Road pitch, and, on the Colleges Pitch, in the U16 Premier Plate replay, Midleton and Clonakilty will meet again.

# STAR Sport

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 2019



## THE WEST'S AWAKE

Newcestown,  
all win county titles



NEWCESTOWN 2-9  
ENNISKEANE 2-8

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

CIARA O'Sullivan added to her impressive medal haul this year after inspiring Newcestown to SE Systems Cork Camogie Intermediate Championship glory at Castle Road on Sunday afternoon.

The two-time All-Ireland winning Cork minor won the Player of the Match award as she scored 1-5 to fire Newcestown to a county title and also into the senior ranks for 2020.

Newcestown captain Mary McSweeney was full of praise for O'Sullivan: 'There's no stopping Ciara when she gets the ball. When she goes, she goes, and she well deserved the player of the match award.'

That Newcestown beat their local rivals Enniskeane in this county final makes the triumph even sweeter, and now the champions have senior-grade camogie to look forward to next season.

'It's phenomenal really, it hasn't sunk in yet that we are in the top grade but hopefully we can push on now and do our best there,' said classy forward O'Sullivan.

'Last year we were knocked out in the semi-final so all year we have had this drive.'

Newcestown were rocked, however, by an early Enniskeane goal, as Cork star Orla Cronin fired to the net inside the opening minute to give her side the dream start.

'We didn't put our heads down after that, we came back into the game and every single one of our players gave it 110 per cent,' McSweeney said.

It took Newcestown two minutes to register their opening score and it came from player-of-the-match O'Sullivan when she fired over a 20-metre free. The influential O'Sullivan followed it up quickly after when she made a surging run at defence and finished with a handpass point to cut the Enniskeane lead to the slimmest.

Cronin put two between the sides on five when she pointed a close-range free, however Newcestown had the deficit back to one when O'Sullivan found Evelyn Crowley free on 30 metres and she split the posts with a fine effort in the eighth minute.

Then a brace from Sinead Hurley and a Cronin 45-metre free opened up a three-point lead for Enniskeane, 1-3 to 0-3, before O'Sullivan pulled one back when she pointed a free.

A six-minute spell passed without a score due to the defensive prowess of both sides, and it took a superb O'Sullivan goal to break the deadlock and give Newcestown the lead, 1-4 to 1-3, for the first time in



Newcestown's player of the match Clara O'Sullivan gets her pass away despite the pressure from Enniskeane's Celine Nyhan.

# Classy Ciara fires Newcestown to glory

**'There's no stopping Ciara when she gets the ball. When she goes, she goes, and she well deserved the player of the match award'**  
- Mary McSweeney, Newcestown captain

the game. Indeed, O'Sullivan pushed her side two clear moments later when she split the posts with a fine effort.

Cronin pulled one back for Enniskeane when she slotted over a 30-metre free, however Maria Kenneally cancelled it out when she fired over on the run to see Newcestown hold a half-time lead of 1-6 to 1-4.

Upon the resumption Kenneally opened up a three-point lead for Newcestown when she pointed. Emer O'Brien pulled one back for Enniskeane when she took a pass from Cronin and duly fired over a fine effort on the run before Cronin cut the lead to the slimmest when she scored a 20-metre free shortly after.

Enniskeane were dealt a hammer blow when Newcestown's Aoife O'Sullivan was on hand to scrape the ball into the net following a goalmouth scramble that came about after a Ciara O'Sullivan handpass goalward effort was initially saved by a tenacious Enniskeane defence.

Aoife O'Sullivan extended the lead to five when she pointed before Ciara O'Sullivan left



The victorious Newcestown panel celebrates their narrow win in the county intermediate camogie championship final against Enniskeane at Castle Road on Sunday. (Photos: Trevor Patchett)

six between the sides when she put over a 45-metre free.

A Cronin long-range free on the three-quarter mark pulled one back, and then Enniskeane were handed a lifeline. Ten minutes from time, a Daire O'Brien free from 45 metres sailed into the top right corner of the Newcestown goal to drag Enniskeane right back into the final and cut the deficit to just two.

Cronin made it a one-point game two minutes from normal time when she slotted over a 30-metre free to set up a nail-biting finish. However, despite a late Enniskeane rally Newcestown remained resolute

and held out to take the victory and secure senior status for the West Cork side in 2020.

**Scorers**

**Newcestown:** C O'Sullivan 1-5 (2f, 145); A O'Sullivan 1-1; M Kenneally 0-2; E Crowley 0-1  
**Enniskeane:** D Cronin 1-6 (5f, 145); D O'Brien 1-0 (1-0f); S Hurley, E O'Brien 0-1 each.

**Newcestown:** O Dineen; M McSweeney (captain); A O'Sullivan; S Kelleher; G Ryan; M Lynch; A O'Donovan; E Tarrant; L Whelan; S Deasy; C O'Sullivan; M O'Donovan; E Crowley; M Kenneally; A O'Sullivan.  
**Sub:** A Murray for S Deasy (50).

**THE HIGHLIGHTS**

**Our Star:** It has to be Ciara O'Sullivan who finished with 1-5 for Newcestown and caused the Enniskeane defence no end of problems.  
**Star moment:** It was a scrappy goal but Aoife O'Sullivan's scrambled goal for Newcestown in the second half gave them a four-point lead that was then swelled to five soon after. It was a long way back for Enniskeane after this.  
**Talking point:** Two local rivals well used to one another served up a thriller.  
**What's next?** Newcestown will play in the county senior championship in 2020.

**Enniskeane:** K Corcoran; L Duggan (captain); C Nyhan; K McCarthy; A O'Driscoll; D O'Brien; C O'Donovan; D Carroll; L Mannix; C Aherne; O Cronin; S O'Driscoll; S Hurley; C O'Mahony; T Sheehan.  
**Subs:** E O'Brien for C Aherne (25); E O'Driscoll for D Carroll (42).  
**Referee:** Cathal McAllister (Aghada).

# Sars the stars of great campaign

Sars lay it on the line against Tipp ladies

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

SUNDAY

Munster senior camogie championship semi-final: Sarsfields v Drom & Inch, Sarsfields, 1pm

CORK senior camogie champions Sarsfields face Drom & Inch of Tipperary in the Munster senior championship semi-final this Sunday.

In an upset, Drom & Inch defeated eight in a row chasing Burgess-Duharra with a seven-point winning margin in the Tipperary county final last Sunday, 2-10 to 0-9. With Burgess containing a number of intercounty players, it was a huge win for the village.

Drom & Inch were value for their win. Their touch, striking, work rate, team work and physical conditioning all appeared superior to a Burgess-Duharra team who only managed two points from play.

Indeed, a recurring feature of the contest was the disciplined tackling of the Drom & Inch team; Burgess-Duharra players were forced to overcarry on a regular basis and each turnover was loudly celebrated by the Drom & Inch support.

Drom goalkeeper Caoimhe Bourke was a driving force from between the posts, wing-back and captain Aoife McGrath was outstanding, earning the Player of the Match award, while Joanne Ryan, Eimear McGrath and excellent forwards Niamh Treacy and Miriam Campion also shone.

Parts of Drom & Inch's play was similar to that of Sars' two weeks ago against Inniscarra where work rate played a huge role in their first senior county title in 30 years.

Sars understandably had a tremendous week of celebrations and they've been fortunate in that they had this past week to come back down to earth a little and re-focus for Sunday's game. Drom & Inch are still on a high. That could work either way for them. They'll either carry that euphoria onto the pitch in Riverstown or their minds will be elsewhere on the day.

Both clubs have achieved their dream. Which one of the two want to win the Munster championship and move onto the All-Ireland series the most will be the difference.

If Sars can bring their goal scoring touch to the game, it'll be a telling factor. Drom also have good scoring forwards in Dee Dunne, Miriam Campion and Joanne Ryan.

Chloe Casey is a renowned good goalkeeper but is playing very well outfield so maybe putting her between the posts again isn't an option Sars' management are considering. They may have another strong keeper up their sleeve.

Based on the strength of Burgess this past few years and the fact that Drom have dethroned them, this could be a tight championship semi-final from two fine sides.

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

LAST Sunday, another senior club championship campaign ended with new champions Sarsfields taking the cup to Glanmire.

And what a championship it was. Fifteen teams, three new semi-finalists, clubs that hadn't reached that stage in many a long time, and some excellent games along the way.

The season isn't over yet for Sarsfields as they enter the Munster championship campaign. I'm sure they had a tremendous week of celebrations and what comes from the Munster championship, so be it. They won't be too worried either way. When you've won your first senior county title in 30 years, winning Munster isn't a priority by any means.

I'm sure many of them thought their season was over last Sunday, Munster hadn't even figured in their thought process. It's only when you start winning two and three local championships that you become hungry for more.

Sars won't have it all their own way next season and they'll know that. Inniscarra had their chances last Sunday, Killeagh were fantastic in their semi-final defeat, Courcy Rovers had a disappointing season but will bounce back. St Finbarr's reached their first semi-final in 10 years and the Glen are there or thereabouts.

## Required

St Catherine's are always a contender. I do think however that one or two more players are required for a few of the above-mentioned clubs to get them close to and over the finish line. It would be great if that did filter through from their underage next year, we'll wait and see.

You'd imagine Carbery missed their senior opportunity with Newcestown winning the Intermediate championship and those players now unavailable to the divisional side for 2020 but Enniskeane, Barryroe and Kilbrittain/Timoleague still have plenty of talent to call upon.

I can't help thinking that with Cork out of the Senior and Intermediate champions so early this year that it benefitted clubs, and indeed Carbery. There's nothing like having your full club panel at training and for challenge games.

If you're a club with a number of senior and intermediate players, you can be heavily depleted and it's then hard to get the dynamic going. Sars manager Emmet Fennell mentioned in an interview last week that they only had one Cork senior player on their panel and their training was hopping.

Cork were out of the championship either way on August 17, so clubs had their full panel available to them for six or eight weeks leading into the latter stages of the championship.

The senior inter-county footballers were out at semi-final stage as well. The only interference then became the club dual players and that's more easily managed.

Emer Fennell was yesterday named as the 96/C103FM Rochestown Park



Sarsfields' Emer Fennell celebrates her second goal against Inniscarra in the Cork Camogie SE Systems senior championship final.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Sarsfields' supporters celebrate after defeating Inniscarra.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Hotel player of the month for September.

What a popular choice that was. It was a great afternoon to honour a great player who surely must be pinching herself this week. To have played so long and in the twilight of your career to play a starring role in the championship and more importantly to win a trophy that has passed you by your entire career, well fairy-tale stuff it was indeed.

We're a bit sour here in Cork with regards our paltry four nominations for this year's All-Star awards, being held

in the City West Hotel tonight. But we did get four and that's to be celebrated. Good luck to Pam Mackey, Hannah Looney, Amy O'Connor and Linda Collins.

It's hard to know how it'll go for our four but surely Amy O'Connor is a certainty. She had a great season. This is her fourth nomination and she has yet to be selected.

Surely 2019 is the year for her! I think Pam could also get a position. There was a lot of good defenders this year, but I think she could get the nod. Hard to know really how it'll go for the

“We're a bit sour here in Cork with regards our paltry four nominations for this year's All-Star awards, being held in the City West Hotel tonight”

Cork quartet considering the travesty that was the nomination selection process. Best of luck too to our only Soaring Star nominee; Aine Crowley of Kilbrittain.

Galway's Niamh Kilkenny should be a banker for the Camogie Association/WGPA Player's Player of the year. Sarah Dervan (Galway) and Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny) are the other nominees. No complaints there.

Pamela Greville of Westmeath should take the Intermediate Player of the Year and Patrice Diggin of Kerry, the junior title.

# Fennell looks to add another chapter to Sars' fairytale

Eoghan Cormican

Age is but a number, says 38-year-old Sarsfields full-forward Emer Fennell as she bids to extend what has been a fairytale season.

Tomorrow afternoon at Riverstown (1pm), Sarsfields entertain Tipperary champions Drom & Inch in the Munster senior camogie semi-final.

The Cork club secured their place in the provincial competition when ending a 30-year wait for county championship honours a fortnight ago. It was no surprise victory. Sars have been the coming force in Cork camogie for the past few years. They reached the last four All-Ireland U14 Féile finals, winning three, while three successive county minor finals were contested between 2014 and '16, two of which yielded silverware.

Their current senior team,

as you'd expect with such relentless underage success, is flooded with players in their late teens and early to mid-twenties.

Then there is Emer Fennell, or Emer O'Farrell as she was known when pocketing back-to-back All-Ireland medals with Cork in 2008 and '09.

Fennell raises the team's average age somewhat and as she herself remarks, she didn't grow up playing alongside these girls, she grew up playing alongside their mothers. But far from being carried by the team's younger members, she has been the one leading their charge.

It was her goal deep in the second half of extra-time which rescued Sars from the jaws of defeat on the afternoon of their county quarter-final win over Carbery. She finished that game with 2-12 to her name. She hit three points in the subsequent semi-final win over the Barr's, supplying

2-3 during the final triumph against Inniscarra.

"To win the county final was a fairytale," says Fennell, whose husband Emmet is Sars manager.

"On a personal note, it was the icing on the cake. It is something I have always dreamt of doing with my club. Nothing can describe winning a senior county title with your club, with girls you've watched grow up, girls who you have trained underage, and, in a lot of cases, I played with their mothers. Without them and without their dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm, it wouldn't have happened.

"I know I am in my twilight years when it comes to playing. But, look, age is just a number. If you have the ability, the drive, and the love of the sport, age shouldn't hold anyone back."

The Account Manager and mother of two (Tom is nine,



Sarsfields' Emer Fennell after defeating Inniscarra in the Cork camogie senior championship final at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Anna is seven) is keenly aware that her well-being is heavily linked to her decision to keep coming back year after year. She heaps praise on her husband and parents for their

roles in making it possible to continue toting out.

"I'm in a great position that they've all been so supportive of me in keeping going. My kids, too, love to see me out

playing. They are part of my drive and my inspiration.

"Sport and camogie has been my life. Getting out playing is good for mental health, good for physical health. It is great to have a good work-life balance. It's very important to have an outlet. Camogie has been my outlet for all these years. I am the person today because of camogie and because of Sars. It has given me and provided me with great life lessons and great friends.

"A lot of people I've spoken to have said to me, keep playing because once you stop, you'll never go back. It is so true. Keep driving on, keep playing. I'd so encourage that. If the body can do it, there is nothing impossible. To win two weeks ago was the pinnacle of my career."

The hope is that their Munster campaign will extend beyond tomorrow and so put paid to any talk of potential retirement.



The Camogie All-Stars winners for 2019 receive their awards at Citywest. Sarah and Shauna Healy (Galway); Sarah Dervan (Galway); Edwina Keane (Kilkenny); Heather Cooney (Galway); Claire Phelan (Kilkenny); Lorraine Bray (Waterford); Aoife Donohue (Galway); Niamh Kilkenny (Galway); Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick); Denise Gaule (Kilkenny); Amy O'Connor (Cork); Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny); Ailish O'Reilly (Galway); Beth Carton (Waterford) with Uachtarán Kathleen Woods and Stuart Trotter, Liberty Insurance. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

## Amy's Army



Cork camogie player Amy O'Connor was given a warm welcome home at St Vincent's Hurling and Football Club, Knocknaheeny, after she picked up an All Star award. Picture: Jim Coughlan

## Drom-Inch bid to halt Clare champions' shot at history

Larry Ryan

Camogie

Scariff Ogonnelloe target a first ever Munster senior camogie title when they face Tipperary's Drom-Inch in Cappamore today (2.30pm), but captain Mairead Scanlon says this isn't bonus territory for the club only formed in 2012.

The Clare club was formed out of an amalgamation of two junior clubs seven years ago and claimed a first county senior title when defeating Newmarket-on-Fergus last month.

They went on to beat Newcastle West in the Munster semi-final and now face a Drom-Inch side seeking their third title at this level.

"Every match you play you want to win it," Scanlon told Clare FM. "It's amazing how quickly your mind refocusses to a new challenge. The minute Saturday against New-

castle West was over, the feeling was we've a real chance here and it would be a shame not to go for it."

Drom-Inch claimed an eighth Tipperary crown when they defeated holders Burgess-Duharra, then pipped Cork's Sarsfields in an exciting Munster semi-final.

Former Tipp stalwart Joanne Ryan — who captained the county to the All-Ireland in 2004 — remains a key figure, scoring four points in that impressive victory on Cork soil. The panel draws heavily on the McGrath family from Loughmore-Castleiney.

Manager Pat Ryan told the *Nenagh Guardian*: "We are facing formidable opposition and we are not taking that lightly so hopefully we'll get over the line."

# Sheehy ensures Ballygarvan win

## Tough task ahead for New ladies in Munster

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

**TOMORROW**  
Munster Intermediate club  
Championship:  
Newcestown v Galtir  
(Waterford),  
Newcestown, 1.30pm.

A BIG day for Newcestown tomorrow as they head into the Munster area and take on take on Waterford champions Galtir who recently made it back-to-back of senior titles when they demolished the challenge provided by Cappoquin.

It's a tough challenge for Newcestown, taking on the best in Waterford. It seems a bit unfair that the senior champions from Waterford competes in the second tier in Munster but, be that as it is, Newcestown will meet the challenge head on and take on their opponents full of determination.

They had to show huge heart in their county final win over a strong Enniskeane side, with just a point between them at the final whistle. They had excellent displays from Ciara O'Sullivan, Evelyn Crowley, Aoife O'Sullivan, and Maebh O'Donovan, who will provide the main threats up front.

In defence Maebh Lynch, Siobhan Kelleher, and Aoife O'Sullivan will have a big task on their hands to contain the strong challenge from a Galtir front line that hit 2-17 in their county final victory.

The current Munster champions only lost the All-Ireland intermediate club final by a point in Croke Park last March.

Inter-county team-mates Annie and Aoife Fitzgerald will pose a huge threat up front while Emer Walsh, Ann Corcoran, and youngster Ciara O'Sullivan have been the headline grabbers in their attack.

In defence, Patricia Jackman, Clodagh Carroll and Emma Hannon are strong, while Margo Heffernan, Claire Dunne and captain Aine Lyng have quality too.

With 10 players on the Waterford senior panel this season, they will come to Newcestown in determined form. Experience counts for a lot at this level and that big match experience is something that has to be gained over a number of outings and while the holders will go in as raging favourites, this won't worry a Newcestown outfit who had to battle in every game to finally take the Cork title.

They took hot favourites Blackrock to a draw before winning the replay in which they showed huge fighting spirit and all of these games will stand to them.

Captain Mary McSweeney and her team-mates will play with huge pride and on home turf they will have a huge club following. Their management team of Seamus O'Donovan, Eddie Kennelly and Finbarr O'Callaghan will drive their side on to go one step further.

### CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Ballygarvan	5-8
Glen Rovers	2-9

A STRONG last quarter and a superb performance from Jennifer Sheehy ensured that Ballygarvan handled the strong challenge provided by Glen Rovers in the U14 B Championship final in Castle Road on Saturday last.

Glen Rovers got the perfect start with a Sarah Kate O'Meara point to which Jennifer Sheehy replied from a free.

Ordhna Hurley sent a free all the way to the net to push the Glen back in front and Juliette Horgan, with their second goal, and points from O'Meara and Sarah Murphy saw them open up a lead, but Sheehy pegged one back again from a free for Ballygarvan.

Murphy pointed a free and with Sheehy pointing three frees and one from play, Ballygarvan began to eat into the lead.

Five minutes into injury-time Sheehy struck for a Ballygarvan goal and with Murphy replying with a pointed free for the Glen to lead 2-5 to 1-6 at the break.

Kate O'Neill stretched the Glen lead to three on the resumption, but again, Sheehy replied from free.

Back came the Glen girls with two Murphy frees, but Sheehy had Ballygarvan within a point before her long-range free found the net to edge Ballygarvan in front with 14 minutes gone.

Hurley sent a 45 over to tie the contest again Sheehy replied and a blistering closing five minutes saw Ballygarvan grab two goals through Cara Bowen and Sheehy to kill off the Glen girls' challenge.

**Scorers for Ballygarvan:** J Sheehy 4-8, C Bowen 1-0.  
**Glen Rovers:** S Murphy 0-5 (0-4 f), O Hurley 1-1 (1-0 f, 0-1 45), J Horgan 1-0, SK O'Meara 0-2, K O'Neill 0-1.

**BALLYGARVAN:** G Buckley, B Kearney, E O'Herrilly, A Finnegan, J Sheehy, J Looney, E Geary, S Harris, S O'Donovan, A Sheehy, T Kelleher, C Bowen, E Murphy, A O'Mahony, E Casey.

**GLEN:** F Murphy, A Akinouli, A Mulcahy, K O'Regan, M Creber, A Weil, M Brosnan, O Hurley, S Murphy, K O'Neill, SK O'Meara, S Roche, J Horgan, L Long, C Corbett.

**Subs:** B Coughlan for M Brosnan, K Taylor for C Corbett, G Ring for L Long, C Galtney for A Akinouli.

Aghabullogue	3-11
Tracton	1-7

THE opening half was close as Aghabullogue and Tracton contested the U14 B plate final with Aghabullogue leading 2-3 to 1-4 at the interval.

Moira Leahy Ellie Buckley and Clara Daly were all on target for Aghabullogue as Shauna Dempsey grabbed a Tracton goal and Ailish McGuinness hit four points.

Aghabullogue drove on in the second half with captain and player of the match Clara Daly leading the way they added to their tally with Leahy and Buckley prominent, Ailish McGuinness added three points to the Tracton tally as they battled to the finish.

**Scorers for Aghabullogue:** M Leahy 2-5, C Daly 1-3, E Buckley 0-3.

**Tracton:** A Mc Guinness 0-7, S Dempsey 1-0.  
**AGHABULLOGUE:** E Downey, D Healy, K Keating, C Lyons, E O'Sullivan, A O'Shea, C O'Sullivan, R Bowen, O Cahill, E Buckley, C Daly (c), S Martin; A



The Ballygarvan camogie panel, winners of the U14 B championship recently.



The Aghabullogue panel, who recently landed the U14 B camogie plate.

**Foley, M Leahy, M Mangan.**  
**Subs:** A O'Leary for A Foley, M Murphy for M Mangan, S Lehane for C Lyons, J M Baylon for C O'Sullivan, K Cogan for S Martin.

**TRACTON:** M Doody, H Corcoran, K Murphy, A Taylor, ER O'Brien-McCarthy, A Lowney, A Cremin, E McGuinness (c), C Ryle, R Walsh, S Dempsey, A Kidney, S Kidney, D Lyons, C Hayden.

**Sub:** H O'Kelly for C Hayden, M Healy for D Lyons, A Stokes for H O'Kelly.

Midleton	5-2
Douglas	3-0

THE last of the U12 competitions was

the final of the group for second club teams and Midleton and Douglas battled it out for the title.

Rebecca Cronin hit two first half Midleton goals to which Douglas replied.

Midleton hit the front in the second half with Cronin, Cara Pyne and Nicole Quirke Lee adding goals.

And with Roisin McManus adding to their tally with two points they ran out winners in an exciting contest.

Douglas battled hard and hit back

with a second-half goal but it was Midleton who ran out winners to bring the curtain down on the U12 leagues.

**MIDLETON:** J Murphy, C McGrath, S McConville, E Keeshan, R Ryan, NM Walsh (c), F Dunlea, R McManus, R Cronin, E Fitzgerald, C Pyne, F Lordan-Bailey, N McNamara, T Howard, C Ryan-Dardis, H O'Brien, A Hennessy, S Cronin, R Keating, L Murphy, N Quirke-Lee, S McCarthy, E Ivers.

**DOUGLAS:** A Fitzgerald, A Aherne, M Smith, A Hickey, F Corby, G Lemasney, M O'Shea, I Schulz, H Lewis, E Whelan, S Aherne, E Dwyer, A Lecane, M O'Sullivan, E Delaware, E Harley, L Conway.



Amy's Army welcome home their new All-Star Amy O'Connor to St Vincent's.

Picture: Jim Coughlan.

# Amy flies All Star flag for Rebels

CONGRATS to Amy O'Connor, Cork's sole All-Star for 2019.

It's an honour she richly deserved. So last Saturday night Galway received seven awards, Kilkenny four, Waterford two, Cork one and Limerick one.

Eleven positions filled from the finalists, one from the semi-finalists and three from the quarter finalists. Tipperary received no awards after having nine nominations.

I received a copy of the draft fixtures and changes for the 2020 camogie league and championship campaigns during the week.

A few of the rules and points to note I'll reference here. First up is the rule regarding naming of panels.

"Any county which has two teams in National League competition, they must provide a list of 23 players seven days before their first fixture at either grade. These players and any other player who play at the higher grade will not subsequently be eligible to play on the lower-graded team.

"These players listed must be named on the team sheet for all fixtures at the higher grade within the competition."

I can understand what the organisation are trying to achieve — to prevent strong senior panellists alternating freely between both divisions. But I feel this rule restricts development of tier two players.



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Most counties will give their Division 2 players a trial run during the Division 1 league. If that is going to eliminate them completely from playing in their own grade and getting games week in and week out, players won't want to do it.

Based on this rule, players won't be freely introduced to the senior squads during the national league now.

What if the senior squad runs into a spate of injuries and calls on division two players to fill the gap for a particular game?

The players won't want to do it as they'll believe they'll be back on the bench the following week and be out for the remainder of their own campaign.

Worth considering is that the ruling should be based on the previous year's championship in that if a player played senior championship in 2019 then they are ineligible to play Division 2 league in 2020.

That restriction should only be for one season and on a rolling basis.

Year in and year out I find it hard to



Amy O'Connor with her parents Con and Tracy O'Connor at St Vincent's. Picture: Jim Coughlan

fathom why counties with two adult teams end up playing other two-team counties with one at home and one away at the same time.

On March 8, Cork seniors play Kilkenny at home, while our intermediates are away to Kilkenny on the same day.

Surely a double-header could be arranged for this?

And a home and away arrangement made between the counties every other year. If nothing else, it would save on costs.

In addition to that, the fixtures should also be made in a way where the division 1 and 2 sides don't always play the same weekend. It makes life very difficult for counties when one team is at one end of the country and the other is fielding at the other end.

There is a weekend for 'back matches', ie games that have been postponed during the campaign yet that weekend clashes with the third level Ashbourne and Purcell Cup semi-finals and final.

Already I see a problem there. You can almost be assured of a back match with the games now kicking off on January 25.

The final will be March 22. There is to be no league semi-finals this year. I think a discussion should be had on the start date of the National League.

Why start the league so early and

then have no semi-final?

It gets rushed though very early in the year when facilities are not available. It also doesn't give the university teams fair play in the preparation of their teams where players are in the middle of a national league campaign.

The top team in each division will meet in the league final. I think eliminating a semi-final from the competition isn't good for the promotion of the game.

I wonder what the reasoning behind this was. It's a great boost for some counties to say they reached a league semi-final.

For a while now championship games are all set for 5pm on Saturdays and there seems to be little or no room for manoeuvre on this, even if both counties would prefer it earlier, for travel purposes etc.

If it is for TV and media coverage purposes, then explain that it is the reason and have it for specific games only.

Only two or three games are highlighted on the *Sunday Game* a week out of a possible five or six played, yet the ruling is across the board.

We would get better support and print media coverage I feel if the games were earlier. Most counties would be in favour of a discussion on this topic.

The 2020 campaign kicks off in just over 12 weeks.

## Niamh is gunning for Tipp ladies

CAMOGIE

■ Éamonn Murphy

AFTER the high of county final glory against Inniscarra, Sarsfields host Drom & Inch at 1pm tomorrow in the AIB-sponsored Munster series.

The East Cork club will be favourites on this occasion, having upset the odds in the decider against four-in-a-row chasing Scarra earlier this month.

For Niamh O'Callaghan, the newcomers' great start was crucial in their last outing.

"We were ahead for about 20 minutes of the first half but went in a point down at half time.

"We were three or four points to nil ahead, and it was seven-six at half time to them."

What was most impressive was how they held their nerve when the champions came roaring back in the second half. Not that O'Callaghan felt the pressure.

"I was actually in the toilet at half time, which was a great thing, because I was laughing! Not in a bad way now, but just there was so much roaring and shouting going on — it was a case of laughing because it was so serious.

"Sometimes that happens people when you don't mean to, out of awkwardness.

"I saw my friend then and she was laughing too. I think if I was too tight about things then I might go back out and fumble the ball, so it was actually good for me."

Veteran forward Emer Fennell was the star for Sars, firing in 2-4 in the final, while her husband Emmet is the bainisteoir.

"Emer used to hurl for Cork and she is a star, she's unbelievable. She was my mentor when we won a U14 Féile and I remember us looking up to her, I always remember that. She always set the standards as we moved up from intermediate to Senior B and then Senior A.

"We were up by six points against Inniscarra in the final and Emer came back as a kind of a sweeper. She was asking the referee Cathal Egan how long was left and he said 'seven minutes', and I was thinking 'aw Jesus, how am I going to get through this?'

"You'd be gassed playing in a final like that.

"They brought it back to three but luckily then the final whistle went."

Tipp blue-bloods Burgess-Duharra were surprisingly defeated last month.

"They have a few players with Tipp but everyone in Cork had been expecting Burgess-Duharra to come through and win another title. We don't know a whole pile about them but we have a good advantage being at home.

"We went up to play them in the Drom-Inch field (which is separate to The Ragg camogie field) and neither side had their county players, and they were very good."



The Sliabh Rua team which beat Ballinascorthy in the U16 Cork county camogie championship at the weekend.

### Sliabh Rua win

The Sliabh Rua girls had a dramatic two-point win over Ballinascorthy on Saturday last, in the county U16 camogie championship final. While Aoibhe Coleman picked up the 'Player of the Match' award, credit for much of victory must go to the section team, which includes Fitzpatrick, Martin Fricke, Barry Casey and Heary.

For the record, the score was 4-9 to 4-7.

## CHAMPIONS Barryroe celebrate triumph



The Barryroe U16 camogie team that defeated St Colum's in the West Cork C final on Sunday.

## Sars will have plenty of regrets after semi defeat

**Drom & Inch** 0-12  
**Sarsfields** 1-8

TIPP'S Drom & Inch dug out a hard fought one-point win over Sarsfields in the Munster senior championship semi-final in Riverstown yesterday.

Sarsfields will rue the third quarter of the game where they had chances to put distance between themselves and Drom, but they never got more than two points ahead. As a number of balls dropped short, Drom keeper Caoimhe Bourke dealt magnificently with them, leading to frustration for Sars.

Drom & Inch, after losing a three-point lead on 17 minutes, never led again until the 57th minute, when Eimear McGrath pointed a free to go one ahead, which turned out to be the last score of the game.

Every ball was feverishly fought. Drom's defence was sticky and solid. They led 0-4 to 0-1 after sixteen minutes, Emer Fennell getting Sars off the mark

**CAMOGIE**

■ Linda Mellerick

with a pointed free. As she has done all season, Fennell found the net on 17 to bring the sides level. She struck two more points, one from play, to lead by two as Sars seemed to get a grip on the game up front.

They continued to be put under immense pressure with every score hard won. Drom's captain Aoife McGrath wearing number seven was excellent. At the other end joint captain Ellen Murphy was in top form.

Drom never looked like getting a goal but they had players to pick off some lovely distance points, particularly in Joanne Ryan who struck two beauties to bring the game level again as the short whistle blew.

Sars got the upper hand on the restart and went two points up. But it should have been five and Drom

drew level three minutes later. It was tit for tat.

Distribution from both sides could have been better at times but time on the ball was minuscule.

Sars went one up with five remaining. Drom got the next two and despite five minutes additional time Sars just couldn't find a way through to bring the game to extra time.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** E Fennell 1-4 (0-3 f), C Mullins 0-2, M Barry, C Irwin, 0-1 each.

**Drom & Inch:** E McGrath 0-5 (0-4 f), J Ryan 0-3, N Treacy, N Long, M Campion, A Kennedy 0-1 each.

**SARSFIELDS:** C Casey, E Lonergan, K Barry, N O'Callaghan; E Casey, M Mullins, E Murphy, L Kelly, C Irwin; O McAllen, H Herlihy, C Mullins; E Fennell, L Allen, M Barry.

Sub: M McCarthy for L Allen (44).

**DROM & INCH:** C Bourke; M Connolly, C Brennan, M Eviston; E Cahill, M Ryan, A McGrath; N Long, M Burke; D Dunne, S McGrath, J Ryan; E McGrath, N Treacy, M Campion.

Subs: A Kennedy for N Long (50), E Nyland for S McGrath (58).

Referee: Kevin O'Brien (Clare).

## Drom & Inch win away to Sarsfields

**Munster Club camogie senior championship semi-final**

**Sarsfields** 1-8  
**Drom & Inch** 0-12

Tipperary's Drom & Inch dug out victory away to Sarsfields in the Munster Senior Championship semi-final.

Three points from play by Joanne Ryan, the free-taking of Eimear McGrath, and some fine goalkeeping by Caoimhe Bourke were key factors.

Emer Fennell did score 1-4 for the hosts, who paid the price for a slow start as they trailed 0-4 to 0-1 at the end of the first quarter.

Sars went one up with five minutes remaining, but Drom got the next two points and, despite five minutes' additional time, Sars just couldn't find a way through.

Drom & Inch will face Scariff/Ogonnelloe in the final as the Clare champions defeated Newcestown West 4-8 to 1-12.

Meanwhile, Gailltir defeated Newcestown 3-11 to 2-5 in the intermediate semi-final.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** E Fennell 1-4 (0-3 f), C Mullins 0-2, M Barry, C Irwin, 0-1 each.

**Drom & Inch:** E McGrath 0-5 (0-4 f), J Ryan 0-3, N Treacy, N Long, M Campion, A Kennedy 0-1 each.

**SARSFIELDS:** C Casey, E Lonergan, K Barry, N O'Callaghan; E Casey, M Mullins, E Murphy, L Kelly, C Irwin; O McAllen, H Herlihy, C Mullins; E Fennell, L Allen, M Barry.

Sub: M McCarthy for L Allen (44).

**DROM & INCH:** C Bourke; M Connolly, C Brennan, M Eviston; E Cahill, M Ryan, A McGrath; N Long, M Burke; D Dunne, S McGrath, J Ryan; E McGrath, N Treacy, M Campion.

Subs: A Kennedy for N Long (50), E Nyland for S McGrath (58).

Referee: Kevin O'Brien (Clare).

## Munster champions had to fight to prevail

**CAMOGIE**

■ Mary Newman

**Newcestown** 2-5  
**Gailltir** 3-11

DESPITE what the scoreline might suggest, Cork champions Newcestown made the defending Munster Intermediate Club Champions fight to the finish before victory was secured.

The holders looked the stronger side, but the spirit and determination shown by the hosts could not be faulted. Fielding a hugely experienced side, Gailltir, who lost out in last year's All-Ireland club final by just a point, had to call on all their resources before killing the Newcestown challenge.

Experienced campaigners Trish Jackman, Annie Fitzgerald, and Anne Corcoran led the way for Gailltir, but Newcestown can take huge heart from their display. Four points separated the sides at the break as Gailltir led 1-8 to 1-4.

Aoife Fitzgerald's 18th minute goal for Gailltir was cancelled out by Aoife O'Sullivan three minutes from the break, before two points from Emer Walsh and Aoife Fitzgerald saw Gailltir push it to a four-point interval lead.

Newcestown got the perfect start to the second half when Ciara O'Sullivan palmed the ball to the net inside 30 seconds of the throw-in.

A lengthy stoppage ensued as treatment was administered to Gailltir keeper Ciara Jackman.

Fitzgerald continued to cause Newcestown huge problems and pointed twice on the game's resumption. Gailltir added a goal when Ann Corcoran got the last touch to Trish Jackman's long-range free.

A tendency to over-play the ball saw Newcestown continuously running into a wall of Gailltir defenders who dealt capably with anything thrown at them.

The sides swapped points before Aoife Fitzgerald had the last say with a Gailltir goal to send her side safely through to the final.

Huge credit to Newcestown for the wonderful condition of their venue and the huge hospitality shown to everybody.

**Scorers for Newcestown:** C O'Sullivan 1-4, A O'Sullivan, 1-0 E Tarrant 0-1.

**Scorers for Gailltir:** Annie Fitzgerald 0-6 (0-2 f), Aoife Fitzgerald 2-1, A Corcoran 1-1, A Lyng, T Jackman, E Walsh 0-1 each.

**NEWCESTOWN:** O Dineen; M McSweeney, A O'Sullivan, S Kelleher; A O'Donovan, M Lynch, G Ryan; E Tarrant, L Whelan; S Deasy, E Crowley, M O'Donovan; C O'Sullivan, M Kennelly, Aoife O'Sullivan.

Subs: A Murray for S Deasy (46), E Murphy for E Tarrant (67).

**GAILLTIR:** C Jackman; A O'Keefe, M Heffernan, C Dunne; A Corcoran, E Roche, T Jackman; K Lynch, S Fitzgerald; C Carroll, A Lyng, C O'Sullivan; Aine Fitzgerald, Aoife Fitzgerald, E Walsh.

Subs: L Sheridan for A Lyng (11), E Mahony for A O'Keefe (46), R Flood for E Walsh (55), H Flynn for K Lynch (88), U Jackman for S Fitzgerald (89).

Referee: Joe Cahill (Tipperary).

# 'I know a lot of people that have gone down the wrong road'

**Paul Keane**

A national newspaper article earlier in the year noted how short a distance it is from Knocknaheeny to the gates of University College Cork.

The crucial rider, of course, given the area's high levels of unemployment and social problems is that it's a journey very few ever make.

Amy O'Connor was the first of her family in Knocknaheeny to go to college, attending UCC as a scholarship recipient, and just last week graduated with a Masters in Pharmacy from the Royal College of Surgeons.

"I literally only got my results on Thursday," smiled O'Connor.

A former Irish underage soccer international and now a mainstay of the Cork camogie set-up, she is a high achiever with an inner hope that others from her area will follow. It's a drum she has banged publicly before and she is unapologetic for doing so again.

"I am not going to say I am the first in the area to go to college but it's not really the thing to do in my area, unfortunately," she said.

"I didn't go to my local school — now the school that I went to was only two minutes away.

"But the school that would have been my closest school, it's not really a thing to go on to UCC or CIT or anywhere like that.

"It's just not the norm and it's very hard to change that when it's just cycles of people doing the same as what their



**WOMAN IN THE MIRROR:** Cork camogie star Amy O'Connor was the first of her family in Knocknaheeny to go to college, attending UCC as a scholarship recipient, and just last week graduated with a Masters in Pharmacy from the Royal College of Surgeons. Picture: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

parents did. It is disappointing but you just have to try to make it better."

Naturally, O'Connor witnessed peers diverging from the tracks of sport and education and going down different routes.

"I know an awful lot of people that have gone down the wrong road," she said. "It's very easy to go down the wrong road, unfortunately."

O'Connor insists she is not putting down the area, far from it.

She is aware of how words can be twisted after making comments about the health of camogie earlier in the year and feeling they were taken out of context in the media.

And this is too important a subject to reduce to a war over words.

"I don't want to put the area

down either because there is huge work being done in the area to try to get people on the straight and narrow, to try to get people to go on and do other things," she said.

"And I'm not saying that everyone has to go to college, because college is not the be all and end all either, it's not for everyone.

"There are very successful people who have never gone to

college but it's just about kind of breaking cycles that have gone before people and that is very difficult to do."

O'Connor doesn't wish to be considered an iconoclast either, though aside from her achievements in education she is one of just two players on the Cork squad from junior clubs.

Her recent All-Star at left half-forward on the team of

2019 was a breakthrough moment for St Vincents.

"It was a great night, I had a table with the family, then the next night at the club itself was very special," she said.

"I was the first All-Star from the club, male or female, and they had a homecoming for me, the whole club turned out.

"Obviously when you start off playing, you hear about the All-Stars and it's something you want to win. I don't think at the start of any year you set out to actually win one, you set out to win the All-Ireland.

"Unfortunately it didn't happen in that regard for us but it was nice to get an All-Star, to be recognised like that."

For all the garlands thrown O'Connor's way lately, Cork's one-point All-Ireland semi-final defeat to Galway in August still rankles.

"We were awful on the day," she said flatly. "You can't pinpoint one thing and say that's why we lost. Galway were just better on the day and unfortunately we didn't turn up. And in Cork if you don't win outright that's not good enough. Winning Munster was brilliant but the All-Ireland is where you want to be.

"This is my sixth year with Cork and my first year not being involved (in a final). So August and September was strange."

Littlewoods Ireland has announced it will renew its sponsorship of the All-Ireland senior hurling championship, the Littlewoods Ireland camogie leagues and the GAA Go Games provincial days until 2022.



Reigning All-Ireland hurling champion and Tipperary half-back Paudie Maher with four-time All-Ireland winner Cork's Amy O'Connor dress to impress at the renewal of Littlewoods Ireland's sponsorship of the GAA All-Ireland Hurling Championship, the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues and the GAA Go Games. The fashion, sportswear, electrical, and homeware retailer has renewed its sponsorship until 2022. Picture: Ramsey Cardy/Sportsfile

**O'DRISCOLL** (Kilcrea, Ovens): On November 1, 2019, in the wonderful care of the staff at Marymount, Carrageen, MARY (late staff of Coachford College), beloved daughter of the late Jack and Annie and dear sister of Michael, Kitty (Sheehan), Margaret (O'Loachlana), Nancy (O'Donovan), Aileen, Noelle, the late John and Jim and sister-in-law of the late Noel. Sadly missed by her loving family, her sisters-in-law Marion and Mary, brothers-in-law Colin and Liam, her loving nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, neighbours, relatives and friends. Lying in repose at St John the Baptist Church, Ovens, tomorrow (Sunday) evening from 5pm followed by prayers at 7pm. Requiem Mass on Monday at 11am. Funeral afterwards to St Finbar's Cemetery, Cork. *May Mary rest in peace.* Gabriel and O'Donovan Funeral Homes

# The future looks good for Cork

## Slabh Rua hang on to claim U16 crown

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

**Slabh Rua** 4-9  
**Ballinascorthy** 4-7

SLIABH RUA and Ballinascorthy played out an exciting U16 C championship final in Castle Road in ideal weather conditions last Saturday.

The tremendous condition of camogie headquarters made for a brilliant surface as two determined sides went at it in pursuit of the title.

This was a cracking encounter with a total of 8-16 scored, which is serious clipping.

Both attacks were on fire and there was a host of wonderful performances with green flags plentiful throughout.

Both teams should be commended for their efforts as supporters were enthralled during the game.

All through the opening half, it was nip and tuck as little or nothing divided the sides and it was no surprise to see them going into the dressing room at half-time level, Slabh Rua 1-6 Ballinascorthy 2-3.

Through the opening half, Siofra Pattwell hit two Ballinascorthy goals and added to their tally with a point while Shauna O'Driscoll had two points as Slabh Rua stayed in contention with Niamh Nash Kate Redmond, and their captain, Aoife Hartnett, driving them on.

Through the second half, it continued to be close. Slabh Rua had Nash, Redmond, Aoibhe Coleman, Arianna Price, Hartnett, and Emma O'Callaghan all to the fore as they applied huge pressure on the Ballinascorthy defence, notching up some excellent scores.

For Ballinascorthy, Pattwell was influential while Clara Heverin and Ella Kingston found the net and Millie Condon added a point as they played with huge determination.

As the game ticked towards added-time, Slabh Rua led by six points and despite a strong Ballinascorthy rally it, they held on until the final whistle with Eva Egan and Clara Hennessy, at centre-back and full-back respectively, rock-solid as they recorded a two-point victory after an exciting contest.

**Scorers for Slabh Rua:** N Nash 0-6, K Redmond, A Price 1-1 each, A Coleman, A Hartnett 1-0 each, E O'Callaghan 0-1.

**Ballinascorthy:** S Pattwell 2-4, S O'Driscoll 0-4, E Kingston, Clara Heverin 1-0 each, M Condon 0-1.

**SLIABH RUA:** E Crowley; E Gleasure, C Hennessy, D Casey; G Coyle, E Egan, C O'Donoghue; K Redmond, A Coyle; A Hartnett (c), E O'Callaghan, A Price; A Coleman, M Coughlan N Nash.

**BALLINASCORTHY:** K Ryan; S Pattwell, M Kingston, D McCarthy; E Kingston, M Thomson, M Condon; A Ryan, C Heverin; E Galvin, R Cahalane, S O'Driscoll; M O'Driscoll, E Cullinane, E Cahalane.

Sub: K O'Neill for D McCarthy.



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

AS the season ends, we reflect and also preview the new season ahead, which is only a few months away.

The Cork seniors take to the field for their first league game of 2020 on January 25 against Clare.

Training will resume this month, with Paudie Murray set to stay on as manager for his ninth season.

Performance analyst/stats man Niall Collins will also remain, as will fitness coach Martin O'Brien.

The additional members who will make up the rest of the backroom team will be announced shortly.

Despite losing the All-Ireland semi-final in August and the disappointment of failing in our bid for three-in-a-row, the future looks bright for Cork camogie.

We've won four of the last five titles, and that's an incredible return. Developing more players and keeping the cycle going is key and we have a great starting point.

An U16 and back-to-back All-Ireland minor titles in 2019 gives promise for a consistent future.

We continue to top the leaderboard with 28 titles; Dublin behind us on 26; Kilkenny, 13; Wexford, seven; Antrim, six; Tipperary, five; and Galway with three.

But it's all about the future. Building a stronger panel is something Murray has experience of and will want to achieve.

Supporters can expect him to bring in an extended training panel for the 2020 league to develop players over the medium to long-term.

Certainly, Cork does need greater strength-in-depth. Over the years, Paudie has introduced players into the league who have played a huge part in All-Ireland successes later on such as Orla Cronin, Chloe Sigerson, and Linda Collins.

A puck of a ball separated Cork and Galway in the semi-final this year, and Galway went on to win the All-Ireland. I think Galway were better in the final than the semi-final though, so we have some work to do.

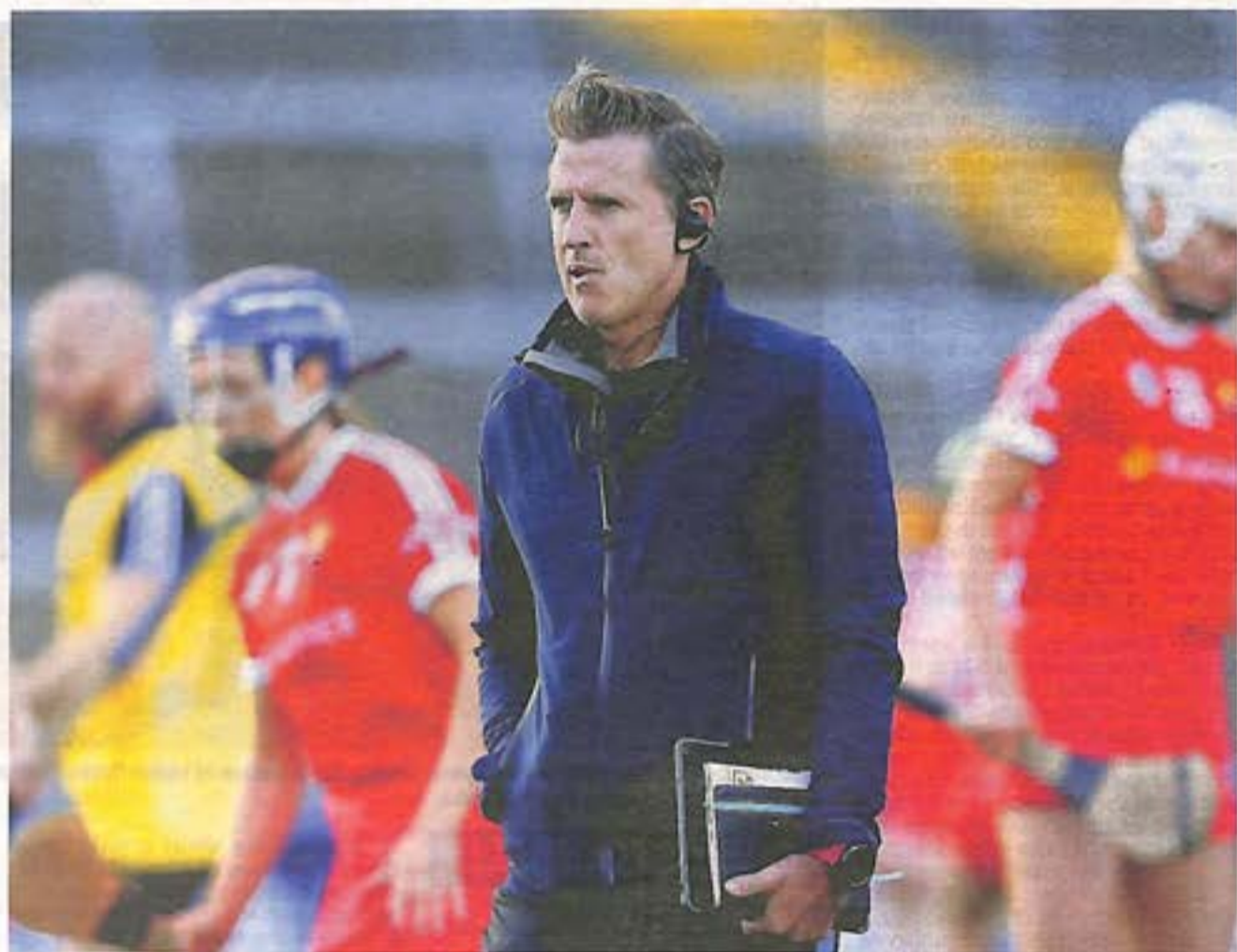
How Galway build on their win will be telling. They haven't done so in the past. I didn't rate their 2013 All-Ireland-winning side too highly, but this current crop of players is good. Cathal Murray remains as manager and that's no surprise.

What a difference he has made to both the senior and intermediate squads. The intermediate side lost the All-Ireland final to Westmeath by two points and so they should be there or thereabouts next year. Confidence will be high in the west.

Brian Dowling has been ratified as Ann Downey's successor in Kilkenny. How will they fair out in 2020?

It's hard to come back from three All-Ireland defeats but Downey referenced the Dublin ladies football team recently when she said that she believes it's still in the current panel to bounce back.

"Look, I would hope they would," (bounce back), she said. It's a three-in-a-row of defeats, but as Niamh Kilken-



Cork senior camogie manager Paudie Murray will be in charge for a ninth campaign in 2020.

Picture: Ryan Byrne/INPHO



Cork's Amy O'Connor is presented with her All-Star award by Uachtarán Kathleen Woods and Stuart Trotter of Liberty Insurance recently.

Picture: Ryan Byrne/INPHO

ny (Galway) said, she could write a book on losing All-Irelands. The same with the Dublin ladies football team, how many times were they beaten?

"The girls just have to rally and use that hurt to drive them on. Look at the All-Ireland and try and learn from it. That's all they can do.

"I haven't heard if any of the girls are going to retire, what they're going to do, but certainly they're young enough. My advice to them is to stay on and keep battling, and I hope they'll do that. I think they will."

In Cork I believe we need to change our style of play. I appreciate that, as a manager, at times you have to adjust your style to suit the players at your disposal. If you have weaknesses in

some areas, you'll try to protect those.

But at inter-county level we need to find the right players in the right positions to play the type of game we want to play, fast and direct and get ball in to our forwards.

Easier said than done I know, but I feel many of the Cork players didn't hit their potential this year.

That could just be the three-year syndrome too or a general 'off' year so it can't all be blamed on our style.

Yet, too many times this year I witnessed Cork being dispossessed in their own defence as they tried to hand pass the ball out.

We can't let that happen again.

As of yet, there has been no announcement of players retiring. I sus-

"An U16 and back-to-back All-Ireland minor titles gives promise for a consistent future"

pect Paudie will let his more senior players sit out much of the league campaign again.

The intermediate side did well for their first year together, having won the title in 2018 and having to bring in a new panel for the 2019 campaign. But the players are in Cork to challenge for the knockout stages and we should do that in 2020, hopefully.

Our club scene was very enjoyable with clubs on a more even playing field than in previous years.

Sarsfields won their first county in 30 years. They'll hope to win back-to-back championships obviously, but it won't be that easy, especially if Emer Fennell retires. We look forward to another great season in 2020.



# Weather impacts on minor games

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

There is just the minor championship to be completed as the programme of games at adult level draws to a close.

Many minor championship games were completed in the last week, including the A, B, and C semi-finals.

In the S E Systems Minor A Championship, one semi-final was decided, but pitch conditions forced the cancellation of the clash between Sarsfields and Eire Og, which was scheduled for Wednesday last. The meeting of Newcestown and Inniscarra did go ahead, as Inniscarra edged a close game in Cloughduv by a single point to book their place in the final.

In the Minor B semi-final, played in torrential rain in Killeagh, it was neck-and-neck throughout, but three points in injury time saw Aghada shake off the challenge of Glen Rovers in a game where players, mentors, and supporters alike deserve credit for battling horrific conditions.

In contrast, there were blue skies over Castle Road on Monday as St Finbarrs defeated Carrigaline to earn the right to meet Aghada in the final on November 10.

In the S E Systems Minor C Championship, it was close between Ballinacassig and Middleton, with Ballinacassig having it by a point to book their place in the final against Castletyons, who overcame Bishopstown.

At underage level, the juvenile committee are forging ahead, and with all their championships completed, the push is on to get the leagues finished. In the U14 A league, Sarsfields are through to the final where they will meet Eire Og or Inniscarra. In the U14 B1, it's Middleton and Blackrock in the final, while in the U14 A2, Rockban will play Newcestown.

In the U14B semi-finals, Glen Rovers met St Fanahans and Enniskeane take on Mallow today. The U14 B1 league is down to semi-final stages also, with Ballygarvan playing Carrigtwohill and Ballinacassig to meet Castlemarsh. In U14 B 2, the semi-final pairings are Millstreet versus Barryroe and Douglas 2 versus Milford. In the U14 C final, Kinsale will play Grenagh.

**Clonakilty** 2-7  
**Middleton** 1-6

took a replay to decide the destination of the U16 Premier Plate as Clonakilty and Middleton again went to battle at Castle Road. It was close again, but this time out Clonakilty did enough to take the honours.

Middleton led at the break by a goal but a strong second half saw Clon run out winners with four points to spare. Middleton's Megan Kelly was on target for the only goal of the opening half and with points from Clara McCarthy and Vivienne Gleeson they were three to three at the interval, with three points from Lydia Sutton keeping Clonakilty in touch.

Clonakilty fought back in the second half with Lydia Sutton and Ella O'Donoghue leading the way with a goal each. Clare Mc McCarthy and Vivienne Gleeson found the range with three points, but with Kate Nolan



A strong second half saw Clonakilty run out winners with four points to spare against Middleton to take the U16 Premier Camogie Plate back to West Cork.



Castletyons turned on the style in the second half, putting four goals past their Bandon opponents — seven over the course of the match — to capture the U14 C Championship title.

each and Lydia Sutton adding to their tally with two points, Clonakilty had done enough to take the Premier Plate.

**Scorers for Clonakilty:** L Sutton 1-5, E O'Donoghue 1-0, K Nolan, K O'Driscoll 0-1 each.

**Middleton:** M Kelly 1-0, C McCarthy 0-4, V Gleeson 0-1.

**Clonakilty:** L McCarthy, V Wycherley, R Wilson, N Kennedy, E Harrington, C White, O Doasy, A Whelton, A O'Brien, K Nolan, C Hourihane, L Sutton, K O'Driscoll, K O'Gorman, E Donoghue.

**Middleton:** J Connaughton, A Fitzgerald, L Hogan, M Daly, C Cronin (c), Y Abernethy, R Hennessy, J Keegan, O'Connell, H Wall, M Kelly, E O'Sullivan, C McCarthy, A Foley, V Gleeson, C Gardé.

**Subs:** E Lambe for C Gardé.

**Castletyons** 7-1  
**Bandon** 3-4

Castletyons started this U14 C County Championship final in Castle Road well and they had the game's opening goal with Robyn Hickey on target be-

thanks to Clara Morrison and Lillie Barry.

Bandon stayed in contention with a Molly O'Donovan goal and a point from Aisling O'Connor, but with Eavan Cotter pointing, Castletyons led at the interval by two goals — 3-1 to 1-1.

Bandon played with huge determination on the resumption and with Molly O'Donovan on target with a goal they were back in the game.

They were now applying a lot of pressure, pushing the Castletyons defenders to the limits. To their credit, the Castletyons rearguard weathered the storm despite Bandon cutting their lead down to two points thanks to a goal and three points from Laura Cummins.

Castletyons found another gear and regrouped when the pressure was applied and with goals from Angel Moran, Michaela Griffin, Ciara Morris-

the hard questions the Bandon revival asked of them as they closed out the game to take the title.

Castletyons' Clara Morrison was named as Player of the Match after superb display as her club were crowned champions.

**Scorers for Castletyons:** C Morrison, R Hickey 2-0 each, L Barry, A Moran, M Griffin 1-0 each, E Cotter 0-1.

**Bandon:** M O'Donovan 2-0, L Cummins 1-3, A O'Connor 0-1.

**Castletyons:** E O'Brien (c); E Quirk, L Boyd, S Mc Auliffe, S Hussey, C O'Riordan, M Hallihan, A Verling, S K Reals, M Griffin, C Morrison, L Barry; A O'Sullivan, R Hickey, E Cotter.

**Subs:** A Moran for A O'Sullivan, M E Fenton for M Griffin, A Casey for L Barry, G Shrimmin for L Boyd.

**Bandon:** O O'Driscoll; C Foley, C Lehane, K Twohig; M Mc McCarthy, A McWeeney, Aoibheann Cotter; K O'Connor, A O'Riordan; R O'Donovan, M Kelly, Aisling O'Connor; L Cummins, M O'Donovan, A Lillis.

**Subs:** K O'Leary for C Foley, M France for A Lillis, K O'Halloran for M McCarthy, N Trunwit for M O'Donovan, A Troy for K Twohig.

# Powerful Sarsfields see off Ballincollig

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Sarsfields** 4-4  
**Ballincollig** 1-

THE junior championship for clubs' second teams proved to be a big hit this year and it saw Sarsfields and Ballincollig reach the final last Saturday in Castle Road, where it was played in ideal weather conditions.

Supporters were treated to some fine camogie with both teams performing excellently, particularly, of course, victor Sarsfields, who produced a sterling display, especially in attack, a forward division led majestically by Donn Kerrigan who scored a superb 2-4 including 2-1 from frees.

Aided by the wind in the opening half, Sarsfields made the most of their advantage and they led at the half-time break 4-4 to 1-0 with Kerrigan opening their account with a pointed free. Julie Allen added a point before Mairead O'Farrell and Saoirse Desmond scored goals.

Jess Hennigan scored a goal for Ballincollig but with the defence was under a lot of pressure from the strong Sarsfields attack and Collig conceded further scores as Kerrigan sent two frees to the net.

Sarah Costello and Mairead O'Farrell added points as Sarsfields turned over in a comfortable position leading by 13 points at the interval.

Ballincollig battled for every ball throughout the second half and started to match Sarsfields in every line. They added to their tally with two points from Jess Hennigan and two from Orla Ni Chathasaigh.

Hennigan finished the contest with 1-2 to her name which was a superb return from the attacker.

However, with the cushion of a strong opening half to their credit, Sarsfields were content with three second-half points as they stretched their lead with three Kerrigan points to secure the title.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** D Kerrigan 2-4 (2-1 f), M O'Farrell 1-1, S Desmond 1-0, J Allen, S Costello 0-1 each.

**Scorers for Ballincollig:** J Hennigan 1-2, O Ni Chathasaigh 0-2.

**SARSFIELDS:** S Quirk; E Murphy, S Scanlon, E Walsh; A O'Lehan, C O'Sullivan, A McNamara; E Twomey, G Keenan; S Desmond, S Costello, D Kerrigan; J Allen, M O'Farrell, O Keane (c).

**Subs:** J McAllen for E Murphy, C Ahern for O Keane, R Hyde for J Allen, A McAllen for A McNamara, R O'Gorman for E Walsh.

**BALLINCOLLIG:** L Doyle; M O'Leary, P Green, D Quinn; F O'Brien, M Healy, S Keane; J Hennigan, A Kelly; L Cooper, A Cremin-Butler, C Irish; E O'Connell; O Ni Chathasaigh, A O'Rourke.

**Subs:** A Kelly for S Keane, K Healy for D Quinn, C Creedon for M O'Leary, C Quinn for O Ni Chathasaigh.



# CAMOGIE MATTERS

By Jennifer O'Leary

**GOOD NEWS** | It's great to see that Paudie Murray will remain on as Cork senior camogie manager for a ninth year

## All going well, I will answer call of club camogie in 2020

**I**'VE made a decision: I'm returning to play club camogie in 2020. It's a notion that I have been toying with for some time and now I've decided to throw my lot

back in with my club, Middletown in Armagh, next season.

Everyone needs a challenge in life, something to drive you on, to push you beyond limits and to test you in a number of ways.

'Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits,' is a mantra I live by. After all, isn't that what life is all about? My favourite challenges are the physical types, the kind that test your physical mettle but also place demands on your mental strength.

In recent weeks and months, I've been thinking a lot about those challenges. Maybe it's because

I am 35 weeks pregnant and I have been over-thinking many things about the past and the future.

I've been recalling past victories with Cork and the battle it was both physically and mentally to lift the O'Duffy Cup in 2014 when my family and I lost two major people in our lives that year.

Then my mind jumped back to my college days in University of Limerick when I tried to juggle playing hockey, camogie and balance my PE and English degree in my first year, knowing that it was all becoming too con-

suming and that something had to give. Hockey was the sport I had to give up for the college.

Then there was the personal challenge of moving 250 miles from my home in Barryroe to Middletown and organising what I was going to do for work when I already had a steady job in a brilliant school in Cork, Coláiste Choilm Ballincollig.

All of these major milestones in my life have flashed in front of my eyes, but as I sit here in our new house extension – that was a whole different kind of challenge! – I can reflect happily knowing I made it through them all. While those times were hard, I am the happy person I am today because of them.

And now, in December, my husband Paul and myself have our arms wide open for the arrival of our first child. That's a challenge we can't wait for. No longer will it just be Paul and myself, we will have a little person whose life will depend on us. We've watched a lot of our friends become parents and we've all heard the stories of sleepless nights and noisy houses, and we can't wait.

So, in my wisdom, and with all this going on, more than enough to keep me physically, mentally and emotionally challenged, there was a thought flickering away at the back of my brain.

For the last six months, this temptation that has been eating at me. 2020 will be the year of women in sport, it promises to be another milestone year for Irish women's sport, and club camogie is calling and we are giving it one last go because we want to lift that county cup in Armagh.

Parents out there, women and men, know that getting back to any form of a training routine with a baby in tow is not easy. In fact, it's far from it. A 30-minute walk or an in-house workout can be difficult to fit in.

I know it will be a slow process to even get to the exercising stage. For starters, women don't know how their body will respond after pregnancy. Many doctors recommend waiting at least 12 weeks before any strenuous exercise is undertaken. Even six to eight weeks after birth, it's important to allow your abdominal muscles to recover and set back into place. Pelvic floor exercises will be a constant and snail-paced chore, but they are essential if I want to get back to any fit shape



A flashback of Jennifer O'Leary in action for her home club Barryroe.

Former Cork star Jennifer O'Leary will be back on the camogie field in 2020.

and make a contribution to the team next year.

Balancing trainings, matches and gym sessions will prove testing. With baby feeds, sleeping routines and sleepless nights to contend with, I know that this goal I am striving towards will demand a lot of support from people around me. It's also too far into the future to predict how life will turn out, but again, if I don't challenge my limits, I will certainly be limiting my challenges.

Luckily, I have a husband who is pushing me towards playing again next year. With his sisters returning from Australia and Qatar in 2020, he knows it could be a very special year in many ways, and with a fantastic management team already in place, the hunger and drive is certainly there within the club.

Watching the Sarsfields camogie team winning the Cork senior county title this year has certainly inspired me and taught me that with a hard-working team of believers, the sky is the limit. Here in Armagh, we

have lost three senior county finals over the past five years. But next year will be our year, and we are aware that we will have to work harder than ever before. Belief, determination and hard work are essential.

For anyone who has returned to camogie after having a child, I'm sure you can relate to the uncertainty having a plan like this can be. Who knows how it will all turn out? However, I don't want the word 'regret' to form part of my vocabulary.

I know I am not an elite athlete like Jessica Ennis Hill or Serena Williams, who both made comebacks with hard work and perseverance, but it reassures me that women do and can return to high-intensity exercise after having children.

For now, I will continue to walk the legs off my dog Jessie (or maybe she is walking me!), I will try and keep away from the biscuit tin as much as possible and I will look forward with unwavering positivity to the many exciting things that are ahead in December and beyond.

# Kilbree minors complete double

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Kilbree	5-7
Clonakilty	1-8

KILBREE overcame Clonakilty to win the SE Systems Minor D title and add it to their minor league crown won earlier in the season to round off a good year for them.

Kilbree played against a strong wind in the first half but they started well and taking the game to their opponents struck for two early goals to open up 2-1 to 0-1 within 10 minutes of throw-in with Caoimhe Murphy, Aoife O'Neill and Mairead Crowley all on target.

Clonakilty began to get a grip and they were on target with seven point Lydia Sutton with four and two apiece from Leah Geaney and Chloe Alman as they trailed by just a point at the break: 2-2 to 0-7.

Clonakilty tore into the game from the restart and they hit the front with an early second half goal from Ciara Deasy to put them two points up.

Kilbree had to find a response and they settled back into the game with Heather Brimble in goal denying Clonakilty with some excellent saves and with their defence ably marshalled by Rachel Deasy and Emily O'Donovan they closed down the Clonakilty attack.

Piling on the pressure Kilbree regained their lead Caoimhe Murphy struck for a superb goal with a great overhead strike while Maeve O'Neill and Aoife O'Neill found the net also for goals.

Mairead Crowley showed great accuracy from frees as Kilbree began to pull away and put the result beyond doubt and she was named as The Echo Player of the Match.

**Scorers for Kilbree:** M Crowley 1-5, Caoimhe Murphy 2-1, M O'Neill 1-1, A O'Neill 1-0.

**Clonakilty:** L Sutton 0-4, C Deasy 1-0, L Geaney, C Alman 0-2 each.

**KILBREE:** H Brimble; S O'Donovan, R Deasy, K Lancaster, M Collins, K O'Donovan, J O'Driscoll, M Murphy, E O'Donovan, R Hurley, C Murphy, M Crowley, A O'Neill, L Sheehy (c), M O'Neill.

**Subs:** L Brien for M Collins, A O'Donovan for A O'Neill.

**CLONAKILTY:** L McAree; A Wycherley, R Wilson, S Lowney, E O'Hea, A O'Brien, K O'Gorman, M O'Donovan, C Alman, C M Deasy, L Geaney, L Sutton, E Harrington, A Crowley.

**Sub:** E O'Donoghue for E Hassett (h-t).

**Ballinhassig 2-9 Castlelyons 1-8**  
BALLINHASSIG laid the foundations for victory in the SE Systems Minor C championship decider with two first-half goals.

They were key against a Castlelyons side who never gave up and fought to the finish.

Ballinhassig led 2-7 to 0-4 at the break but Castlelyons were not going to let them have it all their own way and a strong second-half fightback ensured an exciting contest.

Ballinhassig prevailed with Triona Healy named as The Echo Player of the Match after an excellent performance.

Two Evelyn Collins goals and four points from Grace Healy plus one apiece from Caroline Crowley, Jenny Bohane and Evelyn Collins saw Ballinhassig comfortable at the break.

Lucy McNulty was on target with four Castlelyons points early on but it was a different matter on the restart.

Castlelyons upped their game and Ava Hallihan grabbed 1-3 while Avril Beirne added a point.

Ballinhassig replied with points from Grace Healy and Jenny Bohane and they were enough to help them see the game out.

**Scorers for Ballinhassig:** E Collins 2-1, G Healy 0-5, J Bohane 0-2, C Crowley 0-1.

**Castlelyons:** A Hallihan 1-3, L McNulty 0-4, A Beirne 0-1.

**BALLINHASSIG:** A O'Driscoll; N Deasy, M Healy (c), J Butler, L McSweeney, T Healy, F Lynch, A Keating, F Cullinane; C Crowley, E Collins, G Healy, E Sheils, S Leahy, J Bohane.

**Sub:** S McSweeney for E Sheils.

**CASTLELYONS:** N Coleman; E Boyd (c), A O'Riordan, D Coleman, A Quirke, S Morrison, O Sheehan, A Hallihan, A Ni Mhaolain, Ni Chathrain; L McNulty, M O'Donoghue, A Beirne, L Hallihan, J O'Leary, N Zolkowska.

**Midleton 4-4 to Blackrock 3-2:**  
MIDLETON and Blackrock battled it out in a close U14 A league final in Midleton.

Midleton took an early lead with a



Kilbree minor captain, Leanne Sheehy is presented with the Minor D Championship by Mary McSweeney, chairperson of the Cork Camogie Board.



A group of Ballincollig players and their coaches at the club's recent camogie and ladies football camp.

goal for the game opening score and with Lora Dineen and Rachel Ryan on target with goals they built a strong foundation in the opening half and they were strong throughout as Blackrock pressed for scores.

Blackrock were unlucky to hit a few wide balls early on but they stayed in contention with Erinn curtain on target with goal and she also added two points to their tally as Aoife Fitzgerald, Saoirse Ni Theangana and Kelly Quirke all had Midleton points to leave their side in a comfortable position at the interval.

Blackrock tore into the second half with renewed determination and applying huge pressure they began to work their way into the game.

They showed huge battling qualities as they began to pick off scores with Erinn Curtain and Bronagh O'Shaughnessy finding the net for vital goals.

With two strong sides giving a fantastic display supporters were on the

edge of their seats as play swung from end to end.

Lora Dineen hit a Midleton point and a vital Rachel Ryan goal relieved the pressure as Blackrock, with points from Curtin and O'Shaughnessy, pressed and pressed.

The Midleton defence had to be at its best to deny them.

In the finish five points separated the sides after a thrilling contest which both sides can be hugely proud of producing.

**Scorers for Midleton:** L Dineen 2-1, R Ryan 1-1, A Fitzgerald 5 Ni Theangana Kelly Quirke 0-1 each.

**Blackrock:** E Curtin 2-2, B O'Shaughnessy 1-1.

**MIDLETON:** J Connaughton; E McManus, T Buckley, J Fitzgerald; A Fitzgerald, R Hennessy, L Goulding; E O'Sullivan (c), I Nestor; K Quirke, E Lamb, S Ni Theangana; A Sheehan, L Dineen, R Ryan.

**BLACKROCK:** Y Jalasi; S James, D Horgan, C Kingston; L O'Callaghan, H O'Connell, R Quirke, E Curtin, M O'Se; L Murphy, B O'Shaughnessy, E Coleman; M Creedon, A O'Connor, J Byrne.

**Subs:** J Kenny for H O'Connell, E O'Donovan for A O'Connor.

**CLARE:** L McNamara 0-7 (0-5 f), R Conway, L Daly 0-1 each.

**CORK:** C Buckley; S O'Keefe, C Kingston, A O'Neill, H Sexton, L Wallace, C Dooley, F Burke, I Sheehan; C O'Sullivan, E Murphy, C O'Leary, F Keating, A Smith, C Finn.

**Subs:** T Sheehan for F Burke (h-t), C Bernard for C Finn (47), S Hurley for A Smith (58), C Coleman for F Keating (58), M Barrett for E Murphy (62).

**CLARE:** P Coote; A Russell, M Mescal, R Minogue; C Neylon, S Daly, S Ni Chwallaigh; C Kelly, A Ryan; F O'Brien, G Hickey, L McNamara; R Conway, S Coote, L Daly.

**Subs:** H Shannon for F O'Brien (20 in), E Cahill for S Coote (40), G Ryan for H Shannon (52).

**Referee:** John Paul Kely (Limerick).

## Rebel minors still doing the business

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork	1-14
Clare	0-9

DESPITE winter closing in, the Munster minor championship continues.

The reason for the delay in the competition is that following an objection to the fixing of the round one game for a Cork venue Limerick objected and having lost their objection appealed the decision which they won.

Cork went on to hammer Limerick and qualified for the semi-final where they beat Clare at Castle Road. The All-Ireland champions now face Waterford or Tipperary in the provincial decider.

The underfoot conditions of the Castle Road venue was excellent, despite the recent heavy rainfall, and it is a credit to all in Cork camogie to have such a wonderful facility.

Clare made a good start from the throw-in with Lynda Daly setting up Lorna McNamara for the opening score inside 30 seconds. Cork responded as they won the puck-out and a free which Cliona O'Leary duly fired over.

Lorna McNamara and Daly struck for the Banner before a Clodagh Finn free.

A McNamara free, with 20 minutes on the clock, was to be Clare's last score of the opening half as Cork now began to settle. They smartly turned a two-point deficit into one-point lead through a Finn free and a gem from Hannah Sexton.

With Isobel Sheehan adding one Cork led by one 0-6 to 0-5 at the break.

Showing just why they are All Ireland champions, Cork took the game by the neck on the restart and two points in a row saw them stretch their lead with substitute Tara Sheehan and Cliona O'Leary on target.

McNamara had a point for Clare after eight minutes but the champions upped the tempo and took the game up another level and adding four points to their tally they were in a comfortable position as Clare responded with one.

With five minutes remaining, four points still separated the sides but finishing stronger Cork added or the vital scores to see the game out with Isobel Sheehan pointed before Fiona Keating grabbed the only goal of the game on 60 minutes to see Cork comfortably through.

**Scorers for Cork:** C O'Leary 0-4 (0-3 f 0-1 45), F Keating, C Finn 0-3 (0-2 f), A Smith, I Sheehan 0-2 each, T Sheehan, C O'Sullivan, H Sexton 0-1 each.

**Clare:** L McNamara 0-7 (0-5 f), R Conway, L Daly 0-1 each.

**CORK:** C Buckley; S O'Keefe, C Kingston, A O'Neill, H Sexton, L Wallace, C Dooley, F Burke, I Sheehan; C O'Sullivan, E Murphy, C O'Leary, F Keating, A Smith, C Finn.

**Subs:** T Sheehan for F Burke (h-t), C Bernard for C Finn (47), S Hurley for A Smith (58), C Coleman for F Keating (58), M Barrett for E Murphy (62).

**CLARE:** P Coote; A Russell, M Mescal, R Minogue; C Neylon, S Daly, S Ni Chwallaigh; C Kelly, A Ryan; F O'Brien, G Hickey, L McNamara; R Conway, S Coote, L Daly.

**Subs:** H Shannon for F O'Brien (20 in), E Cahill for S Coote (40), G Ryan for H Shannon (52).

**Referee:** John Paul Kely (Limerick).

## Murray returns with former Clare hurling coach on board

### CAMOGIE

■ Éamonn Murphy

HIGHLY-REGARDED Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray will return to the job in 2020.

Murray has enjoyed an outstanding reign with the senior side, winning four All-Ireland senior titles, and also doubled up as intermediate boss for a spell, lifting an All-Ireland in that grade as well.

It will be his ninth year in charge and he will have his sights set on recapturing the O'Duffy Cup from Galway.

His management team will include the vastly experienced Liam Cronin as hurling coach in the area of technical and skills development of the players. Cronin, was a coach with the Clare senior hurlers for the past three years and was involved in the Limerick hurling academy.

He was also on board with Ardscoil Ris when they picked up three Harty Cups and a Dean Ryan Cup in recent years. Cronin replaces Paudie's brother Kevin Murray, who is concentrating on his PHD

studies. Former Cork senior hurler Kevin has a growing reputation as a coach to watch and assisted Billy Morgan with UCC's Sigerson Cup teams.

Martin O'Brien will continue to lead the area of strength and conditioning, but will now have Eoin Galvin on board.

Galvin, younger brother of ex-Cork senior Noel, is currently involved with the undefeated Ballincollig basketball team in the National League and was in the backroom when the Ballincollig footballers lifted the Andy Scannell Cup in 2014.

Niall Collins remains in the position as Performance Analyst, along with Michael Twomey, Liam O'Reilly, Damien Murray, and Anthony O'Neill also remain in their roles for the 2020 campaign.

Éire Óg's Barry Corkery, fresh from working with the All-Ireland winning Cork minor footballers, comes in as Performance Coach.

Next year could be a transitional one of sorts for the Cork camogie squad, given the county's minors were back-to-back All-Ireland winners in 2018-19 and Murray will, no doubt, be keen to blood some new faces in the league.

Experienced midfielder Ashling Thompson opted out before last summer but the Rebels will hope keeper Aoife Murray, Paudie's sister, and powerhouse defender Gemma O'Connor, are available, once more.

Amy O'Connor, a first-time All-Star recently, will lead a potent attack featuring Orla Cronin, Orla Cotter, and Katrina Mackey.

Despite the disappointment of defeat to Galway in the semi-final, Cork will still be strong contenders for ultimate glory.

# What a time to be a sportswoman



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THE rise in interest in women's sport over the past few years has been incredible.

This year in particular, the 20x20 campaign has really taken off. There can be so much negativity around it — but without social media, women's sport wouldn't have made such significant advances in recent times.

Even for those among the general public who didn't go to games, they still caught glimpses of brilliance in various sports with moments captured and uploaded for thousands to view. And so interest grew.

One that immediately springs to mind is that of Peamount United player Stephanie Roche, and her wonder goal back in 2013.

The response and the personal elevation of Stephanie Roche changed her life. She became runner-up in the 2014 Fifa Puskás Award for Goal of the Year.

There is no question that without social media, Roche would have been a name recognised in Irish ladies soccer alone.

Log on to Twitter any day of the week and it is bombarded with sports journalists pushing the 20x20 campaign.

Many of them are women, yes, but they are hugely respected in their media field and bring snippets and updates on the games, achievements, sponsorships, and lives of female sports players at home and abroad.

Over the years, ladies GAA has been made to feel second-best under that particular umbrella and possibly further down the pecking order further afield.

While there may still be a way to go in certain areas, one can't deny the phenomenal increase in attendances, particularly in ladies football.

Certainly, Dublin being involved plays a huge part in that increase, but all the same, they're attending. Look at the ladies hockey international last weekend. What a buzz that was!

A record attendance, a peak TV viewership of 379,000 and pages and pages of print media were dedicated to their qualification, not to mention countless hours of interviews on radio.

Now whatever about ladies GAA, ladies hockey was even further down the rank of interest. That all changed with the World Cup last year and now they've backed it up with qualification for Tokyo 2020.

Look at Katie Taylor, who is internationally recognised as a brilliant boxer. Not a brilliant female boxer — just a brilliant boxer. What she has done for women in sport at home and abroad is staggering.

As a sportsperson, I would love to be starting all over again, for the choices, the lure of other sports. Would the potential of an international career supersede the desire to play GAA? Probably!

I loved soccer and played for years on the road. I went into St. Patrick's school and picked up camogie at age 13, and the soccer stopped. As a child, we



STAR IS BORN: Amy O'Connor got a hero's welcome at her homecoming party in the clubhouse at St Vincent's after collecting her All Star award. Picture: Jim Coughlan



Finbarr McCarthy presents the Cork 96FM C103 GAA Sports Star of the Month award to Emer Fennell at the Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Tony O'Connell Photography

didn't have Irish international sportswomen regularly on our TVs, or any other platform.

I remember Wimbledon and Martina Navratilova, but that's all. I didn't even know you could join a women's soccer club.

I used to play with the boys and when they formed a local club, I was left out. If I had known, I would have begged my parents to let me join.

I regret not playing more than one sport. But I can't complain either.

I loved my camogie career and what it gave me. Women's boxing, international soccer, international hockey, athletics, even ladies football with overseas AFL contracts, now all seem so appealing to a young girl.

I have a niece that loves soccer. She's besotted with the USA ladies soccer team. They are her idols. That World Cup was great to watch. The TV coverage was top class. We wouldn't

have seen that from previous tournaments.

For a sports-mad kid like I was, the world is their oyster. And it's all achievable.

Kids see their local idols achieve it. What's now at the disposal of players in terms of financial support. The scientific knowledge about what's right and wrong for your body is immense and it's only going to get better. It's fantastic to witness, and the future is exciting.

I'm already looking forward to next year's Olympics and Team Ireland's achievements. Dreams can become realities now for Ireland's female athletes.

Back in the here and now, Limerick man Liam Cronin comes in as hurling coach to the Cork senior camogie team for 2020.

As mentioned last week, Paudie Murray is to remain as manager for a

“Would the potential of an international career supersede the desire to play GAA? Probably!”

ninth season. Key to his new management changes is the arrival of Cappamore native Liam Cronin.

Teaching in Ardscoil Ris, Liam served as a coach in the Clare senior hurling management for the past three years under joint manager Donal Moloney and Gerry O'Connor.

He came to prominence at Harty Cup level with Ardscoil Ris and was also involved with the Limerick underage hurling academy before moving to the Clare senior hurling set-up.

Liam replaces Paudie's brother Kevin Murray, who was the team's hurling coach in the area of technical and skills development of the players.

The 2020 Division 1 league kicks off on January 25 with a home game to Clare.

Away games follow to Waterford and Offaly on February 1 and 16, followed by a final group home game with Kilkenny on March 8.

# Dream season ends in final fairytale for Scariff-Ogonnelloe

## Munster Camogie Club Championship final

Scariff-Ogonnelloe (Clare)	1-7
Drom & Inch (Tipperary)	0-8

Eoin Brennan, Cappamore

Scariff-Ogonnelloe's fairytale breakthrough season finished on a high on Saturday with victory over Drom & Inch in a thrilling Munster senior club

camogie final in Cappamore. Only a month on from garnering historic county honours in their county final debut, the East Clare side remarkably became only the second ever Banner representative — and first in 30 years — to claim senior provincial honours.

Leading from start to finish, a blistering opening quarter with the aid of the strong wind was inspired by 1-1 from former county star Marian Rodgers inside three minutes on their way to a 1-4 to 0-0

advantage.

A late brace of Eimear McGrath frees closed the gap to six by the break (1-5 to 0-2). And with the conditions to come, the Tipperary champions continued that determined-resurgence with the first five points of the new half, three from Siobhán McGrath, to slash the arrears to the minimum entering the final 10 minutes.

However, perhaps the most impressive aspect of Scariff-Ogonnelloe's unprecedented championship charge is that

they have never trailed at any stage of their perfect seven match run.

That trend continued here as they weathered the storm with two of the last three points through captain Máiréad Scanlan and goalkeeper Aisling Corbett to seal a famous victory.

Saturday's Munster final double header in Cappamore began with Gailltír reaffirming their authority at provincial intermediate level with a 2-17 to 1-11 triumph over Tipperary's Toomevara.

The Waterford side did concede an early Aoife Ryan goal but bounced back superbly with timely goals through Emer Walsh and Aoife Fitzgerald for a 2-12 to 1-2 interval advantage.

It proved enough of a cushion to withstand the inevitable Toomevara wind-assisted backlash as Gailltír powered to back-to-back Munster Intermediate crowns and a third in four years.

Scorers for Scariff-Ogonnelloe: M Rodgers (1-1); A Corbett (2 frees), M Scanlan (1 free) (0-2 each); J Daly, A

Power (0-1 each).

Scorers for Drom & Inch: E McGrath (0-4, 3 frees, 1'45); S McGrath (0-3); M Campion (0-1)

SCARIFF-OGONNELLOE: A Corbett; H McGee; S Daly; A McGee; A Corry; C Doyle; S Vaughan; A Barrett; L Daly; J Daly; M Scanlan; R Minogue; A Rodgers; A Power; M Rodgers.

Subs: A Madden for A. Rodgers (HT); C McNamara for J. Daly (49)

DROM & INCH: C Bouzko; M Connolly; C Brennan; M Evison; A McGrath; M Ryan; E Cahill; N Long; M Burke; D Dunne; N Treacy; S McGrath; E McGrath; M Campion; J Ryan.

Subs: A Kennedy for Long (36); E Nylund for Dunne (55)

Referee: A Larkin (Cork)

## History beckons for Clanmaurice players as All-Ireland final awaits

### Camogie

#### Daragh Ó Conchúir

A dream season for Kerry and Clanmaurice camogie is set to continue after the club side qualified for an AIB

All-Ireland Junior Championship final against Westmeath side Raharney.

The Clanmaurice players have already made history in wearing county colours — as the only adult club side in Kerry, they propelled the Kingdom to Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Junior Championship glory at Croke

Park last September.

Patrice Diggin was awarded Player of the Match at HQ and was subsequently earned Player of the Year honours.

She was the central figure for Clanmaurice once again in their 0-11 to 0-3 triumph over St Brenda's Ballymacnab in Banagher yesterday.

The Armagh and Ulster champions fought hard and were very competitive in the opening period, at the end of which Diggin scored four points from frees and another from play to give her side a narrow 0-5 to 0-3 lead.

It was all Clanmaurice from the restart, with Niamh Leen hugely impressive as they drove on to book their place in the November 24 final with a 0-11 to 0-3 win.

Raharney encountered a much sterner test from the Roscommon and Connacht representatives St Dominic's, who led by 0-4 to 0-2 at half time thanks largely to three pointed frees from Susan Spillane.

But a Hannah Core goal on the restart turned the game in her side's favour as they pushed on for a 1-5 to 0-5 victory.



Clanmaurice's Patrice Diggin and Michelle Costello celebrate with manager Mike Enright after the Kerry outfit's 0-11 to 0-3 victory over Armagh side St Brenda's, Ballymacnab in the AIB Camogie All-Ireland Junior Club Championship semi-final in Banagher. Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan



Linda Bolger (Maynooth and Wexford), Orla Owen (MIC Thurles and Tipperary), Ciara Phelan (DCU and Kilkenny), Farren Byrne (Garda College and Wexford), Sara Cuddy (IT Carlow and Laois), Michelle Clancy (sponsors UPMC Whitfield), Muireann Nic Corcarain (Trinity and Wexford), Shauna Quirke (WIT and Tipperary), Lydia Fitzpatrick (UCD and Kilkenny), Chloe Sigerson (UCC and Cork), and Caleigh Boland (CIT and Cork) at yesterday's UPMC CCAO third level college championship launch at WIT Arena.

# Grenagh win the battle of defences

## Sars rally in second half to claim title

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Sarsfields 1-10  
Inniscarra 0-4

SARSFIELDS had to dig deep and do it all in the second half as they took the Minor A championship title under lights in Cloughduv.

They overcame the challenge posed by a determined Inniscarra side who battled to the finish and gave it everything.

It was level pegging at the half time break 0-4 each as the sides adapted to the cold conditions that prevailed.

The opening half was tight with scores hard to come by as both defences were on top as both sets of forwards found it hard to break through for scores.

Each side had just one scorer in the opening 30 minutes with Cliona Lynch showing just how important a free-taker is as she struck all of Sarsfields first-half tally from placed balls.

She converted three frees from the 15th to the 30th minutes and on evenings when the weather is against you and scoring from play is difficult, it's critical you take your chances.

Ellen Murphy was on target with four points for Inniscarra, firing over two from play and two from 45s in an excellent showing as the storied camogie clubs battled to gain the upper hand.

The second half was again close in terms of action but the Sarsfields defence were dealing effectively with a lot of early Inniscarra attacks.

It was 10 minutes into the second half before we had the opening score of the half as Lynch continued to convert from placed balls as she edged her sides in front.

Orlaith Mullins hit two well-taken points to put distance between the teams in the 43rd and 45th minutes.

They proved crucial as they gave Sarsfields a cushion to fall back on.

Inniscarra still worked diligently to get something from the contest.

However, beginning to gain a grip, Sars won three frees and again Cliona Lynch proved able for the task.

Her calmly taken series of frees put Sarsfields six points clear.

A goal from Evie Twomey at the death sealed victory for Sars.

Inniscarra played well but just didn't get the scores on the board to reflect their efforts.

Cliona Lynch's free-taking was a highlight of the game and was enough to earn her *The Echo* Player of the Match award.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** Cliona Lynch 0-6 (0-7), 0-1-45; E Twomey 1-0, O Mullins 0-2.

**Inniscarra:** E Murphy 0-4 (0-2-45)

**SARSFIELDS:** M Lynch; E Murphy, B Morgan, R O'Gorman; A McNamara, S Desmond, C Lynch; R O'Mahony (c), G Cashman; E Woods, O McAllen, O Mullins; E Twomey, A Mullins, K Sheehan.

**Sub:** T Elliot for R O'Gorman.

**INNISCARRA:** J Sullivan; J Dineen, A O'Regan, M Lyons; K Lordon, C Ring, A Condon; L Desmond, S O'Callaghan; E Murphy, C Keane, E O'Reilly; C Buckley, C Doyle, K Buckley.

**Sub:** A O'Quigley for S O'Callaghan; C O'Shea for K Buckley, N Roche for Katie Lordon, AM Colman for L Desmond.

### CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Grenagh 3-4  
Kinsale 1-1

GRENAGH settled into the U14 C league final inside seven minutes with Chloe Garrett's 45 going all the way to the net.

But we had to wait until 22 minutes for the next score however, as two resolute defences dug deep.

Two Megan O'Shea pointed frees and one from play saw Grenagh stretch their lead but Kinsale kept battling away.

Grenagh got the perfect start to the second half with an O'Shea goal after good defending from Ellie Mostyn-St Ledger and Aine Ryan.

Kinsale worked hard and had chances but the strong Grenagh defence held their lines. O'Shea then sent the ball to the net from a free and with Roisin O'Connell pointing, Grenagh were now well in control.

Kinsale continued to give it their all and they finish strong and it took an excellent save from Emma Warren in the Grenagh goal to deny them.

Mary Claire Murphy pointed before Nora Gould added a goal for a Kinsale side that never gave up. The day belonged to Grenagh who had strong performances from Emma Cronin at full-back, captain Emily Twomey, Megan O'Shea and Roisin O'Connell.

**Scorers for Grenagh:** M O'Shea 2-3 (1-2 f), C Garrett 1-0-45, R O'Connell 0-1.

**Kinsale:** N Gould 1-0, MC Murphy 0-1.

**GRENAGH:** E Warren; V Murphy, E Cronin, E Buckley; E Henchion, L Sherlock, E Mostyn-St Ledger; E Twomey (c), C Garrett; R O'Connell, Megan O'Shea, A Ryan; Michelle O'Shea, M Roche, C Quinn.

**Subs:** N Kenny for Michelle O'Shea, K Werner-Lane for M Roche, S Roche for C Quinn.

**KINSALE:** H Gahly; C Cahill, Z McLoughlin, F Hayes; E Crowley, S Ouvo, C Barrett; C Helfeman, MC Murphy; A Ferguson, J Murphy, A Murphy; S Hayes, N Gould, A Derush.

**Subs:** A McCarthy for A Derush, M O'Callaghan for A Ferguson, K Lehane for S Hayes, C Murphy for A Murphy.

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

**Sarsfields 3-6 Inniscarra 3-3**  
DESPITE the time of year, the U14 A league final was a cracker at Castle Road.

Once again the excellent playing surface of the Cork Camogie grounds helped, a testament to those involved to have such a fine facility available for the young camogie players in November.

Just a puck of the ball divided the sides all through the contest and from start to finish it was exciting battle between two brilliant teams.

The game was played at a very fast pace again helped in no small way by the excellent underfoot conditions. There was excitement and drama all through with two penalties awarded; Sarsfields converted, Inniscarra were unlucky not to and in the finish just three points separated them.

Aided by a strong wind in the opening half Sarsfields tore into the game and were seven up. Scarra battled back to go a point in front but Sars prevailed hit 1-1.

Inniscarra made a great start with a Rion Murphy goal but Sarsfields were equal to the challenge and they had a Kate Fennessy point before Nessa Treacy and Aoife Mullins grabbed a goal each. Orla Kelleher added a point



The Grenagh camogie team that recently won the U14 C league title.



Marion McCarthy, treasurer of Cork Camogie, presents 'The Echo' Player-of-the-Match award for the Minor A final to Cliona Lynch from Sarsfields.

to the Inniscarra tally but their defence was under a lot of pressure.

Fennessy converted to free and added a point from play and with Treacy also pointing, Sarsfields lead 2-5 to 1-1 at the break.

Inniscarra set about cutting the deficit through Rebecca Murphy before Kelleher grabbed a goal, and Eve Costello pointed as they kept the pressure on the Sarsfields defence.

Kelleher struck for another goal to put Inniscarra in front but back came Sars with Megan Sheehan converting a penalty.

Sheehan then split the posts as Sars stretched their lead back to three points and their defence held out to the final whistle as they denied Inniscarra an equaliser.

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** K Fennessy 0-5 (0-2 f), N Treacy 1-1, M Sheehan 1-1 (1-0 pen).

**Inniscarra:** O Kelleher 2-1, R Murphy 1-1, A Mullins 1-0, E Costello 0-1.

**SARS:** L Lynch; A Nestor, L Sheppard, C Rice; L Dunlea, S Hurley, H Murray; A Fitzgerald, R Roche; K Hackett (c), A Mullins, K Fennessy; N Treacy, M Sheehan N O'Connell.

**Subs:** A Desmond for N O'Connell, C Keohane for K Hackett.

**INNISCARRA:** A Brisbane; A Wills, L Murphy, C

Harty; A Wheaton, A O'Leary, A Walsh; I Golden, K Naughton; E Costello; R Murphy, E Crowley; R Murphy, O Kelleher, C Buckley.

**Sub:** A Lott for C Buckley (h-t).

### St Finbarr's 2-14 Aghada 3-5

A strong second half display saw St Finbarr's get the upper hand on Aghada in the SE Systems Minor B championship final.

Aghada, without some of the key players that helped them to the league, battled hard but in the finish St Finbarr's got the upper hand thanks in the main to a strong third quarter.

Points from Aoife Byrne O'Riordan, Nicole Olden and a free from Eimear Hurley gave St Finbarr's an early lead but Aghada responded with an Ali Smith point.

The Barrs added an Aoife Byrne-O'Riordan point before Orlaith Cahalane struck for a goal. They maintained their lead thanks to Hurley, Ciara Golden and Byrne-O'Riordan as Aghada stayed in the hunt with two Smith points.

Another Hurley free before the break left the Barrs 1-8 to 0-4 ahead at the interval.

On the turn the Blues had 1-4 without reply through Hurley, Olden and Golden. Aghada didn't give up with a Smith point followed by a Mary Leahy goal.

Late goals from Mary McGrath and Smith trimmed the gap but a Golden gave the Barrs a six-point cushion.

Katie Lee was named as *The Echo* Player of the Match.

**Scorers for St Finbarr's:** A Byrne-O'Riordan 0-4, E Hurley 0-4 f, C Golden 1-3, O Cahalane 1-0, N Olden 0-2 E Olden 0-1.

**Aghada:** A Smith 1-5, M Leahy M McGrath 1-0 each.

**ST FINBARR'S:** C Hurley; A O'Callaghan, A O'Keefe, C Crowe; K Lee, A O'Neill, A Herlihy; E Olden, C Golden; A Reardon-Byrne, E Wigginton-Barrett, N Olden, O Cahalane, E Hurley (c), L McCarthy.

**Sub:** J Long for L McCarthy (40).

**AGHADA:** E Lewis; A Gilroy, K O'Farrell, A Rose; M Leahy, A McGrath, R Leahy; C Walsh, A Healy; K Terry, A Smith, R Keane; A Wallace, E Cronin, C Stafford.

**Sub:** E Cronin for A Rose (18).

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

# O'Connor can't wait for NY trip

CORK camogie ace Amy O'Connor was understandably thrilled with the news that team manager Paudie Murray will be returning for a ninth season.

In the wake of their one-point defeat to eventual champions Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final last August, there was speculation that Murray could vacate his role.

Having failed to reach an O'Duffy Cup decider for the first time since 2013, O'Connor admits Cork could be entering into "a transformation phase". However, she also insists that Murray's continued presence within the group gives them the best possible chance.

"It's difficult to come in from the outside and get to know a group of players. Paudie has been there, he knows us better than anyone and our camogie has come on so much because of Paudie," O'Connor stressed.

"He deserves huge credit for that. I think he raised the standard of the game. Obviously as players we're delighted to have him back, because we do believe that he is the man to try and take Cork camogie back to the top. We don't know how long it's going to take. We're going to go through a bit of a transformation, but we'll see how it goes."

A familiar face will be missing from the backroom team in 2020, though, as Murray's brother Kevin has left the set-up to focus on his PhD studies. O'Connor is quick to highlight how the former Cloughduv and St Finbarr's attacker helped to improve her game, but is nevertheless looking forward to working with new coaches in Liam Cronin and Eoin Galvin.

"Kevin is a huge loss. Kevin has a unique style of coaching. I love the way he coaches. It suits me because Kevin was a forward himself. He's attacking and as a forward we love that. Our defenders in training probably don't!"

"We've gotten in some management now, Liam Cronin from Clare and Eoin Galvin from Ballincollig. We're really excited to get going with them and see what they have to offer."

O'Connor was speaking in Croke Park at the launch of the latest Camogie All-Star Tour, which takes place in New York from November 21-26.

While the St Vincent's star is the county's sole representative on this year's selection, eight Rebels will feature on the 2018 team.

"I'm really looking forward to it. I've never been to New York. I was on the last tour to Madrid, but I think by going it takes the whole thing to another level. New York being the big city that it is. It's very exciting and it's a very exciting time for camogie."

"I went the last time and there was a good few Cork girls and a good few double-ups. They'd gotten them both years, from different counties as well. It was great to be able to go, but it's a bit better again this time." Nevertheless, as pleasing as this individual prize may be, it can't make up for the crushing disappointment of Cork relinquishing their All-Ireland crown.

"I always say, if you're from Cork

and you don't win, it's not good enough. A very disappointing year because of that. I suppose by winning an All Star, it was a huge achievement for my club and it was brilliant for the club. But it doesn't make it up either for losing with Cork in the semi-final."

"That's your main focus at the start of the year, to win an All-Ireland. You don't go out to win an All Star. You kind of set your goal at the start of the year, you want to be in an All-Ireland on the second Sunday in September."

Given it was the first time since she joined the panel that Cork didn't play a part in an All-Ireland senior showpiece, O'Connor was left with a strange feeling watching Galway and Kilkenny battle for national supremacy on September 8.

The open nature of their contest was a clear departure from the defence-orientated finals of previous seasons with a first-half goal blitz ultimately propelling the Tribeswomen towards a third O'Duffy Cup success.

O'Connor experienced mixed emotions as the action unfolded, but is confident her side can return to this stage sooner rather than later.

"The months of August and September were very strange for me and I'm sure an awful lot more of the Cork girls. It was great to watch [the final]. It was an open game, which I was surprised to see in a way. It was a breath of fresh air really to see it so open. Obviously it broke my heart a little bit to not be in it. Hopefully we'll get back there soon," O'Connor added.



Amy O'Connor battling Mairead Power and Lorraine Bray, Waterford, back in February.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Amy O'Connor is heading to New York.

Picture: INPHO/Bryan Keane

## Mellerick claims another prestigious award



Cork camogie legend Linda Mellerick from Mallow, CPA Accounting graduate and winner of the Distinguished Graduate Award at the Griffith College Cork Graduation Ceremony.

Picture: Darragh Kane

# Nine Cork players to feature in NY All Stars game

TWO years after the inaugural Liberty Insurance Camogie All-Stars Tour to Madrid, the cream of the sport's crop will be making history once more this week, as they leave this morning for a tour of New York.

The centrepiece of the tour is an exhibition match between the All-Stars of 2018 and 2019 at the celebrated Gaelic Park in The Bronx on Saturday.

Gaelic Park is not just the home of New York GAA, who are acting as hosts to the tour, it has also been the traditional cultural hub and meeting place for Irish emigrants since 1926 and a strong turnout is expected, particularly with the New York camogie contingent being given such a rare opportunity to see the premier operators of the last two seasons going toe-to-toe.

Kilkenny duo Michelle Quilty (2019) and Anne Dalton (2018) are unavailable, so county colleague Davina Tobin and Galway's Noreen Coen have been

CAMOGIE

■ Daragh Ó Conchúir

called up.

Meanwhile, with three players who picked up awards in both seasons — Galway's All-Ireland-winning skipper Sarah Dervan, Kilkenny's former player of the year Denise Gaule, and star Waterford attacker Beth Carton — there have been prized invitations too for Laura Treacy (Cork), Niamh Rockett (Waterford), and Orla Beagan (Dublin).

If the game of two years ago is anything to go by, patrons are sure to be treated to the full array of skills as the players are unencumbered by the pressure of knockout fare.

Mind you, with the teams being led by this year's All-Ireland-winning manager from Galway Cathal Murray (2019) and Paudie Murray (2018), who has

stewarded Cork to four All-Ireland titles, we can expect competitive fare.

The game will be refereed by Ray Kelly, the Kildare whistler who took charge of this year's All-Ireland final in which Galway got the better of Kilkenny. It will be 12-a-side, where rolling subs will be allowed, and comprising two 25-minute halves.

**2019 All-Stars Squad:** Sarah Healy (Galway), Shauna Healy (Galway), Sarah Dervan (Galway), Edwina Keane (Kilkenny), Heather Cooney (Galway), Claire Phelan (Kilkenny), Loraine Bray (Waterford), Aoife Donohue (Galway), Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Niamh Mulcahy (Limerick), Niamh Rockett (Waterford), Amy O'Connor (Cork), Noreen Coen (Galway), Ailish O'Reilly (Galway), Beth Carton (Waterford)

**Manager:** Cathal Murray (Galway)

**2018 All-Stars Squad:** Aoife Murray (Cork), Grace Walsh (Kilkenny), Laura Treacy (Cork), Pamela Mackey (Cork), Hannah Looney (Cork), Davina Tobin (Kilkenny), Chloe Sigerson (Cork), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Meaghan Farrell (Kilkenny), Orla Cottar (Cork), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Denise Gaule (Kilkenny), Katrina Mackey (Cork), Cait Davane (Tipperary), Orla Beagan (Dublin)

**Manager:** Paudie Murray (Cork)

Nov  
2019



Galway captain Sarah Dervan and Cork skipper Aoife Murray with Aer Lingus pilots Barry Aherne and Eamonn Troy as the Liberty Insurance Camogie All-Stars departed Dublin for New York yesterday. Picture: Dan Sheridan



The Ballinora U14 Féile camogie squad huddle up before a game.

## Ballinora are starting to see the fruits of all the hard work they've done

ON A cold, dark Wednesday evening on January 3 in 2018, players filed into the kitchen of their local GAA hall in Ballinora.

Targets were set, plans were made, and it was agreed that the players would have to up their effort, their drive, and their determination if their goals were to be achieved. The work began, the results started coming, and then the titles.

First the Minor C League, then the Junior B League, followed by the Minor B Championship and the Junior Summer Cup.

Alas, their clean sweep was denied with the Juniors' loss in the Championship semi-final.

That was it. It was game over. The season was finished.

On an even colder Friday evening on February 1 this year, players filed back into that GAA hall's kitchen. They had three weeks of hard, muddy training under their belts and were determined that this was going to be their year.

Dreams were discussed, new targets were set, and new commitments were given by both players and management. Last year had been good but this year was going to be better. Players filed out of the kitchen that evening with one message ringing in their ears, 'you're good enough'.

It started with the Minors. They battled hard but were tipped at the post, earning the title of Minor A League runners up.

It wasn't ideal but given their jump from Minor C to Minor A in 12 months, it was a solid beginning for the Club's season. Then came the Juniors.

They approached each match with a new sense of urgency, overcoming every challenge and retaining the title of Junior B League Champions. The summer saw challenge matches with teams from higher grades, testing the players and pushing them to their best. The team was united in its resolve and the players' self-belief and prevailed every time, sometimes by the smallest of margins.

The Juniors moved to the Championship with renewed determination, with one message still echoing on the pitches and in the dressing rooms, 'you're good enough'.

CAMOGIE

■ Maire Fitzgerald

Years of hard work coupled with the disappointment of last year proved a winning combination.

The team was indeed 'good enough' and left no doubt in anyone's mind of that fact as they lifted the Junior B Championship Cup, ending their 2019 season undefeated.

Ballinora is a small parish and townland to the southwest of Cork City. Ballinora Camogie Club has 135 players (including adult and underage teams) who are supported and guided by 23 mentors and coaches. Years of investment of time and energy into the underage teams has seen the Club grow, earning Ballinora a number of underage Muskerry and county titles as well as an U13 Garda Blitz and an U14 All-Ireland Regional title in recent years.

There have been Easter Camps, Summer camps, team bonding days, beach days, and untold hours of training.

There is a clear message coming from Ballinora Camogie Club. Hard work pays off. Cork Senior Camogie manager Paudie Murray cited Ballinora as an example of a club with strong underage sections last year.

And former Cork Senior Hurler Timmy McCarthy recently tipped the Junior team to make senior grade within two years.

Not only that, but 2019 saw a staggering 12 Ballinora players on Cork and Munster intercounty teams, with more involved in Muskerry panels. More than one in ten players in the club was involved in Divisional or County teams this year.

This is testament to the current strength of the Club, to the years of investment and building by coaches, and to the hard work and commitment of the players, who have grown to believe in themselves and their abilities. They now know that they are 'good enough' for whatever challenges they face, on or off the pitch.

The Juniors were triumphant, but as the season draws to a close all eyes are eagerly turning to 2020. It's a case of a lot done, but plenty more to do.

The future is bright for Ballinora Camogie Club!

## Mulcahy off to New York ahead of perfect match with Brennan

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

These are exciting times for Niamh Mulcahy.

Earlier this month, she collected a Liberty Insurance Camogie All-Star — her first after 15 years of breaking scoring records with Limerick.

That award, in turn, has led to this week's trip to New York where she will play alongside the best and brightest talents the sport has to offer.

The celebrations won't end there, with Mulcahy set to marry Clare football legend Gary Brennan next month.

Mulcahy though is keen to share the glory of that All-Star statuette: "Getting the All-Star has probably made other people a lot more happy than it has made me."

"My parents are delighted, club managers and trainers over the years, coaches and managers with Limerick over the years from underage through to senior," said

Mulcahy who was Young Player of the Year in 2007.

But Mulcahy admits that there is one bonus of being an All-Star winner this weekend.

"I was fortunate enough to get to go to Madrid two years ago when there were a lot of double All-Stars with Cork and Kilkenny."

"It's probably a bit nicer this year, having an award, you don't feel as much as a fraud going!"

"It's brilliant and Gaelic

Park is synonymous with GAA outside of Ireland. I've relations in New York that are involved and they're looking forward to the game as well."

Another member of the travelling party, Kilkenny's Edwina Keane got married last weekend. And Mulcahy admits she is relishing her own big day.

"Once Gary is there to meet me at the altar, it's all done now," she says with a smile.



All-Ireland-winning Cork U20 football manager Keith Ricken and Tom Lyons chairperson of the South West Board, present the joint Carbery GAA monthly award for January to Claire Kingston of the Sacred Heart Secondary School team, Clonakilty, that won the Munster and All-Ireland colleges' junior B camogie titles.



# What an end to season for Cork

## Carrigtwohill turn on power to claim U16 title

GAA

■ Mary Newman

**Carrigtwohill** 5-6  
**Blarney** 3-1

CARRIGTWOHILL took the U16 C league title as they turned in a superb display at Castle Road.

Early goals from Michaela Horgan and Ruth Ahern settled Carrigtwohill after a Sinead Crowley point.

Katie Kelleher pointed a Blarney free to open their account but the Carrigtwohill response was a Crowley goal and then a Ciara Walsh goal.

Blarney had a boost just before the break, as Amy Bannon struck for a goal to leave Carrigtwohill ahead, 4-1 to 1-1.

On the restart, Ruth Ahern had a Carrigtwohill goal but Blarney responded well with a Bryanna Martin goal.

Crowley pointed for Carrigtwohill but Blarney cut the deficit as Amy Bannon finished a penalty to the net.

Carrigtwohill signed off with points from Aisling Sexton (3) and Katie Walsh.

**Scorers for Carrigtwohill:** R Ahern 2-0, S Crowley 1-2, A Sexton 0-3, C Walsh, M Walsh 1-0 each, K Walsh 0-1.

**Blarney:** K Kelleher 0-1 (f), A Bannon 2-0 (1-0 pen), B Martin 1-0.

**CARRIGTWOHILL:** C Horgan, K Ryan, M de Burca, S Cooney, A Normyle, C Walsh, M Horgan, A O'Connor, A Sexton, U O'Brien, S Crowley, H Madden, K Walsh, K Dorgan, R Ahern.

**Subs:** C Cotter for K Ryan (33), A O'Connell for S Cooney (40).

**BLARNEY:** J Punch, J Looney, S Forrest, E O'Neill, P Dilworth, C Rankeson, C Sheehan, L Hogan, E Forrest, A Bannon, H Quill (c), B Martin, K Kelleher, N Power, S O'Donovan.

**Subs:** C Hurley for S O'Donovan, I O'Callaghan for J Looney, E O'Sullivan for C Rankeson.

**Referee:** Cathal McAllister (Aghada).

**Newcestown** 2-10

**Clonakilty** 1-3

NEWCESTOWN added the U16 B league to the U16 plate title to round off a good year.

They got off to a good start at Castle Road with Orla Barrett, Eabha Collins and Caoimhe Wilson all finding their range. Kate Nolan hit two Clon points but an Aoibhe Sheehan goal and a Caoimhe McCarthy score gave Newcestown a 1-7 to 1-2 lead.

Aoibhe Sheehan added a goal and Eabha Collins, Grace Ryan, Caoimhe McCarthy, Orla Barrett and Caoimhe Wilson impressed. This despite the best efforts of Kate Nolan, who hit the net, and a point from Katie O'Driscoll.

**Scorers for Newcestown:** A Sheehan 2-1, E Collins 0-3, G Ryan, C McCarthy 0-2 each, O Barrett, C Wilson 0-1 each.

**Clonakilty:** K Nolan 1-2, K O'Driscoll 0-1.

**NEWCESTOWN:** K Hannon, T Buckley, E Dineen, A Buckley, A Wilson, G Ryan, R Hallahan, J Buckley, B Desmond, C McCarthy, C Wilson, E Collins, O Barrett, A Sheehan, K Twohig.

**CLONAKILTY:** L Mc McCarthy, S O'Donovan, A Barry, K O'Gorman, N Kennedy, C White, C Hourihane, A O'Brien, A Whelton, K Nolan, E O'Donoghue, K O'Driscoll, O Deasy, E Harrington, A Harrington.

**Subs:** Anna Meade for S O'Donovan, Aoife Meade for A Harrington.

**Referee:** Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Cork** 1-15  
**Tipperary** 1-11

DESPITE the arrival of winter, the Munster minor championship only drew to a conclusion last Sunday in Cappamore GAA club in Limerick.

It was a superb conclusion to the season for Cork who added the provincial title to the All-Ireland crown won earlier in the year.

The delay in the Munster competition was due to an objection from Limerick to their second-round game with Cork being played in Cork. It took a number of appeals and counter-appeals before it was finally sorted out and when the dust settled it was Tipperary and Cork who made it to the final.

Earlier in the year, Tipperary were the only side to have got the upper hand on Cork and they would have gone in with a bit of confidence here that they could repeat that performance.

Playing with the aid of the win in the opening half Tipperary made all the early running and putting the Cork defence under pressure they turned over leading by four points, 0-8 to 0-4. Cork worked very hard in the opening 30 minutes to contain a lively Tipperary side for whom Caoimhe McCarthy and Ciara Dwane had points from play.

With Clodagh Finn pointing a free and Hannah O'Leary clipping over one from play, Cork responded well to the strong Tipperary challenge.

Grace O'Toole set up Rosanna O'Donnell for a Tipperary point. Eimear McGrath added to their tally with points from frees and a 45 as the Premier gained control. Fiona Keating and Ali Smith responded to keep Cork in the game.

The second half was played at a frantic pace as both sides dug deep. Cork went chasing the game from the restart, playing well, and cut the deficit with two long-range Cliona O'Leary frees.

Tipperary hit back with two McGrath frees before they grabbed a goal. Clodagh McIntyre finishing to the net following an O'Toole solo run.

Cork upped the tempo with their backs and midfield wearing down the opponents. Beginning to secure enough possession and deliver great ball to the forwards, they were now looking good. O'Leary fired over another superb free from distance, before Cork got a vital goal as Ali Smith cut in along the end line and finished in style to the Tipperary net.

Cork were now in full flight and they came at Tipp in waves. Fiona Keating shot over six superb points to which Tipperary responded with just one in the final quarter as Cork's revival gathered momentum.

The final say of the game was a Smith free to leave Cork four points in front. Despite a huge effort Tipperary were unable to break Cork down as they stood firm to take the title in style.

Emma Murphy, Lucy Wallace, Hannah Sexton, Clair Kingston and Isabella Sheehan put in massive shifts with their tight marking and defending. In attack the Cork players responded magnificently to the challenge of a Tip-



The Cork minors celebrate with the Munster and All-Ireland trophies after a great win over Tipperary on Sunday last.



The Carrigaline U16 camogie team who won the league title recently.

perary side who gave it everything in an effort to topple the All-Ireland champions.

Keating was named as Player of the Match following a tremendous outing.

The game brought the curtain down on a superb season for the minor sides who made it two in-a-row of All-Irelands earlier in the year under Jerry Wallace who has, over the last two seasons, put in massive work.

Cork were overdue a minor crown. They finally did in 2018 and continuing where they left off 2019 has been another remarkable season for them. Huge credit must go to the players and management who worked so hard to ensure back to back titles were secured.

With the season now done and dusted thoughts are already turning to 2020 and it was confirmed on Monday night last that Jerry Wallace will again be at the helm as Cork chase the three in a row.

**CORK:** M Lynch, S O'Keefe, C Kingston, A O'Neill, H Sexton, L Wallace, C Dooley, J Sheehan, C O'Sullivan, C O'Leary, E Murphy, H O'Leary (c); F Keating, A Smith, C Finn.

**Subs:** C Bernard for H O'Leary, S Hurley for C Finn, T Sheehan for C O'Sullivan.

**TIPPERARY:** A Slatery, L Helleman, S Ryan, M E Ryan, L Shinnars, G Fox, E Helleman, C McCarthy, G O'Toole, E Morrissey, E McGrath, K Blair, C Dwane, R O'Donnell, C McIntyre.

**Rockbán** 1-3

**Newcestown** 0-1

THIS was a close contest where a goal proved vital for Rockbán in the U14 A2 league final at Whitechurch.

Laura O'Sullivan had an early Rockbán point from a penalty before converting a free to stretch her side's lead. Despite strong Newcestown play, they could not break down the defence and it remained at two points to no score at the interval.

The second half was again close thanks to some strong defending. Sarah McGrath added to the Rockbán

“It has been a superb season for the minor sides who made it two in a row of All-Ireland titles earlier in the year”

tally with a point from play and they grabbed a goal when a deflected free was finished to the net by Laura O'Sullivan.

Newcestown kept the pressure on and had a point from Brianagh Wilson before Rockbán goalkeeper Chloe Webb pulled off a superb save from a penalty to deny Newcestown a goal that would have brought them right back into the contest.

**Scorers for Rockbán:** L O'Sullivan 1-2 (0-1 pen, 0-1 f), S McGrath 0-1.

**Newcestown:** B Wilson 0-1.

**ROCKBÁN:** C Webb, R Dillon, M McGuire, S Murphy, H Shaw, L O'Sullivan, C Murphy, M O'Herlihy, K Goulding, S McGrath, A Murphy, O Foley, M Lenihan, A Twomey, A Walsh.

**Subs:** R Geaney for A Murphy (42), L Murray for M Lenihan (50), LM O'Sullivan for A Walsh (53), L Hyde-Twomey for D Foley (58).

**NEWCESTOWN:** O Kelleher, M Kiely, A Crowley, K Hayes, J Deane, A Buckley, C Hallahan, B Wilson, S Burrows, E Mc Sweeney, N Cotter, M Scanlon, L M Long, A Desmond, S Murphy.

**Referee:** Aoife Walsh (St Vincent's).



## Picture Diary

**REBELS ON TOUR:** Cork Liberty Insurance Camogie All-Stars Aoife Murray, Amy O'Connor, Katrina Mackey, Gemma O'Connor, Pamela Mackey, Hannal Looney, Laura Treacy, Chloe Sigerson and Orla Cotter at the Statue of Liberty during a visit to New York last week: Picture: INPHO/Dan Sheridan

# Drama as Fitzell rescues replay for Clanmaurice

**AIB All-Ireland Junior A Club Camogie Final**

**Clanmaurice (Kerry) 1-10**

**Raharney (Westmeath) 2-7**

**Kevin Egan**  
Nenagh

There were dramatic scenes in McDonagh Park in Nenagh yesterday as Clanmaurice and Raharney played out a thrilling draw in an AIB All-Ireland Junior A Club Camogie final that can only be described as the ultimate game of two halves.

Jessica Fitzell was the last-minute hero for Clanmaurice, producing a heroic block on a Raharney clearance in the fourth minute of stoppage time, then winning possession and splitting the posts from 50m out as two Raharney defenders made despairing efforts to preserve their one-point lead.

It was Raharney's only lead of the game and a situation that seemed all but impossible after the first half-hour, when Clanmaurice were dominant.

Patrice Diggin and Laura Collins controlled the midfield battle and helped their side rattle over seven first-half

points, six of them from Diggin. Raharney ended the half with just two scoring chances — their very first attack after 20 seconds that saw Elaine Finn sweep a breaking ball over the line for a goal from close range, and a Pamela Greville penalty that was blocked by Aoife Fitzgerald in the Clanmaurice goal.

No points, no wides, and no shots dropped short, illustrated just how dominant the Clanmaurice defence was in that period, led by imperious captain Liz Houlihan. Their only negative was their lead (0-7 to 1-0) was less commanding than their general play.

Raharney needed to make dramatic changes after the break, moving wing-back Amelia Shaw to centre forward, getting them more traction in that key position, but they also reappeared with a completely different mindset.

Amée Nea set up Erin Core for a goal in the sixth minute of the half to put them back on level terms, but they had to do it all again when Diggin stood over a free from 45m out and hit a shot that dipped wickedly at the last second, creeping into the top corner of the net.

Raharney's response was exemplary. Shaw won a free that Greville converted, Gre-

ville added another dead-ball score, and then Core struck a superb point from the right corner to draw the sides level.

Frees were exchanged to make it 2-6 to 1-9 going into the last 10 minutes, and so it remained as the match crept into stoppage time.

A long ball into that right corner for Core and Maria Kelly to chase yielded what looked like the winning score for Greville, all the more when Clanmaurice had "their chance" and Collins snatched the ball wide from close range.

But Fitzell wasn't about to accept defeat, and her magnificent block and point keeps

their ambitions alive as they prepare for Sunday's replay.

**Scorers for Clanmaurice:** P Diggin (1-7, 1-4fs, 2-45s), J Fitzell (0-2), J O'Keefe (0-1).

**Scorers for Raharney:** P Greville (0-5, frees), E Core (1-1), E Finn (1-0), A Doherty (0-1).

**CLANMAURICE:** A Fitzgerald; E Ryan, L Houlihan, M Costello; N Leen, S Murphy, A O'Connor; P Diggin, L Collins; R McCarthy, J Horgan, O Dineen; J Fitzell, J O'Keefe, A Maunsell. **Subs:** C Walsh for O'Connor (41), S Horgan for O'Keefe (55).

**RAHARNEY:** A Weir; M Carroll, J McKeogh, T Lynch; A Shaw, F Leavy, A Doyle; L Doherty, A O'Malley; A Nea, H Core, A Doherty; E Core, P Greville, E Finn.

**Sub:** M Kelly for Finn (43).

**Referee:** Kevin O'Brien (Limerick).



Clanmaurice forward Jackie Horgan bursts her way past Raharney midfielder Aoife O'Malley during the AIB All-Ireland Junior Camogie Club Championship final at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh. Report: Below. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

# Glen Rovers bag the U14 B title

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Glen Rovers	8-5
Mallow	1-0

GLEN ROVERS took the U14B league title with a superb display against a spirited mallow side on Saturday last in Castle Road.

Weather conditions were cold but dry and both sides had an excellent surface on the Camogie grounds in Castle Road and they played with huge determination. Having lost the championship final a few weeks earlier the Glen Rovers girls were determined not to go home empty handed and playing against the wind in the opening half they turned over leading as they applied huge pressure on the Mallow defence and grabbed vital scores to settle them into the game.

Leah Long got the last touch to finish over the line and open the scoring with a Glen Rovers goal and Odhrna Hurley converted a free to put them four points clear. Mallow then enjoyed a spell of dominance and they put the Glen defence under huge pressure as they battled to get on the score sheet but strong defending saw Glen Rovers deny them goals on two occasions. Sarah Murphy sent a free from a distance all the way to the net to stretch the lead and relieve the pressure on her side and the same player converted a free before Juliet Horgan grabbed a goal to leave Glen Rovers 3-2 in front at the break.

On the turn over both defences had a lot to do but beginning to win a lot of possession Glen rovers won a forty five and connecting first time on the dropping ball Sinead Roche struck for a gem of a goal.

Now beginning to take control Glen rovers added points from Ordhna Hurley, Sarah Murphy and Kate O'Neill but still Mallow worked hard and continued to give it their all. Sarah Murphy added to the Glen Rovers tally with two quick goals before Eimear Duignan sent a free to the net to get a well-deserved goal back for Mallow. Again Mallow attacked but the Glen Rovers defence were not going to yield and with their inside line of Sarah Kate O'Meara and Kelly Taylor adding goals they finished in style to ensure the title was secured.

**Scorers for Glen Rovers:** S Murphy 3-2 (1-1 f's), L Long, S Roche, S K O'Meara, K Taylor, J Horgan 1-0 each, O Hurley 0-2 (0-1f, 0-1 45), K O'Neill 0-1.

**Mallow:** E Duignan 1-0(f).

**Glen Rovers:** B Coughlan, A Akinkolie, A Mulcahy (c), K O'Regan, M Brosnan, A Weir, M Creber, O Hurley, S K O'Meara, S Murphy, S Roche, K O'Neill, C Corbett, L Long, J Horgan.

**Subs:** K Taylor for C Corbett, J Noonan for S Murphy, G Ring for S Roche, A Kanneally for O Hurley, F Murphy for M Brosnan, A Turnbull for L Long, L O'Donovan for J Horgan, C Gattney for M Creber.

**Mallow:** S Kennedy, J Lynch, K O'Shea, A Fitzpatrick, A O'Sullivan, A Cagney, E O'Callaghan, A Buckley, E Duignan, S Lucey, B Lucey, S O'Reilly, C Lehane N Bolster, S O'Riordan.

**Subs:** E Nagle for C Lehane, G O'Connell for S O'Riordan, A Blake for A Fitzpatrick, L O'Flynn for B Lucey, C Mc Cormack for S Lucey, R Mohally for J Lynch, F O'Connell for A Buckley.

**Referee:** Alex Gibbons (Nemo).

### CASTLEMARTYR TAKE U14 B1 TITLE

Castlemartyr	8-8
Ballygarvan	1-6

Castlemartyr took the U14 B1 league title as they travelled to Ballygarvan



Glen Rovers, winners of the U14B League title.



Castlemartyr, winners of the U14 B1 league

recently to meet home side who made the better start to the game as they opened the scoring with a Susan O'Donovan point.

Aisling McCarthy pointed a Castlemartyr free seven minutes in to level matters and they added to their tally with a point from Ava Mc Auliffe and a tenth minuet goal from Muireann Coughlan saw them stretch their advantage.

Ballygarvan stayed in the hunt with a pointed Jennifer Sheehy free but with Aisling McCarthy adding a goal and a point it ensured Castlemartyr stayed in the driving seat.

Ballygarvan upped the pace considerably and taking control they hit a

goal and three points without reply Jennifer Sheehy on target as they narrowed the gap to a point but an Ava McAuliffe point on the stroke of half time helped Castlemartyr lead 2-4 to 1-5 at the break.

Inside four minutes of the restart Castlemartyr had extended their advantage with two Muireann Coughlan goals and with Aisling McCarthy and Tara Morgan adding a point a piece they were back in control. Keeping on the pressure they grabbed further goals with Ava Mc Auliffe, Aisling McCarthy and Millie Bowles finding the net and they added further points from Tara Morgan and Aisling McCarthy before Jennifer

Sheehy pointed a late Ballygarvan free.

**Scorers for Castlemartyr:** A McCarthy 3-4 (0-2 f's), A Mc Auliffe 1-2, M Coughlan 3-0, M Bowles 1-0.

**Ballygarvan:** J Sheehy 1-5, S O'Donovan 0-1.

**CASTLEMARTYR:** C Lane, M Casey, T Morgan, H O'Halloran, L Cootigan, G Steele, R McGrath, A Lewis(c), N Barry, A Knowles, A McCarthy, M Bowles, E McAuliffe, M Coughlan, N Fouhy.

**Subs:** L O'Halloran for N Fouhy, M Cantwell for M Casey, A Nestor for M Bowles, R Harington for A Knowles.

**BALLYGARVAN:** G Buckley, B Kearney, E O'Herlihy, A Finnegan, J Sheehy, J Looney, E Geary, S Harris, S O'Donovan, A Sheehy, T Killeher, C Bower, E Murphy, A O'Mahony, S Finn.

**Subs:** S O'Shea for S Finn, E Kelleher for A O'Mahony, S Fitzgerald for A Finnegan, C Desmond for C Bower.

**Referee:** Alec Gibbons (Nemo).

## Barryroe are u14 B2 league champs

### CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Barryroe	6-6
Douglas	4-6

BARRYROE beat Douglas to win the under-14 B2 league final in Clonakilty. Barryroe went into an eight-point lead, thanks to goals from Ciardha McCarthy and Emma Collins and points from Ciardha McCarthy and Tara Fleming.

Douglas hit back with a Robyn Foley goal and a point and with a Heather Cunningham goal. Goals from Ciardha McCarthy and Riona Collins gave Barryroe a 4-2 to 2-1 lead.

Douglas came back in the second-half. Aoife Keenan scored a point, before Heather Cunningham added a goal, to cut the Barryroe lead to four points. Barryroe responded with two goals from Esther Scallan-Dowd and three points from Ellen O'Riordan. Douglas's Heather Cunningham scored a goal and three points, but Barryroe held out.

**Barryroe:** M O'Sullivan, L O'Flynn, M O'Driscoll, E O'Donovan, N Sweetnam, A McCarthy, H Collins, T Fleming, S Harle, A Sexton, E Scallan-Dowd, E Collins, C McCarthy, R Collins, C O'Brien.

**Sub's:** E O'Riordan for A Sexton, A McKeogh for C O'Brien, Barryroe Scorers: C McCarthy 2-1, E Scallan-Dowd 2-0, E Collins, R Collins 1-0 each, E O'Riordan 0-3, T Fleming 0-2.

**Douglas:** H Cunningham 3-4, R Foley 1-1, A Keenan 0-1.

**Douglas:** S Twomey, E O'Hare, O Morrissey, L Sheehan, E Hehir, F Nodwell, A Doegan, K Hourihan, A Keenan, R Foley, H Cunningham, S M Ni Chestachain, A Clarke, E O'Driscoll, Z O'Leary.

**Sub's:** S Murphy for E Hehir, S O'Meara for Z O'Leary.

**Referee:** Pat O'Leary (Valley Rovers).

Valley Rovers	2-9
Courcey Rovers	1-8

Valley Rovers beat Courcey Rovers by four points in the U16 B league final.

Valley Rovers led 2-2 to 0-4 at the interval. Fiona Twohig and Orla O'Sullivan scored the goals. Points from Ann Marie Collins, Sinead Fitzpatrick, and Alanna Corcoran kept Courcey Rovers in touch.

On the turn-over, Valley Rovers added seven points to their tally, scored by Tara Gilli, Fiona Twohig, Kate Lynch, and Orla O'Sullivan.

Orlagh O'Mahony got a goal for Courcey Rovers and Annemarie Collins increased her points tally to six, but Valley Rovers had done enough.

**Scorers for Valley Rovers:** F Twohig 1-4 (0-2f's), O O'Sullivan 1-2 (0-1f), K Lynch 0-2, T Gill 0-1.

**Courcey Rovers:** O O'Mahony 1-0, A M Collins 0-6 (f's), S Fitzpatrick, A Corcoran 0-1 each.

**Valley Rovers:** C Prendergast, S Crowley, R Dawkins, S McCarthy.

**L. McCarthy, Le Collins, A Collins, M Lynch, C Higgins, O O'Sullivan, K Lynch, E Barry, T Gill, F Twohig, C Flynn.**

**Subs:** C O'Sullivan for E Barry, N Quinn for K Lynch, G Geary for T Gill.

**Courcey Rovers:** O O'Mahony, L Crowley, A O'Donovan, G Corrigan, G O'Reilly, R Nolan, Collins, K O'Regan, L Helbow, R Gallagher (c), A Collins, E Casey, A Hynes, S Farley, A Corcoran, M O'Leary.

**Subs:** A Teepe for M O'Leary, S Fitzpatrick for E Casey.

**Referee:** Michael O'Mahony (Kilbrittain/Tmoltagus).



The Clanmaurice team celebrate after their AIB All-Ireland Junior Camogie Club Championship final replay victory over Raharney in McDonagh Park, Nenagh yesterday.

Picture: Tom O'Hanlon/Inpho

# 128-year drought finally ends

## All-Ireland Junior Camogie final replay

**Clanmaurice (Kerry) 3-6**  
**Raharney (Dublin) 0-6**

**Kerri Murphy**  
McDonagh Park, Nenagh

The end of a 128-year drought, is how Clanmaurice manager Mike Enright described his team's 3-6 to 0-6 victory over Raharney in yesterday's AIB All-Ireland junior camogie final replay at McDonagh Park in Nenagh.

"This is the first All-Ireland since 1891 for a Kerry club team, since Ballyduff won it.

And today, a Ballyduff woman has captained a Kerry camogie team to an All-Ireland title again, after waiting 128 years," said the visibly ecstatic manager, hailing an incredible final quarter in which his charges scored 2-4 without reply.

"I felt we burned ourselves out a little bit in the first half the last day and didn't put it on the board," he said, referring to the 2-7 to 1-10 draw seven days previously.

"We brought down Brendan Cummins for a chat on Friday night and he talked to the squad for about 15 minutes and got inside their head how you win these kind of games,

and it worked today for us."

"We had our minds made up all week, we let them in too easy last day for two goals, we were not going to give a goal away today."

Strong defensive play was the order of the day in Nenagh as both sides struggled to get clean possession close to goal.

Raharney tried to employ a running game, exploiting the youth and pace of their forward division, but they ran into a brick wall in the shape of Clanmaurice captain Liz Houlihan at the edge of the square.

Still, three frees from Pamela Greville, two of them earned by strong running from Aoife

Doherty, put them 0-3 to 0-1 in front after 20 minutes.

And 1-1 from Saidhbhe Hogan meant the Kerry side turned around 1-2 to 0-4 in front. But when Andreanna Doyle fired over Raharney's only score from play after six minutes of the second half, it looked like a real battle was in store.

They never took the lead however, with Laura Collins performing brilliantly as a sweeping midfielder, and once Patrice Diggin scored another point for Clanmaurice from a 45, the Kerry side kicked on in fine style.

Their crucial score came from Jessica Fitzell, her close-

range goal putting them four up. Before a superb solo run and finish from Rachel McCarthy in the 23rd minute was the cue for the club's supporters to begin celebrations.

For Enright, it was the end of a five-year journey for Clanmaurice, the Kingdom having also claimed. But he hopes the best is yet to come.

"2019 is a game changer, these girls have the world of potential and they've proved that with two huge wins. They're a fabulous team, it was a joy to coach them. I'm bowing out at this now, I'm five years with them and it's time for a new voice and I'd

like to wish the Clanmaurice officers and players all the best for 2020."

**Scorers for Clanmaurice:** J Fitzell (1-2); S Horgan (1-1); R McCarthy (1-0); P Diggin (0-2, 1 free, 1 45); L Collins (0-1).

**Scorers for Raharney:** P Greville (0-5 frees), A Doyle (0-1).

**CLANMAURICE:** A Fitzgerald; E Ryan, L Houlihan, M Costello; N Leen, S Murphy, A O'Connor; P Diggin, R McCarthy; O Dineen, J Horgan, S Horgan; J Fitzell, L Collins, C Walsh.

**Subs used:** A Maunsell for Walsh (54), J O'Keefe for S Horgan (57).

**RAHARNEY:** A Weir; T Lynch, J McKeogh, M Carroll; A Shaw, F Leavy, A Doyle; A O'Malley, L Doherty; A Nea; P Greville, A Doherty; E Core, E Finn, H Core.

**Subs used:** S Coleman for Nea (45), E Shaw for E Core (57).

**Referee:** Paul Ryan (Kildare)

## Rules trial gets green light for next year

### Camogie

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**

History will be made next year when camogie will trial rule changes for the first time and those changes will be revealed within the next two weeks.

Camogie Association CEO Sinéad McNulty — who declined to reveal the developments but confirmed that they have been adopted by the Association's Ard Chomhairle — described the development as "brilliant" for the sport.

Earlier this year, at the launch of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championships, Camogie Association president Kathleen Woods confirmed a commitment to modernising the code when stating that it had to catch up with the advancements made by players.

That arrived on the back of the vote at Congress to agree to trial new rules.

"Our Congress was really brave in April when it was passed that we would use trial rules for the first time in our history" said McNulty in New York, where the Liberty Insurance Camogie All-Stars Tour is taking place.

"There was a trial rules working group set up. Liam O'Neill was chairing that. It was a great committee with diverse membership and they put together a number of proposals which we will be announcing in a couple of weeks. We had a presentation on it last week to our Ard Chomhairle and they approved various trial rules. It's very brave and it is going to be really brilliant. To be able to trial them next year is really important as well. It gives us a chance to try something new and to make sure it does what it is supposed to do.

"And if it doesn't, you don't bring it into rule. If it does, you do bring it into rule and with the next Congress where play-

ing rules can be changed in 2021, that's perfect timing."

McNulty also revealed that the sport's integration with the GAA and LGFA has accelerated. "There's a lot happening at a high level. There are people sitting on each other's association committees, on the management committees, working together on the development of the coaching of games, and supporting volunteers. Next year there will be a joint coaching qualification and a programme on leadership training. We want to bring that to the club and to streamline it, try and make it work more smoothly for members."

But what about the integration of the associations? "It's not something that's going to happen overnight. You have three associations with three cultures. Our memorandum is with the GAA, and the LGFA have a memorandum with the GAA and there's a lot of work to do to see these bear fruit."

## Successful camogie year

CARRIGALINE players Emma Cooney, Mollie Barrett and Ciara Murphy were part of the Cork team who defeated Tipperary 1-15 to 1-11 in the Munster Minor Camogie Final last weekend in Cappamore, Co Limerick. Cork claimed the title amid scenes of jubilation from the Cork camp and supporters.

It has been a very successful year for the players who can now add the Munster title to their All-Ireland success of Junior and Minor Munster titles with a very strong representation from the Carrigaline club and players from the Carrighoun division.

# Cotter's Cork future in doubt as she starts life in New York

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Orla Cotter says she does not know if she will line out for Cork in next year's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship after recently moving to New York.

The 31-year-old St Catherine's star has been involved for 14 consecutive seasons at senior level with the Rebels since being called up in 2006, accumulating seven All-Ireland titles.

Her first All-Star arrived in 2008 and though she had to wait another six years for her second, Cotter was honoured for the following five seasons in a row.

The 2018 award came after another fantastic campaign culminated in the left-handed, right-side-striking Ballynoe native showing nerves of steel to convert a 55m injury-time free to snatch a one-point victory over Kilkenny in that year's All-Ireland Final.

That earned her a spot on the recent All-Stars Tour to New York but Cotter did not require to travel with the rest of the party, having already moved over with her husband Mark, who she married in May 2018.

"Mark got a job with the same company he was working with in Ireland," Cotter explains. "It was a great opportunity and a new adventure I suppose."

"I took a career break from school [teaching Irish and PE at Middleton College] so I'm waiting for my work visa to come through. I'm not sure what my plans are yet. Maybe I'll do something new but I haven't really decided."

"It's exciting. I don't know how many times in your life you get the opportunity to try



something different. I don't know if I will [play for Cork next year] but we'll see."

There is much she has yet to work out. Cotter will definitely miss the League campaign and though she hasn't ruled out returning home for the Championship, she will

not do so belatedly.

"I haven't made any decisions yet. We'll play it by ear and see what happens in the summer. It's not like me to go back after everybody else; I've never done that and wouldn't like to do it. I don't know what I might be doing in terms of

work. It would also be a long time to leave Mark here so there's a lot to consider."

"I have spoken to Paudie [Murray, Cork manager] about it but really all I've said is 'we'll see' and I can't say any more than that right now because I don't know."

She has looked at doing online courses from their house in Jersey City to fill the time until her work visa has been acquired and may get involved in coaching with one of the local camogie clubs.

What she doesn't do is think too much about the All-Ire-

"It's exciting. I don't know how many times in your life you get the opportunity to try something different. I don't know if I will [play for Cork next year] but we'll see," says Orla Cotter.

Picture: Inpho/Lorraine O'Sullivan

land semi-final loss to Galway. Her policy is to absorb whatever lessons need learning immediately and then consign the whole experience to the bin (or trash can, in deference to her new home) of her mind.

"I'm not one to look back on matches at all. You know yourself what went wrong. Sometimes it's good to learn I suppose but I haven't looked back on that one yet anyway."

By then, she knew that she would be packing her bags for the States and thus making a far shorter trip to All-Star base camp at the Wellington Hotel.

"It was gas alright. I got the All-Star in 2018 and was it back in May or June when they announced about going to New York? We were nearly sure we were going at that stage and were laughing."

Cotter's Cork teammate Amy O'Connor stole the show at Gaelic Park 11 days ago, scoring 3-4 from play in the first-half alone as the class of 2019 got the upper hand in this year's renewal.

It was undoubtedly strange to be in opposition to the St Vincent's speedster but two years ago, Aoife Murray was saving Cotter's penalty in the Spanish capital.

"And she's the one that usually takes the penalties, so the rest of us hadn't that much practice!" says a laughing Cotter.

Only time will tell if there will be another outing with Cork for Orla Cotter, not to mind another All-Stars tour.

# Camogie trials player contact and frees from hand

Camogie

Stephen Barry

'Minimal' contact and frees from the hand will be permitted in camogie as part of six potential rule changes being trialled.

The handpassed goal and deliberately dropping the hurley will also be banned under the experimental rules.

The trial will take place during next spring's National

League before being considered for permanent inclusion in the rules of the game at the Camogie Association's Annual Congress in 2021.

The outlawing of shouldering and 'moving into an opponent's body' in the rules of camogie has received strong criticism from managers and players. This is addressed in the trial rules, which will allow players to use "minimal contact on an opponent's body from side-on, once they are

making a reasonable effort to gain possession of the ball".

There are efforts to speed up the game through the free from the hand and quick puck-out changes. A player will get the option to take an indirect free from their hand if they are fouled inside their own 45-metre line. Only the player that is fouled can take the free.

A quick puck-out will be allowed anytime following the referee blowing their whistle to signal a score or a wide ball.

The referee will no longer need to blow their whistle a second time before a puck-out can be taken, once it occurs from the correct position.

While deliberately dropping the hurley and the handpassed goal will no longer be permitted under the trial rules, a handpassed point is still allowed. In a move mirroring recent changes in hurling, a penalty must be struck on or outside the 20-metre line but not inside it, and the goal-

keeper is not allowed to move ahead of the goal-line before the ball is struck.

A persistent fouling rule will also be trialled, with a player given a 'tick' by the referee after two deliberate fouls, and a yellow card following a third foul.

"These trial playing rules are an important step for the Association to ensure that our game remains fit for purpose for many years to come," said Camogie Association

President Kathleen Woods.

The National Referee Panel will receive training in the coming weeks, while workshops will be held for players and managers before the League begins.

The Association's Rules Revision Working Group, chaired by the former GAA president Liam O'Neill, consulted widely in developing the trial changes, including a survey that received more than 1,500 responses.

# Tipp's Sheedy wins Munster manager of the year award

Colm O'Connor

All-Ireland-winning Tipperary boss Liam Sheedy has been named Munster GAA's manager of the year. Sheedy guided the Premier County to victory over Kilkenny last August — nine years after overseeing their 2010 success.

Though the side were defeated by Limerick in the Munster decider, Sheedy masterminded a perfectly timed run through the All-Ireland series which culminated in a stunning 2-25 to 0-20 victory over arch-rivals Kilkenny.

The Munster senior hurler of 2019 is Limerick's Seán

corner-back from Bruff throughout the League and Championship saw him solidify his position as one of the top defenders in the game.

A League title in April was followed by his first Munster SHC medal as Limerick claimed victory over Tipperary in June.

Finn won his second consecutive All-Star award last month at corner-back. Two man-of-the-match performances helped Tipperary's Conor Bowe secure the U20 Hurler of the Year award.

The Moyne-Templetoohy man hit 2-2 in their 3-23 to 0-10 Munster semi-final win over Waterford before smashing in 1-4 in their sensational final win over

Cork (3-15 to 2-17). Meanwhile, Waterford's Beth Carton has been named Camogie Player of the Year.

The De La Salle star holds U16 B, Minor B, and Intermediate All-Ireland medals and was the recipient of a Soaring Star award in 2015.

She became the first Waterford player to be awarded an All-Star in 2018 and made the team again in 2019 after finishing as the top scorer in the Liberty Insurance Senior Championship.

Earlier this year she was named player of the tournament in the Ashbourne Cup and ended the season when helping her club win the Kilmacud 7s for the first time in Waterford history.



Liam Sheedy: Led Tipperary to All-Ireland success in August.



Beth Carton: Championship top scorer led to her second All-Star.

## Munster's finest

- Manager of the Year: Liam Sheedy (Tipperary).
- Senior Hurler of the Year: Sean Finn (Limerick).
- Camogie Player of the Year: Beth Carton (Waterford).
- Senior Football player of the Year: Stephen O'Brien (Kerry).
- U20 Football Player of the year: Cathail O'Mahony (Cork).
- U20 Hurler of the year: Conor Bowe (Tipperary).
- Distinguished Service Award (Cultural): Muiris (Monnie) Hallahan (Waterford).
- Ladies Footballer of the Year: Melissa Duggan (Cork).
- Hall of Fame in Hurling: Tony Wall (Tipperary).
- Hall of Fame in Football: Donie O'Sullivan (Kerry).
- Minor Hurling Player of the year: Cathal O'Neill (Limerick).
- Minor Football Player of the year: Shane Meehan (Clare).
- Handball Award: Christy Philpott (Clare).
- Club of the Year: Borris-Isleigh (Tipperary).

# What a year for Olivia and Molly

GAA

John Tarrant

THIS year saw some exciting times for Sarsfields Camogie and Glanmire Ladies Football, with young talent driving the two clubs to new heights.

Two young ladies Olivia McAllen and Molly Lynch were phenomenal for clubs and county, as fantastic consistency saw the pair become the latest recipients to the Cork City and County Youth Sports Star Awards, hosted in the Metropole Hotel.

One of the many highlights of the past year was Sarsfields Camogie breakthrough to win the County Senior title after a 30-year wait. It was a victory that meant so much, especially to the many people who have worked for so long to keep the club going.

There was success too at underage level, with dual player Olivia captaining the Cork U16 camogie All-Ireland winning team in their single-point victory over Galway, in addition to leading the Cork Ladies U16 football side who beat Kerry in the Munster final.

Sarsfields had five girls on the camogie panel, while Glanmire ladies football were represented by four players on the county squad, including Olivia's twin sister Aishling.

Summing up her involvement, Olivia had a very enjoyable year with Cork and paid tribute to the players, management, camogie manager Donie Daly, and football manager Denis Mulvihill.

"I was honoured to be captain of a great bunch of girls in a terrific season for Sars, Glanmire, and the county teams," she said.

"With the addition of the Junior Certificate, it proved to be a busy year, but the coaches were very understanding. I can't wait to get going again in 2020."

Molly Lynch had the unique distinction of playing in goal for the Cork U16s and minors in the same year in 2017.

A former All-Ireland U16 Poc Fada champion Molly became known as the goalkeeper who wore a knee brace.

Two years ago, Molly had to make the difficult decision of getting surgery to correct her ongoing problem with kneecap dislocation.

Working extremely hard for six months to get back to full fitness, she was eventually rewarded for her efforts with selection on the 2019 Cork



John Buckley (John Buckley Sports) presents the joint Cork Youth Sports Star Award to Molly Lynch while Roger Russell, general manager, Metropole Hotel, presents the award to Olivia McAllen in the presence of Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Joe Kavanagh. Picture: John Tarrant

minor team who went on to retain their All-Ireland title.

That was the start of what can only be described as a memorable year for Molly — goalkeeper to the Sars senior camogie team that bridged that 30-year gap to win a county title.

This victory was followed by winning the county minor title, with her sister Cliona also on the team.

"To be goalkeeper can have its highs and lows", said Molly.

"I look up to Cork senior 'keeper Aoife Murray, she is a great inspiration, a brilliant player for so many years."

Molly is very lucky to be part of a great club who have worked very hard to develop young players.

She owes a lot of her success to the dedication and commitment of the coaches and officers in Sarsfields Camogie Club.

She said: "2020 is going to be a hectic season, there is the matter of the Leaving Certificate. Hopefully it won't impact on the camogie too much."



Molly Lynch and club colleague Olivia McAllen receive their joint Cork Youth Sports Star Awards at the Metropole Hotel. Picture: John Tarrant

# Cork camogie in need of extra funding

THE Cork senior camogie squad are seeking extra funding for the new season in their endeavours to remain one of the country's leading teams.

The squad has been hugely successful in recent years and will be one of the leading contenders again in 2020 for major honours under the management team led by Paudie Murray.

However, despite the very generous sponsorship of Blackbee and the support given by the Cork Camogie Board and the Cork GAA Board, there is still a need for extra finance to help with the huge expenses that are required to be successful.

Spokesperson for the Cork squad, Laura Treacy told *The Echo* that extra funding for physical and coaching preparation, physiotherapy and medical assistance, training and playing equipment, and compensation for players expenses etc is always necessary.

"We get great support from our spon-

CAMOGIE

John Horgan

sors Blackbee, great support too from our own camogie board and the Cork County board but we live in a time when costs are rising continually.

"The Cork County Board have provided us with the use of their gym in Páirc Uí Chaoimh and also with the use of the 4G pitch in bad weather.

"We need funds too to defray players expenses if they require physiotherapy

and ensure that players are not out of pocket.

"People are generous to us and we appreciate that, but extra assistance would further benefit us on and off the playing pitch.

"The cost these days to participate competitively at elite level is great and any extra funding we receive will help to keep the squad at that level and ensure we are challenging for the biggest honours."

Cork begin the new season in February with national league games against Waterford, Offaly, Clare and Kilkenny.

The winner of the group will contest the final as there are no semi-finals.



Laura Tracey is appealing to local businesses for support on behalf of the Cork camogie team.

## Door open for Orla says boss Murray

CAMOGIE

Paddy Hickey

CORK camogie boss Paudie Murray says "the door is open" for New York-based ace Orla Cotter to feature for the Rebels in next year's championship campaign.

A seven-time All-Ireland medal winner, and the recipient of six All-Star awards, Cotter recently moved to the Big Apple with her husband Mark, who had secured a work transfer from the company he was employed with in Ireland. As a result, the influential midfielder won't be available for Cork's League campaign, but the team boss has not ruled out the possibility of the player lining out in the championship.

"The door is certainly open for Orla to play for us in next year's championship, and we would love to have her back in that regard," remarked Murray on the St Catherine's club player, who has been featuring for the Rebels for a whopping 14 years without a break.

"We are resigned to the fact that we will be without Orla for the league, but hopefully we will be able to set up some type of an arrangement that would allow her to play for us over the summer months.

"Although Orla has been playing at inter-county level for a lot of years, I feel that she still has a couple of good years left in her to continue to do a good job at the top level.

"So we will be keeping our fingers crossed that her move to New York won't mark the end of her inter-county career.

"I've been talking to Orla and she is very well aware of the fact that we would warmly welcome her back to play in the championship.

"However, in this regard, I don't think an arrangement whereby Orla would make the trip back to Ireland just ahead of each individual game would be feasible. So I think it would be necessary for her to remain in Ireland for longer stays over the summer.

"But I don't think that the fact that Orla will be based in New York would be a drawback for her possible participation in the championship, as she is a player who keeps herself in excellent physical condition, and she would have plenty of opportunities to get in camogie practice in New York. But at the moment the possibility of Orla playing in the championship is hypothetical, and it won't be clarified until some time next year," she added.

Amidst all the uncertainty surrounding Cotter, one definite scenario is that the Rebels will be very much putting the emphasis on youth in next year's league campaign.

"We will be bringing in a lot of young players for the league, and, in fact, the oldest player on the league panel will be 24," revealed Murray, whose side open their campaign at a home to Clare on January 26.

# Murray backs new rules but says ending league semi-finals a 'joke'

Eoghan Cormican

Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray has welcomed the new set of experimental rules, but believes they will be trialled at the wrong time of year.

Six experimental rules, one of which permits a player to shoulder an opponent, will be trialled during next year's national league. This new suite of rules, drawn up by a working group chaired by former GAA president Liam O'Neill, will then be voted on for permanent adoption at Congress 2021.

Murray, who has slammed the Camogie Association for discontinuing the league semi-finals, is concerned at the trialling of the rules in early spring. He's adamant that February games, on rain-soaked pitches, is not conducive to gauging the true effectiveness of the new playing rules.

"Firstly, the rule changes are very welcome. That said, February is probably the worst month weather-wise, so how do you effectively trial them during this month? My response to when someone says they have to be tried during the league, the same as the GAA do with theirs, is that we don't get to play in Croke Park, Thurles, or Páirc Uí Chaoimh during the league round-robin. We normally get thrown onto pitches during the league that are less favourable to good hurling," said the four-time All-Ireland winning manager.

"Addressing persistent fouling has to be seen as a positive, the same as with allowing a quick puck-out and penalties becoming one-on-one. Allow-



Paudie Murray: Addressing persistent fouling has to be seen as a positive, the same as with allowing a quick puck-out and penalties becoming one-on-one.

ing a free out of defence be taken with the hand is very interesting. Getting rid of the handpassed goal is irrelevant as there were so few goals coming from the handpass anyway.

"Regarding the rule permitting minimal contact on an opponent's body side-on, the word minimal worries me a small bit. If you have a strong player running up against a weaker player, who is using minimal contact and who's not?"

These experimental rules will not be in use for the 2020 championship and Murray sees it as imperative that the inconsistency of refereeing in the latter stages of recent championships is the next issue tackled by Camogie top brass.

"In the early stages of the championship, when there are no cameras on, there will be a set of rules applied and then when you come to a All-Ireland quarter-final, semi-final, and final, everything is all over the place. If I go back to this year's All-Ireland semi-final (Cork were defeated by eventual champions Galway),

it was the best example ever of inconsistent refereeing. This problem needs to be tidied up. Managers can't be showing up for All-Ireland quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals, games that are being broadcast live on television, and not know what rules will be enforced."

Next year's league will consist of two groups, scheduled on a round-robin format, with the top team in either advancing directly to the final. Murray has described the move to scrap the semis as "an absolute joke".

"Getting rid of the Division 1 league semis is an absolute own goal in the promotion of the game. It is mind boggling from a developmental point of view.

"The association are supposed to be about developing and promoting the game.

"How are they going to develop the game when they are stopping one of the so-called weaker teams getting to a league semi-final.

"If we lose to Waterford in the first round of the league, the league then becomes a non-event for us. It'll be the same for every other county."



Galway camogie All-Ireland winners Caitriona Cormican, Sarah Dervan, and Tara Kenny at the ceremony. Pictures: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

# Olivia won nine GAA titles



Rory Noonan

OLIVIA McALLEN is the worthy December 2019 winner of the Rebel Óg monthly award, sponsored by the Clayton Hotel Silver Springs and Cummins Sports (award sponsors) in association with *The Echo* and RedFM, (media partners).

In 2019 Olivia had the honour of captaining both the Cork U16 camogie and football teams following the success of her clubs, Sarsfields Camogie Club and Glanmire Ladies Football Club.

Overall she won six county titles, two Munster titles and an All-Ireland title this year, as well as sitting her Junior Cert.

The camogie team had a one point victory over Galway in the All-Ireland final while the Cork ladies football team had a great victory over Kerry to win a Munster title after a great finish to the game.

Sarsfields had five girls that were part of the camogie panel while Glanmire Ladies Football had four



Olivia McAllen with her dad John, mum Eileen, and sister Ashling, at the Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, Cork.

Pictures: Jim Coughlan

players on the county squad which included Olivia's twin sister Aishling.

Olivia had a very enjoyable year with Cork and would like to say a special thanks to all who helped in any way.

Olivia has been playing GAA with

her clubs since the age of five along with her three sisters. This year was a great year for Glanmire Ladies Football and Olivia was part of their U16, minor and U21 teams that brought back county titles to the club.

One of the many highlights of Oli-

via's year was to be part of the Sarsfields camogie team, coached by Emmet Fennell, who won the County senior title after a 30-year wait. There were great celebrations after defeating a very strong Inniscarra team who were the reigning champions.

Olivia was also part of the Sarsfields teams that enjoyed county success this year at U16 and minor level.

She would like to thank all of her coaches and selectors especially those at her clubs who give up a huge amount of their time to support all of the girls.

# New look, new rules for the new season

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT will be a very much a new look Littlewoods National Camogie League in 2020. At a recent meeting of the Camogie Association's Ard Chomhairle a decision was made that several trial playing rules will be introduced in next year's National League.

These come ahead of potential proposals for permanent playing rule changes at the Camogie Association's Annual Congress in 2021.

The decision to implement and look as these changes and implement trial playing rule began at the Camogie congress last April when delegates when a vote was taken to permit trial playing rules to be introduced within the rules. In April a 'Feedback Forum' was held and this saw players and managers participating before a rules revision working group was established and this was under the chairmanship of former GAA President Liam O'Neill.

This rules revision working group consulted with various people in what was a very extensive process which included a survey of players and mentors which received over 1,500 responses and produced a report and recommendations to the camogie association's Ard Chomhairle in October.

There was then a working group of Ard Chomhairle established to meet to refine the proposed rules which have now been ratified for implementation.

There are six areas that these rules will cover and all have generated a lot of talk and interest amongst players at all levels. It must be remembered whilst it is inter county players who will be trialling these rules the association needs to be mindful if they decide to implement them fully in 2021 that they will apply to all sectors and that underage players will need to be taken into consideration when these decisions are made. We all agree the rules need to be changed and we must also be mindful just because the inter-county players like them and or want them it does not always follow the ordinary player at club level or the underage players of 12 or 13 years' of age will be able for what some of these changes could bring.

The suggestion to implement a rule change re contact is the one generating a lot of debate, with a lot of people saying it is simply not enough and that the wording which says "minimal contact" is not what the players want.

The change for the national league on a trial basis will now see the following A player may now use minimal contact on an opponent's body from side-on, once they are making a reasonable effort to gain possession of the ball.

Persistent fouling is something which needs to be clamped out and the suggested rule change is that a player who is now deemed to be persistently fouling another player (two deliberate fouls) will be given a "tick" by the referee. If that player commits one more foul, it will merit a yellow card.

The suggestion re the puck out is



John Buckley (John Buckley Sports) presents the joint Cork Youth Sports Star Award to Molly Lynch (Sarsfields Camogie/Glanmire Ladies Football) with Roger Russell, General Manager, Metropole Hotel presents the award to club colleague Olivia McAllen in the presence of Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Joe Kavanagh; Dylan O'Connell, Cork Beo; Eithne Allen, Sarsfields Camogie and Lilian Twomey, Ryans Supervalu; Picture John Tarrant



The 2018 (blue) camogie All-Stars who took on the 2019 team in the Liberty Insurance game at Gaelic Park, New York. (L to R) Orla Cotter, Aoife Murray, Gemma O'Connor, Chloe Sigerson, Hannah Looney, Laura Tracey, Katrina Mackey and Pamela Mackey with Amy O'Connor (Yellow) of the 2019 team. Picture: Inpho/Dan Sheridan

not that a quick puck out can be taken, the referee will now blow the whistle once only to signal a wide or a score and from that moment the sliotar is back in play and the goalkeeper is free to restart the game via a puck-out from the correct position. A lot feel this will speed up the play so we will probably see a lot of goalkeepers with deeper pocket's as they keep sliotars close at hand.

The suggestion to take a free from the hand is a very strange one and in my opinion does nothing for the game in fact to be able to lift and strike is a skill so why take it away, to be this is something only for players playing go games young children getting used to hitting a free. The sug-

gestion is that a player will now have the option to take a free from their hand if they are fouled inside her own 45-metre line. Only the player that is fouled can take the free from the hand and it is an indirect free.

One that has generated huge debate down through the years' is the dropping the hurley and hand-pass goal. The suggestion to be trailed is that a players will now no longer be permitted to drop the hurley intentionally, and in addition players may no longer score a goal by hand-passing the sliotar into the net. Strangely players may still score a point by hand-passing the ball over the bar.

One which I do not agree with is

the one regarding the penalty and 20-metre free and I really think we are following hurling with this. I not agree with it in hurling either. The suggestion is that same as hurling a penalty must be struck from on or outside the 20-metre line but not inside it.

In addition only one defending player may stand on the goal-line during a penalty and shall not move towards the 20m-metre line before the ball has been struck.

Imagine a little 12-year-old all alone in the goal and a size four sliotar being hit by another 12-year-old who may be a stronger girl than her. In hurling I think it is dangerous and really hope this is one that simply

will not be passed as I think the goalkeeper or defender is very vulnerable and liable to get injured easily. Maybe this could be a discussion for the association child welfare people to look at before a decision is made in 2021.

Speaking about the trial playing rules, Uachtarán an Cumann Camogaíochta Kathleen Woods said:

"These rules are an important step for the association to ensure that our game remains fit for purpose for many years to come. We have listened to a range of key stakeholders involved in our game and I hope that this process will be of benefit in order for us to tweak our playing rules in the future to allow our wonderful game to continue to grow and flourish as it has done in recent years."

A training programme will take place in the coming weeks involving the association's National Referee Panel as well as workshops which will be held in early 2020 for players and managers who will participate in the 2020 National League as well as a series of trial matches which will be organised across other grades of the game as part of this process.

The rules initiative will be supported by a body of work to monitor, track and analyse their implementation, with a view to providing objective feedback from which final decisions regarding motions to the association's Annual Congress regarding permanent rule changes can be made.





# Early birthday present as Puspure heads elite list of stars

Cliona Foley

**W**orld sculls champion Sanita Puspure got an early birthday present yesterday when she won the 2019 Sportswoman of the Year award.

The two-in-a-row world champion is the first rower to win the prestigious Irish Times/Sport Ireland award in its 16-year history, and it came just 24 hours ahead of her 38th birthday today.

"This is a really nice reward personally. There were so many good athletes in the running, and I am really mixing with the cream of Irish women's sport here," she said.

"Olive Loughnane drove me to these awards and I met Sonia O'Sullivan last week and she handed me a trophy today!"

"It is also great for Irish rowing as we have been making a dent on the whole international scene in recent years. Hopefully we will have a few more girls joining us yet on the Olympic journey," she added of Irish rowing's prospect of adding a women's four to the two female boats they have already qualified for Tokyo 2020.

"Training is lovely in the summer when it's warm and the sun is shining, but this is the time of year when it's cold, raining and windy," she said, "but this is where we become a speed factory and work relentlessly every single day."

Puspure held off particularly stiff competition in a stellar year of Irish women's sport, especially from double-weight world professional boxing champion Katie Taylor (a four-time previous winner) and jump jockey Rachael Blackmore. The dominance Puspure demonstrated in successfully defending her world title in a summer in which she tragically lost her sister Inese to cancer, demonstrated extraordinary durability and resilience.

Her world title also clinched her third Olympic qualification a good 10 months in advance, and makes her the hot favourite in her event next summer.

This year's Outstanding Contribution to Sport went to Kerry woman Mary Geaney, a true sporting pioneer.

Not only was Geaney the first woman to captain All Ireland winning teams in football and camogie, but she also has 65 hockey caps for Ireland, won All-Ireland titles in badminton and, more recently, managed the Killarney women's golf team to Irish Senior Cup glory.

The Castleisland woman captained Kerry to football success in 1976 (scoring 3-2, the first hat-trick in a women's final).

She played club camogie in Éire Óg and went on to win three All-Ireland camogie medals with Cork in 1978 (in which she scored another hat-trick), 1980 and 1983, plus two

All-Ireland club football medals with Castleisland Desmonds.

She debuted, in goals, for the Irish hockey team in 1971 and was a member of the teams that won the 1977 Triple Crown and the 1983 Women's Intercontinental Cup.

Back in her heyday, Geaney thought nothing of travelling from Kerry to Belfast to train with Ireland, saying: "I was very lucky I was shopkeeping and I had great family at home and friends who filled in the gaps for me." She also played squash, badminton and golf for Munster. Limerick hockey hero Roisin Upton was, fittingly, on hand to present her with the award.

Puspure was selected overall winner from all of 2019's monthly winners, including Cork soccer star Denise O'Sullivan, who is currently playing in Australia.

#### The 2019 monthly winners (in calendar order):

- Mona McSharry (swimming),
- Phil Healy (athletics),
- Ciara Mageean (athletics),
- Rachael Blackmore (horse racing),
- Leona Maguire (golf),
- Jenny Egan (canoeing),
- Katie Taylor (boxing),
- Kate O'Connor and Rhasidat Adeleke (athletics),
- Sanita Puspure (rowing),
- Niamh Kilkenny (camogie) and Lyndsey Davey (Gaelic football),
- Denise O'Sullivan (soccer)
- Roisin Upton (hockey).

Sanita Puspure, The Irish Times Sport Ireland Sportswoman of the Year Award winner for 2019, and Mary Geaney, winner of the Outstanding Achievement award.

Picture: Nick Bradshaw



# Tireless work by all the Seandún officials

## CAMOGIE

By Mary Newman

DIVISIONAL camogie in the county continues to be organised by the hard-working officials who also put in a huge effort at club level.

The Seandún division is certainly one of the county's most progressive groups. During the season gone by they oversaw a very busy 2019 where a hectic schedule of events competitions and courses took place.

Under the watchful eye of chairman Donnacha Broderick (Bishopstown), vice-chair Catherine Allen (Na Piarasaigh), secretary/treasurer Louise Weldon (Blackrock), PRO Mary Newman (Glen Rovers), development officer Tom Lee (St Finbarr's) and child welfare officer Catherine Sloane Slaughter (Na Piarasaigh), the season was a resounding success.

Go Games blitzes from U8s up to U11 were organised, as were the U12 blitzes, which had to be played before the county leagues could begin. The U13 and U15 championships once again proved hugely competitive.

On the coaching front, Seandún are very proactive, and their U13/U14 and U15 development squads received coaching and participated in the interdivisional events. Several clubs in the division availed of a schools coaching programme.

At their AGM earlier in the year, all the Seandún clubs were assigned groups for U8, U9, U10 and U11. Each club had a blitz to organise each month where the other clubs in their group would participate. The blitzes proved to be a huge success as the younger age groups especially got their first taste of competitive action.

As with previous years, all clubs who were taking part in the U12 county competition had to take part in at least three cluster blitzes before the end of April. This year the clubs organised their own blitzes and ensured all teams entered the required number of blitzes and this took the pressure off the committee.

The U13 championship also commenced in early summer and eight of the Seandún clubs took part, coordinated by secretary Louise Weldon. The U13A, the division's last final, on December 1, proved to be a cracker of a game as Douglas snatched victory from Glen Rovers with a late rally in injury time. Sarah Kate O'Meara from Glen Rovers was named Player of the Match after a superb display.

The U13 B final was another exciting clash as Blackrock proved too strong for St Vincent's. Blackrock's Hazel O'Connell was named MVP. In the U13 B Shield final, Na Piarasaigh overcame Nemo Rangers with Jessica O'Connor the best performer.

The U15 league also commenced in early summer with two sections, coordinated by chairman Donnacha Broderick.

The U15A final was an excellent game as Blackrock and Glen Rovers battled it out before Blackrock came out on top. Erinn Curtin turned in a great performance and was named Player of the Match.

Douglas, with Laura O'Brien the award winner, overcame Nemo in the U15 B final.



Sara Kate O'Meara, Glen Rovers, is presented with the U13 A Player of the Match by Donnacha Broderick, chairman of Seandún camogie.



Erinn Curtin, Blackrock, is presented with the U15 A Player of the Match award by Louise Weldon, secretary Seandún camogie.

The Seandún School of Excellence for 2019 carried on at various stages throughout the year with a number of players coming on and off the panel for different blitzes. Seandún participated in the Imokilly Blitz in September and won the shield, the Muskerry Blitz in October, and the Avondhu Blitz in November where they were runners-up in the cup final. This group were looked after by Donnacha Broderick (Bishopstown), Terry Murphy (Glen Rovers), Eddie McCarthy (Douglas), Catherine Sloane, (Na Piarasaigh), Fionan O'Neill and Derek Good (St Finbarr's),

and Gwen Fitzpatrick Goulding and Michelle Gould (St Vincent's).

Seandún trials took place to select the U15 panel with Terry Buckley, Josephine Martin, and Louise Weldon getting things under way. The panel played an Interdivisional blitz in February and March where the teams performed well.

Seandún received funding from the Munster Council for coaching in six schools. This was a huge success and brought new players to many clubs. The division is delighted to have again secured funding for more schools coaching and 'Coach the

Coaches' sessions which will take place in January and February 2020.

Cork senior goalkeeper Aoife Murray contributed to a goalkeeper workshop, which drew big numbers. Coaches and volunteers from the clubs fell in to ensure they were able to accommodate everyone and the feedback was hugely positive. The aim now is to organise similar sessions like this next year.

Seandún continue to promote Camogie in Cork and are one of the most proactive divisions on social media to highlight matches and training, using Instagram in particu-

lar to great effect to communicate with all age groups.

The division also saw plenty of the clubs under the city banner win honours at league and championship levels in county competition, whilst former Seandún underage player Emma Murphy led the Cork minor side to All-Ireland glory as joint captain with Ballincollig's Hannah O'Leary.

All in all, it was a very productive and well-organised season for the hard-working Seandún division, who can look ahead to 2020 with plenty of optimism.

“The division is delighted to have again secured funding for more schools coaching.”

# Amy and Keith recognised at Northside Sports Awards

**NORTHSIDE** sports stars Keith Ricken and Amy O'Connor are the latest to be recognised by the Cork and Northside Sports Awards.

Keith Ricken is the September award winner. Keith is a lifelong member of St Vincent's Hurling & Football Club - first playing with them in the early 80s and has only recently stopped being notified for Junior B.

Keith played with the club at all levels with the club from underage to Intermediate and began coaching with the club in 1987. He has coached Vincent's teams to win Underage City Championships at every level in the City Bord

na nÓg as well as guiding the club teams to successful football counties at 14B, 16 Premier and Minor Premier level.

He has also had successful stints with the adult club - managing the club to two Intermediate County Championships, two Leagues and a Tadhg Crowley Cup. One of the most memorable moments was managing the club to a Senior Football Championship quarter-final to be narrowly beaten by eventual champions Castlehaven.

Early this year Keith took over the running of the Cork U20 Football side that went on to Munster and All Ireland Success with victories over Waterford, Kerry, Tyrone and Dublin for which Keith was awarded Provincial and

National U20 Manager of the Year for 2019.

All Ireland winner Amy O'Connor is the October award winner.

She is currently the Vice-Captain on the Cork Senior Camogie team. Amy has won four Senior All Ireland Medals with Cork and Four Senior Munster medals.

Amy, 23, has been playing Camogie with Vincent's since Under 14 level and with Cork since Under 12. Amy has played consistently with Cork, going straight into the senior panel while she was still minor. UCC Pharmacy Graduate Amy has been involved with the Cork Seniors since 2014, with whom she has won four All Ireland medals in 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018 along with two Munster medals.

## Sports stars honoured at awards ceremony



Vice-Captain on the Cork Senior Camogie team Amy O'Connor, October Award Winner, and Keith Ricken, September Award Winner, at the Cork and Northside-sports Awards held in the Maldron Hotel, Shandon. Keith is a lifelong member of St Vincents hurling & football club. Picture: Gerard Bonus.



Taking part in the Ballincollig GAA's Poc Fada last year were, from left, Denise Cronin, Alison Coughlan, and Ashley Lovett of Ballincollig Camogie Club. Picture: Denis Minihant

# Hilda will continue playing as Newcestown go senior

More than three decades after her first appearance for Newcestown Camogie Club, Hilda Kenneally will still be an active player as they make their senior debut. She spoke to **DENIS HURLEY**

**H**ILDA Kenneally describes herself as being 'like a bad smell that won't go away' from Newcestown Camogie Club, but her staying power will be rewarded in 2020.

Since first playing at adult level, she has been involved in six county finals, with victory first sampled with a 2-4 to 1-5 triumph against Kilbrittain in the 1989 junior B decider – a report noted that 'when this final is talked about, the deeds of Hilda Kenneally will be forever remembered.'

Now the club chairperson, she remains a valuable playing presence. Victory at junior A level in 2015 – having re-graded from intermediate – kick-started the current golden period for the club, leading all the way to senior for the first time.

'That was when the whole thing got a rejuvenation,' Hilda says.

'The older players stayed on, they said they wanted to give one more go. We won that and came up to intermediate and we won that too two years later.'

'We were supposed to be senior B but the format was changed and that grade was removed, so we were still intermediate even though we had won it.'

'Still, we weren't fazed by that and then we went and won it again this year, so for the first time since the club was formed 37 years ago, we're up in the top flight.'

'It takes a long time, but now that we're there, we want to stay there and compete.'

'That's the only problem, that it's going to take a huge effort from everybody. We had our AGM recently, I was trying to emphasise really that even U8s and U10s are hugely important.'

'In a short period of time, before we know it, they'll be trying to keep the senior team going as well.'

One of Newcestown's great qualities, in both male and female codes, is high retention levels among players. In an area where numbers are limited, Hilda agrees that nobody can be allowed to slip through the cracks.

'You need every single person,' she says.

'The player that you might deem weak or whatever, jeppers, without

**'It's all I know really, I'm very much a one-trick pony, camogie is my life. I played while pregnant and trained all the way through, even when the children were very small' – Hilda Kenneally, Newcestown Camogie Chairperson**

them you wouldn't be able to field a team.

'If that's the case then, you're going to lose a few more people, so everybody is vital to the cause. We're trying to get more parents involved with the underage teams, get them on the committee and get more interest going.'

'A rising tide will hopefully lift all boats.'

And yet, at the start of the year, Hilda admits that she wasn't sure if that tide was going to rise.

'We weren't sure,' she says, 'but, to be fair to our trainers and selectors – Séamus O'Donovan, my brother Edmund and Finbarr O'Callaghan, who has been there from day one – they believed in us all the way through.'

'I remember Séamus saying, "We're hoping to be training all the way into November, because there's an All-Ireland final in us." We were all looking at him as if he had two heads but he wasn't far off the mark at all.'

'We didn't have the greatest of starts. We beat Clonakilty alright in the first round but then Na Piarasigh beat us, though it was probably the best thing that ever happened.'

'We thought we were going too well and all that, that put us back in our place.'

Redoubling their efforts, they reached the final, where they would come to face with a familiar foe, the



Newcestown players celebrate their county intermediate camogie championship final win against rivals Enniskeane in October.

side they had beaten in the 2017 decider too.

'We always wanted another crack off Enniskeane, our friendly enemies down the road!' Hilda laughs.

'We've had fierce battles with them over the years and, to be fair to them, they should probably have won the final if right was right. They should have at least drawn it but a late free was missed and we won by a point.'

'It could have gone either way but the luck was with us, we seem to have it over them. We had the belief and we were very well-prepared coming

into the final. We worked very hard but looking back, there was definitely room for more commitment and that will be needed now at senior over the next few years.'

'Still though, it's great, three senior teams training in the one pitch next year, there aren't too many clubs that can say that.'

Did she ever think when she started that she would be in such a situation?

'I didn't,' she says, 'honest to God of course I didn't, it was the last thing on my mind, I was taking it year by year.'

'It's all I know really, I'm very much

a one-trick pony, camogie is my life. I played while pregnant and trained all the way through, even when the children were very small.'

'It helps that I'm only a stone's throw from the pitch, only down the road. I love it and it's my life.'

'I say to myself that the young girls keep me young but, yet, every night I go training I feel another year older!'

'I enjoy it and as long as I enjoy it I'll keep going. If I can get another year out of it now between junior and maybe five minutes of a senior game would do me, I'd be delighted with myself.'

## COMMITMENT: Newcestown know that the hard work starts now

SIMPLY reaching senior level isn't enough for Newcestown, Hilda Kenneally insists – there is an acknowledgement within the camp that the hard work is only starting.

'We only had a players' meeting three or four weeks ago,' she says.

'There was fierce enthusiasm and everyone was rearing to go, knowing how important it is to take pride in ourselves and not to lose the run of ourselves.'

'Just because we've won the intermediate doesn't mean that we're

automatically worthy of being in senior. We're there now but we must work hard to stay in it.'

'To be fair to the girls, they seem to be very committed. We've a great minor team, there were seven or eight of them on the intermediate team and only four

over 21 on the panel, so that tells its own story.'

'It's built on youth, but of course the older players kept it going for years and years. A lot of them moved on – except me, of course, I wouldn't move on at all, I didn't get that message at all

that day!

'It's very much youth-based at the moment and we have a junior team now as well, which we didn't have last year. That will help us to blood a couple of younger girls as well, so it's all good, thank God.'

# These ladies are legends in the making for Cork



Dynamic midfielder Ashling Thompson.  
Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

CORK camogie collected four All-Irelands in the past decade: 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018.

Five players were a constant during those 2010-2019 years and are easy pickings for the Team of the Decade; Aoife Murray, Gemma O'Connor, Orla Cotter, Pamela Mackey, and Katrina Mackey.

In goal is Aoife Murray, in my opinion the best goalkeeper in the country over the past decade. She possesses leadership qualities, in addition to an aerobic style, brilliant saves, and bravery.

At right corner-back is Joanne O'Callaghan. Joanne was the type of corner-back forwards hate. She got the job done. A solid defender. Captained Cork to honours in 2006 and retired after Cork's All-Ireland win in 2014.

Anna Geary takes the full-back position and was versatile elsewhere if required. One of Anna's greatest traits was her ability to win the ball in a ruck.

With hurleys and bodies scrummaging for the sliotar it was inevitable that Anna would emerge with it. Turned many a defensive situation into an attacking position for Cork.

Completing the full-back line is Killeagh's Laura Treacy. A teak tough defender. An attacking player who can mark the best of forwards.

At right half-back is Rena Buckley who retired after Cork's 2017 All-Ireland victory as captain. Rena's work-rate, reading of the game and her composure under pressure made her one of Cork's best defenders.

What hasn't already been said about the magnificent Gemma O'Connor at centre-back?

Unquestionably one of Cork's greatest athletes. She has been a constant in Cork's line up for the past 18 seasons.

Pamela Mackey nationally hasn't always got the plaudits she deserved but we know how valuable she is in Cork. The tight marking, diligence, speed and hurling of Cork's defender makes her an automatic choice.

At midfield Orla Cotter has won numerous Player of the Match awards throughout championship campaigns.

Her phenomenal work-rate, distribution and effortless striking is a joy. Add in her impeccable free taking, under immense pressure at times, and she was the perfect player for Cork.

Alongside Orla at midfield was another tremendous athlete. Her physics, strength, and hurling made



Picture: INPHO/Bryan Kean

The legend that is, Gemma O'Connor.

## Camogie

Aoife Murray; Joanne O'Callaghan, Anna Geary, Laura Treacy; Rena Buckley, Gemma O'Connor, Pamela Mackey; Orla Cotter, Ashling Thompson; Brieghe Corkery, Julia White, Jenny O'Leary; Amy O'Connor, Síle Burns, Katrina Mackey.

Ashling Thompson a feared opponent. When Ashling was on song, so were Cork. Her long-range point scoring from both left and right was top class.

The legend that is Brieghe Corkery is our right half-forward. Such is the versatility of Brieghe she has figured in every line of the pitch at some stage during the decade. Renowned for her work rate, speed and solo runs she set up many a Cork attack.

Douglas's Julia White at centre-forward has been on the Cork team since 2013. While hindered in recent



Anna Geary and Joanne O'Callaghan with the O'Duffy Cup.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Katrina Mackey giving it her absolute all. Great speed and great scoring forward.  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

times with injuries there is no doubt that when fully fit Julia has played a huge role in Cork's success. Light of feet and with great speed who will forget her All-Ireland winning point in 2017 against Kilkenny.

One of Cork's best forwards during the decade has been Jenny O'Leary. Retired after the 2014 All-Ireland win, her contribution for those four years was immense.

Her small stature and incredible speed made her impossible to mark. With four All-Ireland titles and eight All-Stars to her name her goal in the

2014 final turned the game Cork's way.

Amy O'Connor received her first All-Star in 2019 but was been nominated a number of times. She's been a regular in Cork's starting line up since 2015.

Her lightning pace and side-stepping techniques leave defenders in her wake.

Síle Burns may not have won an All-Ireland with Cork during this time, having retired in 2013, but you can't ignore her personal contribution during those four seasons.

She played consistently well in the Cork jersey. A lethal goal scorer. She scored two late points to earn a dramatic draw for Cork in the 2010 All-Ireland semi-final.

The final slot in the Team of the Decade goes to Katrina Mackey. When sprinting for goal there is no Cork forward, you'd like to see in that position more than Katrina.

Her finish is clinical. Five All-Ireland titles and five All-Stars, testament to her standing in camogie circles. Great speed and a free scoring forward.

# 2020 is time to believe in better



The 20x20 campaign has created a cultural shift about the role of women and girls in sport, says Mary O'Connor

And so another sporting year comes to an end and we can all look back on another year of great achievement by our sportsmen and sports-women. And yes for every high there was undoubtedly a low. That's the nature of sport and probably the reason we love it so much. Triumph and tragedy side by side. Everyone will have their favourite moment and many of those moments will not even be on a world stage. Sport does that — it is just one reason why it matters so much to us.

For me, as CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport, I also look back on the year with a great deal of pride given what we accomplished in our work to ensure that sport gets the recognition it deserves and that all of those who give of

their time so generously are also recognised for a contribution without which sport would not happen in the form we know it.

The Federation of Irish Sport is the representative organisation for the National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) and Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) in Ireland. The Federation's membership consists of over 100 NGBs and LSPs from every corner of the country. Our role is to speak on behalf of our members and represent their views to government and to the public, while also providing them with a range of services.

In July 2019, we commissioned Investec Bank to complete research on the economic benefits of sport and physical activity to this country and this research tells a story that deserves to

be heard and acknowledged by all. The single biggest investment in sport in this country annually is made by the volunteers, 450,000 of whom give of their time every week — on average 3.5 hours a week. The value of this was calculated to be €1.1bn to the economy annually. Well in truth you cannot really put a monetary value on it — their work is invaluable.

The research also showed sport contributes approximately 1.4% of gross added value in Ireland.

It directly employs 39,500 people, accounting for 1.7% of the workforce. This is a greater number than the total number of primary school teachers in Ireland.

When it comes to household expenditure: Sport accounts for 2.7% of total consumer expenditure. This equates to an average of €30

per household per week, putting it on a par with clothing and footwear, and alcohol and tobacco.

The report estimated that Government return on investment in sport is approximately €195 in tax revenue for every €100 it spends on sports-related goods and services. In addition to a positive revenue impact on the public finances, increased investment in sport could reduce public health expenditure.

An estimated 62% of the population are overweight or obese. This is believed to cost the State over €1bn annually. Separate research estimates that there are 4,000 preventable deaths in Ireland each year due to physical inactivity.

The work of the Federation is to ensure that sport is valued, not just in economic terms but also that it is valued

as a changemaker and we were delighted in October 2018 to partner with the 20x20 campaign which in the 14 months since its launch has had a stunning impact and in truth is now a movement recognised as a unifying voice for women and girls of all ages, sizes and abilities to be part of sport and physical activity on the island of Ireland.

Sarah Colgan and Heather Thornton of the creative agency Along Came a Spider created the concept of 20x20. Its success is based on increasing participation in, media coverage of, and attendance at women and girls' games and events by 20% by 2020.

The campaign has resonated with both men and women alike across the country. 20x20 is about creating a cultural shift in our perception of girls and women in sport. By increasing the vis-

ibility of women's sport, it will become a greater part of who we are and what we follow.

71 Sporting Bodies (National Governing Bodies of Sport and Local Sports Partnerships) have signed the 20x20 Charter and given their public support to the movement and are actively working with their own members to utilise the campaign to grow their membership and enhance the visibility of women in their sport.

Twenty-eight out of the 30 national universities on the island of Ireland have signed a 20x20 Charter pledging to champion the objectives of the movement.

Official attendance records have already been broken for women's sporting events

since the launch of 20x20 across Ladies football, rugby, camogie, soccer and hockey.

Research conducted by RTE indicates that although the campaign is only at the halfway point, 20x20 is already having a significant impact on behaviour around women's sport.

With 62% of those aware of the campaign saying they are watching more sport on TV as a result of 20x20, 57% are reading more about women's sport in the media, 38% attending more female sports events and 27% are participating more in sports.

20x20 asked the Irish public to Show Your Stripes by pledging one action to support women in sport and the response was phenom-

enal. Even the President posted his support!

The 20x20 hashtag, #CantSeeCantBe, has been frequently trending in Ireland and twitter announced that it was the second most popular hashtag in Ireland in 2019.

In a further success the first ever women in sport calendar was created and sits on the 20x20.ie website and is an encyclopaedia for all women in sport games and events in Ireland.

So, you see sport does matter in all its forms, it has value and adds value to all our lives. The year 2020 promises much for Irish competitive and elite sport. I for one can't wait for it!

■ Mary O'Connor is CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport.



## Fiona wins top West Cork award

BY KIERAN McCARTHY

FIONA Keating is the 2019 West Cork Junior Sports Star of the Year.

The talented Ballinspittle teenager is one of the rising stars of Cork GAA and last year the dual player played a leading role as the Rebels won both All-Ireland minor football and camogie crowns.

The Courcey Rovers player scored five points and was player of the match in the All-Ireland minor camogie final in May 2019, as Cork beat Clare by 3-15 to 2-12.

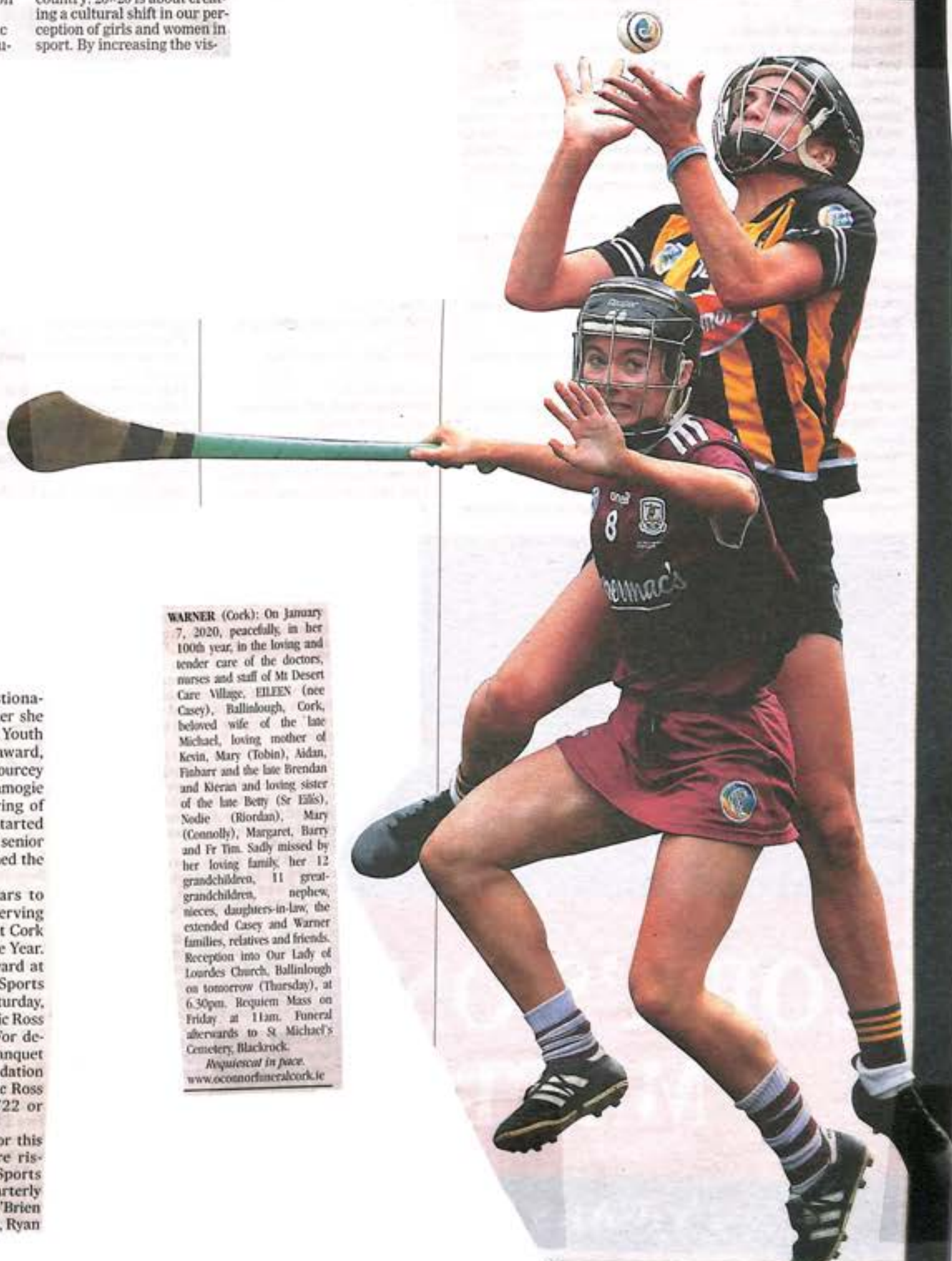
There was more to come later in the summer for the Kinsale Community College Leaving Cert student when she swapped codes and led the Cork minor footballers' attack. In the All-Ireland semi-final, Keating scored 1-4 and again was player of the match as Cork beat Galway. In the All-Ireland final against Monaghan, she scored 2-1 as the Rebels won 4-11 to 1-8, as Keating finished her minor days on an incredible high.

Last year, Cork minor football selector Anne O'Grady from Bantry described Keating as 'an incredible talent ... and refreshingly modest.'

Her talent is unquestionable, and the evening after she received her West Cork Youth Sports Star quarterly award, Keating scored 4-4 for Courcey Rovers in their senior camogie championship hammering of Milford. Keating also started for the West Cork ladies' senior football team that reached the 2019 county final.

One to watch in years to come, Keating is a deserving winner of the 2019 West Cork Junior Sports Star of the Year. She will receive her award at the annual West Cork Sports Star gala awards on Saturday, January 18th, at the Celtic Ross Hotel in Rosscarbery. For details on tickets to the banquet and overnight accommodation contact Lisa in the Celtic Ross Hotel on (023) 8848722 or lisa@celticross.com.

Also in the running for this award were three more rising West Cork Junior Sports Stars, who received quarterly awards in 2019: Daire O'Brien of Enniskeane (camogie), Ryan



**WARNER (Cork):** On January 7, 2020, peacefully, in her 100th year, in the loving and tender care of the doctors, nurses and staff of Mt Desert Care Village, EILEEN (nee Casey), Ballinlough, Cork, beloved wife of the late Michael, loving mother of Kevin, Mary (Tobin), Aidan, Finbarr and the late Brendan and Kieran and loving sister of the late Betty (Sr Ellis), Nodie (Riordan), Mary (Connolly), Margaret, Barry and Fr Tim. Sadly missed by her loving family, her 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, nephew, nieces, daughters-in-law, the extended Casey and Warner families, relatives and friends. Reception into Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Ballinlough on tomorrow (Thursday), at 6.30pm. Requiem Mass on Friday at 11am. Funeral afterwards to St Michael's Cemetery, Blackrock. *Requiescat in pace.* www.oconnorfuneralscork.ie

# No player wants 'scoreboard journalism' insists O'Connor

BY DENIS HURLEY

MARY O'Connor, the CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport, says that, while camogie and ladies' football have made progress in recent years, there is still ample room for improvement.

This year is considered a pivotal one in terms of women's sport with the FIS leading the '20x20' charge, where sports have been encouraged to aim for improvements of 20 percent under three headings.

O'Connor, an All-Ireland winner with Cork in both codes, is keen to see the positive trend continue but knows that it won't happen without effort – and proper media evaluation rather than 'scoreboard journalism'.

'Ladies' football has been on an upward curve for a number of years,' she says.

'Camogie is maybe caught slightly in the sense of the same teams getting to final, whereas football has had one team consistently getting to the final but against different finalists.'

'I think the point to make is that ladies' football isn't even 50 years old yet and look what has been achieved, especially in the last five or six years, and obviously in 2019 again there was a record-breaking crowd. While the standard of football in the final wasn't fantastic, that shouldn't take away from the calibre of football all year, particularly the semi-finals, which were very good to watch as a spectacle.'

'I think, the more exposure those games outside of finals

**'Only by actually covering the games in a bit more detail and critiquing the players, that will create a bit more seriousness around them' – Mary O'Connor, CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport**

get, the more important it is. I was playing up until 2010 and up until 2006 and 2007, only the All-Ireland camogie final was shown live and if it happened to be a poor game, that defined people's perceptions.

'The 2019 camogie final was exceptional, Galway brought something new but it was a good standard too. We have to be grown-up about it, people shouldn't be going to the games just because women are playing, they should be going because they're good games. We have to be able to criticise as well as admire the players and not just put them up there.'

'It's something Rena Buckley has said previously and I would have gone on record with it, I don't think any player wants scoreboard journalism. When I played camogie with Cork, I was a back and the backs were never mentioned, only the scorers. Only by actually covering the games in a bit more detail and critiquing the players, that will create a bit more seriousness around them.'

'It's important that the wider Gaelic games family see that



Mary O'Connor, CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport, pictured at the Federation of Irish Sport Annual Conference 2019 held at Dublin City University. (Photo: Matt Browne/Sportsfile)

there's a real talent and skill-set there and the players are applying it.' The 20x20 campaign comes at a time when women's sports are getting more notice, but O'Connor knows that the opportunity to move forward won't last indefinitely.

'The campaign was launched in October 2018 and we had 71 national governing bodies [NGBs] and local sports partnerships signed up,' she says.

'There were three headings – media coverage, participation or attendances at games – and they all signed up to at least one

of those, or in some instances all three, and they would have a plan for how to achieve the stated goals.'

'For instance, under participation, they might have a low number of coaches at a certain level and seek to increase it by a certain amount. We didn't prescribe to them what they had to do, it was for them to decide.'

'Then, in 2019 Sport Ireland appointed Nora Stapleton and brought out their Women in Sport Policy and Women in Sport funding. Those three things will complement 20x20

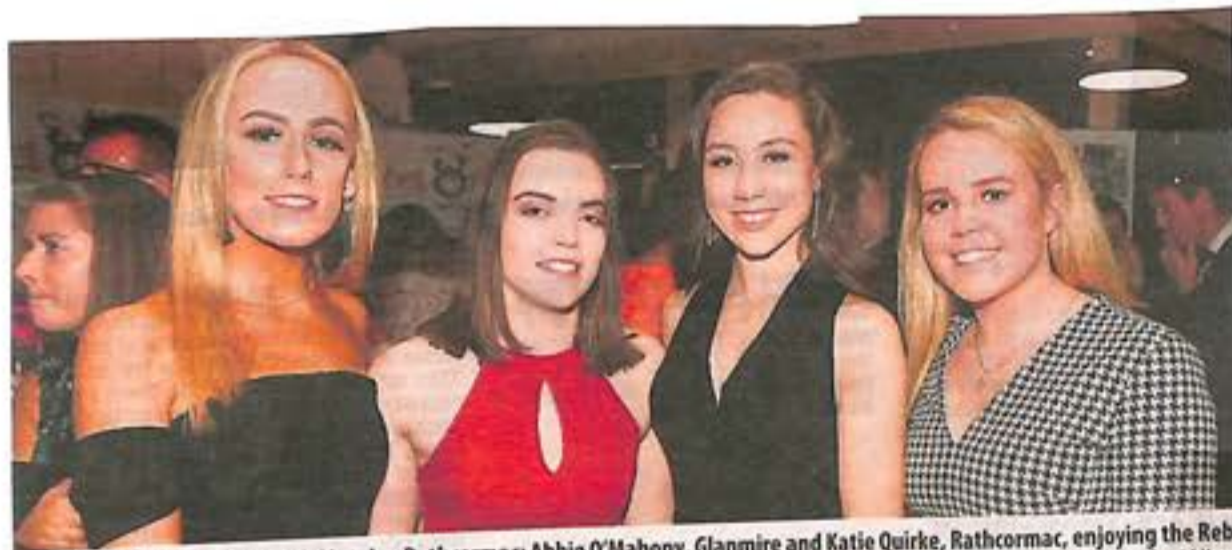
and vice versa, because the policy is going to have outcomes.'

'The governing bodies will be able to really fine-tune their targets now because they have the resources and some of them have taken on Women in Sport Officers to drive that and that's important. Nobody in the country owns 'women in sport' and 20x20 doesn't either, but what we're trying to do is create a platform where real conversations take place and provide strength in unity.'

'This is about getting people to think in a different way and

that's why the Sport Ireland Women in Sport Policy is so important. I can't overstate that enough because it puts objectives in place and holds governing bodies to account on what they've committed to.'

'Women's sport in Ireland is in a good place but can it get better? Absolutely, there's appetite for it and people don't see it as a threat anymore. We know there are challenges but we need to be looking at solutions and how we're going to get there rather than continually going back over old ground.'



Isobel Sheehan, Farran; Sarah Murphy, Rathcormac; Abbie O'Mahony, Glanmire and Katie Quirke, Rathcormac, enjoying the Rebel Óg annual awards gala banquet at the Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs. Picture: David Keane

DEC. 2019



Eoghan Dinan, Deputy Editor The Echo and Mariska Smith Clayton Hotel with Hannah O'Leary and Emma Murphy representing Cork minor camogie team, May monthly winners. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



THE appointment of Kilkenny camogie legend Ann Downey (left) as manager of the Ballyragget hurling team is significant in more than one way. Not only does it make her the first woman to manage a men's team in Kilkenny, but she also happens to manage a club that was at the centre of a sexism storm in 2017 when it was

reported that a stripper was paid to perform in the aftermath of the team winning the county Intermediate title. Downey's appointment is deserved – she managed Kilkenny's camogie side to All-Ireland glory in 2016 – but it will also do the club little harm in sending out a far more positive message to its female members.



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## Celebrations at Cork County camogie medal presentation

At the Cork County camogie medal presentation and victory social night in the Rochestown Park Hotel were:

- 1. Under 16 team coaches and mentors Donie Daly, John Moloney, Michelle Gould, Roberta Crowley, Rachel Crean and Mossie O'Sullivan.
- 2. Cork Minor players Ciara Murphy and Emma Cooney, Carrigaline.
- 3. Isabel Kelly, Sarsfields and Yvonne Abernethy, Midleton.
- 4. Kathryn Sheehan, Sarsfields, with Jane Foley, Ballyhea.
- 5. Under 15 players Niamh McSweeney, Inniscarra; Evie Twomey, Sars and Aimee Corcoran, Erin's Own.
- 6. Ciara Walsh, Carrigtwohill; Oriath Mullins, Sars, and Leah Halahan, Castletyons.
- 7. Grace Ryan, Newcestown; Meadhbh Ring, Aghabullogue and Ella Wiggington Barrett, St Finbarrs.
- 8. Cliona Lynch, Sarsfields, and Oriath Cahalan, St Finbarrs.
- 9. Eileen, Gráinne and Clodagh Finn, Midleton.
- 10. Under 16 players: Ciara Golden, St Finbarrs; Rose Murphy and Meadhbh Murphy, Ballinora; and Zoe O'Herlihy, Carrigaline.

Pictures: Howard Crowdy



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# Young faces are pushing for places

WHILE it is great to be successful at adult level the importance of bringing young fresh faces onto the scene is something that is crucial for a county to maintain its strength and certainly in 2019 Cork were very much to the fore as the All-Ireland minor title was retained in superb fashion.

In 2018 a 12-year wait finally came to an end as the minors captured the county first title since the age criteria was raised from 16 to 18. And once the celebrations had died down it was back to business again for manager Jerry Wallace and his back room team as he vowed it was not going to be a "one off".

The champions were brought down to earth with a bang as they lost to Tipperary in their round one clash on February 23.

The home side laid the foundations for victory in the opening half when playing with the aid of a strong wind they hit seven points without reply and they led by this margin at the interval as Cork failed to register a first half score.

Having hit five in the opening 20 minutes Tipp had to battle to stretch their lead as the Cork defence came to grips with the situation but two points just before the interval gave them a seven-point cushion.

Cork came out fighting for the second half and as they got the scoreboard ticking over they matched Tipp in all sectors and had the lead trimmed to a point. However, Tipperary held their lead to run out winners.

Cork faced a tough round two clash away to Galway on March 16 where a win was a must to get keep their campaign for a place in the last four on track, but this was cancellation due to weather conditions and in a way it possibly suited Cork and they refocused for a meeting with Wexford the following week.

Cork knew this was a must-win game and they showed huge intensity in the opening half. Ellen Murphy gave Cork a great start with a goal after just two minutes and with Emma Murphy, Clodagh Finn, Ciara O'Sullivan and Cliona O'Leary adding points Cork were eight points in front before Annis Curran converted a 45 to get the visitors on the board.

Continuing to take the game to Wexford, Cork stretched their lead with four unanswered points before



The Cork team that won the All-Ireland Minor Championship.

Annis Curran had two in between a converted Cliona O'Leary pointed free. With their defence rock solid Cork held the upperhand and controlled the game to the full-time whistle.

Dublin came to Cork the following weekend and Cork had to battle hard in the opening half but once they got to grips with their opponents they went on to record an impressive win.

### Qualified

Meanwhile, on the same afternoon in Tipperary Galway lost out by five points to the home side who were now qualified for the semi-final.

The rescheduled game against Galway saw Cork head to Gort for what turned out to be a vital clash in the last game second in their group.

Having lost out to Tipperary in their opening game and with Galway having also lost a game, both sides headed into the game on the same

points it was most definitely a winner takes all with a semi-final place against Kilkenny the reward for the victors. Galway led at the interval by five points 0-8 to 0-3 but showing the mark of champions Cork dug deep to carve out a 1-11 to 1-11 draw. The result was enough to see them edge Galway out on scoring difference to make it to a semi-final clash with Kilkenny.

As they had done so often a powerful second-half display where they turned around a four-point interval deficit saw Cork book their place in the All-Ireland final as they got the upperhand over Kilkenny.

A first-minute goal gave Kilkenny a dream start and aided by the strong wind they came at Cork and as the sides traded score for score Kilkenny managed to stay in front to lead 1-9 to 0-8 at the interval.

Cork worked hard with Clodagh Finn, Emma Murphy, Fiona Keating

and Ellen Murphy all on the scoresheet. From the restart Cork tore into the game but it was still level at the end of the third quarter before Cork upped the pace and advanced to the final.

Clare caused the shock of the championship as they dumped out Kilkenny to book their spot against Cork in the final at windswept McDonagh Park Nenagh.

The impact of the wind was huge and helped Cork lead 3-11 to 0-3 at the interval. Clodagh Finn propelled Cork into a 1-5 to no-score lead in the opening 10 minutes.

Lorna McNamara had two points back for Clare before Fiona Keating stretched the Cork lead. Cork were in the driving seat thanks to two Emma Murphy goals inside 55 minutes. Clare were rocked on their heels as Murphy grabbed the vital goals and with Fiona Keating adding three points and Clodagh Finn two, Clare's

reply was one from Lorna McNamara McNamara set up Robyn Conway for a goal inside six of the restart after McNamara and Sinead McGee had fired over points and they pressed for more as two on the trot narrowed the gap before Isobel Sheehan and Finn replied. It was 3-13 to 1-7 as the game entered the last quarter.

Caoimhe Kelly had one before Lorna McNamara brought her tally to 10 points, Finn and Keating relieved the pressure on Cork with one each as Clare fired over two frees. Three minutes into injury time Lorna McNamara and Robyn Conway combined for a second Clare goal but Cork had done enough to retain their crown.

Fiona Keating was named as player of the match on a day that did Cork camogie proud and got new county sponsor Black Bee Investments term off to a great start.

# Dual star Keating adds to her impressive trophy collection

## 2019 YOUTH AWARD

### TOP TALENTS

- Here are all the Celtic Ross West Cork Youth Sports Stars since this award begun:
- 2011: Lily de la Cour (kickboxing)
  - 2012: Fionn Lyden (sailing)
  - 2013: Michael Cahalane (GAA)
  - 2014: Connor Ellis (soccer)
  - 2015: David Lowney (GAA)
  - 2016: Darragh McElhinney (athletics)
  - 2017: Laura Nicholson (athletics)
  - 2018: Moira Barrett (camogie)
  - 2019: Fiona Keating (football/camogie)



2019 West Cork Youth Sports Star Fiona Keating, centre, pictured with special guest Jacqui Hurley, and Daniel, Patricia and Donie Keating. (Photo: George Maguire)

BY GER MCCARTHY

WEST Cork Junior Sports Star of the Year winner Fiona Keating is coming off the busiest 12 months of her fledgling career.

The instantly likeable GAA rising star produced consistently for club, division and county during 2019. A worthy recipient of the 2019 Junior Sports Star accolade, Keating beat off stiff competition in Daire O'Brien (camogie), Ryan O'Donovan (GAA) and Liam Murray (soccer) for the trophy.

Cork win both 2019 minor football and camogie All-Ireland titles tipped the balance in the Courcey Rovers player's favour. Refreshingly, receiving a West Cork Junior Sports Star award means just as much as those two All-Ireland medals to the Kinsale Community College Leaving Cert student.

'I am really honoured to be receiving this award,' Keating told *The Southern Star*.

'I am grateful to *The Southern Star*, the Celtic Ross Hotel, C103 for choosing me. There were so many other great sports

stars up for this year's Youths Award. I mean, there was Ryan O'Donovan and look at all he achieved with the Cork U20s and coming in during the All-Ireland final to help them win. So, to be announced as the overall award winner, I'm absolutely delighted.'

One of the most active sports youths in the county, Keating enters her Leaving Certificate year excelling for her school's basketball team (winning a county title) but knowing GAA and other sporting commitments will have to be curtailed over the coming months.

'I was just so used to it year that I just kept going and going,' the Courcey Rovers player stated.

'Four days a week I would get up at 8am and leave the house before going straight to training following after-school study. I wouldn't see back home again until 10pm that night.'

'My teachers were hugely supportive and gave me extra help if I needed it so I knew I could always rely on them. Looking back, I have begun asking myself just how I managed it all. When you are in the middle of it, you

just don't realise how much work you are putting in.'

On the field, there is little doubt that 2019 was a remarkable year for the double All-Ireland winner. In the middle of all her sporting achievements, reaching a county senior football final with West Cork was just as special.

'I was involved with both the minor and junior football teams as well the senior camogie team for my hometown club Courcey Rovers,' Keating noted.

# What a year for Cork girls

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THERE was huge joy in 2019 as a 16-year gap was bridged when Cork were crowned All-Ireland U16 A camogie champions, halting Galway's bid for five in a row.

Before that, the provincial competition proved to be a great springboard as Donie Daly and his backroom team set about building a championship team.

Cork retained the Munster U16 A championship title as they overcame a strong Limerick side, with Aimee Morgan turning in a superb display, contributing 1-4 from play in a Player of the Match display.

The U16 B side, having lost out in the opening round of the Munster series, qualified for the Munster B Shield final and had an emphatic victory over Clare, with Emily Coffey named Player of the Match.

Championship got under way on July 7 and the journey to Newbridge failed to bother Cork in a one-sided affair they overpowered Antrim.

They made it two out of two as they overcame Kilkenny who started strongly and grabbed an early goal. That failed to upset Cork, and points from Rose Murphy and Aimee Morgan settled them.

A Ciara Golden goal on the stroke of half time put Cork 1-7 to 1-5 ahead at the break. The second half was close and it was end-to-end action as both sides worked hard in the scorching heat.

The Cork defence had to absorb a lot of pressure from a Kilkenny forward line, who showed a lot of pace. Cork introduced Lilly Hayes Nally and Ella Wiggington Barrett and they both grabbed second-half goals with Morgan also adding to the tally. Cork weathered the challenge and were not denied.

Tipperary provided the next challenge and again a superb performance from Cork ensured that a semi-final spot was secured. Cork played with the wind in the opening half, but it was Tipp who opened the scoring and it was nip-and-tuck to the interval as Cork led 2-7 to 0-6.

Cork substitute Lilly Hayes Nally added a point on the restart and this was followed by two Orlaith Cahalane points



The Cork players celebrate with the U16 Cup last summer.

Picture: INPHO/Bryan Keane

as Morgan kept the Tipperary defence busy with her darting runs, adding three points.

A strong Cork defence held Tipperary to just one point from play in the second half as Cork ran out winners and booked a semi-final meeting with Wexford.

Cork took the lead with a Rose Murphy point, but Katie Murphy showed that Wexford were not going to be easy opponents as she replied with a point. Cork led at the break, 1-8 to 0-4.

Wexford came out determined in the second half and they cut the Cork lead to four points inside five minutes of the restart — but Cork's reply was swift, with points from Orlaith Cahalane and Lilly Hayes Nally.

Cork extended their lead when substitute Tara Crowley sent a low ball to the back of the net with five minutes remaining and despite huge Wexford pressure, Cork booked their place in the final.

With Aimee Morgan in scintillating form, the Galway defence had their hands full on final day, both defences were solid, and the inside lines had to battle for everything.

The opening quarter was nip-and-tuck, level at the conclusion of the opening quarter at 0-3 each — Katie Gilchrist with

two pointed Galway frees and one from play as Cork's Cliona Lynch hit two.

Corks took the lead with an Aimee Morgan goal and she also added a point.

Galway won two frees and opted to go for goals, but Ciara Hurlley denied Sabina Rabbittie with an excellent save and it was Cork who led 1-5 to 0-4 at the break.

Cork took the game to Galway from the restart and stretched their lead 1-9 to 0-6 as Galway battled to stay in the game with two pointed frees.

Cork kept the pressure on however, as Cliona Lynch and substitute Tara Crowley extended the lead.

Caolmhe Starr cut the deficit, but three points in a row from Cork saw them hold on to their lead.

Galway battled back with an impressive injury-time finish. Katie Gilchrist and Alanna Reynolds hit three points, and goals from Chloe Farragher and Katie Gilchrist put a point between the sides, but the final whistle sounded to end a 16-year wait for Cork.

All credit to Donie Daly and his backroom team and to county sponsor's Blackbee with whom Daly is employed.

They put their faith in the younger generation and they were repaid with minor and U16 All-Ireland titles.



Hannah O'Leary, Ballincollig and Laura Doyle, Charleville, enjoying the Rebel Óg annual awards night.



Mollie Barrett and Emma Cooney, both Carrigaline, are all smiles at the Rebel Óg annual awards night.

Picture: David Keane



Alannah O'Brien, Clonakilty and Kate O'Donovan, Kilbree, enjoying the gala banquet at the Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs.

Picture: David Keane

# Camogie season a success with all games played

WITH a massive programme of games at adult and underage level all completed on schedule, Cork camogie enjoyed another busy year.

The county boards oversaw championship, league, and plate competitions from underage to adult levels under the chairmanship of Mary McSweeney.

They got through a fixture schedule of 23 competitions at championship and league level.

With Senior, Senior B, Intermediate, Junior A, B, C, Minor A, B, C, and D competitions in championship and league, add in two summer cup competitions.

At underage level, between championship and leagues, there were 790 games played across the grades from U12 to U16 plus the National Féile na nGael.

Go Games and Cluster Blitzes were organised and ran off by the divisions for beginners up to U11.

This was a huge amount of games and a lot of organising and a lot of girls playing camogie but everything was completed bar one outstanding competition, the U16 A1 league, which ran into difficulty.

Without doubt, owning their own grounds in Castle Road has been a major help as it gives them a pitch at their disposal 24/7 but such is the volume of traffic for it another Castle Road would not go astray.

This gives just a small idea of the massive workload involved in organising and keeping competitions going outside of the everyday work that has to be done.

The juvenile board was restructured in 2019 and came under the remit of the senior board with a committee headed up by the hugely efficient Willie Wallace and Mairead Donovan continuing to do massive work catering for the needs of players from U12s up to and including U16s.

The games were organised superbly and all must receive huge credit for the manner in which competitions were run off under the auspice of the adult board.

Clubs were well catered for with a huge amount of competitions in all grades.

The format of the U12 competition was

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

changed in 2018 and proved a huge hit. It continued for 2019 and was expanded to U14 and U16 league competitions.

The league was divided into eight sections with six teams in each section; each team in each section then played each other giving each club five games.

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

Group 1 consisted of the winners in each section; Group 2 had the teams finishing in positions two and so forth down.

These groups then played off in a league competition with each grade divided into two groups where the top two played in the final.

Championships at U14 and U16 again had a change of format and instead of a back door system the first round winners progressed to the second round of championship with the losers participating in a championship plate competition, with both competitions played on a knockout system after round one.

The National Féile na nGael was held in Cork and came under the remit of the board with a huge volume of work to ensure a splendid féile ran off superbly.

On the development front, the final phase of the work on two extra dressing rooms is almost complete and the board is extremely grateful for a lot of voluntary work that is being done to help defray the huge expense of this work.

Having got through such a comprehensive programme of competitions it is a tremendous achievement for the hard-working officials who continue to promote camogie to the highest level in the county, and players and clubs owe a huge debt of gratitude to these voluntary officials.

Very often clubs tend to get bogged down in their own zones and when fixtures sometimes do not fall to their liking

it may not be too pleasing, but with over 66 clubs to consider sometimes somebody is not going to be happy.

Both boards are always flexible, sometimes to their detriment as when competitions run late the backlash is invariably given to those at the top.

This year, two underage teams contested All-Ireland finals and it meant a lot of club playing time was lost as Cork had to be afforded time to be at their best.

It's a scenario of "you're damned if you do and you're damned if you don't".

The board looked closely at the inter-county calendar and slotted in club games around it and this worked out reasonably well with championship games running off smoothly; yet it only takes one draw at either club or inter-county level to knock the whole schedule off balance.

Hopefully, this year again, a schedule of dates can be worked out and announced at the end of February as this will enable clubs to plan ahead and players to book holidays safe in the knowledge they won't be missing out or having to fly home. The draws do not necessarily need to be made.

Huge challenges lie ahead in the bid to get the perfect balance but it can be achieved.

The board was again fortunate to have the all of their adult championship competitions sponsored by S E Systems and this support ensures that a huge burden is taken off the shoulders of the board.

They are hugely appreciative to John O'Leary for the help and support his company continues to give to camogie in Cork.

Blackbee came on board at the start of the year as new county teams sponsors and their support has been of huge help in promoting camogie.

The Echo is also very important to the board as sponsors of all the adult Player of the Match awards for championship and again this support is a huge help in the promotion of the game.

Over the next few Saturdays we will take a look back at some of the highs and lows of the season gone by for the club and county teams.



Jacquie Sheehan and Aine Barry, both from Ovens and Isobel Sheehan from Farran, enjoying the awards banquet. Picture: David Keane

# Golden moment for Hall of Fame star

## AWARDS

■ John O'Shea

SHEILIA GOLDEN is regularly referred to as the "mammy of camogie."

And she was a very fitting recipient of the Hall of Fame accolade at The Echo Women In Sport awards at the Cork Airport Hotel.

Given her years of hard-working service to the sport of camogie on Leeside, this is a richly deserved award.

Although she does hold provincial honours with her county, it was through her work as an administrator that she is best known, where she has had a remarkable career.

She held the offices of county chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, president, as well as a team mentor on numerous occasions.

She set the foundations for this career when she took on the role of secretary of the Cork schools board.

A Cork Camogie chairperson between 1988-2002, outside of her roles with the County Board, Golden served as the chairperson of Inniscarra and also acted as a selector with the club teams.

In March 2012 Cork Camogie opened their own pitch in Castle Road, a facility which they could call their own.

That was a dream for people like Sheila Golden and that dream became a reality when the pitch was opened by camogie president Joan O'Flynn.

When she was announced as the winner for this particular accolade, Golden was deservedly given a standing ovation.

Giving her thoughts on picking up the Hall of Fame Award, Golden said: "I would like to remember the people that I have worked with over the years, marvellous people and marvellous volunteers, my parents and my late husband Tommy.

"Those who I worked with on the County Board over the years, players, mentors, selectors. A lot of those people are no longer with us. I am sure they could never envisage how Cork Camogie proceeded over those years.

"They definitely wouldn't have dreamed that the Board below on their own headquarters down in Castle Road in Blackrock, with a wonderful pitch and facilities.

"So I would like to thank all of those people, marvellous people and to make wonderful friends. They were always there to help me. I would like to dedicate the award to them as well and to thank *The Echo* for their help and support all through the years."

The term legend can often get overused, but there can be no disputing that it is a deserving title to give a true camogie stalwart of Leeside.

It was fitting that the judges of The Echo Women In Sport Awards chose to use this platform to illustrate the fine work in camogie that Golden has undertaken over the years.



Irish international boxer Christina Desmond, winner of the Sportswoman of the Year Award, Sheila Golden of Cork Camogie, winner of the Hall of Fame Award and women's world single sculls rowing champion Sanita Puspure, winner of the Outstanding Achievement Award, at The Echo Women in Sport Awards gala luncheon, at the Cork Airport Hotel. Picture: David Keane

# Golden is a worthy winner

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

A WONDERFUL honour was bestowed on one of Cork Camogie's best known camogie officials recently when *The Echo* named Sheila Golden as their Hall of Fame Recipient at the Ladies Sports awards.

Sheila is a well-known figure all over the country and she has given a life time of service to her sport both as a player and administrator in a career that has spanned six decades.

It all began for her at school in the South Presentation Convent which was a wonderful nursery for the game of camogie until its closure in 1987, the school produced some fantastic players for the county amongst them Betty Sugrue and Anne Comeford who both led Cork to All Ireland glory.

Sheila was chosen on the Cork Colleges team before going on to continue playing with the South Presentation Past Pupils side with whom she won three Senior county Championship medals in a row from 1969 to 1971, she also won Munster club championship medal in 1970. A member of the Cork senior team that lost out to Wexford in 1968 she holds provincial honours with the county.

It is as an administrator that she is best known and she set the foundations for this when she took on the role of secretary to the Cork Schools Board in what has been a remarkable career in administration she has held the offices of county chairman, vice chairman, secretary and president as well as team mentor.

Whilst still a player she took up an administrative role and from 1964 to 1968 she served in the role of county secretary before retiring from administration for a number of years in 1968.

When her daughters began to play the game Sheila made a return to camogie with the Inniscarra club and when Cork county board couldn't get a chairman at convention in 1988 Glen Rovers delegate Nora Newman asked and pleaded with our recipient to take on the role for a year and the rest is history.

Chairman from 1988 to 2002 she assumed the honorary presidents role from



Cork County camogie Officers Mairead Donovan (Chairperson Elect); Sheila Golden, Vice Chair; Mary McSweeney, Chairperson and Louise Weldon, Juvenile PRO Officer pictured with Marion McCarthy, Treasurer and Mary Bugler, GPC pictured at the recent Cork County Camogie Board Medal Presentation Night in the Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Howard Crowley

2003 to 2007 and answered the call again when a secretary was needed and she willingly stepped into the breach in 2008 a role she filled with her usual efficiency. Retirement was not an option and once again she answered the call and took on the role of vice chairman in 2015 a position in which she is currently serving the Cork camogie board.

Outside of her roles with the county board she also served as chairman of Inniscarra in the 1980s and also acted as a selector with the clubs teams.

As a Cork selector Sheila was involved with Cork teams at Junior and Intermediate levels when All Ireland titles were won but one of her proudest moments was presenting the county Senior B championship trophy as chairman of the county board to her own club Inniscarra when Irene O'Keeffe captained the side.

Sheila has great support from all her family but without doubt her late husband Tommy was her number one helper he was there to take the phone calls and help Sheila in any way he could and this has been an important part of Sheila's involvement in administration up to Tommy's untimely passing in 2014 Sheila Golden nee O'Sullivan has given and continues to give Cork Camogie tremendous service her dedication and commitment is

unbelievable and as a person she is most courteous and helpful. An active member of the grounds committee she is one of the driving forces behind the Magnificent Castle Road Cork Camogie complex and is always busy there helping to collect gates, make tea, man the score board or do a hundred and one other jobs all for the love of Camogie a true Cork follower Sheila is widely travelled and is frequently seen supporting Cork hurling and football teams all over the country.

Outside of camogie Sheila has a huge interest in politics and no doubt this weekend will be avidly watching as all the drama unfolds.

The honour bestowed on Sheila Golden came as a huge shock to her but it is one richly deserved by somebody who has given a lifetime of service to camogie, her courtesy and efficiency is second to none, and she is a wonderful ambassador for the game.

On Friday last, Sheila was accompanied to the Ladies Awards Lunch in the Cork Airport Hotel by her daughters Anne, Gillian and Sinead son Tomas and her adored grandchildren Stephen, Dylan, Darragh and Odhran as well as her niece Noelle.

A well-deserved accolade for a lady who has truly given a life time of service to camogie

# McNulty: Stars must have right setting to shine

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Camogie Association chief executive, Sinéad McNulty has hailed the partnership with the GAA that has facilitated camogie and football/hurling double-headers over the years and sees two high profile fixtures this weekend as the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues get underway.

Paudie Murray's Cork make their first appearance in the new Páirc Uí Chaolmh at 2pm, ahead of the Rebel hurlers' clash with Tipperary. Waterford will provide stiff opposition and Fergal O'Brien takes over the managerial reins from Donal O'Rourke, with Déise hurling legend Dan Shanahan taking over the coaching duties.

Paul Sexton gets his managerial reign at Limerick going in LIT Gaelic Grounds 4pm, after the Shannonsiders' hurlers face Galway.

They will take on a Tipperary side welcoming back man-

ager Bill Mullaney, who stood down for personal reasons at the beginning of the 2019 championship. Niamh Lillis deputising to good effect.

"We want our players playing in the best stadiums," says McNulty. "We had a super attendance at our All-Ireland semi-finals at LIT Gaelic Grounds in Limerick and a record attendance at the finals at Croke Park. We have been working with our colleagues in the GAA for a number of years to make sure that our girls get to play in county grounds as often as possible.

"The bottom line is our inter-county players are our highest performing athletes. They're the role models inspiring our players in the clubs. Girls in every club should have equal access to the facilities at a club they are members of and when they see it happening at the highest level, it helps get that message across. Our players train just as hard and as often as the men do so they should be able

to demonstrate their skills in the best environment possible. We are very grateful to the GAA in this regard for hosting and facilitating us.

"What we need now is people to go along and see the skills and give their young girls an opportunity to witness the best performing in the best venues, that this is a dream that can be realised.

"The importance of young girls seeing females participating in high-performance sport in the flesh, and on live-stream from their homes, it can't be quantified.

The Camogie Association will be streaming one Division 1 game a week live on its Facebook page, with the Limerick-Tipperary tie on show this weekend.

"Last year, the Camogie Association launched a communications strategy as part of our Development Plan.

Getting more eyes on the game is one of the key objectives, so the Camogie Association is investing in our game by investing on the streaming

services. "People want to be able to watch the games and that impacts positively on attendances, so it is vital to facilitate that."

Six new rules will be trialled throughout the Leagues.

"It was a momentous rule change at Congress last April to allow us do this. Nearly 2000 people made contributions as to regards how they felt we could improve the games, make them quicker and recognise the skill of players.

"We've had huge input from players, management, referees and had briefing sessions with them all.

"It will be a learning curve for everybody but the ethos behind them is to improve the game, recognise the skills of the players and speed things up a bit.

"We have review processes on a weekly basis and a big review at the end so we'll be learning from every situation that arises, to allow camogie to be the best that it can be."

## Camogie's rule trials to be put to the test

■ A player may use minimal contact on an opponent's body from side-on, once they are making a reasonable effort to gain possession of the sliotar. Contact must not be made in an aggressive or cynical manner.

■ A player who is deemed to be persistently fouling another player in the first instance will be noted by the referee. For any further infringement normal rules apply.

■ To restart the game following a wide/score, the referee will blow the whistle to signal a wide/score and from that point the sliotar is back in play and the goalkeeper is free to restart the game via a puck-out from the correct position.

■ A player may choose to take

a quick free from their hand if they are fouled inside their own 45m line. Only the player that is fouled can take it from the hand and it is an indirect free.

■ Should a player deliberately drop their hurley, this will result in a free to the opposing team from where the foul occurred. Any sliotar that is hand-passed directly into the net by an attacking player will be treated as a wide.

■ A penalty must be struck from on or outside the 20m line but not inside it. In addition, only one defending player may stand on the goal-line during a penalty and shall not move towards the 20m line before the sliotar has been struck.



Maurice Gubbins, editor of 'The Echo', presents the Hall of Fame Award to Sheila Golden of Cork Camogie, at The Echo Women in Sport Awards gala luncheon, at the Cork Airport Hotel. Picture: David Keane



Coláiste an Chroí Naofa who won the Munster Senior D colleges camogie title and will contest the All-Ireland semi-final next weekend.

# Schools show plenty of class

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE last few weekends have been extremely busy on the schools camogie front with games both at provincial and county levels being decided.

With a lot of students facing into pre Leaving and Junior Certificate exams in the next few weeks it is hugely important to get as many of these games played as soon as possible. Post primary camogie got a huge boost with the sponsorship announcement of Tesco as their sponsor for all the All-Ireland competitions and this is most welcome as they face into the latter stages of their various competitions.

At provincial levels there was plenty to cheer about from a Cork perspective as two local schools took Munster titles. St Mary's Middleton proved too strong for their name sakes from St Mary's Nenagh as they took the Munster Senior B title with a 2-18 to 1-4 victory.

The girls will contest the semi-final on Saturday next when they travel to meet Dominican Griffith Avenue with the other semi-final featuring Loreto Beaufort against Banagher College.

Coláiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear were crowned Munster Senior D champions as they overcame the challenge of Coláiste An Trochaire Rathkeale on a 1-12 to 1-2 scoreline. Both St Mary's and Coláiste an Chroí Naofa will now go on to contest the All Ireland Colleges semi-finals where their opponents will be Mercy Convent Roscommon who had a big win over Loreto College, Stephen's Green, 9-11 to 1-1.

The Cork girls will face the long journey to Roscommon for this clash on Saturday next on the same afternoon Sacred Heart Newry will take on Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown Kilkenny in the second semi-final.

In the Munster Senior A colleges final two points separated Unruliness Thurles from St Angela's Waterford in a thrilling game where Ursulines ran out winners on a 3-10 to 3-8 score line, they will now meet Presentation Athenry today in the All Ireland semi-final with the other semi-final between St Patrick's Maghera and



The Coachford College camogie team who won the Cork Junior A Championship.

Loreto Kilkenny both these games going ahead this afternoon.

The Hayes Intermediate final was an all Waterford affair as Waterpark got the upper hand on An Rinn.

The Munster Junior A title came to Cork as Sacred Heart Clonakilty had a six point win over Ursulines Thurles 2-9 to 2-6 the winning margin here. On February 15, we will have the semi-finals with Loreto Kilkenny taking on Cross and Passion Ballycastle and Sacred Heart Clonakilty meeting Presentation Athenry and a welcome boost here is that the Cork side will have home venue for that clash.

In the Junior B final Cashel Community School were too strong for Cork sides St Mary's Middleton as they took the title on a 4-5 to 0-6 score line. In the Junior C decider Presentation Thurles notched up 3-6 to overcome a Loreto Fermoy side who hit 4-1 but it wasn't enough to stop the title going to Thurles.

The Junior D final took place in Castle Road where Coláiste Dun Inascaigh Cahir were impressive as they defeated Ballin-

collig Community school 5-11 to 1-10 to be crowned champions.

In Cork Colleges competitions Coachford B took the Cork Intermediate B cup when they had a 2-8 to 1-2 win over Buttevant. Coachford won the Cork Junior A title when they overcame Sacred Heart Clonakilty. The Cork U16 1/2 C shield was won by Ballyvourney who were too strong for Coachford C on a 5-7 to 6-3 winning margin.

Gaelcholáiste Mhuire A G booked their place in the under 16 1/2 South Munster A final when they overcame Loreto Fermoy on a 3-11 to 3-8 score line and they will meet Kilmacthomas in the final today Saturday in WIT at 1pm.

News from the third level colleges is that after the groups were finished up this week we now have the semi-finalists for the UPMC Whitfield Hospital Ashbourne cup which goes ahead on the weekend of February 14-16 in WIT in association with the WIT Vikings GAA Club and the line-up will see UL take on hosts WIT and UCC will meet DCU.