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'They managed end of game better than us' - Murray

BY GER MCCARTHY

PAUDIE Murray made no excuses for Cork's All-Ireland final defeat to Galway.

Cork manager Paudie Murray.

The Cork manager cut a forlorn figure in front of the media deep in the bowels of Croke Park shortly after Cork's All-Ireland final loss.

Bitterly disappointed for his players, management team and supporters, Murray was equally sincere in his praise of Galway.

'Look, I'm disappointed but fair play to Galway, probably over the hour they were the better team,' Murray informed the gathered press.

'Their conversion rate was much better than ours. It comes down to putting scores on the board so I think we were probably second best in that area. I think we retreated a small bit too and in doing that we lost a few breaks around our half-forward line.'

'That was disappointing as we could have managed that better. It was nip and tuck and small things decide games and that's probably one area we fell down in. Hand-passing the ball over a person's head isn't the right option to be taking either but I'm only grasping at straws here.'

The destination of the O'Duffy Cup was still in the melting pot with 10 minutes to go yet it was Galway who outscored Cork 1-4 to 0-1. When asked if game management was an issue, the Cork manager was unequivocal in his response.

'I think we brought Galway on us in that period of time we went three points up,' Murray added.

'We tried to defend the lead rather than going at it again. Every time we ran at them we had them in trouble. The disappointing thing from my point of view is that we didn't kick on and put another couple of scores on the board. At this level you cannot defend a three-point lead with ten minutes to go.'

'They managed the game better than us in the closing stages. At the end of the day, that's where you win the game. You don't win it in the first ten minutes, it is with ten minutes to go.'

Cork left reeling by late Galway scoring surge in epic Croke Park decider

GALWAY 1-15
CORK 1-12

DARAGH O CONCHUÍR REPORTS

CORK'S brave bid to bring the O'Duffy Cup back to Leaside came up short in heartbreaking fashion last Sunday.

Just when it looked like the Rebels were in pole position in this All-Ireland senior camogie final, Galway turned the game on its head thanks to Siobhán McGrath's crucial 56th-minute goal at Croke Park.

It came as Galway rescued what looked a perilous situation when Katrina Mackey sent a thunderbolt to the roof of their net in the 49th minute.

That made it 1-11 to 0-11 in Cork's favour but from that juncture forward, Galway outscored the Munster crew by 1-4 to 0-1 and when one considers that they began the game with four points inside minutes, it was those bursts that proved definitive.

Galway had already reduced the margin to one when McGrath finished delicately beyond the advancing Amy Lee in the 56th minute, after the excellent Ailish O'Reilly had broken the line and provided the consummate pass.

Enniskeane's Orla Cronin, who was magnificent after being cleared to play in the early hours of the morning by the DRA, made it a one-point game but as Cork poured forward, Galway forced some huge turnovers and capitalised on the space, McGrath's sister Orlaith hitting two big points to ensure it was Galway's day.

Heartbreak for Cork, who were back in their first senior final since 2018.

Rebel boss Paudie Murray, understandably disappointed after a tremendous effort by his young team, admitted that Galway might just have deserved to get their hands on the O'Duffy Cup.

'Fair play to Galway,' the Cork boss said, 'Probably over the hour the better team. Their conversion rate was much bet-

ter than ours. It comes down to putting scores on the board, we were second best in that area.'

Murray felt that perhaps his players retreated rather than going for the jugular after Mackey's late goal but credited Galway in cutting out a couple of other potential goal opportunities throughout the game.

'You could say that was good defending. Hand-passing a ball over a person's head is probably not the right option to do, but look I am only grasping at straws. This Galway team has been around. I have been saying for a while they have been the best team, ran by a very good management set-up,' Murray said.

The availability or otherwise of Cork All-Star Orla Cronin dominated the build-up to this game and the Enniskeane playmaker lined out with 26 on her back. It meant that skipper and the match-winner against Kilkenny, Linda Collins of Courcey Rovers, made way.

This was a game befitting an All-Ireland final with phenomenal quality in terms of physicality, skill and stamina and while it could have gone either way with a different bounce of a ball or the difference of a blocked pass here or there, it was difficult to argue against the eventual result given how Galway had led for most of the affair.

It was a frantic start but Galway had the better of it. Carrie Dolan drove over two frees and Siobhán McGrath and Ailish O'Reilly also scored. Gradually, Cork chiselled their way back into it, with great thanks to their midfield pairing of Ashling Thompson and Hannah Looney, the latter in particular taking the battle to the opposition and close to the best player in red throughout. Thompson ran onto a break from an Amy Lee puckout to get the Rebels off the mark without breaking stride. McGrath replied before Sarah Healy was forced into a tremendous save from Katrina Mackey, after Orla Cronin had drawn the cover.

Cronin hit a brilliant score soon after, the first of three consecutive points for Cork,

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Galway's **Aoife Donohue** was named player of the match and we were impressed by both Hannah Looney, dynamic in midfield, and Orla Cronin, instrumental in the Rebel attack, in Cork colours.

Star moment: Has to be Siobhán McGrath's crucial 56th-minute goal. Galway were behind by a point when she scored the goal that turned this final on its head.

Talking point: Very late the night before, Cork playmaker Orla Cronin, who was set to miss the game through suspension, was cleared to play by the DRA, and she delivered a strong performance.

What's next? The O'Duffy Cup will winter in Galway for the second time in three seasons. Cork will know they're not too far away, though.

REBELS FLOORED BY LATE, LATE SHOW



the other two quite superb efforts from Looney. Amy O'Connor was looking lively and she clipped a nice point, while Cronin was very evident in general play too, a testament to the strength of her mentality after her week. Her shooting from placed balls was not so good though and she shot four first-half wides from frees. One was a straightforward attempt to equalise and it was punished as Kilkenny hit the target at the other end.

Scores from Cronin (free) and Mackey, after Cronin had somehow stolen possession, brought Cork level for the first time but an inspirational score by Donohue on the run from wide on the right gave Galway the edge at the break, 0-9 to 0-8.

The third quarter was a real

arm wrestle with very little scoring. It wasn't from the lack of opportunities, but both sets of defences shone, Libby Copping and Shauna Healy just two that came up with some massive plays. And when it was necessary to take a yellow card, they did that too.

Kilkenny extended Galway's advantage when somehow escaping a phalanx of Cork defenders but Paudie Murray's charges remained threatening without translating half-chances to scores, most notably when O'Connor blocked Sarah Healy but shot wide from a narrow angle.

Cronin punished a foul on O'Connor and repeated that trick after Dolan had slotted from a free to leave a point between them at the water break, 0-11 to 0-10, though it had tak-

en a miraculous block from Looney to deny Dolan a goal just before that.

Cronin arced over a beauty from the right, after excellent work by the tireless Saoirse McCarthy and the teams were level.

Linda Collins had been introduced five minutes after the restart and was again a reliable outlet with her assured handling. The captain came up with a massive play to set up Mackey's goal, winning a ball she had no right to, carrying and then delivering the perfectly weighted handpass. Mackey still had a bit to do coming in from the right but the Douglas forward unleashed a howitzer that gave goalkeeper Sarah Healy absolutely no chance.

Croke Park shook but crucially, Galway did not. Dolan



Cork defender Libby Coppinger and Galway's Slobhan Gardiner compete for possession. (Photo: Laszlo Geczo/INPHO)

Cork manager hails 'outstanding' Orla after late reprieve

BY GERMCCARTHY

CORK camogie boss Paudie Murray hailed Orla Cronin's All-Ireland final display as 'outstanding' with the Rebel attacker only finding out she was cleared to feature in Sunday's showpiece game late the night before.

The Enniskeane woman had been sent off in the All-Ireland semi-final two weeks earlier and received a three-match ban that ruled her out of the final.

Cork camogie exhausted every appeal avenue available before the Direct Resolutions Authority (DRA) hearing on the eve of the game granted the Cork star 'interim relief to participate in the All-Ireland final.'

Cronin scored six points, including two from play, against Galway and was one of the best Cork players on show, but that was no surprise to Paudie Murray.

'I thought she was outstanding,' the Cork boss said.

'Nothing more than what I was expecting from her. As for her disciplinary hearing, it had nothing to do with me or the team. Orla didn't train with us but other than that it was totally outside what we were doing.'

'I've had experience of the

THDC (Transfers, Hearings and Disciplinary Committee). I knew where this was going and Orla knew that as well. She was quite relaxed about the whole thing. These hearings are a waste of time and she always knew she was going down that route.

'I would say that our preparation went extremely well to be honest. As for letting her know the decision, I was in bed when it was made so I certainly didn't do it. Again, I haven't been involved in the process but I think they were quite confident that once they got in front (of them) there was only going to be one result. So, I think Orla was preparing herself from Friday evening onwards.'

'I don't want to particularly say too much about it as I don't want to take away from Galway's victory. It might be skewed in a certain way that I have sour grapes about it. I have great time for Galway and Cathal Murray so it is important to get that message right.'

'But, as for the THDC, fairness is the word being used but it is certainly not. I just don't think you have enough qualified people in these meetings to handle them correctly but that's for another day.'



Cork's Orla Cronin goes up against Galway's Dervla Higgins and Sarah Dervan in the final. (Photo: Brian Reilly-Troy/INPHO)

ORLA CRONIN TIMELINE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29TH - Orla Cronin received a straight red card in the 57th minute of Cork's All-Ireland semi-final win against Kilkenny in Croke Park after the Cork forward got in a tangle with the Cats' Grace Walsh.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH - Cited for striking an opponent with the hurley, Cronin's red card was upheld by the Camogie Association's hearings committee, meaning a three-match ban that would rule the Enniskeane woman out of the All-Ireland final.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH - Cork camogie took Cronin's appeal to the Camogie Association's appeals' committee on the Friday night before Sunday's final, but her appeal was rejected here.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH - The last roll of the dice, and at the eleventh hour and the eve of the All-Ireland final, Cronin's appeal went before the Disputes Resolution Authority (DRA). At an emergency DRA interim hearing, the DRA made no finding but, crucially, granted Cronin 'interim relief' to play in the final.

converted a free with her last act of the game before being withdrawn, having made a vital contribution after so long on the treatment table, and O'Reilly took over the placed ball duties, just finding the inside side of the post soon after.

And it was O'Reilly who provided the vital assist for the match-deciding score, giving McGrath that split-second she needed to transfer sliotar to hurley to angle a shot to the net to put Galway back in front.

Cork had contributed splendidly to a wonderful occasion, and surely one of the highest-standard finals in the history of camogie, but that's little consolation as Galway took the spoils.

Scorers
Cork: O Cronin 0-6 (4f); K Mackey

1-1; H Looney 0-2; A Thompson, C Sigerson, A O'Connor 0-1 each.
Galway: C Dolan 0-6 (6f); S McGrath 1-2; N Kilkenny, O McGrath, A O'Reilly (1f) 0-2 each, A Donohue 0-1.

Cork: A Lee; P Mackey, L Coppinger, M Cahalane; L Hayes, L Treacy, S McCarthy; H Looney, A Thompson; C O'Sullivan, F Keating, C Sigerson; K Mackey, A O'Connor, O Cronin.

Subs: L Collins for O'Sullivan (36), C Healy for Keating (59).

Galway: Sarah Healy; D Higgins, Shauna Healy, S Dervan; C Cormican, E Helebert, S Gardiner; N Kilkenny, A Donohue; C Dolan, S Spellman, C Finnerty; O McGrath, S McGrath, A O'Reilly.

Subs: N Hanniffy for Finnerty (1f), R Hennelly for Dolan (51), A Starr for Cormican (60), N Coen for Spellman (61).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Galway's Ailish O'Reilly battles Cork's Ashling Thompson and Meabh Cahalane for the ball. (Photo: Brian Reilly-Troy/INPHO)



Rebels are down now but they're certainly not out



Cork forward Katrina Mackey and Cork manager Paudie Murray after the All-Ireland senior final loss to Galway in Croke Park.

(Photo: László Géczi/NPHO)

Heartbreak for Cork but they know the level they need to reach to scale summit

BY GER MCCARTHY

THE sheer physicality of this year's All-Ireland senior final showcased the best camogie has to offer and why the sport is evolving into an even better spectacle.

There may not have been a full house for last Sunday's triple-header of All-Ireland camogie finals in Croke Park but the roars that greeted Katrina Mackey's goal for Cork and Siobhan McGrath's match-winning strike for Galway shook the stadium to its very core.

Analysing a senior All-Ireland final is straightforward enough when it comes to totalling the number of wides, scores and turnovers. Yet, there is no statistic for the ferocity of the shoulders, tackles and full-on physical hits that took place between two hugely competitive teams.

Camogie's recent evolution has seen Galway, Kilkenny, Cork and Tipperary rise to the summit and dominate the senior grade. There has not been a winner outside of that trio (Cork, Kilkenny or Galway) since Wexford completed three-in-a-row back in 2012. All four contested the All-Ireland semi-finals for the second year running in 2021. The same four qualified for this year's national league camogie penultimate round as well. It is not a coincidence.

There were five All-Ireland debutants last Sunday – goalkeeper Amy Lee, Fiona Keating and Saoirse McCarthy from Courcey Rovers, 19-year-old Ciara O'Sullivan from Newcestown and wing-back Laura Hayes

Why is that? Yes, each team is blessed with raw camogie talent but all four have also taken strength and conditioning and physicality to a new level.

You cannot win a camogie All-Ireland on brute strength alone but there is no doubt that this quartet are the strongest, most physically dominant senior inter-county teams the game has seen. Marry those traits with a demonic work-rate and camogie skillset and you have yourself an All-Ireland contender.

Physicality was the topic, other than Orla Cronin's disciplinary hearing, that dominated the build-up to this year's All-Ireland senior camogie decider. Cork boss Paudie Murray was at pains to remind people in every interview he conducted that Cork would have to front up to their opponents and take them on in the physicality stakes to have any chance of winning.

In fairness to Cork, they did just that with Hannah Looney and Ashling Thompson, in particular, giving as good as

they got in a sometimes overly physical middle-third area of the pitch. The same was true of Galway though, that axis of Sarah Dervan, Emma Helebert, Niamh Kilkenny Aoife Donohue and Sara Spellman hunting in packs, tackling at every opportunity and letting the Cork players know, in no uncertain terms, that they were in a battle.

Senior inter-county camogie at its best. Two sets of warriors fronting up, playing on the edge but within the rules of the game and each team contributing to a memorable All-Ireland final.

Despite the disappointment of Cork's loss, you have to give credit to Cathal Murray's Galway team. A second All-Ireland success in three years does not come about by chance. This Galway team is experienced but also battle-hardened and willing to take you on physically as much as they are when it comes to straightforward camogie skills.

So, did Cork throw it all away after Katrina Mackey's 49th minute goal that moved them

1-11 to 0-11 in front? The statistics don't lie as Galway out-scored their opponents 1-4 to 0-1 in the closing 12 minutes to deservedly claim the O'Duffy Cup. That was the period we saw Galway at their marauding best. It could have been the opening rather than the closing quarter; such was their ferocity at which they tore into Cork and went for the jugular.

Cork can't get away from the fact their shooting let them down on the most important day of the year. Murray's side produced 17 shots from open play yet only converted nine, a 52 percent return (stats courtesy of @gaa_statsman). In contrast, Galway finished with a 75 percent success rate from the same statistic, converting nine of their 12 shots. Add in free conversion rate stats and Cork finished with a 50 percent success rate compared to Galway's 80 percent.

Unsurprisingly, there was nothing in the turnover statistics with Cork winning 51 percent and Galway successful in 48 percent of their attempts. That's down to each team's ability to put pressure on their opponents, especially in the middle of the pitch.

As ever, the only statistic that mattered was on the scoreboard. Galway won because of their ability to find scores despite constant pressure from the Cork backs during the clos-

ing stages. The Tribeswomen are deserving champions as Cork's manager graciously pointed out. So much so that few would bet against Galway being back in another All-Ireland final in 2022.

So, what of Cork? Paudie Murray's role as senior manager is certain to become a hot topic during the winter months. He signed up in January 2021 for this season, and has now been in charge for ten years – and has won four All-Ireland senior titles in that time (2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018). Murray and his team have earned at least another year at the helm. There were five All-Ireland debutants last Sunday – goalkeeper Amy Lee, Fiona Keating and Saoirse McCarthy from Courcey Rovers, 19-year-old Ciara O'Sullivan from Newcestown and wing-back Laura Hayes – coupled with a strong underage set-up means Cork camogie is in a healthy position despite last Sunday's loss.

The real question is does Paudie Murray want to come back for another year? Only he can answer that. Hopefully, it's a yes, and that we see Murray back in charge for 2022 and this improving Cork team returning to Croke Park for another shot at the champions. Cork are down right now, but certainly not out.

There's a lot to be hopeful about.

TALKING POINTS

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CLINICAL GALWAY – It's easy to pinpoint Siobhan McGrath's 56th-minute goal as crucial, and it was as it pushed Galway in front and they drove on from there, but overall the Tribeswomen were more clinical in front of the posts, as stats from @gaa_statsman highlight. While Cork took 26 shots and scored 13 for a 50 percent conversion rate, look at how clinical Galway were – they racked up 16 scores from 20 shots for an 80 percent conversion rate. The winners were more accurate from placed balls, too, with an 87 percent conversion rate compared to Cork's 44 percent. Fine margins make a big difference.

CRONIN PLAYS – It was an eleventh hour reprieve for Cork playmaker Orla Cronin as her three-match ban for the red card she received against Kilkenny was effectively put on hold to be dealt with at a later date. 2020 All-Star Cronin is key to the Rebels. She's a play maker and free-taker and knits the play between defence and attack. Credit to the Enniskeane woman who, despite such an emotionally draining build-up, for producing the goods again. She scored 0-6, including four frees, and was one of Cork's top performers in Croke Park. Cronin, again, showed she's a player for the big occasion.

YOUNG REBELS

In terms of experience, Galway held most of the aces. This was their third All-Ireland senior final in a row and they wore this crown in 2018 so they know what the occasion is all about. For Cork, five players – goalkeeper Amy Lee, Fiona Keating, Saoirse McCarthy (pictured), Ciara O'Sullivan and Laura Hayes – were all playing in their first All-Ireland senior final so this experience was new to them. They'll all be better for it. Now they know what it's like, and they will want to get back there again. So will the rest of the Cork team. This young Cork side wasn't too far away from the biggest prize.



INSIDE TRACK JOHN MCINTYRE



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Galway show guts of champions in a terrific camogie final triumph

THEY are a credit to the county. All the tributes flowing the way of the Galway camogie team this week are richly deserved after their storming finish floored the Rebels at Croke Park on Sunday. It was defiance of the highest order.

Team managers regularly demand of their players in all sports to be 'carried out on your shield', but it rarely happens. Too much tension; too much at stake; too much pressure. Well, these remarkable Tribeswomen were in no mood for compromise even when defeat was staring them in the face.

In my near 41-years in the Tribune, it's doubtful if I have ever seen a Galway team in an All-Ireland final find such reserves of character and sheer heart when the gun was put to their heads. All day, they had hunted in packs but still found themselves three points down with ten minutes remaining in a thrilling showdown.

What more had they left to give? They had thrown everything at Cork from the off and still couldn't protect their early established lead. It would have been easy to falter physically and mentally, but from somewhere Galway found the necessary resolve to carry the day.

It made for compelling viewing. Cathal Murray's team were just not prepared to surrender. Instead, they were the ones who exhibited the qualities of champions in pulling the All-Ireland out of the fire. Cork, the most successful county in the history of the sport, was the team to flinch.

Galway's triumph - their fourth All-Ireland ever - must rank as their greatest of them all. It wasn't just the fact that it came after a terrific spectacle, but also in the manner of their victory. They had come to GAA headquarters to win and there was no turning back.

The pre-match perception was that a relatively handy draw had facilitated Galway's progress to their third final on the trot. They were winning, but not hitting the heights of their glorious 2019 campaign. Many doubted if they could raise their game to another level, and the prophets of doom presumed that they were a fading force.

It was almost as if the Galway players took umbrage over being ranked outsiders for the final the way that they flew out of the traps - registering four points from Carrie Dolan (two frees), Siobhan McGrath and Ailish O'Reilly in less than four minutes. We already knew the women in maroon were going to deliver by far their best display of the year.

But by God, they needed it too. From the fifth to the 50th minute, Cork were slightly the better team. They gradually eroded that deficit despite the outstanding Aoife Donohue and Niamh Kilkenny scoring some superb points, and when Katrina Mackey rifled the sliotar to the opposition net at a critical time, it left Galway in deep trouble.

Three points clear, Cork had the O'Duffy Cup in their sights. Then Galway were awarded a difficult free from under the Hogan Stand. An understandably match-rusty Dolan had just been replaced, but up stepped O'Reilly to display nerves of steel in sending the sliotar between the posts. It was a moment of huge psychological importance.



Galway players Aoife Donohue and Siobhan Gardiner with young fan Aine Rohan from Beagh after defeating Cork in Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park.

PHOTO: INFO
EVAN TREACY



IT WILL STILL BE A SURPRISE IF HE DOESN'T STAY LOYAL TO A GROUP OF WOMEN WHO HAVE DONE HIM PROUD

All over the field, it was obvious that Galway players had got some lift from that score. They dominated the closing minutes and when O'Reilly put Siobhan McGrath through for the match-winning goal in the 56th minute, Cork had no more to give with a brace of superb points from Orlaith McGrath putting the seal on a magnificent win.

When you consider the service the likes of team captain Sarah Dervan, Caitriona Cormican, Donohue and Kilkenny have given to Galway over a long number of years, their commitment and ambition on Sunday was extraordinary. They still possess that naked desire to win, and how it was backed up by their colleagues.

The McGrath sisters, O'Reilly and Shauna Healy were other heroes, while Dolan's accuracy from placed balls was critical on a day Cork weren't quite so clinical from play or frees. Emma Helebert and Siobhan Gardiner were lionhearted in the half-back line, while behind them Dervla Higgins and keeper Sarah Healy never flinched either.

Throw in the industry of Catherine Finnerty and Sarah Spellman, together with the impact of Niamh Hanniffy when introduced, Galway had all the angles covered. Producing your best display of the year on the day it most counts is every team's ambition, but few manage to pull it off.

That Galway did so against a high-quality Cork outfit only adds merit to their achievement. Their commitment never wavered, their hearts never faltered, their courage an inspiration to all teams wearing maroon jerseys. We should be proud of a special group who have lifted our spirits after a disappoint-

ing season for Galway GAA at inter-county level.

The huge contribution of the Galway management must be acknowledged as well. Having led his home club Sarsfields to senior championship glory as player/manager in 2015, Cathal Murray's sideline stock has continued to soar. His future plans are unknown, but it will still be a surprise if he doesn't stay loyal to a group of women who have done him proud. The Galway hurling job can wait. Congrats to all involved.

Mayo Despair

Despite Ryan Donoghue's penalty miss and a couple of other spurned goal chances, it's hard to suggest that the breaks went against Mayo at Croke Park on Sunday - unlike a few other final experiences. On the day, Tyrone were the more composed and clinical outfit. They also possessed the better forwards.

Unfortunately, that will be of little consolation to Mayo's passionate supporters as the county tries to come to terms with their 11th All-Ireland final defeat since 1951. After flooring six-in-a-row champions Dublin in the semi-final, many of them would have thought the stars were finally aligning in Mayo's favour. Sports doesn't work that way, however.

The four-week break between that semi-final and the decider probably did Mayo no favours and though they typically fought courageously to the end - none more so than the heroic Lee Keegan - it will be another long winter of soul-searching for a county whose love of Gaelic football remains undimmed despite so much heartache.

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

Murray's charges dig deep to take second title in three years

GALWAY	1-15
CORK	1-12

EANNA O'REILLY
AT CROKE PARK

THE Galway senior camogie team secured their fourth All-Ireland crown after a magnificent three-point victory over Cork at Croke Park on Sunday. In an extremely tight and tense finish to the All-Ireland Final, Galway showed terrific composure, resolve and character in the last ten minutes to deservedly claim the silverware on the day.

True grit was the order of the day at Croke Park, particularly when Cork appeared to be taking control at a crucial stage of the second half. However, the ladies from the west simply refused to be beaten, in a fantastic display of steely resolve and will to win. When it came to the crunch, the Tribeswomen answered the questions asked of them to get over the line impressively.

The composure, leadership, guile, and courage of the Galway players came to the fore as they outscored Cork by 1-4 to 0-1 in the critical minutes which followed Katrina Mackey's goal. The likes of Sarah Dervan, Emma Helebert, Caitriona Cormican, Aoife Donohue, Niamh Kilkenny, Ailish O'Reilly and the McGrath sisters stood up as huge leaders when the need was at its greatest.

Galway's achievement is all the more impressive for beating a Cork side of the highest quality. The Rebels contributed significantly to what was a fantastic contest, with the fluency and physicality of the game making for a great spectacle. The match ups made for compelling viewing throughout the game, with the quality of both sets of players providing a tremendous standard of play at Croke Park.

In overcoming Cork for only the second time in nine final meetings, Galway overcame the weight of history to defeat a county which has traditionally inflicted excessive heartbreak on the Tribeswomen. On this occasion, Sarah Dervan and her teammates simply weren't prepared to go home without the county's fourth All-Ireland title in the bag.

And what an historic occasion for the Galway captain, as well as the Mullagh club, it proved to be. On a day when Galway's victorious 1996 All-Ireland winning team were honoured as the jubilee champions at Croke Park,



GALWAY'S TRUE

25 years after Imelda Hobbins' historic title winning captaincy, Dervan became the first Galway captain to lift the O'Duffy Cup for a second time.

It was fitting that such a tremendous servant and hugely popular character achieved such a piece of personal history. This achievement, combined with Aoife Donohue's Player of the Match performance, should provide an enormous sense of pride in the parish of Mullagh for a long time to come.



THIS VICTORY SETS GALWAY UP FOR AN EXCITING FUTURE, WITH A GROUP OF PLAYERS WHO ARE BY NO MEANS FINISHED WINNING

Pride is something this Galway team has brought to the entire county in 2021, as fantastic representatives and role models

for the next generation of players within the county. Two All-Ireland's in three years represents an unprecedented level of success at senior level, which can become a far more regular occurrence for Galway, following this victory.

On the day, Galway needed to produce their best performance of the year to match up to Cork and they certainly delivered this. The Tribeswomen were boosted by the availability of Carrie Dolan, whose late recovery from a medial ligament injury enabled her to line out for the first time since July 17. Cork were boosted by their successful DRA appeal against the suspension of key forward Orla Cronin, bizarrely settled on Saturday evening.

Galway made a whirlwind start to the game, going 0-4 to 0-0 ahead after five minutes. Dolan pointed two early frees after fouls on Niamh Kilkenny and Ailish O'Reilly, as the Cork defence was pressurised early. Catherine Finnerty then played a lovely cross field ball to Siobhán McGrath, who put over the first score from play.

Within a minute, Emma Helebert's delivery found O'Reilly, who shot Galway's fourth point to underline an excellent start. Cork opened their account shortly after, with midfielder Ashling Thompson getting the Rebels off the mark. A minute later, the McGrath sisters combined in the full forward line with Siobhán finishing the move with her second point of the game.

Cork showed their threat in the full forward line for the first time when Katrina Mackey broke through on goal, only to have her shot well saved by Sarah Healy, who had advanced off her line. Chloe Sigerson landed an impressive point from midfield under the Cusack Stand shortly after, signalling the start of a dominant spell for Cork. Midfielder Hannah Looney thundered into the game and hit two excellent points in as many minutes for the Leesiders.

Orlaith McGrath soon drew a foul at the other end, which Dolan converted for Galway's first score in ten minutes. It gave the Tribeswomen a two-point lead at the water break, in a

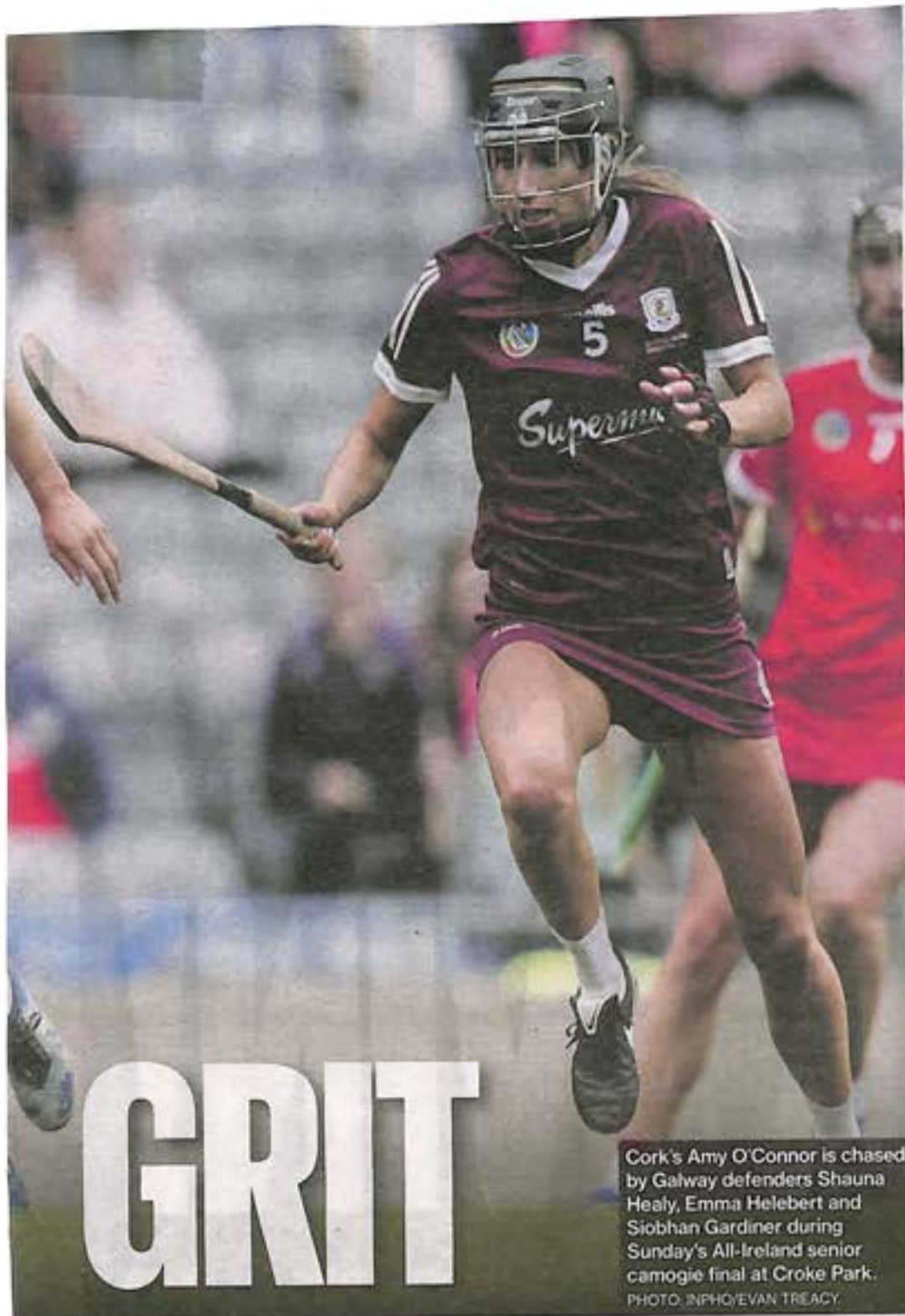


Cork's Laura Treacy comes under pressure from Galway's Ailish O'Reilly and Sarah Spellman at Croke Park.

game which was shaping up just as evenly as had been anticipated. Cronin pointed her first free in the 20th minute, after Amy O'Connor had shown a glimpse of her threat in the full forward line and drawn a foul.

Within a minute, a strong run from Aoife Donohue resulted in

a Cork foul, which Dolan converted for the fourth time in the game. The Galway half back line were providing an excellent platform, with Siobhán Gardiner and Emma Helebert in outstanding form, while Caitriona Cormican was highly effective in marking Cork's



Cork's Amy O'Connor is chased by Galway defenders Shauna Healy, Emma Helebert and Siobhan Gardiner during Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park. PHOTO: INPHO/EVAN TREACY.

GALWAY BOSS MURRAY LAUDS PLAYERS FOR MASSIVE EFFORT IN REGAINING O'DUFFY CUP

EANNA O'REILLY

GALWAY manager Cathal Murray credited his players for showing composure and self-belief throughout Sunday's All-Ireland Final. Not surprisingly, he highlighted the team's reaction to the Cork goal as a vital factor in securing their second O'Duffy Cup in three years.

"I'm just so proud of all of the girls today. The way they responded to Cork's goal was absolutely massive. That was the first time Cork went ahead of us, but no one went hiding out there, they all stood up and were counted. We spoke before the game about what we would do if something like that happened, and we knew our reaction would make the difference between winning and losing. That's exactly how it turned out."

Murray praised the senior players in the team for showing leadership in the second half when the match was in the balance, highlighting their mentality and calmness under pressure as key factors, when the easy option would have been to panic.

"The leaders we have in this team are huge. The likes of Sarah Dervan, Niamh Kilkenny, Aoife Donohue, they were fantastic when we really needed them in the second half. But everyone made a massive contribution. Niamh Hanniffy coming on the second half, she did really well against Ashling Thompson, and Aoife got on top against Hannah Looney, which was vital. All over the field, we had leaders and we kept our heads when the pressure came on. We picked out the right passes and used the ball well when we needed to."

The Galway boss said he had fully expected Cork's Orla Cronin to play a part in the final, and the management had configured their tactics with this in mind. On, the day, he was very happy



Galway manager Cathal Murray speaking to RTE ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park.

with how his players matched up individually against their opponents.

"We thought a lot about the match ups beforehand, and I thought they went really well. Teeny [Caitriona Cormican] did a brilliant job on Chloe Sigerson and Shauna [Healy] on Amy O'Connor was excellent. Cork have a brilliant forward line and you're never going to dominate them for the entire game. They have huge quality and we just wanted to reduce their impact as much as we could. But in fairness to the girls, they carried it out really, really well today."

As to the legacy of the current Galway side, the manager acknowledged the significance of winning two All-Irelands in three years, while identifying the target of back-to-back titles as the next step in securing their status as a truly great team.

"Two All-Ireland titles in three years, it marks them out as the most successful senior team we've had in Galway. In my opinion, you need to win consecutive titles to be marked out as a really great team. That will be the next target for Galway to get to, but we'll certainly enjoy today's win before we do anything else," he concluded.



Galway's Niamh Kilkenny is about to be confronted by Cork's Orla Cronin and Aisling Thompson.

sharpshooter Sigerson.

Cronin soon supplied O'Connor with a cross field ball, resulting in a point for the St. Vincent's player. Galway replied with an impressive score, with Donohue supplying Siobhán McGrath, who passed to Kilkenny, who pointed from the right

wing.

The Leesiders hit back with the next two points, however. Looney drew a foul which Cronin converted, before Cronin was involved in setting up Mackey for another Cork point. With the sides level, Donohue got onto a ball in the

right corner and took on a shot from an extremely tight angle, which sailed over for a magnificent score.

After a knife edged first half, Galway had the advantage of going into the interval in front by the minimum. They extended their lead shortly after the resumption with an excellent score from Niamh Kilkenny. A passing move down the right wing involving Sarah Spellman and Orlaith McGrath saw the ball worked to Kilkenny, who still had a lot to do before firing over her second point of the afternoon.

A period of scrappy play followed, during which Galway dodged a bullet when O'Connor blasted a shot wide from close range, following an error from Sarah Healy. The Rebels were winning the vast majority of puck outs at this point and building their running game from the half back line.

The Galway defence was under pressure as Cork got an increased supply of ball to their forwards. Shauna Healy made a crucial tackle to stop O'Connor going through on goal, before a

foul on the corner forward three minutes late saw Healy awarded a yellow card.

Cronin pointed the resulting free, but she missed a couple of scoring opportunities during this spell which could have turned the screw for her side. Herself and Dolan converted frees at either end to leave the score at 0-11 to 0-10 in Galway's favour at the second water break.

Cork equalised when Cronin got on the end of a well worked team move to put over a point from the right corner. Galway were struggling to secure any possession from puck outs and Cork had generated momentum from their dominance of the breaking ball. Their next attack saw the ball worked into Linda Collins in the right corner. The Cork captain broke inside Galway's cover before laying the ball off to Katrina Mackey, who blasted to the net.

Galway were behind for the first time in the game, and it looked as though the Rebels had taken control with ten minutes to play. Galway's response, however, was emphatic. O'Reilly

drew a foul which Dolan converted to reduce the margin to two. Shortly after, O'Reilly stood over her first free on the Hogan Stand sideline and nailed the score.

The exchanges were frantic at this stage with time running out and a single point separating the sides. Dervan played a great delivery down field to O'Reilly who broke inside the Cork defence before laying off to Siobhán McGrath, and the expert finisher struck once again to the back of the net.

Cork responded to the goal with a well worked point for Cronin three minutes later. Galway held a one-point lead as the injury time seconds ticked by and the intensity was peaking. Kilkenny found Orlaith McGrath on the right wing for a crucial point, before the Pearses veteran won a crucial ball in mid-field and laid off to Siobhán McGrath. She in turn, found her sister Orlaith on the left wing, and the ball flew over the bar from 75 yards to seal Galway's fourth O'Duffy Cup triumph.

The post-match scenes reflected a marvellous sense of

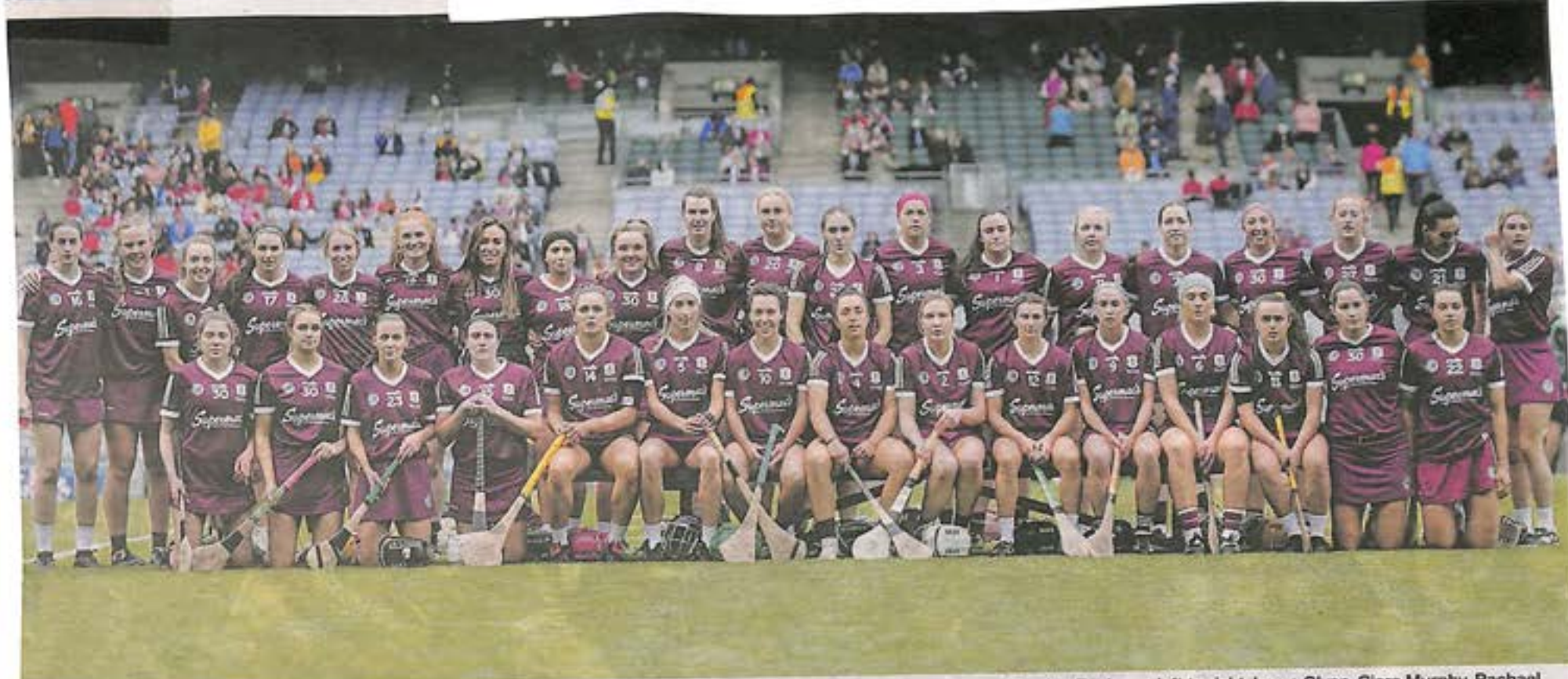
achievement for the Galway players and supporters, with the Croke Park crowd contributing greatly to the occasion. This victory sets Galway up for an exciting future, with a group of players who are by no means finished winning.

Given the level of talent in the county, there appears to be no reason why the Tribeswomen cannot work their way up the role of honours table in the future and start to close the gap on the top winners of the O'Duffy Cup. If Galway's ambition matches their talent, the potential for future titles is limitless.

Galway: Sarah Healy, D. Higgins, S. Dervan, Shauna Healy, C. Cormican, E. Helebert, S. Gardiner, A. Donohue (0-1), N. Kilkenny (0-2), C. Dolan (0-6 frees), S. Spellman, C. Finnerty, S. McGrath (1-2), O. McGrath (0-2), A. O'Reilly (0-2, 0-1 free). Subs: N. Hanniffy for Finnerty (HT), R. Henneley for Dolan (5), A.M. Starr for Cormican (60 INJ), N. Coen for Spellman (5).

Cork: A. Lee, P. Mackey, L. Coppinger, M. Cahalane, L. Hayes, L. Treacy, S. McCarthy, H. Looney (0-2), A. Thompson (0-1), C. O'Sullivan, F. Keating, C. Sigerson (0-1), A. O'Connor (0-1), O. Cronin (0-6, 0-4 frees), K. Mackey (1-1). Subs: L. Collins for O'Sullivan (36), C. Healy for Keating (60).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



CHAMPIONS: The Galway senior camogie team which regained the All-Ireland title after overcoming Cork at Croke Park on Sunday. Back row, left to right: Laura Glynn, Ciara Murphy, Rachael Hanniffy, Ann Marie Starr, Laura Ward, Roisin Black, Heather Cooney, Tara Kenny, Mairead Dillon, Niamh Hanniffy, Maria Cooney, Carrie Dolan, Sarah Dervan, Sarah Healy, Sarah Spellman, Catriona Cormican, Lisa Casserly, Aine Keane, Niamh McGrath, Ciara Donohue. Front row: Elisha Broderick, Ava Lynskey, Noreen Coen, Ailish O'Reilly, Orlaith McGrath, Siobhan Gardiner, Catherine Finnerty, Dervla Higgins, Shauna Healy, Aoife Donohue, Niamh Kilkenny, Emma Helebert, Siobhan McGrath, Molly Mannion, Rebecca Hennelly. PHOTO: INPHO/EVAN TREACY.

Making her mark again

■ Long serving Cormican delivers another big-day display in victory over Cork

EANNA O'REILLY

OVER the last few years, Galway's Caitriona Cormican has established herself as one of the best big game players in camogie. For the third year in a row, the Cappataggle star was assigned the task of marking the opposition's most influential forward and once again she delivered on the big day.

Cork's Chloe Sigerson had scored five points, including four cracking efforts from play, in the Leesiders' semi-final victory over Kilkenny and was a major threat to the Tribeswomen.

The Killeagh player's ability to land long distance points marks her out as one of the game's most talented forwards. Aside from one early score however, Sigerson was largely anonymous, as Cormican's clutches proved too difficult for her to escape from.

Having twice neutralised Kilkenny legend Anne Dalton in All-Ireland Finals, Galway's flying doctor was the perfect player to be assigned the role of tailing Sigerson on Sunday. After the game, Cormican expressed her satisfaction with being able to contribute to Galway's win and experience another special day at Croke Park.

"I had that job today [marking Sigerson] but everyone had their own job to do, and the girls



Galway's Sarah Spellman, Catriona Cormican and Siobhan McGrath show their joy after defeating Cork in the All Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park on Sunday. PHOTO: INPHO/LASZLO GECZO.

were just absolutely fantastic. She (Sigerson) was a big player for them this year, I suppose, she was impressive in the semi-final. I knew I had to be ready for her movement, she likes to drift out the field at times and pick up the ball around mid-field. I just had to be conscious

of that and not let her get too far away. Thankfully it worked out alright!"

Cormican believed that Sunday's win was the sweetest of all for herself and her teammates, having overcome so many obstacles throughout the year, as well as the weight of history in

the final against Cork.

"To get to three All-Irelands in a row and win two of them, it's absolutely brilliant. It's just an unbelievable feeling. It's so special to be involved with this group. We've had such bad luck with injuries, between Heather (Cooney), Carrie (Dolan) and Or-

laith (McGrath) earlier in the year. Heather was so unlucky to do her cruciate, but she was such a positive part of the group all year."

"Carrie did unbelievable work in the last few weeks to get back, she really gave it everything. The character she had to

stay focused and try to get back for the final, it was just unreal. We got such a lift when we saw her coming back, it was brilliant. But it's not surprising when you know Carrie. That's just the type of character she is."

Cormican's belief in the character of her teammates ensured that she never doubted the team's resolve, even after Katrina Mackey's goal put Cork ahead at a crucial stage of the second half.

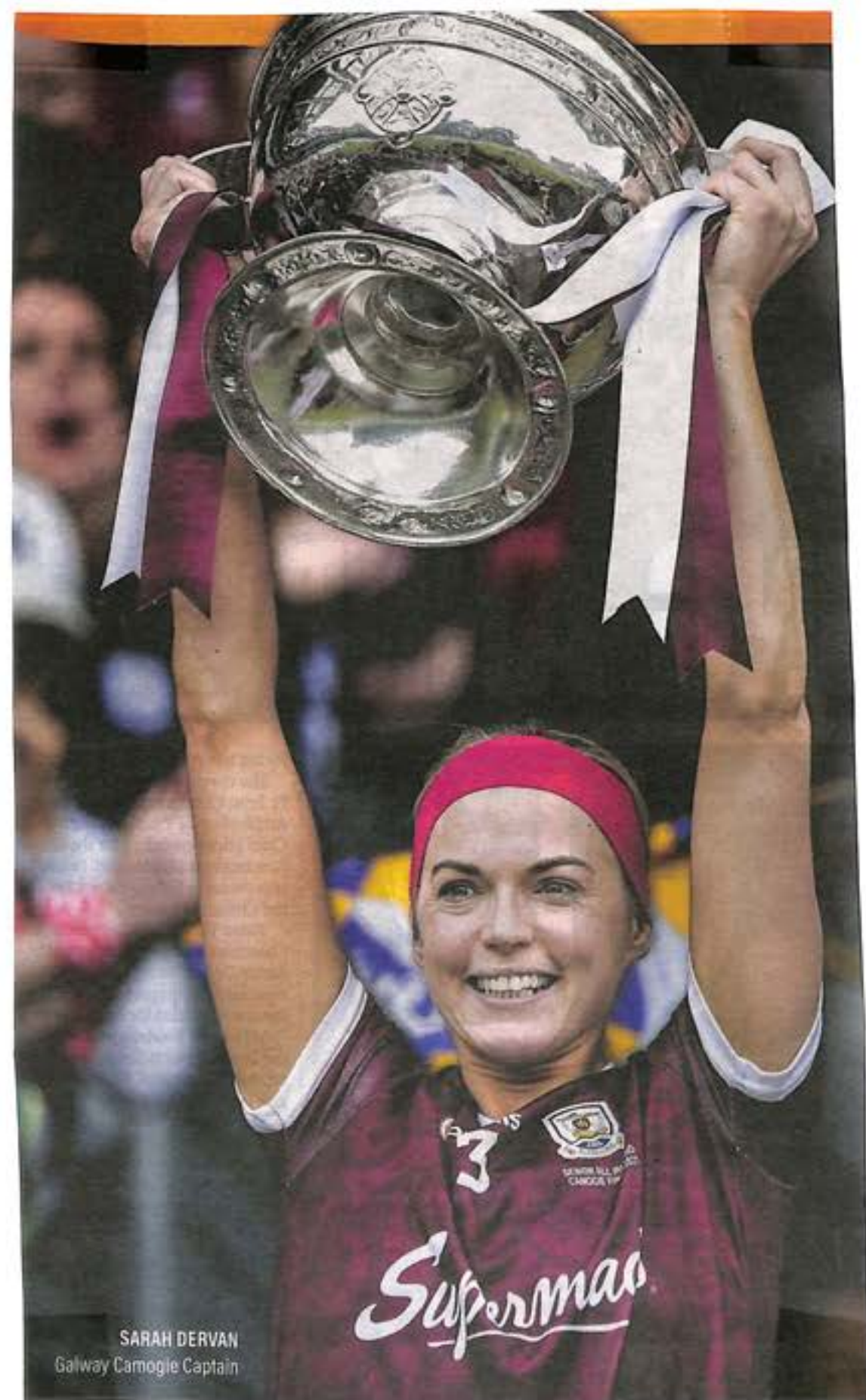
"We expected them [Cork] to get on top at some stage, and we talked a lot about those scenarios. It was vital that we didn't panic or drop our heads when they got the goal. We didn't let it phase us, we just kept plugging away like we said we would and the girls up in the forwards took their chances. Our goal came at a brilliant time and fair play to Siobhán for finishing it so well. That gave us confidence at a crucial stage and thankfully we drove on from there."

Although she might understate her own role, Cormican's influence was fundamental to Galway's success on the day. As well as providing a peerless level of versatility, she confirmed her status as one of the games top individual markers. After overcoming her own injury problems during the year, her contribution in Galway's biggest games was vital in helping to secure their fourth O'Duffy Cup triumph.

DREAM COMES TRUE!



Galway camogie super-fan Grace Reilly gets to meet her hero Niamh Kilkenny after Galway's All-Ireland Final win in Croke Park on Sunday. See Tribune Sport for full coverage of Galway's win. PHOTO: INPHO/JAMES CROMBIE



SARAH DERVAN
Galway Camogie Captain

Galway determined to build a dynasty

Eoghan Cormican

Galway goalkeeper Sarah Healy is adamant the All-Ireland camogie champions "can go much further" than two final wins in three years.

While Sunday's three-point win over Cork cemented Galway's status as camogie's outstanding team of recent years, following on as it did from the 2019 victory, Healy spoke of a determination to add further silverware in coming seasons.

Galway manager Cathal Murray said on Sunday that the next challenge for his All-Ireland winning troops is to do back to back. And going on Healy's tone, the belief is there the all-conquering women in maroon can achieve such.

"We believe in our camp that we are a great team. From the loss of last year we knew we were good enough to come back, we knew we were a good team, and that [with] the work we do that we can win two, we can win three," said the Galway shot-stopper.

No more than winning captain Sarah Dervan who credited Murray for bringing Galway camogie to an elite level during the three and a half years he has been in the post, Healy was effusive in her praise of the Tribes manager.

"He has brought Galway camogie way further than it ever was. We were always knocking around semi-final stages, struggling to get to the final. He came in and the people he brought in around him, the likes of Robbie Lane who has done massive work with us, have brought us so far. We can go much further."

Healy was beaten just once on Sunday, Katriona Mackey's 48th-minute goal leaving Galway chasing a three-point deficit with 12 minutes remaining. Not a shred of doubt, though, entered the goalkeeper's mind. "I just had that feeling we are going to win. So when they got the goal, we went down and got a score, and got another score. I was like, we are okay, we are going to come back, and we are going to win it."



Carrie Dolan celebrates after last Sunday's All-Ireland win over Cork. PHOTO: INPHO/EVAN

STAR
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2021
Sport



ALL-IRELAND HEARTBREAK FOR REBELS

Cork floored by late Galway scoring surge in Croke Park classic

See pages 3-5 for more

'Inspirational' Cork camogie team welcomed home



A Cork City councillor has spoken of the great pride the Cork camogie team should have in themselves following the All-Ireland final on Sunday where they fought for Cork's 29th camogie title against Galway, who won the match by three points. Fianna Fáil councillor for Cork City South East and Deputy Lord Mayor Mary Rose Desmond, tweeted welcoming them home to Cork on Sunday night. Speaking to *The Echo*, Ms Desmond said it was great to be at the match and at the station watching and welcoming the team back to Cork. 'It's so important for women's sport to see them getting that far. They are an inspiration and they gave it their all. It was down to the wire. They showed true grit and determination till the very end. They are an inspiration to young girls and these things do make a difference. They do matter.'

Cronin DRA case is a concern for the future

Irrespective of whether Orla Cronin was rightly or wrongly sent off against Kilkenny, that the Disputes Resolution Authority (DRA) offered her an interim order staying the period of suspension to play in Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final is slightly worrying.

Not that there was anything untoward about how Cork or Cronin made their application but how many others will now look at achieving a similar outcome should there not be enough time to stage a full tribunal hearing?

Going back to Diarmuid Connolly's case in 2015, two of the three-person tribunal ruled hours before the All-Ireland semi-final replay against Mayo that the Dublin forward had "not been afforded fair procedures by the GAA's Central Competitions Control Committee".

Favoured by a majority of two against one on the DRA panel, Hugh O'Flaherty and David Nohilly mentioned: "The Tribunal is also cognisant of the fact that the Claim-

ant, in exercising his legal rights, has endured a late night hearing before the CHC on Wednesday night, a late night hearing before the CAC on Thursday night, a late night hearing before the DRA on Friday night all before an All-Ireland semi final replay match on Saturday afternoon.

"It would be unduly harsh and disproportionate to remit the matter back for further re-processing in the circumstances."

The DRA, although they have been slow to release full decisions on matters such as Rory Brennan's red card against Donegal last October and Ronan McCarthy's ban earlier this year, could not be blamed for tardiness on this occasion. Cronin only lost her case in front of the Camogie Association's appeal committee on Friday night, 12 days after she was issued the red card.

If the governing authorities don't provide prompter due process, there may be further trouble ahead.

Cork boss says 'gutted' for players

CORK manager Paudie Murray said he was "gutted" for his players, after a pulsating All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park.

The Rebels took the lead in the fourth quarter, after a brilliant Kattriona Mackey goal from a Linda Collins assist, but it wasn't enough, as Galway dominated the last 10 minutes and prevailed 1-15 to 1-12.

It was the Tribes' fourth All-Ireland and Cork paid a heavy price for a slow start, trailing 0-4 to no score, and having had a number of costly wides.

This was in part down to the intensity of Galway's tackling, with the referee allowing the game to flow and with both teams responding.

"Disappointed and gutted for the players, but, I suppose, we gave it

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

everything and we fell short," said Murray, who was at the helm for Cork's last success, in 2018.

"I suppose, our conversion rate needed to be that bit better and, physically, we probably lost out in a number of areas out there, particularly bringing balls into contact.

"We couldn't hold onto it and, I suppose, with a young team that will happen — particularly against an experienced side like Galway, that's going to happen — but, I suppose, you

would like to have moved the ball better."

Murray felt his side were nervous in the early stages, even with free-taker Orla Cronin available after a late decision by the DRA to put her suspension — for a red card in the semi-final — on hold.

"We were a bit jittery and our first touch wasn't where it should have been," Murray said.

"We settled and got back into the game and when we took the lead, we should have pushed on, but we retreated and drew them on us and we left them back into it.

"We didn't tack on scores to see it through and, I suppose, this is something that is disappointing."

Galway finished impressively.



Cork captain Linda Collins is consoled by teammate Laura Hayes.

Picture: Ben McShane/Sportsfile

"They got their noses back in front and we did win possession, but we failed to hold it and they closed it out.

"We went up three points and we needed to tag on another point or two, but we didn't and fair play to Galway, they did what they had to do.

"We had a chance or two, but we failed to take them."

Paying tribute to Cronin, who was only cleared to play late on Saturday night, Murray said: "Orla is an exceptional player and, mentally, she is a very strong person.

"I think this will make her stronger, she came through a hard week, but, fair play to her, I think she is going to be a lot better player going forward."

■ See inside for full analysis and reaction.



ANTRIM INTERMEDIATE TEAM

Aontroim - Bui agus Bán



Amy Boyle
Defender/midfielder
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Student



Katie McKillop
Defender
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Make up Artist



Eimear Boyle
Goalkeeper
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Operations support



Laoise McKenna
Defender
Bridini Óga Gleann Fhreabhu
Pharmacist



Caitriona Graham
Goalkeeper
Naomh Muire Achadh Eochaille
Marketing Consultant



Lucia Mc Naughton
Midfielder/forward
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Physiotherapist



Katie Carey
Forward
Gearóidíní Port Chluain Eoghain
Primary School Teacher



Anna Connolly
Forward
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Student



Chloe Drain
Defender
Cúchulainn Dhún Láthai
PE teacher



Nicole O'Neill
Midfielder/forward
Cúchulainn Dhún Láthai
Secondary School Teacher



Shauna Devlin
Defender
Seamróga Loch gCaol
PE teacher



Ciara Laverty
Midfielder/forward
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Student



Niamh Donnelly
Defender
Mac Uilliam Bhaile an Chaistil
PE teacher



Christine Laverty
Midfielder/forward
Seamróga Loch gCaol
HR Assistant



Clare Mc Killop
Defender
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Software Developer



Ciara Dobbin
Forward
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Physiotherapist



Maria Lynn
Defender
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Primary School Teacher



Caitrin Dobbin
Forward
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Civil Servant



Róisín Kelly
Forward
Gearóidíní Port Chluain Eoghain
Teacher



Becky Ellis
Goalkeeper
Mac Uilliam Bhaile an Chaistil
Classroom assistant



Colleen Patterson
Defender
Ruairí Óg Chois Abhann Dalla
Environmental Planning Consultant



Áine Magill
Forward
Cúchulainn Dhún Láthai
Student of Nursing Studies



Niamh Ann Donnelly
Defender
Mac Uilliam Bhaile an Chaistil
PR Client Executive



Orlagh O'Hara
Full-forward
Ruairí Óg Chois Abhann Dalla
Student



Caoimhe Conlon
Defender
Cúchulainn Dhún Láthai
Physiotherapist



Roisin McCormick
Forward
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Student



Catherine McShane
Defender
Mac Uilliam Bhaile an Chaistil
Student



Aine McGill
Position: Forward
Club: Cúchulainn Dhún Láthai
Occupation: Student



Maeve Connolly
Defender
Seamróga Loch gCaol
Technology & Design Teacher



Maeve Kelly
Forward
Mac Uilliam Bhaile an Chais
Student Teacher



IONADAÍ

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 16 Eimear Boyle
E. Ní Bhanáil
Seamróga Loch gCaol | 21 Niamh Anne Donnelly
N. A. Ní Dhoonghail
Mac Uilliam Bhaile an
Chaistil | 25 Anna Connolly
A. Ní Chonghail
Seamróga Loch gCaol |
| 17 Katie McAlister (Carey) C.
Níe Giolla Íosa
Portlennane | 22 Catherine McShane
C. Níe Seáin
Mac Uilliam Bhaile an
Chaistil | 26 Ciara Laverty
C. Níe Labhairteagh
Seamróga Loch gCaol |
| 18 Shauna Devlin
S. Níe Dhoibhín
Seamróga Loch gCaol | 23 Katie McKillop
C. Níe Pháil
Seamróga Loch gCaol | 27 Ciara Dobbin
C. Níe Dhoibín
Seamróga Loch gCaol |
| 19 Clare McKillop
C. Níe Pháil
Seamróga Loch gCaol | 24 Laoise McKenna
L. Níe Connath | 28 Becky Ellis
B. Níe Éilí
Mac Uilliam Bhaile an
Chaistil |
| 20 Róisín Kelly | | |

































TEAM OFFICIALS

- Manager:** Paul McKillen
Manager: Jim McKernan
Female Liaison & Covid Officer: Elaine Dowds
Physio: Eoin Mahon
Strength & Condition: Kurtis Ashcroft
County Chairperson: Vincent Boyle



KILKENNY INTERMEDIATE TEAM

Cill Chainnigh - Dubh & Omra

 Sinead Farrell Goalkeeper St Lactain's Student	 Ciara Phelan Midfield Dicksboro Student Teacher	 Claire Nolan Back Clara Quality Assurance Officer	 Roisin O'Keefe Midfield/Forward Thomastown Student
 Niamh Leahy Corner Back Emeralds Accountant	 Eva Hynes Forward Thomastown Student	 Therese Donnelly Forward Thomastown Student	 Shauna Treacy Full Forward Barrow Rangers Student
 Roisin Phelan, Captain Full Back Conahy Shamrocks Trainee Accountant	 Sarah Walsh Centre Forward Thomastown PE Teacher	 Jennifer Leahy Half Back / Midfield James Stephens Student	 Tara Ronan Forward St Brigid's Student
 Ciara Murphy Corner Back Tullaroan Actuary	 Ciara O'Keefe Wing Forward Young Irelands Student	 Caoimhe Dowling Half Back Dicksboro Student	 Jane Cass Corner Back Dicksboro Student Teacher
 Sarah Crowley Wing Back Mooncoin Staff Officer HSE	 Sophie O'Dwyer Forward James Stephens Computer Scientist	 Marie Doherty Corner Forward St Brigid's Hospital Attendant	 Aisling Curtis Back/Midfield Clara Trainee Clinical Psychologist
 Leann Fennelly Centre Back Mullinavat Talent Acquisition Specialist	 Hannah Scott Full Forward James Stephens Student (Studying Podiatric medicine)	 Sinead O'Keefe Half Back Thomastown Student	 Aisling Prendergast Forward Craigenamagh Student
 Tiffanie Fitzgerald Half Back Young Irelands Student	 Danielle Quigley Corner Forward O'Loughlin Gaels Student	 Niamh Sweeney Corner Back St Anne's Special Needs Assistant	 Gillian Costello Wing Back Windgap Student
 Laura Hegarty Midfield Lisdowney Architectural Graduate	 Elizabeth Phelan Goalkeeper Glenmore Engineering Student	 Aine Phelan Centre/Wing Forward Kilmacow Student	 Afton Grace Forward Kilmacow Student



NADAÍ

- Elizabeth Phelan
E. ní Faolain
Glenmore
- Claire Nolan
C. ní Naallain
Clara
- Therese Donnelly
T. ní Dhonnallagh
Thomastown
- Jennifer Leahy
S. ní Leathach
James Stephens
- Caoimhe Dowling

- 21 Marie Doherty
M. Duthanaigh
St. Brigid's
- 22 Sinead O'Keefe
S. ní Chasimh
Thomastown
- 23 Niamh Sweeney
N. ní Suibhne
St. Annes
- 24 Aine Phelan
A. ní Faolain
Kilmacow
- 25 Roisin O'Keefe
R. ní Chaoimh

- 26 Shauna Treacy
S. Throsnaigh
Barrow Rangers
- 27 Tara Ronan
T. ní Ronain
St. Brigid's
- 28 Jane Cass
J. ní Chais
Dicksboro
- 29 Aisling Curtis
A. Cúirtais
Clara
- 30 Aisling Prendergast
A. ní Phreindergast

TEAM OFFICIALS

- Bainisteoir:** John Scott
- Traineoir:** Brendan Cahill
- Raghnóir:** Pat O' Neill
- Raghnóir:** Marie O' Connor
- Performance Analysis:** Nessa Farrell
- Maor Foine:** Jennifer Scott
- Fisic:** Micheal Danne
- Logistic:** Sofia Kerr
- Physio:** Laura Phelan
- Liaison Officer:** Orla Coughlan
Marian McCarthy

All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship final Antrim 2-21 Kilkenny 2-13

SAFFRONS MAKE NO MISTAKE THIS TIME

Title win secures senior status

FROM SÉAMAS McALEENAN
AT CROKE PARK

THIS ANTRIM team thought that their semi-final performance against Galway was their best of the season. It wasn't!

They topped it yesterday in a skilful display of attacking camogie that really lit up Croke Park.

Maeve Kelly and Róisín McCormick were on fire throughout and Kilkenny tried to close the two 20-year-olds down only for the fire to break out elsewhere, with Caitrín Dobbin torturing the Cats' defence through the second half.

Dobbin finished to the net for one of the best team goals you will ever see in response to a Kilkenny goal direct from a 20-metre free just a couple of minutes earlier, but all over the field the players in saffron and white stood up to the occasion and joint-manager Paul McKillen wore a broad smile as he met the press afterwards.

"Every single one of them was

'My only regret is that we could not put on more substitutions and my heart goes out to the nine or 10 girls that didn't get a chance out there today. Their contribution has been immense in bringing the whole group to the level we played at today'

Paul McKillen

brilliant. Our defence got in some brilliant interceptions and blocks throughout - but our forwards also worked just as hard on the defensive side of their game and it was a very satisfying performance for everyone in the group.

"You want to get off to a good start. But we didn't and we were 4-1 down after just five minutes. But that maybe tells you just what sort of group of players we have. What a response.

"The work-rate, the scores they took. The shooting from distance. We had very few wides over the hour.

"My only regret is that we could not put on more substitutions and my heart goes out to the nine or 10 girls that didn't get a chance out there today. Their contribution has been immense in bringing the whole group to the level we played at today."

As McKillen pointed out, Kilkenny responded to an early point from Maeve Kelly with their half-forwards hitting four points in a row from open play. Apart from Kelly, Antrim had still to tune in.

Róisín McCormick then hit three points in response, one from a free, and Antrim were level after 10 minutes and by the water-break they had edged ahead 0-6 to 0-5,



with captain Lucia McNaughton celebrating her 26th birthday with an excellent long-range point.

She added another point on the restart, but Sophie O'Dwyer and Eva Hynes let the Saffrons know that Kilkenny were still alive by levelling the game at 0-7 each.

The turning point came in the next attack as Maeve Kelly picked up possession 40 metres out and ran straight at the heart of the defence. She looked to have lost possession, but regained control and shot to the net.

In fairness O'Dwyer and Hynes responded with Kilkenny points, but Antrim finished the half strongly with McCormick shooting three points in a row and, in injury-time, Amy Boyle created the space for Caitrín Dobbin to open her account.

All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Championship final
Armagh 1-11 Wexford 1-14

Orchard girls fall just short

FROM SÉAMAS McALEENAN
AT CROKE PARK

FOR the fourth time this season Wexford beat Armagh in a competitive inter-county fixture and for the second time it secured the south-east county a national title.

This game, like the others, went the distance before late scores from Aideen Brennan, sub Muireann Fitzpatrick and free-taker Chloe Cashe with a 45 ended Armagh's hopes of collecting back-to-back premier junior titles.

Prior to those scores, it looked as if the brilliant Ciara Donnelly would drag Armagh over the line as she had done in last year's

decider.

Up until Ciara Hill's point just after the second water-break, the Armagh captain had accounted for all 10 of her team's points, even improvising to kick one over in the first half.

That reliance on Donnelly however was probably Armagh's Achilles' heel and Wexford knew it. They denied her space for most of the game and were quick to close her down when she gained possession.

Both teams had spells when they were on top. Armagh's however came during the first and third quarters and Wexford showed steely determination after each water-break.

Overall, however, the Leinster side had that little bit more variation in attack with Ciara Banville always a threat with her driving runs down the centre and their defence generally on top.

Armagh manager Mattie Lennon felt that the winners made more use of their purple patches.

"Both of us had periods on top, but they got more scores from those and they have beaten us once more. Small margins.

"I could not have asked for more from the girls, the 15 that started, the subs that came in, the effort that everyone gave in training.

"I am very proud of the girls and I know that they will get back here."



SCORERS

Armagh C Donnelly 0-10 (0-9f);
E Smyth 1-0; C Hill 0-1

Wexford C Cashe 0-7 (0-5f, 2x45);
N Woods own goal; C Banville 0-2; A Brennan,
A Neville, E Codd, L Farman & M Fitzpatrick
0-1 each

Referee K O'Brien (Limerick)



SAFF AND SOUND Antrim's players celebrate on the Croke Park pitch with the Jack McGrath Cup after beating Kilkenny yesterday
Picture: INPHO



That left it 1-11 to 0-9 at the change of ends and Antrim pushed on from the re-start with excellent points from Kelly and Magill within minutes. Although O'Dwyer responded with two frees, McCormick and Dobbin finished good approach work with two more points to bring the Saffrons into a 1-15 to 0-11 lead.

Kilkenny were still creating openings and some nifty stickwork from Niamh Donnelly and then a fine save from Cairiona Graham kept them at bay until the 42nd minute when O'Dwyer caught a 20 metre free just right to bulge the net.

Antrim's response was impressive. McCormick and Kelly fired home excellent long-range points and then sub Anna

Connolly, just on the field seven minutes, broke clear. Connolly drew the defender and off-loaded to McCormick who found Dobbin at the other side of the goals and the fleet-footed corner-forward fired across the goalie into the corner of the net.

With McCormick adding a free from an acute angle near the Cusack Stand, Antrim were champions in waiting by the second water-break with a 2-18 to 1-11 lead.

Kelly and McCormick added to that lead bringing their respective totals to 1-5 and 0-9. Kilkenny fought on for a late goal and a point – but it was fitting that the final score went to Antrim, another long-range score from Nicole O'Neill.

Maeve Kelly was determined not to leave Croke Park without the Jack McGrath Cup.

"It has been frustrating for us over the last year, getting to three finals and losing each of them to Down. We were really determined to change that today.

"The early Kilkenny scores got us focussed. You want a good start. When they got it, we knew that we were in a game and had to step up to the plate.

"The big pitch really suited us, we are a fast team and we were in really good shape coming into this championship.

"I am really looking forward to playing senior championship now. We are going up with a young team and we will only get better."

MATCH STATS

Antrim C Graham, C Drain, N Donnelly, M Lynn, C Patterson, C Conlon, M Connolly, L McNaughton (0-1), N O'Neill (0-3), M Kelly (1-5), A Boyle, A Magill (0-1), R McCormick (0-9, 0-4 frees), C Lavery, C Dobbin (1-2)
Subs A Connolly for Lavery (38), K Carey McAleese for Magill (50), S Devin for Patterson (60), L McKenna for Boyle (60+1), K McKillop for M Connolly (60+1)

Kilkenny S Farrell, N Leahy, R Phelan, C Murphy, S Crowley (1-0), L Fennelly, T Fitzgerald, L Hegarty, C Phelan (0-1), E Hynes (0-2), S Walsh (0-2), C O'Keefe (0-1), S O'Dwyer (1-5, 0-4 frees), H Scott, D Quigley (0-1)
Subs J Leahy for Hegarty (36), T Donnelly (0-1) for Quigley inj (43), S O'Keefe for Fitzgerald (46), C Dowling for Scott (55), R O'Keefe for C O'Keefe (57)

Referee C Quinlan (Galway)

All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final Cork 1-12 Galway 1-15

McGrath goal earns Tribe the honours

ON the day that the first Galway team to ever win the O'Duffy Cup was honoured, the Tribeswomen returned to the top of the tree for the fourth time, when just outstaying the same opposition that fell victim to the county's trailblazers in 1996.

It was Siobhán McGrath who scored the crucial goal when Sarsfields ended Slaughtneil's dominance as All-Ireland club champions in 2020 and the flying forward came up with the defining major once again.

It came as Galway rescued what looked a perilous situation when Katrina Mackey sent a thunderbolt to the roof of their net in the 49th minute.

That made it 1-11 to 0-11 but from

SCORERS

Cork O Cronin 0-6 (0-4); K Mackey 1-1; H Looney 0-2; A Thompson, C Sigerson & A O'Connor 0-1 each

Galway C Dolan 0-8; S McGrath 1-2; N Kilkenny, O McGrath, A O'Reilly (1f) 0-2 each; A Donohue 0-1

that juncture forward, Galway outscored the Munster crew by 1-4 to 0-1 and when one considers that they began the game with four points inside minutes, it was those bursts that proved definitive.

Cathal Murray's side had already reduced the margin to one when McGrath finished

delicately beyond the advancing Amy Lee in the 56th minute, after the excellent Ailish O'Reilly had broken the line and provided the consummate pass.

Orla Cronin, who was magnificent after being cleared to play in the early hours of the morning by the DRA, made it a one-point game but as Cork poured forward, Galway forced some huge turnovers and capitalised on the space, McGrath's sister Orlaith hitting two big points to ensure it was Galway's day.



DAY TO REMEMBER Galway's Sarah Healy (left) celebrates her side's win, while (above) team-mate Sarah Dervan lifts the O'Duffy Cup

Pictures: INPHO

PREVIEW

All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Final

by Sarah Stanley

Kilkenny v Antrim



It is an exciting match-up that awaits us in the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship final as Antrim chase their very first title at this level, while Kilkenny go in search of the prize they last won in 2016.

We don't have to cast our minds back too far to find the last Championship meeting between the teams as they were both drawn into Group 2 of this year's Intermediate Championship. They faced off in the opening round of Championship action with the Ulster side, playing on home soil, claiming a 2-13 to 1-12 victory.

In the last decade, these two counties have made the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship showdown on two occasions, but they have never met in an All-Ireland Intermediate final before.

For Antrim, recent finals have not been happy memories. Just nine months ago they were left deflated in the decider against their Ulster counterparts Down in a Winter Championship Final under the lights of Kingspan Breffni. Their previous experience also ended in defeat in 2011 at the hands of Wexford.

It doesn't sound like helpful advice when you have lost the biggest game of your career, but the experience of losing a final will only benefit you in the future. It seems that Antrim

fan, it will only bring a smile to their face. They dominated the sport at a national level and claimed the All-Ireland Senior and Intermediate Championship double.

They also experienced what it felt like to lose one, having fell short in the decider two years previous.

Both teams have experienced one defeat in the group stages, with Antrim falling short of the Rebels and Kilkenny losing out to today's opponents. Those defeats were by small margins and have been pushed far from memory ahead of today's showdown.

It has been a thrilling Championship to date, as both teams know all too well. It went right down to the wire to see who progressed, but the Cats sneaked top spot by a whisker to reach the Semi-Finals, while Antrim managed to secure the runners-up spot at the expense of Cork.

A big margin of victory followed for Antrim in their Quarter-Final clash with Kerry before another impressive display followed against Galway in the semi-Finals to reach today's final.

Kilkenny advanced through to the Semi-Finals where they overcame the challenge of Meath by 0-13 to 0-09 to reach today's final.



KILKENNY

Round 1 - 25th July
Antrim 2-13 Kilkenny 1-12

Round 2 - 31st July
Kilkenny 2-24 Kildare 1-07

Round 3 - 7th August
Kilkenny 2-07 Cork 0-09

Semi-Final - 28th August
Kilkenny 0-13 Meath 0-09



ANTRIM

Round 1 - 25th July
Antrim 2-13 Kilkenny 1-12

Round 2 - 31st July
Cork 2-14 Antrim 2-11

Round 3 - 7th August
Antrim 3-16 Kildare 1-07

Quarter-Final - 21st August
Antrim 4-19 Kerry 1-07

Semi-Final - 28th August
Antrim 2-13 Galway 1-13

Intermediate

McCormick and Kelly deliver for Antrim

Antrim 2-21
Kilkenny 2-13

The tandem of Róisín McCormick and Maeve Kelly delivered on the biggest stage at Croke Park to propel Antrim to victory in the All-Ireland intermediate camogie final.

The deadly duo scored a goal and 14 points between them, and with Catrine Dobbin also weighing in with 1-2, Antrim racked up a remarkable return that no side could match.

This was a fantastic exhibition of the increasing depth of camogie, and on this evidence, Antrim will be a welcome new addition to the senior ranks.

The game was decided in a matter of minutes just before the second-half water break, a

period that actually began with a goal from a 20m free by Sophie O'Dwyer in the 43rd minute.

That gave Kilkenny hope as they closed to within four points, but McCormick and Kelly responded immediately with points before McCormick set up Dobbin, who finished with the coldness of an assassin, the shot to the far corner worthy of the move that had led up to it.

Streaked clear

It was only two minutes after O'Dwyer's major and the hopes they had harboured had been ruthlessly extinguished.

The Paul McKillen- and Jim McKernan-managed outfit and the streaked clear, with a flurry of outstanding points after Dobbin's goal.

Sarah Crowley found the net in injury time for Kilkenny but

by then, the verdict was in no doubt.

It was 1-11 to 0-9 at half-time



Antrim's Maeve Kelly scored 1-5 and was named Player of the Match

and only three of those scores came from placed balls as the teams revelled in the open spaces.

ANTRIM: C.Graham, C.Drain, N.Donnelly, M.Lynn, C.Patterson, C.Donlon, M.Connolly, L.McNaughton (0-1), N.O'Neill (0-3), M.Kelly (1-5), A.Boyle, A.Magill (0-1), R.McCormick (0-9, four frees), C.Lavery, C.Dobbin (1-2). **Subs:** A.Connolly for Lavery (30 mins), K.Carey/McAlreese for Magill (50 mins), S.Devlin for Patterson (80 mins), L.McKenna for Boyle, K.McKillop for M.Connolly (both 61 mins).
KILKENNY: S.Farrell, N.Leahy, R.Phetan, C.Murphy, S.Crowley (1-0), L.Fennelly, T.Fitzgerald, L.Hegarty, C.Phetan (0-1), E.Hynes (0-2), S.Walsh (0-2), C.O'Keefe (0-1), S.O'Dwyer (1-5, four frees), H.Scott, D.Quigley (0-1). **Subs:** J.Leahy for Hegarty (30 mins), T.Donnelly (0-1) for Quigley (43), S.O'Keefe for Fitzgerald (46), C.Dowling for Scott (55), R.O'Keefe for C.O'Keefe (57).
Referee: Conor Quinlan (Galway).

PREVIEW

All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship Final

by Sarah Stanley

Armagh v Wexford

And so, we meet again

Familiar foes meet once more as for the fourth time in as many months, these two counties prepare to go to battle against each other, and this time the All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship title is the prize on offer.

Rewind to four months ago, when the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues were taking centre-stage for Part 1 of this exciting quadruple of matches. The Leinster side were victorious by a solitary point. Part 2 took place in the Division 3 League Final, as the Yellowbellies were successful once more. This time, it was a two-point victory.

The two teams were drawn into Group 1 of the Premier Junior Championship and Part 3 took place in August. This time it was to determine top spot in the group as Wexford claimed their third victory over the same opponent. Only five points was the margin of victory on that occasion.

There have been very small margins of victory between the sides every time they have faced off this year, but importantly for Wexford they have been on the right side of the result each time.

But Armagh are the defending and reigning All-Ireland Premier Junior Champions, so they already know what it takes to win the prize they both fight for today.

They lifted the title last year to jubilant celebrations. The only missing piece was the Croke Park surrounding.

Armagh claimed one win and one defeat in their two group matches to enter into the Quarter-Final stages. What ensued in their clash with Limerick was thrilling to say the least. A two-point victory was sealed to drive the Orchard County to the Semi-Final stages.



Their experience shone through as they put Clare to the sword to book their Croke Park showdown. The 2020 Premier Junior Player's Player of the Year Ciara Donnelly played a starring role to ensure her team are back to retain their title.

Confidence is high in the Wexford camp after a solid championship campaign that holds a 100% win record to date. Victories were recorded over Waterford and Armagh in the group stages to advance directly into the semi-finals. The Leinster side stepped up another gear to demolish Roscommon, scoring 3-18 in the process and with the concession of just eight points.

It is the second final for these two teams this year, with Wexford already claiming silverware in the form of the Division 3 League title. A Championship victory would secure an unbeaten season for the Leinster side, a feat that would be highly impressive.

Has there ever been a better time for Armagh to turn around their fortunes against this same opponent? They have the quality and the experience. They certainly have the confidence after making back-to-back finals.

Wexford have never been crowned the All-Ireland Premier Junior Champions. Armagh are looking to keep hold of that very title.

Let Part 4 of this fascinating battle commence.

All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship Paths to the Final 2021



ARMAGH

Round 1 - 24th July

Armagh 3-12 Waterford 2-08

Round 2 - 14th August

Wexford 1-17 Armagh 1-12

Quarter-Final - 21st August

Armagh 1-16 Limerick 3-08

Semi-Final - 28th August

Armagh 2-13 Clare 1-06



WEXFORD

Round 1 - 31st July

Waterford 2-04 Wexford 1-12

Round 2 - 14th August

Wexford 1-17 Armagh 1-12

Semi-Final - 29th August

Roscommon 0-08 Wexford 3-18

Premier Junior

Cashe helps Wexford to win

Wexford 1-14

Armagh 1-11

Seven points from Chloe Cashe and a terribly unlucky own goal by Nicola Woods were among the features, but Wexford finished just the stronger to grind out victory in a thrilling All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie final against resolute Armagh.

The Ulster crew were champions last season, when no second teams were allowed due to the Covid-19 restrictions but had lost three times already to the Yellowbellies this season, including in the Division 3 League final.

They were in contention right to the bitter end, when dropping one final free into

the mixer but could not get the goal they needed to bring this one to a replay.

From the start, Armagh looked to turn the Wexford defenders around with a direct game to the forwards, who then took their steps and put the sliotar on the hurley.

The tactic yielded tremendous dividends, often from frees by the brilliant Ciara Donnelly, who clocked up 10 points.

The Orchard girls were dominant in this opening quarter, but there was a large slice of luck to their goal when it came,

Eimear Smyth's low shot slipping under Lara O'Shea's hurley on the line to put a goal between them at the first water break, 1-4 to 0-4.

When Wexford got on top they could have had several goals but when one did come, it was even more fortuitous than Smyth's.

Lisa Firman's shot hit an upright. Ciara Banville beat Ciarraí Devlin to the rebound but from the press box it was clear her ground shot was heading inches wide but the retreating Woods could not know that and diverted it to the net.

WEXFORD: L O'Shea, C Jackman, A Halligan, S Furlong, A Dunne, **A Brennan (0-1)**, C Donohoe, R Cooney, **C Cashe (0-7, 5fs, 245s)**, M Cullen, **C Banville (0-2)**, **A Neville (0-1)**, **L Firman (0-1)**, **E Codd (0-1)**, E Tomkins. **Subs:** M Fitzpatrick (0-1) for Cullen (44), K Smyth for Firman (53), K Devine for Cooney (53), S Figgis for Codd (60).
ARMAGH: C Devlin, A Harvey, **N Woods (1-Down goal)**, S Curry, C Cisey, G McWilliams, G McDonn, M McArdle, L Donnelly, B Murray, **C Donnelly (0-10, 0-9fs)**, **CHill (0-1)**, O Murray, C McSorley, **E Smyth (1-0)**. **Subs:** E Hayes for McCann (40), K Conve for O Murray (50), S Kieran for McSorley (59), O Curry for B Murray (60+5).
Referee: Kevin O'Brien (Limerick).

Wexford, Premier Junior



Back Row Left to Right:

Marie Claire Byrne, Amy Cahill, Aoife Dunne, Roisin Cooney, Doireann Cullen, Katie Gallagher, Sarah Figgis, Lisa Firman, Eimear O'Connor, Aisling Halligan, Katie Devereux, Chloe Cashe, Allannah Davis, Aoife McCrea, Sinead Furlong, Grainne McCabe.



WEXFORD PREMIER JUNIOR TEAM

Loch Garman - Corcra agus dí



IONADAÍ

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 16 Grainne McCabe
G. Ni Caba
Monagaree/Boolavogue | 21 Aoife McCrea
A. Ni Craith
Rapparees | 26 Marie Claire Byrne
M. Claire Ni Braon
Cloughbawn |
| 17 Amy Cahill
A. Ni Cathal
Rathnure | 22 Doireann Cullen
D. Ni Chuilin
Castletown LiamMellows | 27 Sarah Figgis
S. Figgis
Monagaree/Boolavogue |
| 18 Allannah Davis
A. Ni Dáibhis
St Martins | 23 Megan Cullen
M. Ni Chuilin
Castletown LiamMellows | 28 Ella O'Connor
E. Ni Conchuir
St Martins |
| 19 Grace Roche
G. De Roiste
Glyn/Barrtown | 24 Maireann Fitzpatrick
M. Ni Ghiolla Phódraig
Castletown LiamMellows | 29 Eimear O'Connor
E. Ni Conchuir
Oulart/The Ballagh |
| 20 Katie Gallagher
K. Ni Gallchoibhair
Oulart/The Ballagh | 25 Katie Smyth
K. Ni Gabhann
Cranford | |

TEAM OFFICIALS

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Bainisteoir: | Alan Brennan |
| Rognoir: | Cer Halligan
Hughie O'Connor
Leah Wall |
| Nutritionist: | Robyn Murphy |
| Physic: | Ciaran Pender |
| Statistics: | Amanda Bolger
Jessie Murphy |
| Maor Camán: | Richie Hendrick |

Armagh, Premier Junior



Back Row Left to Right:

Aoibhinn McKenna, Mairead Watters, Jordan Carr, Colette McSorley, Bernie Murray, Cella Casey, Ciarraí Devlin, Orlagh Murray, Aisling Harvey, Maebh Lenehan, Gemma McCann, Ellen Lavery, Corrina Doyle, Aislinn McMahon, Emma McGuigan, Ciara Hill

Front Row Left to Right:

Michelle McArdle, Leanne Donnelly, Grainne McWilliams, Katie Convie, Stephanie Curry, Ciara Donnelly, Orlagh Curry, Niamh Forker, Eimear Smyth, Emma Mone



ARMAGH PREMIER JUNIOR TEAM

Ard Mhaca - Oráiste agus Bán



- 21 Niamh Forker
N. Ní Fhearchair
Niamh Mhuire An Port Mór
- 22 Eimear Hayes
E. Aodha
O'Connell's, Tullysoran
- 23 Sinead Kiernan
S. Ní Thiamain
St Joseph's, Madden
- 24 Ellen Lavery
E. Ní Labhráil
St Mary's, Granemore
- 25 Maebh Lenehan
M. Ní Loineagain
St Mary's, Aghallon

- 26 Mary Meehan
M. Ní Mhíacháin
Middletown GAC
- 27 Emma Mone
E. Ní Mocháin
St Mochua's, Derrynoose
- 28 Aislinn McMahon
A. Ní Mathúna
Crossmaglen Rangers
- 29 Laura Smyth
L. Ní Ghabhann
St Brenda's, Ballymacnab
- 30 Louise Toner
A. Ní Thomhnair
St Brenda's, Ballymacnab

TEAM OFFICIALS

- Bainisteoir:** Mattie L.
- Maor Foirne:** Sean Ha
- Strength & Conditioning:** Eoin Bra
- Selector:** Pat McS
- Maor Camán:** Michael
- Maor Camán:** Matthev
- Physio:** Stevie G
- Liason:** Paula D.

Player Profiles - Wexford



Lara O'Shea
Goalkeeper
Glynn/Barnstown
Student UCD



Roisin Cooney
Midfield
Glynn/Barnstown
Primary school teacher



Amy Cahill
Defender
Rathnure St. Anne's
Student UL



Katie Smyth
Forward
Craanford Monaseed
Student Carlow IT



Clodagh Jackman
Defender
Glynn/Barnstown
Student



Kate Devereux
Half forward
Rathgarogue/Cushinstow
Student teacher



Alannah Davis
Defender
St Martins
Student Manooch



Marie Claire Byrne
Forward
Cloughbawn
Traine Accountant



Aisling Halligan
Defender
Glynn/Barnstown
Student teacher



Ciara Banville
Half forward
Taghmon/Carnoss
Student teacher



Grace Roche
Forward
Glynn/Barnstown
Secondary school student



Sarah Figgis
Forward
Monageer/Boulavogue
Student Waterford IT



Sinéad Furlong
Defender
Buffers Alley
Student



Ailis Neville
Half forward
St Ibars/Shelmalers
Student



Katie Gallagher
Forward
Oulart/The Ballagh
Secondary school teacher



Ella O'Connor
Midfield
St Martins
Student teacher



Ciara Donohoe
Defender
At Ibars/Shelmalers
Primary school teacher



Emma Tompkins
Forward
Kilrush
Student



Aoife McCrea
Forward
Rapparees
Primary school teacher



Eimear O'Connor
Defender
Oulart/The Ballagh
Shop Assistant



Aileen Brennan
Defender
Oulart/The Ballagh
Student teacher



Emma Codd
Forward
St Martins
Student teacher



Doireann Cullen
Forward
Castletown Liam Mellows
Student DCU



Lettie Whelan
Forward
St Martins
Student teacher



Aoife Dunne
Defender
Oulart/The Ballagh
Student Manooch



Lisa Firman
Forward
St Martins
Digital Marketing



Megan Cullen
Forward
Castletown Liam Mellows
Student DCU



Hayley Cahill
Defender
Ferns St Aidan's



Chloe Cashe
Midfield
Glynn/Barnstown



Gráine McCabe
Goalkeeper
Monageer/Boulavogue



Muireann Fitzpatrick
Defender
Castletown Liam Mellows
Student DCU



The Defence Forces and the GAA family have enjoyed a long and healthy relationship for many years. The characteristics vital to players: dedication, loyalty, fitness and team spirit are the same traits the Defence Forces require for our soldiers, sailors and aircrew.

Today as we witness the current camogie talent we reflect on the contribution made by members of our Defence Forces to camogie, LGFA and sport in general.

History of women in Defence Forces

The necessary legislation to enable the enlistment of women into the Defence Forces was introduced in the Dail on the 17th of July 1979. The first female cadets were sworn in on 10th March 1980. They were commissioned on 27th April 1981. In June 1981 forty female recruits commenced training in the Curragh. On completion of recruit training they were posted to various units throughout the Army, Military Police, as drivers, Signalwomen, clerks and physical training instructors.

When women first joined, policy dictated that they serve in non-combatant roles. This policy was withdrawn in 1992, and the full participation of women in all aspects of Defence Force activity was enabled. Women first entered the Air Corps in 1990, and the Naval Service in 1995.

Today there are no restrictions on the appointments open to Women in the Defence Forces. There are female Bomb Disposal Officers, Snipers, Ship's Captains, Pilots, Heavy Vehicle Mechanics and weapons experts, to mention but a few, serving in the organisation. Employment and career opportunities are based on merit and ability and not on gender.

DEFENCE FORCES ARE RECRUITING NOW.
SEE www.military.ie/en/careers/current-competitions/



Óglaigh na hÉireann
IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

The inaugural Defence Forces Camogie competition took place in Galway in 2002 and down through the years we have played representative games against An Garda Síochána and third level institutions.

Captain Claire Jones (retired) joined the Defence Forces in 1981, the same year she captained her native Clare to an All-Ireland Junior Camogie final victory. She studied in UCG but found some time away to participate with the college camogie team. She captained the team for two years winning two league titles in the process. On completion of her studies in Galway she was posted to Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny and she joined St Pauls Camogie Club. She won three All Ireland Club titles with her adopted Club and was immediately drafted into the county team. During a period when Kilkenny dominated national camogie, Claire was one of the leading members of that successful team, winning five All Ireland Senior Camogie titles between 1986 and 1991. Claire retired from the Defence Forces in 2002.

Sergeant Gemma O Connor is a colossus of her sport in every way. Nine All-Ireland senior titles, two player of the year awards and a record 11 All Stars - her imprint on the sport of camogie will be felt for many years. Gemma has 17 years' service in the Defence Forces and has been deployed overseas to Lebanon, Chad and Liberia. She currently works as a medical technician in the Central medial Unit, Collins Barracks Cork where she has been deployed on front line duties throughout Covid 19. She is from Ballyphelane, Cork City and plays Camogie with St Finbarr's.

Mayo make history to win Nancy Murray Cup

By Daragh Ó Conchúir



It was a historic day for Mayo Camogie, as they marked their first season of adult Camogie after an approximate 40-year absence by recording a 3-8 to 1-12 victory over Tyrone to claim the Nancy Murray Cup at Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada.

The goals were crucial with two of them coming from Ciara Delaney, having been set up by player of the match Aine Charlton. Captain Helen O'Malley also raised a green flag but Tyrone almost pulled off a spectacular comeback, getting to within one of the westerners having trailed by 11 but they just could not get over the line.

Mayo led by 2-6 to 0-4 at half-time thanks to Delaney and O'Malley's majors, the latter part of a run of 1-5 without reply as Tyrone failed to score in the second quarter. When Delaney finished after another strong run by Charlton 15 seconds after the restart, it seemed like curtains.

But with Reagan Fay in inspired form and bringing her tally to eight points, the Red Hand women rallied. Niamh McNulty's goal after an excellent catch was a real boost but when it seemed like momentum was in their favour, Mayo dug deep and Orla Hession pointed to leave Tyrone needing a goal that they couldn't get.

Player Profiles - Armagh



-  **Ciarrai Devlin**
Goal Keeper
St Mary's, Granemore
Student
-  **Aislinn Harvey**
Defender
St Patrick's, Keady
Student
-  **Nicola Woods**
Defender
Middletown GAC
Ireland Programme Manager
-  **Stephanie Curry**
Defender
Middletown GAC
Marketing Executive
-  **Caella Casey**
Defender
St Patrick's, Cullyhanna
Radiography Graduate
-  **Gráinne McWilliams**
Defender
St Mary's, Granemore
Physiotherapist
-  **Gemma McCann**
Defender
St Josephs, Madden
Pharmacy Technician
-  **Michelle McArdle**
Midfield
St Brenda's, Ballymacnab
Personal Trainer

-  **Leanne Donnelly**
Midfield
Eglish CC
Planning Graduate
-  **Ciara Hill**
Forward
St Mary's, Granemore
Teacher
-  **Colette McSorley**
Forward
O'Connell's, Tullysaran
Teacher
-  **Bernie Murray**
Forward
St Patrick's, Cullyhanna
Teacher
-  **Orlugh Murray**
Forward
St Patrick's, Keady
Marketing Officer
-  **Ciara Donnelly**
Forward
Eglish CC
Teacher
-  **Eimear Smyth**
Forward
St Brenda's, Ballymacnab
Physiotherapist
-  **Catherine Beagan**
Forward
St Patrick's, Keady
Student

-  **Jordan Carr**
Midfield
St Mary's, Granemore
Student
-  **Katie Convie**
Midfield
O'Connell's, Tullysaran
Student
-  **Orlugh Curry**
Forward
Middletown GAC
Cardiac Physiologist
-  **Corinna Doyle**
Forward
St Mary's, Granemore
Student
-  **Niamh Forker**
Forward
Niamh Mhuire An Port Mor
Student
-  **Eimear Hayes**
Defender
O'Connell's, Tullysaran
Doctor
-  **Sinead Kiernan**
Forward
St Joseph's, Madden
Respiratory physiologist
-  **Ellen Lavery**
Defender
St Mary's, Granemore
Student

-  **Méabh Lenehan**
Mid Field
St Mary's, Aghagallon
Assistant Brand Manager
-  **Mary Meehan**
Defender
Middletown GAC
Veterinary Nurse & Physical Therapist
-  **Emma Mone**
Defender/Goalkeeper
St Mochua's, Derrynoose
Teacher
-  **Aislinn McMahon**
Midfield
Crossmaglen Rangers
Student
-  **Laura Smyth**
Forward
St Brenda's, Ballymacnab
Software Analyst
-  **Louise Toner**
Defender
St Brenda's, Ballymacnab
Prescribing Pharmacist

The Trailblazers

by Daragh Ó Conchúir

The Galway squad that won the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship title in 1996 is the subject of this year's Jubilee celebrations but the feat is noteworthy, quite apart from this being a 25th anniversary.

Tony Ward's crew will forever be known as the team that got over the line, after so many near misses, bringing the O'Duffy Cup west of the Shannon for the first time in camogie's long and gilded history.

Ward had Madge Kennedy and the late Johnny Keane as selectors, while the Imelda Hobbins-captained group boasted a plethora of fantastic players including the talismanic Sharon Glynn, scoring machine Denise Gilligan and the preternatural Veronica Curtin.

The Maher sisters, Gretta and Dympna were not the only siblings involved, with twins Helen and Fiona Ryan undoubtedly lifting the bar for each other through a lifetime to share in the history. And history it was, as Galway's first All-Ireland, despite appearing in the maiden final 64 years earlier, when neither a home venue, the Sportsground, nor an Athenry referee, the TD Stephen Jordan, could make the difference against Dublin.

In all, the Maroons fell at the last hurdle on ten occasions before the trailblazers of '96 ran out at Croke Park behind Hobbins to take on champions Cork, the most recent of those being the reverse at the hands of the Rebels three years earlier.

Securing a first ever national title in the League in 1994, with a 1-13 to 1-8 triumph over Tipperary in Ballinasloe, was an invaluable boost however, and by 1996, Ward had his players primed to take the ultimate step.

An early goal from 15-year-old Curtin, an All-Ireland minor and junior winner two years earlier, sent Galway on their way to a comfortable semi-final defeat of Wexford and it was green flags that were the fulcrum of the famous 4-8 to 1-15 final verdict.

The four goals stunned Cork, with Gilligan finding the net at either end of the interval. Her second was followed quickly by majors from Martina Harkin and Dympna Maher and though the Leesiders rallied, it was Galway's time.

Panel: Imelda Hobbins (captain), Pamela Nevin, Ann Hardiman, Olivia Coen, Emer Hardiman, Cora Curley, Sharon Glynn, Louise Curry, Martina Harkin, Carmel Hannon, Anne Forde, Bridget Kilgannon, Aine Hilary, Dympna Maher, Gretta Maher, Rita Coen, Fiona Ryan, Helen Ryan, Denise Gilligan, Veronica Curtin, Carmel Allen, Fiona Healy, Olivia Broderick, Cathriona Finnegan, Olive Costello, Aoife Lynskey.

Management: Tony Ward, Madge Kennedy, Johnny Keane

This time the final heartache is Cork's



CAMOGIE

Christy O'Connor

IN his RTE TV interview after their semi-final win against Kilkenny, Cork camogie manager Paudie Murray immediately initiated the mind games with Galway before Sunday's final.

"We cling to things," said Murray. "This place (Croke Park) has been really good for this team. We lose very few games here. That's probably not so much the case with Galway — they've lost two finals here (league and All-Ireland in the last nine months).

"It's going to be very difficult, but you cling to little things like that."

Despite having a good recent record against Cork coming into Sunday's match, especially over the three previous seasons, Murray and Cork wanted to maintain a pattern against Galway in All-Ireland finals that Galway had repeatedly struggled to break.

After the county finally made the senior breakthrough in 1996, having lost nine finals before that maiden win, the chains around Galway looked set to be cast away. But they never really were.

Galway won All-Irelands in 2013 and 2019 but they had lost seven finals since winning their first 25 years earlier, four of which had been at the hands of Cork. Moreover, Galway had also lost a couple of heart-breaking semi-finals to Cork, especially in 2012 and 2017.

Galway had a hang-up with Cork for decades, but something had to give and eventually it did. Cork went into the 2019 All-Ireland semi-final as favourites.

They were going for three in-a-row and a fifth title in six seasons when Galway nudged past them by one point.

Galway secured their third All-Ireland title a month later against Kilkenny. They lost another final, this time to Kilkenny, last December, but Galway beat Cork in a key group game along the way.

When the sides met in the league semi-final back in June, Galway won after extra-time.

The next step though, was to beat Cork in a final, something Galway hadn't managed in 25 years.

And they finally did, edging Cork in a classic on Sunday.

It was another excellent showcase for camogie, another nail-biting final; it was the fourth final in the last five seasons to be decided by just one score.

Cork will be disappointed that they weren't more clinical when they needed to be, especially in the last quarter.

It was Galway's day but it was all the sweeter again — not just because they beat Cork — but because winning a second title in three years



Cork's Ashling Thompson reacts after the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final defeat to Galway in Croke Park on Sunday. Picture: Ben McShane/Sportsfile

granted Galway a status they have craved for decades. For sure, they have now really arrived as a serious force.

Apart from Wexford's glorious renaissance between 2007-12, the last three decades have largely belonged to Cork, who had won 14 titles in 30 years.

Yet most of the last 10 years have been about Galway and Kilkenny's epic battle with Cork to try and break that stranglehold.

Similar to Cork's narrow win against Kilkenny in the semi-final two weeks ago, Sunday's game again showed how little has been between the top three.

Since 2013, all three have either been semi-finalists, finalists or winners.

This was also the fourth successive year that they were joined in the last four by Tipperary.

Tipp have at least closed the gap on the top three, but that pursuit has been much harder for the chasing pack.

They have brought the standard to a new level, especially when the standard looked far more even at the outset of the last decade.

In 2012, Wexford were champions again; Dublin beat Kilkenny in a

play-off before narrowly losing an All-Ireland quarter-final to Offaly; Cork scraped past Clare in a quarter-final.

The big three have taken over ever since and, while new teams have emerged, none have made the breakthrough.

Despite camogie's constant desire for expansionism, constantly increasing the number of groups, it has been a challenge for those outside the top four to even win matches at senior level.

In the last eight seasons, Clare, Wexford, Offaly, Waterford, Limerick, Dublin, Meath, Derry, and Westmeath have played a combined total of 207 championship matches, winning just 67 — a win rate of 32%.

And most of those wins were secured against each other.

Waterford have gone closest to breaking into the top four, but their defeat to Tipp in the last six in August was their fourth successive All-Ireland quarter-final loss.

Continuity is a constant issue across the board.

For managers outside the top four, it is a constant struggle to get players to return each year, something the big counties never have to worry about.

Waterford haven't had a huge player turnover, but they've had three different managements in the last four years.

More teams have been more competitive at underage, but the big four are still dominating the minor competition.

Since the All-Ireland minor championship began in 2006, Limerick in 2014 are the only team outside the top four to have won an All-Ireland.

Clare contested five finals, but no other county outside Clare and Limerick have contested a final in the last 15 years.

This year's minor championship ran along similar lines. Dublin ran Cork to one point in the semi-final, while Kilkenny edged past Galway after extra-time before beating Cork in the final.

That denied Cork a third successive All-Ireland minor title (there was no competition last year), but the conveyor belt remains as strong as ever in the county.

Cork had five All-Ireland debutantes on Sunday.

Cork will be back and, while Tipp are really improving, Cork already know that Galway and Kilkenny are the teams they need to overcome if they are to return to the top.

Courceys start title defence

COURCEY Rovers begin the defence of their county senior camogie



championship title this Saturday in a Round 2 clash with Ballincollig in Coachford (3pm).

Last season Courceys made a huge breakthrough when they won the senior championship title for the first time and now they begin their title defence as the team to beat. They'll be hoping their three Cork senior stars — Linda Collins, Fiona Keating and Saoirse McCarthy — will fire them into the next round.

Elsewhere, 2020 county intermediate champions Enniskeane will play their first senior championship match when they take on Douglas in Castle Road this Sunday (12pm throw-in). Enniskeane joined the senior ranks after last season's intermediate success and will look to Cork star Orla Cronin for inspiration here.

Newcestown start their second senior championship campaign this Saturday and they will play the winner of Wednesday night's Round 1 meeting of Sarsfields and Milford. The Carbery senior divisional team will also be in county championship action this weekend and it's great to see them back on the pitch and after they opted out of last year's competition; Carbery meet Muskerry at Riverstick this Saturday (5pm).

Meanwhile, Kilbrittain/Timoleague play Aghabullogue this Sunday in their county intermediate camogie championship opener in Brinny at 4.30pm.

FIXTURES

SATURDAY, 18TH:

Round 2 — 1pm, Cloughdun v Killeagh at Castle Road; 3.15pm, Seandun v St Catherines at Castle Road; 5.30pm, Imokilly v Ballygarvan at Castle Road; 2pm, winner of Sarsfields/Milford v Newcestown at Eire Óg; 3pm, Ballincollig v Courcey Rovers at Coachford; 5pm, Muskerry v Carbery at Riverstick.

SUNDAY, 19TH: Round 2 — 12pm, Douglas v Enniskeane at Castle Road; 2.45pm, Inniscarra v St Finbarr's at Castle Road; 5.30pm, Glen Rovers v Eire Óg at Castle Road.

Enniskeane camogie team is up for the challenge

BY GER MCCARTHY

ENNISKEANE begin their first county senior camogie championship campaign at high noon this Sunday – and the Carbery side is not here to make up the numbers.

In September 2020 Enniskeane defeated Aghabullogue by 1-16 to 2-8 in the county intermediate final. The reward is a place in the senior ranks. Now, this Sunday in Castle Road, they play their first senior championship game when they take on Douglas in a Round 2 tie – and they can't wait.

It will be tough, Louise Duggan says, as Douglas contested last year's senior semi-final, losing to eventual champions Courcy Rovers, but these are exactly the games that Enniskeane want to play in.

'We have earned the right to play Douglas and, look, anything can happen in 60 minutes of a county championship match,' Duggan says.

'This is what we have been training for, so as long as we work hard and prepare properly, as I said, anything can happen. This team has been together a long time and come up through the underage ranks. That's why



Louise Duggan in action for Enniskeane.

our underage set-up is one of the best things about Enniskeane camogie club.

'It is a credit to all the players, mentors and parents in the locality that keep the whole thing going. The underage is the future of our club but it is up to the us to maintain our senior status. Enniskeane worked hard enough

to get to senior and we must keep it status as long as we can for all the young players coming up.'

Duggan also doubles up as the camogie club's PRO so she is busy on and off the pitch, and everyone is working hard to make sure Enniskeane can hold their own at senior level.

'It's definitely a step up in

'This group of players is not afraid of hard work'
– Louise Duggan

terms of quality. Everything is that bit faster and more physical at senior so we are putting the

extra effort into training to make sure we are ready to meet whatever challenges come our way,' Duggan explains.

Dermot Curtin, Anthony O'Sullivan and Elaine Alyward are still in charge and everyone is working harder than ever before. We know it's not going to be easy up at senior but sure

isn't that what playing camogie is all about?

'This group of players is not afraid of hard work. Senior is where Enniskeane wants to be. We want to play the best teams as that's the only way we will improve both individually and as a squad. It is a challenge but one we are up for.'

Powerful Sarsfields pull away from Milford

Sarsfields 0-17
Milford 0-6

Therese O'Callaghan

Sarsfields, champions of 2019, were comfortable winners in the SE Systems Cork senior camogie championship at Mallow last night. There is a quick turnaround with Newcestown the opposition in the next round on Saturday. Sarsfields led 0-8 to 0-3 at half-time and pulled away on the home straight.

Saoirse Desmond bagged four points, while there were three each for Meabh Mullins and Lucy Allen.

They will have concerns, though, with injuries picked up by Olivia McAllen and Clare Mullins.

The 11-point difference was a bit harsh on Milford who introduced Ashling Thompson at the second water break; Laura Stack, Caoimhe Sheehan, and Maria Watson got their scorers. However, all is not lost as they await the losers of Glen Rovers and Eire Og.

Scorers for Sarsfields: S Desmond (0-4, 0-1 free), M Mullins (0-1, 45, 0-1 free) and L Allen (0-3 each), C Casey (free), R O'Mahony and K Sheehan (0-2 each), E Woods (0-1).
Scorers for Milford: L Stack (0-3, 0-2 free), C Sheehan (0-2 free), M Watson (0-1).

SARSFIELDS: M Lynch; G Cashman, K Barry, T Elliott; C Irwin, N O'Callaghan, E Casey, C Casey, E Murphy; C Mullins, M Mullins, O McAllen; S Desmond, L Allen, R O'Mahony.



Sarsfields' Olivia McAllen (left) is tackled by Milford's Olive Linehan and Nicole O'Connor.
Picture: David Keane.

Subs: E Woods for O McAllen (16 in), K Sheehan for C Mullins (22 in), A McNamara for E Casey (45), M McCarthy for L Allen (52), E Twomey for G Cashman (56).

MILFORD: E Goggin; A Galvin, K Galvin, K Gilbourne; O Linehan, T Fitzgibbon; C Buckley; O O'Mahony, N O'Connor; C Sheehan, S Sheehan, L Stack; S McCarthy, M Watson, E O'Gorman.

Subs: A O'Flynn for S McCarthy (half-time), A Thompson for K Gilbourne (45).

Referee: D Motherway (St Fanahan's).

Sarsfields' Olivia McAllen (left) is chased down by Milford's Katie Galvin.
Picture: David Keane.





Sarsfield's Olivia McAllen has her jersey pulled as she tries to get away from Milford's Olive Linehan, during their Senior Camogie Championship clash at Mallow. Picture: David Keane

Sarsfield's back in action after win over Milford



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

THERE are nine senior camogie championship first-round game fixed for this weekend as Cork's club activity gets underway.

It was great last year to have these games played during the summer along with the extended club season; the long summer evenings led to all games being played in Castle Road.

Due to the opposite split season and Cork's involvement in the All-Ireland final last Sunday, dark evenings leads us to a home and away process which makes it more difficult for neutral supporters to see as many games as they would like.

The intermediate and junior championships also throw-in this weekend.

Sarsfield's and Milford played out a preliminary first-round last Wednesday evening with Sars emerging victorious.

It's been a tough few days for Ashling Thompson, who lost her grandmother last week, and she joined the action on 45 minutes.

It wasn't enough, but Milford will have another chance in the losers round.

Sars are back out tomorrow against Newcestown. The spirited display of Newcestown was a joy last season and they'll bring it again, but Sars will be strong favourites here.

Cork has 19 senior clubs and divisions in this year's championship, which is huge compared with other counties, so it's all systems go with games coming in abundance over the coming weeks.

Who will capture the Punch Cup for 2021?

Douglas dethroned holders Sarsfields, but it was Courcsey Rovers that won their first title in 2020. They'll find it harder this



Sarsfield's Clare Mullins on the break during the Senior Championship win over Milford at Mallow. Sars are back in action against Newcestown tomorrow. Picture: David Keane

year as it's always difficult to retain a crown.

Amy O'Connor is lining out with Seandún this season and that's great news for the city divisional side.

Their preparation hasn't been good though, so how the players gel will determine if they get over the line against St Catherine's who always give a good account of themselves, losing out to Courcsey's last season in the quarter-final by six points.

On paper, Seandún are very strong, and it'll be a tough one for Catherine's.

Glen Rovers beat Seandún last year after extra-time in round four and are the current senior league champions.

They take on Eire Óg who would be disappointed to have played just two games last year, receiving a bye into the quarter-finals after beating Milford by a point in the opening round.

That didn't do them any favours and they lost to Douglas, who were well beaten by Courcsey Rovers in the semi-final.

Glen should emerge here. Cloughdub

lost their two rounds in last year's championship and take on the might of Killeagh who were disappointing in 2020 and failed to deliver on the promise they have.

Killeagh had their inter-county players for the duration of group training last season and that failed to get them to a semi-final having lost to St Finbarr's, 3-7 to 0-7.

The demands of club football in the same calendar space vying for the same players has a bigger impact on some clubs.

Cloughdub will, as always, put up a great battle, but you would expect Killeagh to prevail.

St Finbarr's and Inniscarra could be a tight affair although five Cork minors and the inclusion of Down's Sorcha McCartan makes St Finbarr's favourites and a force to be reckoned with in 2021.

Are they going to be the ones to claim the title this year?

They lost to Inniscarra by a goal in the semi-final last season, but that result could be reversed here.

Imokilly will hope for a stronger return from their selection than last year and they take on Ballygarvan who enjoyed three strong games before losing in round 4. They'll be expected to overcome the East Cork side.

Debutants Enniskeane could pull off their first senior championship win over Douglas, depending on the Mackey factor.

Ballincollig have a significant number of injuries and facing the champions is not the start they would have liked, while Muskerry and Carbery return to senior championship action after not fielding in 2020.

SE SYSTEMS CORK SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FIRST ROUND

Castle Road tomorrow: Cloughdub v Killeagh, 1pm; Seandún v St Catherine's 3.15pm; Imokilly v Ballygarvan, 5.30pm.

Castle Road Sunday: Douglas v Enniskeane, noon; Inniscarra v St Finbarr's, 2.45pm; Glen Rovers v Eire Óg, 5.30pm.

Eire Óg tomorrow: Sarsfield's v Newcestown, 2pm. Coachford tomorrow: Ballincollig v Courcsey Rovers, 3pm.

Riverstick tomorrow: Muskerry v Carbery 5pm.

Enniskeane make a statement in opener

Camogie

Therese O'Callaghan

The most noteworthy result in Round 1 of the SE Systems Cork senior camogie championship was Enniskeane's victory over Douglas. In their first year senior, they won 0-23 to 1-10.

Led by Orla Cronin, they were in front 0-11 to 0-6 at the interval. Tara Sheehan weighed in with seven points.

St Finbarr's gained revenge for last year's defeat to Inniscarra, when they beat them on a scoreline of 2-11 to 1-6.

They were up 1-6 to 0-3 at the change of ends, thanks to a goal from Keeva McCarthy. Ella Wiggington-Barrett struck their second goal at the start of the second half.

Glen Rovers were far too strong for Eire Óg, 5-16 to 0-7. They laid the foundation with Katie Walsh's major in the first half and had 1-8 on the board at the break, Eire Óg's two points coming from Margaret O'Herlihy.

The Glen were ruthless in the second half adding goals from Walsh, Denise Luby (2), and Aisling Wallace. O'Herlihy brought her tally to five points.

Killeagh got the better of Cloughdub 1-21 to 1-9 with Chloe Sigerson accounting for 1-13, and were 1-12 to 0-4 up at the break. Jessica O'Shea rowed in with four points, while Laura Treacy hit three. Lisa Lynch bagged five points for Cloughdub.

Sarsfields recorded a 1-15 to 2-6 win over Newcestown.

There was success for St Catherine's against Seandún, 1-14 to 2-8.

County champions Courcsey Rovers overcame Ballincollig (4-14 to 1-8) with Cork captain Linda Collins shooting 3-5.

Ballygarvan triumphed over divisional side Imokilly, 0-9 to 0-6. And Carbery got the better of Muskerry 2-11 to 1-3.

The losers play Round 2 next weekend.

Round 2 draw: Douglas v Ballincollig; Newcestown v Seandún; Cloughdub v Imokilly; Eire Óg v Milford; Inniscarra v Muskerry.



Cork fans at the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final against Galway last weekend at Croke Park. Picture: INPHO/James Crombie

Hectic schedule across the grades for clubs

IT has been busy few weeks for clubs at all levels with championship games played at underage and adult level. Tonight, we look at the adult and minor championships.

INTERMEDIATE

In the SE Systems Intermediate Championship, Blackrock and Fr O'Neill's battled it out in a tight contest.

Fr O'Neill's took an early lead and added a second point before Blackrock responded and in a low scoring first half it was level 0-3 a piece at the break. The second half saw Fr O'Neill's took the lead but a Katelyn Hickey goal turned the game in Blackrock's favour. Clara O'Doherty had Fr O'Neill's back in the lead with a goal and exchanging points it was nip and tuck before a late Blackrock rally saw them hit three points without reply to run out winners on a 1-10 to 1-7 score line. Ballyhea got the better of Watergrasshill with Rachel Harty opening their scoring and as they sides exchanged points little divided them until Ballyhea upped the tempo with three goals to lead 3-5 to 0-4 at the interval.

Watergrasshill battled hard but it was Ballyhea who prevailed on a score of Ballyhea 3-14 to 0-8 scoreline. Newtownshandrum got the upper hand in their clash with Carrigaline and ran out winners.

Valley Rovers had two points to spare over Clonakilty. The remaining games in round one saw Na Piarasigh met Brian Dillon's mid-week and Aghabullogue meet Kilbrittain / Timoleague. Neither game was played when going to print.

Round two is backdoor for the losers and this goes ahead on the weekend of September 25th /26th.

Watergrasshill will meet Brian Dillon's or Na Piarasigh.

Fr O'Neill's will meet Aghabullogue or Kilbrittain / Timoleague and Carrigaline meet Clonakilty.

There is one Round three game with Valley Rovers meeting the winners of the Fr O'Neill's v Aghabullogue or Kilbrittain / Timoleague.

JUNIOR A

In the SE Systems Junior A championship, all round one games bar two have been played.

Charleville and Slabh Rua was nip and tuck to the finish with Charleville edging it with a point to spare, 2-14 to 3-10. Goals were vital for Mallow as they hit three in their clash with Ballinhassig, 3-14 to 0-15 the winning margin here.

Ballinascorthy overcame Cloughdun and Sarsfields had a win over Banteer. St Vincent's and Castletyons met on Friday evening and Ballinora will meet Tracton tomorrow, Sunday in Brinny at 2pm.

Round two is on September 26th and it sees Cloughdun meeting Ballinora or Tracton, Ballinhassig meet St Vincent's or Castletyons and Slabh Rua take on

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Banteer.

JUNIOR B

We are down to the quarter finals in the SE Systems junior B championship. Cobh will meet Ballincollig tomorrow, Sunday at 6.30pm in Cobh.

Courcey Rovers met Rockban on Thursday, whilst Aghada met Bride Rovers on Friday, results from both games were not to hand when going to print, and Inniscarra will meet Youghal today at 3pm in Ballyanley.

JUNIOR C

Kinsale are through to the semi-final of the SE Systems Junior C championship after their 2-18 to 2-13 victory over Cobh last weekend.

In the other three quarter finals, Carrigwohill will meet Buttevant tomorrow, Sunday, Castlemartyr and Midleton met mid-week and Castletyons will meet Killebree today at 7.30pm in Castletyons.

SECOND TEAMS

JUNIOR

Seven teams remain in the Lillie O'Sullivan SE Systems junior championship after games in the last week saw Eire Og overcome Inniscarra, Glen Rovers defeated Brian Dillon's, St Finbarr's were too strong for Blackrock, Newcestown got the upperhand on Sarsfields. Enniskeane had a win over Kilbrittain / Timoleague, Aghabullogue knocked out St Catherine's and Na Piarasigh overcame Clonakilty.

MINOR

The premier minor championship is down to the semi-final stages where Aghabullogue will meet Enniskeane and Sarsfields will play Eire Og. In the plate, it's down to the quarter finals.

St Finbarr's will meet Cobh, Aghada take on Killebree, Castlemartyr will play Midleton and Ballinora meet Inniscarra. In the Minor A championship four sides will play off for a place in the quarter finals.

Blackrock meet Mallow with the winners meeting the winners of the other play-off which is between Kilbrittain / Timoleague and Ballyhea / Milford. The other quarter finals are Sarsfields 2 versus Courcey Rovers, Glen Rovers take on Youghal and Cloughdun meet Valley Rovers.

MINOR B

In the Minor B grade, we have four quarter finals to take place.

Ballinhassig will meet Bride Rovers or Dungourney, Carrigwohill are meeting Carrigaline, Ballinascorthy meet Douglas and it's Killeagh taking on Tracton.

MINOR C

In the Minor C championship, six teams remain in the hunt.

In the quarter finals Watergrasshill will meet Nemo and Brian Dillon's take on Erin's Own, with Grenagh and Barryroe awaiting the winners in the semi-finals.



A dejected Amy O'Connor of Cork leaves the pitch after her side's defeat in Croke Park.

Picture: Ben McShane/Sportsfile

Club action the best medicine for brave Cork

I watched the All-Ireland camogie final again during the week.

Usually, if Cork lose I'd leave it for a while before I put myself through it but this time, despite the loss, I looked forward to watching it again.

It was just a brilliant game. This was the best I've ever seen Galway play.

I spoke with many supporters from both sides, in addition to media, before the game and no one gave Galway a chance. Their semi-final showing was so poor, it's hard to fathom that Sunday's team was the same that lined out two weeks previously against Tipp.

Cork's semi-final performance on the other hand was impressive. Why?

Because they were given far too much space by Kilkenny, Chloe Sigerson in particular, and Galway had their work done on that.

Galway's economical use of the ball was brilliant and they converted 73% of their chances. Cork on the other had converted 50%. There were a few of Cork's wides which were poor misses and came at critical stages. We could have won the game, nine wides versus four for Galway. We lost by 3.

But it isn't as black and white as that either.

I thought Galway's defence was superb. Equally I thought Cork's full back line were excellent. Both defences were up against some top class forwards. Libby Coppinger, Pam Mackey and Meabh Cahalane on the dynamic Siobhán McGrath, Orlaith McGrath and Ailish O'Reilly. I think Cork got their match ups there right. Great forwards are going to score. I thought Libby did particularly well on Siobhán McGrath even though she finished with 1-2. She



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

maybe stood a little off her in the opening quarter but she was trying to prevent McGrath rounding her for goal, which is what she loves to do. Laura Treacy had a fine game too, doing a lot of covering off.

We couldn't have asked for any more from our midfielders, Hannah Looney and Ashling Thompson, Hannah Looney the player of the match had Cork won. Yet Aoife Donohue and Niamh Kilkenny also had tremendous games, Kilkenny was more effective when she moved into the half forward line in the second half and her point just after half time was brilliant.

It was Galway's half back line that totally dominated. We got one point from our half forward line and lost a lot of ball there. Inside, Shauna Healy had an excellent game on Amy O'Connor, holding her to a point. Katrina Mackey got 1-1, Orla Cronin 2 points from play but had a hand in others.

It all happened in the last twelve minutes, 1-2 for Cork, 1-4 for Galway. Both goals were brilliantly passed through and taken. Noteworthy was that both sides lost their own puck out for the opposition's goal. Orla Cronin's point on fifty eight was Cork's last score. It could have been a goal had she glanced up and saw that Mackey was inside with a few yards space. But you have just milliseconds.

You would have to say that Galway will be thrilled with how their match ups worked out.

What of the future? There is nothing between Galway, Cork and Kilkenny as the top three and there is nothing to indicate that changing anytime soon. Galway badly needed to win this All-Ireland, more than Cork.

Because the gap between their ad hoc titles in the past, 1996, 2013, 2019 led people to feel they might catch you on the day but they're not consistently a strong All Ireland winning team or county.

Two titles in three years changes that. With Sarah Dervan 33, Catriona Cormican 33 and Niamh Kilkenny 32, there could be some retirements and a rebuilding for them.

Cork had five All-Ireland debutants on Sunday, Amy Lee, Laura Hayes, Saoirse McCarthy, Fiona Keating, Clara O'Sullivan, four of them still students.

The atmosphere was electric. The amount of young people inspired by the players of Cork and Galway last Sunday can't be underestimated. Paudie Murray has led the way and raised the bar in terms of strength and conditioning and game preparation.

Kilkenny and Galway had to follow. They did. Are they ahead of us at the moment? Galway are anyway as All-Ireland champions. But Cork will undoubtedly be in the mix again in 2022 and with just a puck of a ball between the sides, it isn't all doom and gloom.

Monday morning was. This whole week was for management and players.

For the players they're right back in the thick of action with club games and that's the best medicine of all.

Catherine's make Seandún pay price for wides

Camogie

■ Linda Mellerick

St Catherine's 1-14
Seandún 2-8

AN abundance of wides cost Seandún dearly in their opening SE Systems Senior Championship clash with St Catherine's on Saturday afternoon.

Catherine's were wide of the target too many times as well, but they still dug out a three-point win, their goal on 41 minutes the difference in the end.

It was a defensive mistake that led to Finola Neville's free going all the way to the net as keeper Amy Lee was more than capable of dealing with it, but her visibility was hindered.

The Saints, as always, were well drilled. Finding plenty of space around midfield and their half-forward line they were 0-5 to 1-0 ahead after 19 minutes, Finola Neville in the thick of the action.

Amy O'Connor got one ball and one chance, and she made no mistake as she hit the net for the divisional side on five minutes but had to be withdrawn due to an ankle injury she brought into the game and a wrist injury during it.

Still, Bishopstown's Laura O'Neill was a fine replacement, having a good game, and getting Seandún's second goal with minutes remaining to leave a point between the sides entering the last five minutes.

In a low-scoring opening half, it was Seandún that led 1-3 to 0-5 at the break.

But St Catherine's superior teamwork came to the fore in the second. They led by six on forty-eight as Laura Hayes came more into the game and Neville and Aoife Hurley picked off good scores.

Trailing by six, Seandún, despite three clubs having games last night, came back into the game with Lauren Homan hitting three and O'Neill's goal bringing them back within contention.

The fresher St Catherine's had the legs in the closing stages. Aoife Hurley and Finola Neville replied to O'Neill's goal with two quick points and saw the game out well for their side.

Scorers for St Catherine's: F Neville 0-8 (0-6 f), N O'Regan 1-1, A Hurley 0-4, C Dunning 0-1.

Seandún: L Homan 0-5 (0-3 f), H Ryan 0-3 (0-2 f), A O'Connor, L O'Neill 1-0 each.

ST CATHERINE'S: Y O'Neill, O Neville, C Motherway, A M Rohan, R O'Callaghan, L Hayes, E Ronayne, M Rohan, E O'Brien, L O'Donnell, F Neville, C Dreafer, C Dunning, A Hurley, N O'Regan.

Sub: A O'Regan for L O'Donnell (44).

SEANDÚN: A Lee (Na Piarasigh); N O'Connor (do), C O'Keefe (St Vincent's), S O'Donovan (Na Piarasigh); N O'Leary (Brian Dillon), R De Faolte (Blackrock), E Buckley (Na Piarasigh); K Hickey (Blackrock), M Murphy (do); C Coleman (Na Piarasigh), L Homan (St Vincent's), S Mills (Brian Dillon), A O'Connor (St Vincent's), N Crean (do), H Ryan (Blackrock).

Subs: L O'Neill (Bishopstown) for A O'Connor (in), L McKee (Blackrock) for N Crean (49).

Courseys see off Ballincollig

Camogie

■ Mary Newman

Coursey Rovers 4-14
Ballincollig 1-8

COURSEY Rovers got the defence of their SE Systems Senior Championship crown off to a perfect start as they were too strong for Ballincollig in a hard tough battle in Coachford.

The scoreline doesn't reflect the intensity of the game and it wasn't until the closing quarter that Courseys gained a firm grip and closed it out to ensure their advancement.

In a game where the brilliance of Cork captain Linda Collins was evident, the champions had to work hard before shaking off the challenge posed by a Ballincollig side who battled all through. Goals proved vital and three from Collins helped send Coursey's to round four while Ballincollig have a second bite of the cherry next weekend.

Ballincollig asked the hard questions from the throw-in as they took the game to the favourites. Linda Dorgan opened their challenge at lightning speed with a neat point and with Sinead O'Callaghan converting two frees and Olivia O'Leary adding one they led by four points 10 minutes in.

Courseys got off the mark with a Collins point but it was Ballincollig who maintained the upper hand with an Elaine Casey goal, after she flicked to the net when Courseys keeper Sinead O'Reilly looked to have the situation under control.

From the puck-out Collins led the Courseys revival as she gathered possession and went on one of her trademark solo runs, leaving defenders in her wake before sending an unstoppable shot to the net.

The goal settled Courseys and striking three points without reply they were now moving well. Their defence was in control now and linking up well with their attack they worked ball out to their midfielders where Jacinta Crowley and Elaine O'Reilly were impressive. O'Callaghan edged Ballincollig back in from but it was to be the last time they led as Collins had another 1-2 before the break to put Courseys 2-6 to 1-5 up.

A much focused more Courseys had four points without reply through Col-



Linda Collins, Coursey Rovers, flicks the sliotar past the out-rushing goalkeeper Ana Hartnett, Ballincollig, to score her second goal. Picture: Larry Cummin

lins and Crowley, while at the other end Ballincollig met strong resistance from a solid rearguard. At the second water break it was 3-11 to 1-6, after Collins completed her hat-trick.

Ballincollig battled to stem the tide but the champions had too much strength and with Crowley sending a long-range free to the net the game was over as a contest, Coursey's head to round four while Ballincollig await Douglas or Enniskeane game.

Scorers for Coursey Rovers: L Collins 3-5, J Crowley 1-8 (1-6 f), F Keating 0-1.

Ballincollig: S O'Callaghan 0-4 (0-3 f), E Casey 1-0, L Dorgan, O O'Leary, S Coomey, T Buttimer 0-1 each.

COURSEY ROVERS: S O'Reilly, O Twomey, C Hayes, G O'Reilly, A O'Reilly, A Moloney, G Hannon, J Crowley (c), Elaine O'Reilly, Eimear O'Reilly, E O'Regan, S McCarthy, L Collins, C O'Neill, F Keating.

Subs: L Collins for E O'Regan (42), E Maguire for C O'Neill (45), O O'Mahony for E O'Reilly (50), L Crowley for G Hannon (57).

BALLINCOLLIG: A Hartnett, E O'Connell, S Buckley, S Keating, A Cotter, S Coomey (c), O Keating, N O'Brien, M Healy, T Buttimer, S O'Callaghan, H O'Leary, E Casey, L Dorgan, O O'Leary.

Sub: L Weste for O O'Leary (45).

Referee: Mick Walsh (Barryroe).



Defender Orla Twomey, Coursey Rovers, makes a clearance against Ballincollig. Picture: Larry Cummin

Sigerson hits 1-12 as Killeagh defeat Cloughduv

Killeagh 1-21
Cloughduv 1-9

SURGING runs down the middle by Laura Treacy and Hannah Looney and the clinical striking of Treacy and Chloe Sigerson was the main difference between Killeagh and Cloughduv in the opening SE Systems senior championship clash in Castle Road on Saturday.

While Killeagh took scores from distance, Cloughduv hadn't that same capability and had to try and work the ball closer in where they met an experienced defence.

Some great interplay between the Cork stars saw them dominate the opening half as they rattled off some lovely scores.

Killeagh's goal came just before halftime. Catching Cloughduv's puck-out, Sigerson drove the ball back in.

It looked a comfortable take for goalkeeper Ciara O'Leary but in the blinding sun she lost sight of it at

Camogie
■ Linda Mellerick

the last minute and Killeagh were in the driving seat at the break, 1-12 to 0-4.

Cloughduv, as is the norm, worked hard, with their full-back line doing well and Julie Verling in particular around the middle doing trojan work. But they couldn't cope with the strong Cork presence in the Killeagh squad where Caoimhe Harney also had a fine game.

Ciara O'Leary made a fine save on 38 minutes, more than making up for her earlier slip, as the game was more evenly matched in the second half, both sides hitting a further five points by the 52nd minute. Killeagh finished with a flurry though with Chloe Sigerson pointing a further four points, three from frees, before Joanne Downs goaled on full time for Cloughduv.

Both inside defences did well and both sides

missed chances, something they'll both have to address as they head to their respective next rounds.

Brieger Corkery was back in the thick of the action, starting at corner-forward but often roaming out to get much-needed ball inside. It just wasn't enough on the day.

Scorers for Killeagh: C Sigerson 1-12 (0-5 f), J O'Shea 0-4, L Treacy 0-3, C Harney, S Beausang 0-1 each.

Cloughduv: L Lynch 0-6 f, R Hurley 0-2, J Down 1-0, C Sheppard 0-1.

KILLEAGH: KM Cullinane, E Treacy, A Walsh, N O'Keefe, C Daly, L Treacy, L McEvoy, C Sigerson, H Looney, R Fogarty, J O'Shea, C Harney, R Sheehan, S Beausang, C Barry.

Subs: N O'Connor for R Fogarty (h/t), N Walsh for A Walsh (47), A M O'Connor for R Sheehan (47), S Kent for H Looney (53), N O'Donovan for S Beausang (58).

CLOUGHDUV: C O'Leary, A Buckley, L Buttimer, A Corkery, C Hughes, N O'Leary, J Verling, S Bateman, A Kelleher, L Lynch, R Hurley, A Twomey, A M Ryan, M Corkery, B Corkery.

Subs: C Sheppard for A Twomey (h/t), L Bateman for J Verling (45), McCarthy for A Buckley (47), J Down for S Bateman (51), C O'Mahony for M Corkery (53).

Referee: Brian Barrett (Douglas).

Enniskeane impress in their senior introduction

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Enniskeane 0-23
Douglas 1-10

ANY game when you score 23 points, and 17 from play, you've a great chance of winning.

That it was Enniskeane's first senior championship game, makes it more impressive, as they defeated Douglas in the SE Systems Senior Championship game at Castle Road. Cork star and club captain Orla Cronin played a deep role out the field but when with the calibre of forwards Enniskeane had inside, it was understandable.

Enniskeane's full-forward line of Eimear O'Brien, Lauren Corcoran and in particular Tara Sheehan caused havoc, scoring 0-13 between them.

Outside, Sinead Hurley and Orla Coughlan chipped in with two each and it was a job well done.

Katrina and Pam Mackey did all they could to drive Douglas to victory, but it just wasn't possible, and the city side need a far greater return from their other outfield players.

Strong defending by Enniskeane laid the foundations for their team to advance to the winners next round, with some great hooking and blocking. That was particularly important in the second half when Douglas, with the wind, provided more of an attacking return than they did in the first.

Enniskeane led 0-11 go 0-5 at half time. Jess Kavanagh was the far busier keeper in that first half, bringing off a couple of saves and dealing with a lot of ball that fell short from Enniskeane.

Her counterpart Kate Corcoran got called more into the action in the second, pulling off a fine save on 45 minutes from Katina Mackey.

Douglas had to work too hard for their scores as Enniskeane comfortably pulled them back time and again with some sweet striking.

The last quarter was dominated on the board by the West Cork side, hitting eight points without reply before Rebecca Sheehan got the final touch to a goalmouth melee to roll the ball over the line on full-time for Douglas.

Scorers for Enniskeane: T Sheehan 0-7, O Cronin 0-6 f, E O'Brien 0-4, S Hurley, O Coughlan, L Corcoran 0-2 each.

Douglas: K Mackey 0-7 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), P Mackey 0-2, R Sheehan 1-1.

ENNISKEANE: K Corcoran; D Carroll, C Nyhan, L Duggan; D O'Brien, E O'Driscoll, A O'Driscoll; L Mannix, D O'Neill; S Hurley, O Coughlan, O Cronin; T Sheehan, E O'Brien, L Corcoran.

Sub: S O'Driscoll for L Corcoran (54).

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh; J Donegan, A Curran, R Swanton; C Nason, P Mackey, L O'Brien; M Mulrooney, K Mackey; E McAndrews, K Holland, R Sheehan; E Kavanagh, A Walsh, J Leo.

Sub: C McAndrews for E McAndrews, C McCarthy for A Walsh, J O'Mahony for R Swanton (all 4-5), J O'Rourke for E Kavanagh (48), D Harrington for J Leo (48).

Referee: Diarmuid Kirwan (Éire Óg).

St Finbarr's have too much power

HURLING

■ Mary Newman

St Finbarr's 2-11

Inniscarra 1-6

ST FINBARR'S, with Cork manager Paudie Murray leading their back room team, advanced to round four of the SE Systems senior championship with a victory over Inniscarra in Castle Road yesterday afternoon.

Both defences were busy over the hour but it was St Finbarr's who used possession better.

Despite Rebecca Quigley giving Inniscarra an early lead with a point from play, the Barrs replied with Down inter-county senior star Sorcha McCartan putting them on the score board four minutes in.

Mopping up a lot of Inniscarra pressure, St Finbarr's worked the lines and kept the ball moving, and with the bustling Gemma O'Connor at centre forward leading their attack, they had a lot of options.

Inniscarra, with captain Aoife Kavanagh and Rosie O'Mahony working hard, enjoyed a lot of possession but failure to convert saw them fall further in arrears as St Finbarr's added points from Orlaith Cahalane and Gemma O'Connor with a free to lead by two at the end of the opening quarter.

The second quarter was dominated by St Finbarr's.

A Keeva McCarthy goal on 21 minutes saw them take a grip on proceedings and with McCarthy adding a point they went six clear.

Joanne Casey and Saoirse McCartan traded points before the break when St Finbarr's led 1-6 to 0-3.

St Finbarr's hit the ground running on the restart a goal from Ella Wigginton-Barrett in the opening seconds.

That gave Inniscarra a bigger mountain to climb.

Claudia Keane pointed to cut the deficit but the Barrs with two in row from Gemma O'Connor and Saoirse McCartan maintained their upper hand.

With their defence smartly dealing with anything Inniscarra threw at them the Barrs were in control at the back but a long-range effort from Rebecca Quigley dropped to the net on the second water break to boosted their challenge but the Barrs re-



Gráinne Cahalane, St Finbarr's, winning this ball from Niamh Dilworth, Inniscarra, during their SE Systems Senior Championship Camogie match at Castle Road. Picture: Dan Linehan

sponded well. Points from McCartan and Orlaith Cahalane were replied to by Joanne Casey on a day when St Finbarr's were full value for their victory.

Inniscarra will be hoping to get their campaign back on track next weekend when they meet their divisional colleagues Muskerry in a back door clash.

Scorers for St Finbarr's: K McCarthy 1-3, S McCartan 0-4, E Wigginton-Barrett 1-0, G O'Connor 0-3 (f's), O Cahalane 0-1.

Inniscarra: R Quigley 1-1, J Casey 0-3 (0-2fs), N Dilworth, C Keane 0-1 each.

ST FINBARR'S: C Hurley, S Punch, A Egan, G Cahalane; C Golden, A O'Neill, L O'Connell; A Shannon, M Cahalane; E O'Leary, G O'Connor (c), S McCartan; K Cahalane, K McCarthy, E Wigginton-Barrett.

INNISCARRA: C Buckley; A O'Regan, C Ring, C Looney (c); R O'Mahony, E Looney, A Kavanagh (c); K O'Mahony, M Lyons; A McCarthy, R Quigley, A Sheehan; J Burke, N Dilworth, J Casey.

Sub: C Keane for N Dilworth (31), L Desmond for R O'Mahony (39), S O'Callaghan for A McCarthy (47), E O'Reilly for J Burke (47), G Casey for R Quigley (51).

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow).



Inniscarra players Rebecca Quigley, Abbie McCarthy and Aileen Sheehan surround Stephanie Punch, St Finbarr's. Picture: Dan Linehan

Glen Rovers dominate against a plucky Éire Óg

Glen Rovers 5-16
Éire Óg 0-7

FROM the outset, Glen Rovers were in control of this SE Systems Senior Championship first-round clash in Castle Road. Leading 1-8 to 0-2 at half time, it could have been more but for the eight wides they accumulated, 13 by the finish.

Glen Rovers possibly played too deep in the opening half. Emma Murphy in particular roamed, leaving Éire Óg with the dominant numbers in defence.

Katie Walsh got the Glen's opening goal on 21 minutes when the blinding sun caught the goalkeeper and the dropping ball fell to the net.

By half time Glen Rovers had seven scorers, eight by the time the hour was up. To be fair to Éire Óg, they were hit with a number of injuries coming into the game and they never gave up the fight.

The experience and good stick work of Glen

Camogie

■ Linda Mellerick

Rovers was apparent in all sections, epitomised on 41 minutes when Aisling Wallace finished off a great Rover's move, Denise Luby's final pinpoint pass finding Wallace before she blasted to the net.

That was the Glen's fourth goal after Walsh and Luby had each grabbed a goal within two minutes of each other moments before.

The Glen continued to impress, their defence of Lisa O'Riordan, Cliona Martin, Kelly Falvey, Aoife O'Rourke, Michaela Hyde, Michelle Browne, and Leanne O'Sullivan coping with everything Éire Óg attempted. Add in the influential Luran Callanan and Lydia Cunningham at midfield and the Glen were in control throughout.

It was a difficult hour for Éire Óg, who face into the

backdoor next weekend against Milford.

Scorers for Glen Rovers: K Walsh 2-4, D Luby 2-3 (0-3 f), A Wallace 1-1, N O'Riordan 0-2, E Murphy 0-2, L O'Sullivan, L Callanan, T McCarthy, N O'Brien 0-1 each.

Éire Óg: M O'Herlihy 0-5 (0-4 f), E Crowley 0-2.

GLEN ROVERS: L O'Riordan; C Martin, K Falvey, A O'Rourke; M Hyde, M Browne, L O'Sullivan; L Callanan, L Cunningham; T McCarthy, N O'Riordan, E Murphy; K Walsh, D Luby, A Wallace.

Sub: N O'Brien for N O'Riordan (46).

ÉIRE ÓG: O Lynch; E Quigley, F Murphy, C Sheehan; O Beechinor, A O'Callaghan, R Sheehan; A McSweeney, M Gleeson; E Crowley, K McCarthy, I Sheehan; C Henchy, M O'Herlihy, R Murphy.

Sub: L Cleary for A McSweeney (4-1).

Referee: Andrew Larkin (Ballygarvan).

STAR Sport

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2021



ENNISKEANE UP AND RUNNING

Carbery club makes impact in their first-ever senior camogie championship match

See page 3

Enniskeane's Tara Sheehan on the attack as the Carbery club won their first-ever county senior camogie championship game last Sunday with a 0-23 to 1-10 win against Douglas. (Photo: David Ribeiro)

UP AND RUNNING Win for Carbery



The Carbery senior camogie team that defeated Muskerry, 2-11 to 1-2, in their opening game round of the county senior championship in Riverstick on Saturday night. Back from left, Hannah Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Siofra Pattwell (Ballinascarthy), Ciara Ryan (Clonakilty), Kate Nolan (do), Moira Barrett (Ballinascarthy), Katie O'Driscoll (Clonakilty), Julie Sheehy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Aine Crowley (do), Meadh Sexton (Barryroe), Margaret Murphy (St Colum's), Louise Collins (Clonakilty), Orla Deasy (do) and Kate Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague). Front from left, Sinéad O'Neill (Clonakilty), Eimear White (Barryroe), Katelynn Dineen (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Grace Tobin (Barryroe), Róisín Ní Bhuachalla (do), Clara Crowley (Ballinascarthy), Millie Condon (do), Maggie Coppinger (captain, St Colum's), Libby Coppinger (do) and Orla Lowney (Clonakilty).

Enniskeane announce arrival to senior ranks

Newcestown in must-win clash with Seandún

SENIOR CAMOGIE

ENNISKEANE 0-23
DOUGLAS 1-10

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

ENNISKEANE have found their feet quickly in the county senior camogie championship.

The new kids on the block, having captured the 2020 intermediate crown that included promotion to the senior ranks, looked right at home in their first-ever senior championship game at Castle Road on Sunday.

As debuts go, they don't get much better than this as Enniskeane scored 23 points, including 17 from play, to beat a Douglas team that was county senior semi-finalists last season.

While Cork star Orla Cronin, a 2020 All-Star player, is the standout name on the team-sheet, Enniskeane proved last Sunday they carry a threat all over the pitch, especially in attack as Tara Sheehan led the way here with 0-7, all from play. Cronin, just one week after Cork's All-Ireland final loss to Galway, struck six frees and was, not surprisingly, influential.

Points from Cronin and Eimear O'Brien got Enniskeane up and running but Katrina Mackey kept Douglas in touch. At the break the West Cork women led 0-11 to 0-5, having played with the wind.

While the Enniskeane attack will take the plaudits – the full-forward line of Lauren Corcoran (0-2), Eimear O'Brien (0-4) and Tara Sheehan (0-7) combined for 0-13 – their defence was key in the

second half, keeping Douglas at bay. Enniskeane goalkeeper Kate Corcoran was busier in the second half, too, but they repelled all that the city side threw at them. In the final quarter Enniskeane rattled off eight points in a row to book their place in the fourth round, though Douglas did get a consolation goal through Rebecca Swanton late on.

Still, this was really impressive by Enniskeane who are now into Round 4 where they'll be back in action on October 2nd against the winner of this weekend's game between Inniscarra and Muskerry.

Scorers

Enniskeane: Tara Sheehan 0-7; Orla Cronin 0-6f; Eimear O'Brien 0-4; Sinead Hurley, Orla Coughlan, Lauren Corcoran 0-2 each.

Douglas: Katrina Mackey 0-8 (4f); Rebecca Swanton 1-1; Pamela Mackey 0-1.

Enniskeane: Kate Corcoran; Danielle Carroll, Celine Nyhan, Louise Duggan; Daire O'Brien, Emma O'Driscoll, Aisling O'Driscoll, Laura Mannix, Danielle O'Neill, Orla Coughlan, Orla Cronin, Sinead Hurley; Lauren Corcoran, Eimear O'Brien, Tara Sheehan.

Sub: Slobhan O'Driscoll for L. Corcoran (54).

Douglas: Jess Kavanagh; Jill Donegan, Amy Curtin, Rachel Swanton; Chloe Nason, Pamela Mackey, Laura O'Brien; Mairead Mulrooney, Katrina Mackey; Eimear McAndrews, Katlyn Holland, Rebecca Swanton; Emma Kavanagh, Aisling Walsh, Joy Leo.

Subs: Caoimhe McAndrews for E McAndrews (ht), Caoimhe McCarthy for A Walsh (ht), Caoimhe O'Mahony for R Swanton



Enniskeane's Eimear O'Brien on the attack against Douglas in the county senior camogie championship on Sunday.

(Photo: David Ribeiro)

(ht), Jen O'Rourke for E Kavanagh (47), D Harrington for J Leo (47).

Referee: Diarmuid Kirwan (Eire Og).

In the county junior championship, after beating Kilbrittain/Timoleague by 3-9 to 2-3,

thanks to goals from Lauren Corcoran (2) and Caroline O'Donovan (1), Enniskeane lost their quarter-final to St Finbarr's on Monday night.

Enniskeane: Claire O'Mahony, Aisling Everard, Labhaoise McCarthy, Emer Hur-

ley, Hazel Browne, Kristie Scannell, Marguerite Nyhan, Saoirse Fleming, Caroline O'Donovan, Deirdre Browne, Davina Connolly, Katie Hennessey, Julieanne Hayes (0-5), Clara Duggan, Aoife Sheehan (1-0).

NEWCESTOWN have the chance to get their county camogie senior championship campaign back on track this Sunday.

The Carbery club lost 1-15 to 2-6 against Sarsfields last Saturday but they're straight back into action this weekend when they play Seandún in a must-win game on Sunday evening, 26th, in Castle Road (5.15pm).

It's one of five senior championship games this weekend as teams that came up short in the last round of action try to make amends and get back in the title hunt. Other crunch clashes this weekend include Douglas v Ballincollig (Saturday, Ballygarvan, 3.30pm), Cloughduv v Imokilly (Saturday, Castle Road), Eire Óg v Milford (Saturday, Coachford, 2pm) and Inniscarra v Muskerry (Saturday, Cloughduv, 2pm).

Meanwhile, the Round 4 draw for the senior championship has been made with defending champions Courcey Rovers, Carbery and Enniskeane, who all won their opening games last weekend, discovering their next opponents.

Carbery's reward for their 2-11 to 1-2 victory over Muskerry last weekend is a Round 4 clash with St Catherine's on October 3rd, while Enniskeane will be back in action on October 2nd against the winner of the Inniscarra v Muskerry tie. Champions Courceys will take to the field on October 3rd to play the winner of Cloughduv v Imokilly.

The full senior championship Round 4 draw, including dates, is as follows:

P. St Finbarr's v Glen Rovers (October 2nd)

Q. Carbery v St Catherine's (October 3rd)

R. Winner of Newcestown/Seandún v Winner of Eire Óg/Milford (October 2nd)

S. Killeagh v Winner of Douglas/Ballincollig (October 3rd)

T. Ballygarvan v Sarsfields (October 2nd)

U. Winner of Cloughduv/Imokilly v Courcey Rovers (October 3rd)

V. Enniskeane v Winner of Inniscarra/Muskerry (October 2nd)

There will be three quarter-finals to follow, and the winner of St Finbarr's v Glen Rovers has been drawn to go direct to the semi-final. The remaining quarter-finals are: Winner S v Winner V, Winner T v Winner U, Winner Q v Winner R.

The semi-finals are scheduled for October 16th with the county senior final on Sunday, October 24th.

Ace Collins ignites Courceys' title defence

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

CORK captain Linda Collins hit 3-5 as champions Courcey Rovers got their county senior camogie championship title defence off to an impressive start.

The reigning queens of Cork camogie blitzed Ballincollig by 4-14 to 1-8 in Coachford with sharpshooter Collins leading the way while Jacinta Crowley wasn't too far behind as she added 1-8 (1-6 from frees).

Ballincollig scored an early goal through Elaine Casey but Courceys' response was



In form: Linda Collins scored 3-5 in Courceys' big win.

emphatic as Collins grabbed the first of her three goals. Her second arrived later in the half as the winners led 2-6 to 1-5 at the break. Courceys pushed clear in the third quarter, thanks to Collins, who completed her hat-trick, and Crowley, and they were 3-11 to 1-6 up by the second water break.

A free from Crowley went all the way to the net late on, and the champs move into Round 4 and a tie with the winner of Cloughduv and Imokilly.

Elsewhere, the Carbery divisional team, who sat out

last year's championship, got their campaign up and running with a convincing 2-11 to 1-2 win against Muskerry in Riverstick on Saturday night. This is a Carbery team that includes Cork senior Libby Coppinger.

Also, Sarsfields were too strong for Newcestown (1-15 to 2-6), Killeagh beat Cloughduv (1-21 to 1-9), St Catherine's defeated Seandún (1-14 to 2-8), Ballygarvan got the better of Imokilly (0-9 to 0-6), St Finbarr's beat Inniscarra (2-11 to 1-6) while Enniskeane were too strong for Douglas (0-23 to 1-10).

Cork captain Linda Collins led the Rebels on the pre-match parade ahead of the recent All-Ireland senior final against Galway. (Photo: James Crombie/INPHO)

'I don't think any of us will be over it for a while'

Cork camogie captain **LINDA COLLINS** chats about the Rebels' All-Ireland senior final heartbreak

BY GER MCCARTHY

LIFE has felt like a roller-coaster moving at 100 miles per hour for Linda Collins over the past couple of weeks.

The Cork senior camogie captain had to come to terms with missing out on a starting berth in this year's All-Ireland final before having to spend time consoling her team-mates after a gut-wrenching 1-15 to 1-12 loss to Galway.

As ever, the Courcey Rovers attacker took everything in her stride and was prepared to perform to the best of her ability in whatever role Cork boss Paudie Murray assigned. Unfortunately for Collins, the role was that of a substitute following the eleventh-hour disciplinary hearing that cleared Orla Cronin to play the night before the All-Ireland final.

'It just didn't work out for us and, at the end of the day, Galway were just that bit more driven towards the end of the game,' Collins says.

'I felt we really put it up to them and stuck with them for long periods of time but Galway had that experience of playing in an All-Ireland final, knowing when to push on and credit to them for winning the way they did.'

'When Katrina Mackey got that goal, we kind of sat back

a small bit and that was the chance to push on. Obviously, it is a hard one to take when you get that close.'

Enniskeane ace Orla Cronin dominated the headlines in the build-up to the 2021 All-Ireland camogie decider having received a red card in the semi-final defeat of Kilkenny. Cork's successful late-night appeal on the eve of the final cleared their talismanic forward to play at Croke Park but that meant another player would have to miss out.

So, when did Collins find out that she wouldn't be starting the most important game of her inter-county career? On top of that, how hard was it to accept the decision having been dropped only to come off the bench and score the winning point in Cork's All-Ireland semi-final victory?

'Management were trying out different people in different positions instead of Orla during the week of the All-Ireland,' Collins explains.

'They had used me as an impact sub before so I kind of knew all week, not that anyone had said it, I kind of felt myself that they (management) were probably going to use me in that impact substitute role once again.'

'To be honest, it was Saturday when I was actually officially

told I wasn't starting but Cliona Healy had been going really well in training as well. So, I felt myself that if Orla wasn't able to play it could have been Cliona that called up.'

'Having said that, everyone had faith that Orla was going to make it. I wouldn't have changed anything from the semi-final (team) as it worked so well. I was kind of thinking it made sense to keep things the same. That was how it happened.'

Considering everything that had gone on beforehand, Orla Cronin's All-Ireland final performance, in which the forward contributed 0-6, told you everything you needed to know about the Enniskeane player's steely determination.

Cronin's efforts did not surprise the player she replaced in Cork's starting line-up.

'No, I wasn't surprised as Orla had remained so positive all week,' Collins says.

'Anytime I met up with her to make sure she was doing okay. She kept asking how I was! I had to keep telling her "Orla you are the one going through all of this". She was so positive all week, it never got her down or anything. She was great. It was just a pity that she missed out on training during

'It's a few weeks later and you are still thinking about it, how did we let it slip?' - Linda Collins

the week.

'She wasn't able to train with us, which was a bit of a disaster but look, she put in a serious performance after only finding out between 11.30pm and midnight the night before that she was going to play in an All-Ireland final. Fair play to Orla for producing the performance that she did.'

One of the most poignant sights on All-Ireland final day in Croke Park was 16 Cork senior players walking behind the Artane Band and alongside their Galway counterparts prior to throw-in. Collins may not have started the All-Ireland decider but it was fitting that both she and Orla Cronin were part of the ensemble that enjoyed the traditional pre-match parade. Leading the Cork team around the pitch as the county's captain was important and a nice touch for a player who garners huge respect both inside and outside the senior camogie squad's dressing room.

'Matthew Twomey (Cork coach) came up to me before-

hand and said "Linda, you know that you are allowed walk in the parade?" Collins explains.

'It is part of being captain but, to be honest, I didn't even think about it. You are so focussed on the match that you forget about all the other things that come with it. It was Matthew who told me about the parade just before the game.'

'It was a nice touch and a serious honour for my family and my club. It should be a thing that (is allowed) if the captain isn't playing. As I said, nobody is guaranteed a position on the team so I do think it should be a thing (that the captain walks with the team in the parade even if not starting). I don't know if I'm the first ever?'

Naturally, the Cork dressing room was a sombre place shortly after the All-Ireland final concluded. It is never easy losing in Croke Park but this defeat stung and will continue to sting for some time.

Despite still struggling to come to terms with losing to Galway, Collins showed why she remains a potent threat at club level. Defending Cork senior camogie county cham-

pions Courcey Rovers defeated Ballincollig 4-14 to 1-8 last weekend in their first outing. Collins racked up 3-5, so was that a timely reminder to any doubters about the Cork captain's ability?

'To be honest, we are still not over the All-Ireland and still in a bit of shock,' Collins says.

'I feel everyone's emotions are still high. There is a sense of emptiness because

you give so much to it. Your whole life is camogie and you leave no stone unturned (in trying to win an All-Ireland). I don't think any of us will be over it for a while.'



Linda Collins scored the winning point for Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final against Kilkenny.



Tara McCarthy of Glen Rovers, and Orla Beechinor, Éire Óg battle it out in the Cork Senior Camogie Championship at Castle Road. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Crunch time in senior games



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

SATURDAY
SE Systems Round 3 senior championship: Douglas v Ballincollig - Ballygarvan 3.30pm. Cloughduv v Imokilly - Castle Road 5.15pm TBC. Éire Óg v Milford - Coachford - 2pm. Inniscarra v Muskerry - Cloughduv 2pm.

SUNDAY
Seandún v Newcestown - Castle Road 5.15pm

FIVE of the 19 teams will exit this year's SE Systems Senior Championship this weekend as the 'losers' round takes place.

Some of the sides playing for survival took heavy defeats in their opening round, Ballincollig to holders Coursey Rovers, Éire Óg to Glen Rovers, Cloughduv to Killcagh, Douglas to Enniskeane, Muskerry to Carbery.

There are some tasty battles to look forward to with this weekend's fixtures and progression is what it's all about for a lot of these clubs. Winning the championship may not be their outright target at the start of the season but they all came in hoping to give a good account of themselves, progress as far as they can and develop their side.

Sarsfields drew the lucky straw and have two games behind them already, accounting for Milford and Newcestown.

The more games the better. They managed to hit just six points. Ashling Thompson only took to the field for the final fifteen minutes, but regardless, Milford have rebuilding to do.

They maintain the playing skills of Marie Watson and Laura Stack. It's hard to call how their game against Éire Óg will go but you would tip them. Éire Óg are hit with a number of injuries, and last Sunday evening didn't go well for them.

A bounce back tomorrow would be a big deal and give them another outing in round 4.



Joanna Casey, Inniscarra, takes a shot on goal under pressure from St Finbarr's Aoife O'Neill in their SE Systems senior championship camogie match at Castle Road. Picture: Dan Linehan

Douglas and Ballincollig is a game that should be a tight affair. Both sides will want a big improvement on their first day out. Outside of the two Mackey's, Katrina and Pam, Douglas had good performers in Chloe Nason, Jess Kavanagh, and Joy Leo always gives it her all.

Meeting the champions isn't the best of opening rounds for a side but Ballincollig had to do that while also nursing a number of injuries, so this is a must win for either club, indeed for all clubs this weekend.

Inniscarra meet divisional side Muskerry. Inniscarra players such as Rosie and Katie O'Mahony and Niamh Dilworth are after giving some wonderful years to their club. They are sticking around as the rebuilding takes place with a strong underage structure in the club.

They will be expected to overcome Muskerry and advance to round 4.

I didn't see Imokilly's defeat to Ballygarvan but it's great to see them back in senior action. Historically Imokilly have had great success in the cork championship, winning five titles from 1972 to 1976 and losing the final to Glen Rovers in 1996, St Finbarr's in 2006 and a thriller of a game against Inniscarra in 2010 after a replay.

They lost the services of Sarsfields but

clubs such as Midleton and Aghada have since joined the set up. They face a young Cloughduv tomorrow who gave a battle against Killeagh, but the latter's inter-county players proved too much to overcome. An interesting clash awaits here.

On Sunday, Newcestown and Seandún take centre stage in Castle Road. Seandún have tremendous talent on paper but if the teamwork isn't there, it isn't going to happen for them. It wasn't there last weekend but a game behind them should help. The junior and intermediate championship playing alongside the senior championship makes it all the harder for divisional sides, but the calendar window is short. Brian Dillon's, Na Piarasigh and St Vincent's all played games last Friday evening before they played St Catherine's and bodies were sore and tired. Susan Kate Brosnan didn't start through injury. Sinead Mills and Niamh O'Leary carried muscle injuries into the game while Amy O'Connor had to be withdrawn eighteen minutes in. Teamwork will improve the further Seandún go on in the competition and that's what they'll be hoping for. Newcestown were a joy to watch last season, playing with tremendous heart. Only six points separated them and Sars last weekend. They'll bring the same intensity to the pitch on Sunday.

Camogie

After a hectic weekend of first round games, the focus now switches to the losers round in the SE Systems Senior Championship with five games scheduled.

On Saturday in Ballygarvan at 3.30pm, Douglas will be slight favourites to defeat Ballincollig, while Coachford at 2pm is where Éire Óg will look to bounce back from their heavy loss to Glen Rovers and might just edge Milford. At the same time in Cloughduv, Inniscarra should be too strong for their own divisional side Muskerry.

Cloughduv will play Imokilly in Castle Road (to be confirmed) also on Saturday at 5.15pm.

The remaining game is on Sunday in Castle Road at 5.15pm, and here Seandún even with the injury doubt surrounding Amy O'Connor should beat Newcestown.

Homan stars as Seandún get back on track

Camogie

Therese O'Callaghan

Captain Lauren Homan shot eight points as Seandún got their SE Systems Cork senior camogie championship back on track, recording a hard-earned 1-17 to 2-12 victory over Newcestown at Castle Road yesterday.

They put the disappointment of last weekend's three-

point defeat to St Catherine's behind them in a very entertaining game, despite testing conditions.

Roisin De Faoite's goal gave them an edge at half-time. With a greater scoring spread, they led 1-9 to 0-7.

Newcestown had Ciara O'Sullivan in fine form, and she brought her tally to eight points. A goal before the second water break from Emma Murphy cut the deficit to five

points. When Colette Desmond found the net a few minutes later, the gap was two.

Newcestown reduced it to one, but Seandún regrouped to pull away once more.

Meanwhile, last year's defeated finalists, Inniscarra, booked their spot in the next round following a victory over their own divisional side Muskerry. A high-scoring contest, 3-19 to 1-11, they recovered from their opening-

round loss to St Finbarr's.

The first half was keenly contested, after which they led 1-11 to 0-8, the goal coming from Aileen Sheehan. They pushed on after the break, with Sheehan grabbing a second goal, while the third green flag came from Ger O'Loughlin. Ger's sister Joanne Casey was extremely accurate from frees and play rowing in with 13 points.

Muskerry couldn't be

faulted for endeavour. But under the new management of Stephen McCormack, Ricky Leisk, and Enda Dineen, it was Inniscarra who were up and running.

There were also victories for Éire Óg over Milford, 2-11 to 0-7; while Douglas overcame Ballincollig, 3-16 to 0-10.

Imokilly didn't field against Cloughduv, so the mid Cork side go through to the knock-out stages.

Senior Championship results:

- Éire Óg 2-11 Milford 0-7.
 - Inniscarra 3-19 Muskerry 1-11.
 - Douglas 3-16 Ballincollig 0-10.
 - Cloughduv v Imokilly.
 - Seandún 1-17 Newcestown 2-12.
- Round 4 draw:**
- St Finbarr's v Glen Rovers.
 - Carbery v St Catherine's.
 - Seandún v Éire Óg.
 - Killeagh v Douglas.
 - Ballygarvan v Sarsfields.
 - Cloughduv v Coursey Rovers.
 - Enniskeane v Inniscarra.

Round-up of adult competition after another hectic week

IT WAS a weekend of non-stop SE Systems championship action across all adult competitions, as inter-county players returned to their clubs and championship games went ahead.

SENIOR

Just to recap, there were wins for Sarsfields, Ballygarvan, Enniskeane, Glen Rovers, Courcsey Rovers, St Catherine's, St Finbarr's, Killeagh and Carbery, who now all advance to round four with the losers out in round three this weekend.

INTERMEDIATE

In the SE Systems Intermediate championship, Ballyhea had a win over Watergrasshill, Brian Dillon's had a point to spare over Na Piarsaigh.

In a tight contest where the result was in doubt to the final whistle Brian Dillon's were in front 1-8 to 0-10 at the end.

Last year's Junior A champions Newtownshandrum had a victory on their debut as they overcame Carrigaline.

Blackrock edged it over Fr O'Neill's.

Valley Rovers got the upper hand on Clonakilty.

Aghabullogue, with three first half goals, two from Cliona Healy and one from Emma Flanagan laid the foundations for victory as they defeated Kilbrittain / Timoleague.

There are three games in the back door this weekend.

Watergrasshill meet Na Piarsaigh, Fr O'Neill's will play Kilbrittain / Timoleague, with the winners meeting Valley Rovers and Carrigaline meet Clonakilty.

JUNIOR A

All round one games in the Junior A championship have now been completed.

Charleville had a 2-14 to 3-10 win over Sliabh Rua, Ballinora were 4-7 to 1-8 winners over Tracton, Castlelyons notched up 2-16 as they overcame St Vincent's, who put 3-8 on the score board.

Mallow were 3-14 to 0-15 winners over Ballinhassig, Sarsfields defeated Banteer 1-17 to 1-9 and Ballinascary got the upper hand on Cloughduv.

The losers have another chance this weekend to get their campaigns back on track.

Cloughduv take on Tracton, St Vincent's meet Ballinhassig today, Saturday in CIT with a time to be confirmed, and Sliabh Rua meet Banteer on Sunday.

JUNIOR B

The SE Systems junior B championship is down to the semi-final stage after a weekend where Rockban overcame Courcsey Rovers, Aghada got the upper hand on Bride Rovers, and Youghal had a win over Inniscarra.

The semi-final line ups are Cobh meeting Aghada in Aghada, tomorrow, Sunday at 6.30pm, and Rockban meeting Youghal on Wednesday, September 29 in White's Cross at 7.30pm.

JUNIOR C

In the SE Systems junior C championship, Buttevant continue to make headway as they defeated Carrigwohill.

Castlemartyr and Middleton went to extra time before Castlemartyr came away winners in a high scoring 6-27 to 5-14 clash.

Kinsale had five points to spare over Cobh in their meeting, 2-18 to 2-13.

Kilbree defeated Castlelyons



Joanna Casey, Inniscarra, taking a shot on goal under pressure from Aoife O'Neill, St Finbarr's during their SE Systems senior championship camogie match at Castle Road. Picture Dan Linehan

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

to secure their place in the last four.

The semi-finals go ahead this weekend.

Castlemartyr take on Buttevant at their home venue, whilst it's a home venue for Kinsale when they take on Kilbree.

SECOND TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

In the second teams championship, St Finbarr's had a win over Enniskeane and will meet Aghabullogue in the semi-final.

Eire Og got over Na Piarsaigh and will meet Glen Rovers, who had a victory over Newcestown in the other semi final.

PREMIER MINOR

At premier minor championship level, it's down to the semi-final stages where Aghabullogue will meet Enniskeane and Sarsfields will play Eire Og.

In the plate competition, it's down to the quarter final stage where St Finbarr's will meet Cobh, Aghada take on Kilbree, Castlemartyr will play Middleton and Ballinora will meet Inniscarra.

MINOR A

In the Minor A championship, four sides will play-off for a place in the quarter final.

Blackrock meet Mallow with the winners meeting the winners of the other play-off which is between Kilbrittain / Timoleague and Ballyhea/Millford.

The other quarter finals are Sarsfields 2 versus Courcsey Rovers, Glen Rovers taking on Youghal and Cloughduv meeting Valley Rovers.

MINOR B

In the Minor B grade, we have four quarter finals to be played.

Ballinhassig will meet Duncorney, Carrigwohill are meeting Carrigaline on Sept 27 in Carrigaline at 8pm.

Ballinascary meet Douglas on either the 27th or the 29th of September and it's Killeagh taking on Tracton in Killeagh on September 30th at 8pm.

MINOR C

In the Minor C championship, six teams remain in the hunt.

In the quarter finals, Watergrasshill meet Nemo Rangers on September 29 in Nemo at 7.45pm, and Brian Dillon's take on Erin's Own in Caherlag on September 29.

The winners of these quarter finals will meet at the semi-final stage with Grenagh meeting Barryroe in the other semi-final.



Martina Harkin, Galway, in action against Margaret Finn, Cork. All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final 25 years ago at Croke Park. Picture credit: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILM

When Galway won first title

LAST Sunday week the Galway 1996 jubilee team were honoured in Croke Park and got a rousing reception.

Up in the stand I vividly recalled the day. The All-Ireland title that was Cork's for sure!

Cork had dismissed the stranglehold Kilkenny had over us for seven years and now Cork were going to dominate.

Weren't they? We played second fiddle to a great Galway side that day that won their first All-Ireland senior title.

Did I begrudge them? Of course, at the time as our hearts were broken.

But we ended up having some incredible battles over the following two years, regaining, and retaining the titles in 1997 and 1998.

There are counties I wouldn't even consider applauding or putting ink on paper to congratulate on their pitch walk two weeks ago, but Galway are different. They always were and remain a great bunch of players and people.

There was never animosity in our rivalry. And Tony Ward, their manager was and is the ultimate gentleman.

Cork, victorious in 1995, missed out on our jubilee year last year due to Covid.

We had the night booked for this year as we expected a double celebration with Galway but when the official lunch still wasn't going ahead, we choose to wait, and we'll celebrate next year our 1995 and 1997 victories together, please God.

The Connacht Tribune reported after the 1996 final. (We know they're bias of course).

"Two goals either side of half time from Denise Gilligan decided the outcome of the final.

When midfielder Sharon Glynn pointed from a free in the first minute of the final, the score was not recorded. Galway manager Tony Ward had clarified with referee Aine Derham that the point stood.

The players were unaware that the score was actually closer than displayed.

Shortly after scoring, Glynn took a blow to the head which affected her for long periods, particularly in the opening half, with her accuracy deserting her. Her long pucks from midfield frequently went wide, and Galway had five wides in the

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

opening 30 minutes.

Cork edged ahead 0-5 to 0-4 by the 20th minute, with all their scores coming from frees as Lynn Dunlea and Fiona O'Driscoll displayed their accuracy, and they must have thought the game was theirs for the taking when Dunlea displayed remarkable persistence in shaking off the attentions of Olive Costello to put her side ahead 1-7 to 0-4.

Cork led by three points at half time. It would have been six had not Denise Gilligan scored the first of her two goals just beforehand.

Gilligan received from Sharon Glynn for the second of her two goals at the start of the second half.

Two minutes later she was involved again in the move that saw the winner's edge in front when she found Martina Harkin. Kathleen Costine (RIP) saved but Harkin retained her composure to score Galway's third goal.

Galway now led by 3-6 to 1-9. They set about consolidating their position. Sharon Glynn pointed from a 30.

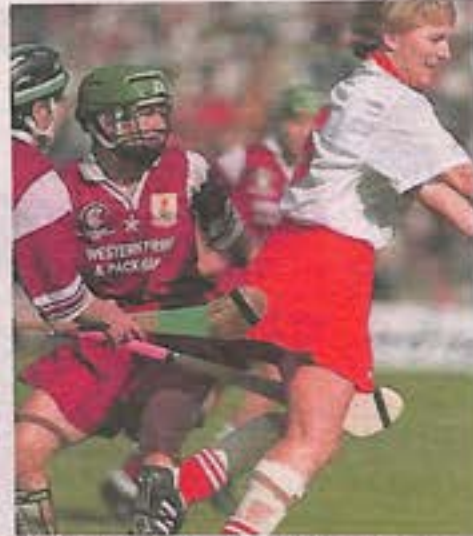
A further goal from Dympna Maher, who was another to display remarkable coolness under pressure, made the Cork task that much more difficult, although they still had 18 minutes to retrieve their title.

Cork brought it back to a two-point margin, they spurned some easy point chances in search of a goal. Galway won their first All-Ireland in their tenth final appearance. It finished 4-8 to 1-15.

Galway captain Imelda Hobbins said: "I knew that if we were below six points behind them at the break that we would win the All Ireland.

Those goals just after the break were an almighty boost for us.

Denise Gilligan said: "I can't believe it. I



Therese O'Callaghan evades Pamela Nevin and Dympna Maher in the 1996 decider.

thought the final whistle would never go. When Cork were ahead, we knew we had it all to play for.

"But in the second half we got in front of the backs and that was the difference. We were also playing the ball in low to the forwards."

Denise later went to live in London and played for Tara in the All Ireland Junior club final of 2011, 15 years after her two goal All Ireland winning performance.

Cork were never reaching the stars in 1996 and we stumbled over our semi-final win over Kilkenny.

Galway deserved their win and I fully believe that had they not beaten us in the '96 final they would have caught us in one of the other two.

The heartbreak of '96 drove all of us wearing the red and white to not let it happen again.

1997 we won 0-15 to 2-5 and in 1998 victorious again, 2-13 to 0-15, so there was nothing between us during the trilogy.

There was no begrudgery two weeks ago.

A great team and great champions.

Carbery camogie team provides important stage for local players

CARBERY'S return to the SE Systems Cork senior camogie championship is a welcome boost for all camogie players in the West Cork region.

The Carbery divisional side's 2-11 to 1-2 victory over Muskerry last Saturday in the opening round of this year's senior camogie championship was achieved without the services of the Enniskeane or Newcestown representatives. The former gained promotion to the county's top tier last season, a year after Newcestown also became a senior club.

Enniskeane and Newcestown's consecutive promotions were welcome developments but also represented a considerable exodus of experienced and talented players from Carbery's divisional panel.

Having opted out of the 2020 championship, a new-look Carbery divisional camogie team made up for last year's absence by inflicting a heavy defeat on Muskerry.

That victory was achieved by utilising players from the Ballinascorthy, Barryroe, Clonakilty, Kilbrittain-Timoleague and St Colum's clubs. The West Cork panel was not short inter-county experience either with Cork seniors Libby Coppinger (St Colum's) and Moira Barrett (Ballinascorthy) plus a host of up-and-coming underage talent amongst those who lined out during the 12-point win.

Add in the welcome support of Rowa/Rowex Pharmaceuticals Ltd, who kindly sponsored the Carbery senior players new squad tops and goodie bags, and it has been a positive couple of weeks for camogie in the rural region.



Joe Keane, General Manager Rowa/Rowex Pharmaceuticals Ltd, presenting squad tops and goodie bags to the Carbery senior camogie panel and captain Maggie Coppinger.

'Playing for Carbery gives girls the stage to perform if they want to progress beyond the Cork underage inter-county set-ups' – Jerry Ryan, Carbery manager

But despite that opening round senior championship victory, no one in the Carbery camogie management team or squad is losing the run of themselves, least of all manager Jerry Ryan. Right now, the significance of fielding a competitive Carbery team at club senior level is far more important than results, good bad or indifferent.

'It was nice to win and to give a lot

of young girls their first experience of a camogie senior county championship victory but we are certainly not getting carried away with the result,' Ryan said.

'I wouldn't be getting carried away with it as Muskerry were missing most of their regular team the last day. We won't really know where Carbery are at until our next game and even then, it will depend on who is available to play for us on the day itself.

'It is nearly impossible to measure the importance of being able to field a Carbery divisional team in the senior championship. A lot of the girls that togged out the last day would have represented Cork at underage inter-county level but playing for Carbery is a great opportunity to test themselves on the senior club stage.

'It is not a step beyond any of Carbery's players and just a question of getting their heads around the speed and intensity of games at this level. Once they do that, they realise that senior isn't above their capabilities.'

Carbery will not be in the running for this year's Cork senior camogie title but that doesn't mean it isn't worth investing time and effort into the project. The experience gained at competing in the top club tier is being brought back to their respective clubs by Carbery's players.

As with their Carbery GAA counterparts, Jerry Ryan and his management team face a tricky task in gaining access to their squad members, such as the club and inter-county demands of the modern camogie player.

'Playing for Carbery gives girls the stage to perform if they want to progress beyond the Cork underage inter-county set-ups,' Jerry Ryan said.

'Playing in the senior championship also gives Carbery players an opportunity to impress watching Cork intermediate and senior selectors. The same opportunity exists with the various colleges and third level universities but for girls from smaller, more rural clubs, representing Carbery gives them a chance to show what they can do in a highly competitive environment.

There are difficulties, too. There is such a heavy demand on talented girls who play camogie and ladies football as well as other sports right now. Both championships have started up which means coaches are fighting to get the girls out playing for whatever codes they are involved in.

That's why, sometimes, it is nearly an impossible task to get girls released to play for Carbery. There were players involved in the win over Muskerry who had to tog out for their clubs the following day. Other couldn't play for us because they were playing the same day as the Muskerry game while others just weren't released because of Cork LGFA county championship commitments.'

Jerry Ryan's point is an important one. More communication is needed between ladies' football and camogie county boards as well as local clubs when it comes to managing players' individual workloads. Right now, Carbery has a terrific chance to re-establish itself in the senior camogie county championship but only if they have access to their players.

Seandún survive late scare to advance

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Seandún 1-17

Newcestown 2-12

SEANDÚN displayed far better teamwork than they did in their opening round when they defeated Newcestown in round three of the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship tie in Castle Road.

Seemingly comfortable at the second water break, leading by eight points, Seandún got the fright of their lives and were made fight all the way for their two-point victory, after Emma Murphy and Collette Desmond hit two goals inside a minute and Aoife O'Sullivan hit a lovely point to bring the gap down to one.

From there, the game became a pitched battle.

Leaders stand up at that stage and Seandún's Kathlyn Hickey took control around the middle, while Lauren Homan struck a free and lovely point from play to just keep that slight distance between the sides.

The opening half, played in wet and muggy conditions, was a tame enough affair.

With their half-back line on top, Kathlyn Hickey showing plenty of flair and hard work around the middle of the field, and Lauren Homan in scoring form up front, Seandún were full value for their 1-9 to 0-5 half time lead.

Their goal came on 27 minutes when Roisín De Faoite found the net. Collette Desmond was dangerous with ball in hand, but Seandún were smothering out any threat.

Defensively, Niamh O'Leary was winning good ball, as was Carol Ryan, as Seandún enjoyed the majority of possession.

Newcestown won the second half by five points, 2-7 to 0-8, but the half-time gap was too wide.

They gave it everything they had in the last 10 minutes, but Seandún also put in the work and hung on to advance to round four against Éire Óg next Saturday.

Scorers for Seandún: L Homan 0-8 (0-1 f), R De Faoite 1-0, H Ryan 0-3, N Crean 0-3 (0-1 f, 0-1 45), K Hickey 0-2, S Mills 0-1.

Newcestown: C O'Sullivan 0-8 (0-6 f, 0-1 45), E Murphy 1-1, C Desmond 1-0, M O'Donovan, A Sheehan, A O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

SEANDÚN: A Lee (Na Píarsaigh); E Buckley (do); C Ryan (Blackrock); N O'Connor (Na Píarsaigh); C O'Keefe (St. Vincents); N O'Leary (Brian Dillon); L McKeogh (Blackrock); K Hickey (Blackrock); M Murphy (do); N Crean (St. Vincents); L Homan (do); H Ryan (Blackrock); E O'Connell (Brian Dillon); R De Faoite (Blackrock); S Mills (Brian Dillon).

Subs: L O'Neill (Bishopstown) for E O'Connell (h-1); M Scannell for R De Faoite (47); R De Faoite for E Buckley (54); A O'Sullivan for N Crean (59).

NEWCESTOWN: O Dineen; S Kelleher; A O'Donovan; A Wilson; E Tarrant; G Ryan; L Whelan; C O'Sullivan; R Hallahan; M Lynch; A Sheehan; M O'Donovan; A O'Sullivan; C Desmond; E Murphy.

Sub: L Jennings for E Tarrant (57).

Referee: Cathal McAlister (Aghada).

Douglas too good for Ballincollig

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Douglas 3-16
Ballincollig 0-10

A FAR more cohesive Douglas side made easy work of a disappointing Ballincollig team in Ballygarvan on Saturday afternoon.

Despite the fact that 40 frees ruined a good flow to the game, it was a job well done by Douglas, while Ballincollig will need to do a root-and-branch review of their current situation.

A stop-start first half — which included 22 frees, many of them very soft — had Douglas leading by 2-7 to 0-6 at the break.

They had started the brighter, but Ballincollig settled with the game level on 23 minutes on 0-5 apiece before Douglas again gained the upper hand.

Two goals inside four minutes, and they were in pole position at the short whistle. It looked as if Ana Hartnett's diving save off the line had denied Douglas their opening goal, but the umpires deemed Emma Kavanagh's touch to have just crossed the white line, and the three-pointer stood.

Eimear McAndrews, pulled down in the square minutes later, saw Katrina Mackey step up to take the penalty and hit a shot low to the corner.

It was a good all-round display by Douglas. They'll need to raise the bar again to get through to a quarter-final, but that's something they can take back to the training ground this week.

Defensively, Douglas gave Ballincollig nothing, with Emma Kavanagh, Jill Donegan, and Amy Curtin in top form. Rebecca Sheehan was lively for the full hour, and with Katrina Mackey and Aisling Walsh in strong form also up front, it was too much for Ballincollig who just couldn't get into a rhythm for the entire game, and looking completely out of sorts.

Ballincollig needed to come back out and hit the ground running for the second half to give themselves a chance, but it was Douglas that pushed further ahead. Katrina Mackey took off with another point, and while Sinead O'Callaghan hit her fourth free of the day for Ballincollig, it was all Douglas again.

When Aisling Walsh stuck a ball from distance and slipped through the grasp of goalkeeper Ana Hartnett, it just about summed up the kind of day Ballincollig were having.



Douglas' Chloe Nason is tackled by Ballincollig's Trish Buttimer, during their Senior Camogie Championship clash at Ballygarvan.

Picture: David Keane

Sarah Keating and Linda Dorgan kept fighting, but Ballincollig scored just three points from play over the hour. Their performance more so than the end result will be a big disappointment.

But it's Douglas who march on. They advance to Round Four and play Killeagh next Sunday.

Scorers for Douglas: K Mackey 1-12 (0-1 pen, 0-1 45, 0-3 f), E Kavanagh 1-0, A Walsh 1-0, K Holland 0-2, P Mackey, J O'Mahony 0-1 each.

Ballincollig: S O'Callaghan 0-7 (0-6 f), H O'Leary, N O'Brien, L Dorgan 0-1 each.

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh; J Donegan, A Curtin, J O'Rourke; C Nason, P Mackey, L O'Brien; M Mulrooney, K Holland; R Sheehan, A Murphy, K Mackey; E McAndrews, E Kavanagh, A Walsh.

Subs: D Harrington for A Walsh, J O'Mahony for A Murphy (44), C McAndrews for E McAndrews, R O'Keefe for J O'Rourke (52), A Baldwin for J Donegan (56).

BALLINCOLLIG: A Hartnett; E O'Connell, S Buckley, S Keating; O Keating, S Coomey, A Cotter; M Healy, N O'Brien; T Buttimer, L Dorgan, O O'Leary; H O'Leary, S O'Callaghan, E Casey.

Sub: L Weste for E Casey (36), L M Farrell for H O'Leary (44), L Cooper for T Buttimer (52).

Referee: William Wallace (Midleton).



Douglas' Mairead Mulrooney gets away from Ballincollig's Trish Buttimer.

Picture: David Keane

Éire Óg back in the race as Milford campaign ends

Éire Óg 2-11

Milford 0-7

A GOAL three minutes in helped give Éire Óg a four-point interval advantage in this SE Systems Senior Championship clash in Coachford.

Holding the advantage to the full-time whistle, they deservedly got their championship aspirations back on track, while for Milford, it is the end of their championship campaign.

In what was an entertaining opening half, Caoimhe Sheehan opened the scoring for Milford inside 30 seconds.

Katie McCarthy responded quickly with a goal to Éire Óg into a two-point lead.

Nicole O'Connor pointed to cut the lead, but Éire Óg were the more economical with possession and three points on the bounce, one from Isobel Sheehan,

and two in a row from Emma Crowley made it 1-4 to 0-2 ahead at the first water break.

They added two on the resumption, but a Milford score left it 1-5 to 0-4 at the interval. Caoimhe Sheehan pointed again for Milford on the restart, but Éire Óg hit the next three scores, Margaret O'Herlihy with two frees, and the impressive Emma Crowley adding her third of the contest from play.

Milford continued to be wasteful from possession in front of goal, though before on the second water break, Tara Fitzgibbon did trim the gap: 1-8 to 0-6.

Éire Óg closed the game out with a goal, when a superb move, started by sub Siobhan Hutchinson — who missed their opening round through injury — off-loaded to Isobel Sheehan, who avoided a tackle

and floated a ball across the square for Margaret O'Herlihy to hit it first time to the top corner.

Milford battled to try to produce something. Laura Stack converted a free, but a strong finish, and points from Isobel Sheehan, Emma Crowley, and O'Herlihy saw Éire Óg safely through, and Milford out.

Scorers for Éire Óg: M O'Herlihy 1-3 (0-3 f), E Crowley 0-4, K McCarthy 1-0, I Sheehan 0-3, R Murphy 0-1.

Milford: C Sheehan 0-3 (0-2 f), S Sheehan, T Fitzgibbon, L Stack (f), N O'Connor 0-1 each.

ÉIRE ÓG: R Murray; C Sheehan, F Murphy, E Quigley; C Henchy, A O'Callaghan, R Sheehan, A McSweeney, R Murphy; L Cleary, K McCarthy, I Sheehan; E Crowley, M O'Herlihy, A Goulding.

Sub: S Hutchinson for A Goulding (42).

MILFORD: E Goggin; C Buckley, G O'Connor, K Galvin; O Linehan, A Thompson, T Fitzgibbon; N O'Connor, O O'Mahony; S Sheehan, L Stack; A O'Flynn; M Watson, E O'Gorman, C Sheehan.

Sub: O Murphy for L Stack (inj 54), D Hayes for N O'Connor (58), M Duggan for M Watson (50).

Referee: Mick Walsh (Barryroe).

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

SEANDÚN 1-17
NEWCESTOWN 2-12

NEWCESTOWN'S interest in this year's county senior camogie championship was ended by Seandún last Sunday – but the Carbery team didn't go down without a fight.

Trailing 1-9 to 0-5 at half time in this Round 3 game at Castle Road and down 1-14 to 0-9 after 13 minutes of the second half, the writing looked on the wall for Newcestown.

But this club, famed for its heart and spirit, rallied to almost pull off a shock win. By the end Seandún were glad to hear the final whistle.

Two goals in quick succession – from Emma Murphy and Collette Desmond – hauled Newcestown to within two points, 1-14 to 2-9, with just over ten minutes left.

When Aoife O'Sullivan struck a point for the West Cork team it made it a one-point game and set up a grandstand finish, but Seandún regained their composure to fire off a few crucial points to take control, again.

In the end, Seandún had two points to spare, but they had looked like being far more comfortable for most of the contest until Newcestown sprung into life.

Newcestown were looking for a response after losing to Sarsfields, 1-15 to 2-6, the previous weekend, and in Cork senior Ciara O'Sullivan they had one of the best players on the pitch; she finished with 0-8, including seven from placed balls. But Seandún's Lauren Homan was a constant threat all game long and she struck eight points, too, as the divisional team opened up a seven-point half-time lead. Seandún will now take on Éire Óg in Round 4 this Saturday after the latter defeated Milford 2-11 to 0-7 last weekend. Katie McCarthy and Margaret O'Herlihy scored Éire Óg's goals, and the winners led 1-5 to 0-4 at the break before going on to win by ten points in the finish.

Last year's defeated finalists



Newcestown forward Ciara O'Sullivan races towards goal against Seandún in their senior championship game at Castle Road on Sunday. (Photos: David Ribeiro)

Newcestown almost pull off comeback

SENIOR CAMOGIE

Inniscarra also got their campaign back on track when they beat Muskerry – who had lost to Carbery the previous weekend – by 3-19 to 1-11. Aileen Sheehan (2) and Ger O'Loughlin scored Inniscarra's goals while Joanne Casey, accurate from placed balls, racked up 0-13 for the winners who now take on Enniskeane in Round 4 this weekend.

Scorers

Seandún: L Homan 0-8 (1f); R De Faoite 1-0; H Ryan 0-3; N Crean 0-3 (1f, 145); K Hickey 0-2; S Mills 0-1.

Newcestown: C O'Sullivan 0-8 (6f); E Murphy 1-1; C Desmond 1-0; M O'Donovan, A Sheehan, A O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

Seandún: A Lee (Na Piarasigh);

E Buckley (Na Piarasigh), C Ryan (Blackrock); N O'Connor (Na Piarasigh); C O'Keefe (St Vincent's); N O'Leary (Brian Dillons), L McKeogh (Blackrock), K Hickey (Blackrock), M Murphy (Blackrock); N Crean (St Vincent's), L Homan (St Vincent's), H Ryan (Blackrock); E O'Connell (Brian Dillons), R De Faoite (Blackrock), S Mills (Brian Dillons).

Subs: L O'Neill (Bishopstown) for E O'Connell, M Scannell for R De Faoite, R De Faoite for E Buckley, A O'Sullivan for N Crean.

Newcestown: O Dineen; S Kelleher, A O'Donovan, A Wilson; E Tarrant, G Ryan, L Whelan; C O'Sullivan, R Hallahan; M Lynch, A Sheehan, M O'Donovan; A O'Sullivan, C Desmond, E Murphy.

Sub: L Jennings for E Tarrant (57).



Newcestown forward Colette Desmond gets this shot away against Seandún.

Killeagh advance after game abandoned

Camogie

Killeagh 2-17
Douglas 0-8

Therese O'Callaghan
MTU

Douglas conceded this SE Systems Cork SCC game to Killeagh as one of their players received attention with 12 minutes remaining at MTU on Thursday night.

Killeagh go through to the quarter-final against the winners of Inniscarra and Enniskeane.

Killeagh led 2-12 to 0-4 at the interval.

A goal in the opening minute from Stephanie Beausang put it up to a young Douglas side.

Jessica O'Shea was in fine form, totalling 1-6. All three county players – Laura Treacy, Hannah Looney and Chloe Sigerson – played their part.

Douglas were far more com-

petitive in the second-half, Katrina Mackey their leading scorer on five points.

Scorers for Killeagh: J O'Shea (1-6), C Sigerson (0-5, 0-2 f), S Beausang (1-1), H Looney (0-3), R Sheehan and C Harney (0-1 each).

Scorers for Douglas: K Mackey (0-5, 0-3 f), P Mackey, A Murphy and M Mulrooney (0-1 each).

KILLEAGH: K M Cullinane; E Treacy, A Walsh, N O'Keefe (J-Capt); C Daly, L Treacy, L McEvoy; H Looney, C Barry; C Harney, C Sigerson, R Sheehan; J O'Shea (J-Capt), R Fogarty, S Beausang.

Subs: N Walsh for C Barry (35), K Ahern for R Fogarty (42), A M O'Connor for C Harney (47), M O'Donovan for J O'Shea (48).

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh (J-Capt); J Donegan, A Curtin, J O'Rourke; C Nason (J-Capt), P Mackey, L O'Brien; M Mulrooney, K Holland; R Sheehan, A Murphy, K Mackey; E McAndrews, E Kavanagh, A Walsh.

Subs: S Mulrooney for J Donegan (15 in), D Harrington for A Walsh (29), J Leo for E McAndrews (29), J O'Mahony for A Murphy (43).

Referee: M O'Mahony (Kilbrittain).

Champions Courcey Rovers seal quarter-final date with Sarsfields

Camogie round-up

Therese O'Callaghan

Seven teams remain in the hunt for SE Systems Cork senior camogie championship glory after the final round of games at the weekend.

St Finbarr's were the big winners, not alone did they get the better of city rivals Glen Rovers, but they received a bye to the semi-final. Six other teams will battle it out in the quarter-finals.

Champions Courcey Rovers will face Sarsfields after they recorded a 0-11 to 0-10 win against Cloughduv.

Jacinta Crowley was the game's top scorer with seven points, while Fiona Keating contributed twice.

Sarsfields advanced after their 1-17 to 0-12 win over Ballygarvan.

Trailing by two points at the break, their best period came in the second-half. A 59th minute goal from Lucy Allen was key. However, 17-year-old Katlyn Sheehan scored nine stunning points from play. At the second water-break, it was 0-14 to 0-10 in their favour.

Seandún booked their place against St Catherine's following a 3-23 to 0-13 victory over Éire Óg. Third quarter goals from Amy O'Connor,

Kathlyn Hickey and Michelle Murphy put the issue beyond doubt.

St Catherine's secured their spot thanks to a 2-12 to 0-5 win over Carbery. They got off the mark early with a goal from Niamh O'Regan and finished with one from Aoife Hurley. Captain Finola Neville struck seven points – six from placed balls – while the work-rate of Laura Hayes stood out.

Inniscarra will lock horns with Killeagh. They overcame Enniskeane 3-11 to 1-10. Goals from Joanne Casey (one penalty) yielded 2-7 to 0-2 at the interval. With Katie O'Mahony leading the way, Aileen Sheehan provided her side's third goal in the second-half. Killeagh defeated Douglas earlier in the week.

St Finbarr's were 2-21 to 2-12 winners over Glen Rovers, in front 0-12 to 1-3 at the change of ends. Second-half majors courtesy of Ella Wigginton Barrett and Elmear Hurley were added to by Gemma O'Connor (0-10), Orlaith Cahalane, Keeva McCarthy and Sorcha McCartan.

Lauren Callanan scored a fine individual goal for the Glen while Denise Luby registered with 1-9.

Quarter-finals (Oct 9/10) Courcey Rovers v Sarsfields, Killeagh v Inniscarra, Seandún v St Catherine's, St Finbarr's bye to semi-final.



Enniskeane vice captain Aisling O'Driscoll.

'We don't want our campaign to end'

Carbery, Courceys in action

CARBERY will look to build on their opening win against Muskerry when they take on St Catherine's in the county senior camogie championship this Sunday, 3rd, at Castle Road (12pm).

The Carbery divisional team beat Muskerry 2-11 to 1-2 to get their campaign up and running while St Catherine's got the better of Seandún (who have since bounced back to beat Newcestown) in their opening game. It's knock-out from here on so no second chances for any team.

Also in the senior championship this Saturday defending champions Courcey Rovers, impressive against Ballincollig last time out, meet Cloughdub in Brinny on Saturday, 2nd, at 4.30pm. Saturday is a busy day in the senior championship, as Éire Óg meet Seandún in Brinny (2.30pm), Ballygarvan play Sarsfields at Castle Road (2.15pm), St Finbarr's will play Glen Rovers at Castle Road (4.45pm) and Enniskeane go head to head with 2020 beaten finalists Inniscarra in Coachford (4.30pm). In the senior championship on Thursday evening, Killeagh and Douglas clash in CIT (8pm).

Kilbree are in the county junior C final on Saturday when they take on Buttevant in Blarney at 4.30pm. Thanks to a strong start, Kilbree beat Kinsale in the county semi-final in Dunderrow last Saturday afternoon.

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

AISSLING O'Driscoll is backing Enniskeane to pull off a shock win in the county senior camogie championship this Saturday.

The Carbery team takes on one of the competition's heavyweights, Inniscarra, in a round-four clash at Coachford (4.30pm throw-in).

Inniscarra were beaten senior finalists last season and before that dominated to win three-in-a-row (2016-18) so Enniskeane, in their first season in the senior ranks, have it all to do.

But 2020 county intermediate champions Enniskeane are

'We know we are capable of playing at this level so we want to show that' — Aisling O'Driscoll, Enniskeane

embracing the challenge, as vice captain O'Driscoll told this week's *Star Sport Podcast*.

'We don't want our campaign to end on Saturday,' she said.

'Inniscarra were finalists last year so this won't be easy and it will be a challenge but if we play to our potential we can get over the line.'

Enniskeane have been

buoyed by their 0-23 to 1-10 win against Douglas in the last round. That was the Carbery side's first-ever senior camogie championship game and they were in at the deep end, against 2020 semi-finalists Douglas, but Enniskeane passed that test with flying colours. That's a huge confidence-booster.

'It was brilliant,' O'Driscoll said.

'For the younger girls, to come up and have that as our first senior match, it's great to have that behind us. We played well as a team but there are things that we are working on for the next match. It showed us that we can play senior hurling and we need to use that confi-

dence and build on it.'

Tara Sheehan led the line against Douglas and scored 0-7, Cork senior Orla Cronin chipped in with 0-6 while Eimear O'Brien added 0-4. In fact, all six Enniskeane forward were on target that day, as Sinead Hurley, Lauren Corcoran and Orla Coughlan also scored, too.

It was the ideal introduction to life in the senior championship for a team that has worked incredibly hard to climb out of the intermediate grade. They lost the 2017 and 2019 intermediate finals, both times to neighbours Newcestown, but it was third time lucky last year when they beat Aghabullogue in the county decider.

'In our eyes we feel we should have been up senior a few years ago. We know we are capable of playing at this level so we want to show that we can play here and we want to build on it,' O'Driscoll said.

'We have had our heartbreaks at intermediate, we were there or thereabouts for a while, and that drove us on to get out of there. We knew what the heartache was like and last year we didn't want to leave it behind us.'

Now that they have earned their place in the top tier Enniskeane are determined to make their mark, and they now have Inniscarra in their sights this Saturday.

SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship

It's a huge weekend with seven games scheduled and some cracking ones

in prospect, starting with tonight's (Thursday) clash of Killeagh and Douglas in CIT at 8pm.

After a first round loss, Douglas impressed in their win over Ballincollig with the Mackey sisters key players for them. Killeagh though are backed by a trio of Cork stars Laura Traey, Chloe Sigerson and Hannah Looney and this gives them the edge.

Saturday is action-packed with doubles headers at two venues. At 2.15pm in Castle Road, it's Ballygarvan renowned championship battlers and champions of two years ago Sarsfields, a hard one to call - a slight nod to the more experienced Ballygarvan girls.

Glen Rovers v St Finbarrs is the second game at HQ with a 4.45pm start. Glen are league champions and easily saw off Éire Óg in the opening round but this will be a much tougher test and they will look to Lydia Cunningham, Leanne O'Sullivan, Lauren Callanan and Katie Walsh to maintain their good form against a 'Barr's led by Gemma O'Connor. This game is actually a quarter-final because by the quirk of the draw, the winners got a bye into the semi-final and added incentive for two evenly

In Brinny at 2.30pm, Éire Óg face Seandún. Éire Óg recovered from their 1st round loss and impressed in beating Milford while Seandún bounced back as well and might have a bit more in attack to win this one.

Champions Courcey Rovers - even without the travelling Linda Collins - should get the better of Cloughdub in a game that starts at 4.30pm.

Enniskeane who hit 0-23 in their 1st round look too strong for Inniscarra when they meet in Coachford at 4.30pm.

The final game of the weekend in the Senior Championship is back in Castle Road on Sunday at midday where St Catherine's will be fancied to defeat divisional side Carbery.

Sliabh Rua

Sliabh Rua junior A camogie side advanced to the county semi-final following a two-point victory over near-neighbours Tracton in Carrigaline on Sunday last.

The game proved to be a goal-fest, with Sliabh Rua raising three green flags, follow-

ing some excellent finishes from Cathy O'Mahony, Kate Redmond and Aoife McCarthy.

Tracton replied with four of their own, including a hat-trick from Aoibhinn Kidney and one from Anna Fahy.

In what was a close encounter, Tracton had led at the first water break by 2-02 to 1-03, before Sliabh Rua hit the front and stayed there for the remainder of the match, thanks in no small part to Cathy O'Mahony, who was deadly on the placed ball.

At the start of the second half, Sliabh Rua led by 2-06 to 2-03, over the next quarter, a goal and a point from Remond, and points from O'Mahony and O'Leary had the Clontead side leading 3-09 to Tracton's 3-04, thanks to a goal and point scored by Aoibhinn Kidney, who was outstanding over the hour.

The last quarter was a tense affair as both sides sought to wrestle the victory from their opponents.

Each set of selectors used their bench wisely, as Tracton substitute Jennifer Lynch began to upset what had been

a well marshalled Sliabh Rua defence.

However, despite Tracton pressing hard and scoring a well-deserved goal, the Sliabh Rua defender Katie Daly proved to be the difference in the remaining minutes, as Sliabh Rua claimed the victory by 3-09 to 4-04.



Aisling Wallace, Glen Rovers, Emma Quigley, Éire Óg battle for possession in their senior camogie championship clash. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Glen and Barrs the pick of an exciting schedule of games



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

**SE SYSTEMS SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP
FOURTH ROUND**
Tomorrow at Castle Road,
Sarsfield's v Ballygarvan, 2.15pm
Glen Rovers v St Finbarr's, 4.45pm
Sat, Brinny Seandún v Éire Óg, 2.30pm
Courcsey Rovers v Cloughdub, 4.30pm
Tomorrow at Cloughdub
Inniscarra v Enniskeane, 4.30pm
Sunday at Castle Road
St Catherine's v Carbery, noon

FOURTEEN teams remain in the hunt for the SE Systems Senior Championship title after last weekend's back-door games saw Milford, Ballincollig, Muskerry, and Newcestown's aspirations end, while Imokilly's failure to field in their clash with Cloughdub also ended their involvement.

We have seven fourth-round games on what is another busy schedule across all championship competitions.

At the time of writing Douglas and Killeagh were due to play their knockout game in CIT on Thursday evening, leaving six to be decided this weekend.

St Catherine's, boosted by their opening round victory over Seandún, will be expecting a tough battle when they take on Carbery. Two years ago, Carbery pushed eventual champions Sarsfield's all the way at semi-final stage but have since lost Enniskeane to senior ranks and you would expect St Catherine's to advance here.

Seandún now meet an Éire Óg side who welcomed back the injured Slobhan Hutchinson for their back-door victory over Milford. The divisional side were without the injured Amy O'Connor for their two-point win over Newcestown, a game which they looked comfortable in and then had to survive dramatic closing min-



Aisling Shannon, St Finbarr's under no pressure picking up this loose ball against Inniscarra during their senior championship camogie match at Castle Road. Picture: Dan Linehan

utes.

They are getting more familiar with each other and it would be a great boost to have O'Connor back for this one, but they will drive on regardless. Éire Óg needed a bounce after suffering such a heavy opening round defeat to the Glen and they got it against Milford with a comfortable 2-11 to 0-7 win.

They'll have a tough game in Seandún, but Newcestown gave them a hard-earned victory so that should give the Owens side encouragement. Ballygarvan take on a Sarsfield's side that had a preliminary round win over Milford before going on to defeat Newcestown.

Champions in 2019, Sarsfields have had a strong underage structure for many years and are expected to be in the running for senior honours regularly. Last year was disappointing for them.

It's not always easy to make the transition from underage to adult grade and maintain the success rate, but they will be expected to advance to the quarter-final, albeit it won't be without a strong Ballygarvan challenge who are always tough

championship campaigners, never give up easily, and they too will be confident they can get a result and move on to the quarter final stages.

Champions Courcsey Rovers overpowered Ballincollig in round one, but they now face into the remainder of the championship minus Cork senior captain Linda Collins who departs today to take up a work role in Dubai.

Against Ballincollig she was superb, and she is a huge loss to Courcseys as they go about retaining their crown. They take on a Cloughdub side who lost to Killeagh in round one and having got a walkover from Imokilly, go into a competitive round without a victory under their belts.

Debutants Enniskeane made a dream start to life in the top grade, defeating Douglas comfortably and that will have been a huge boost to their confidence as they face last year's defeated finalists Inniscarra.

Inniscarra, in transition, lost to St Finbarr's in round one but got the show back on the road when they defeated Muskerry and they will need to dig deep again to get over a vibrant Enniskeane.

The game of the weekend must be the clash of Glen Rovers v St Finbarrs. Expect a big crowd at this one.

This year's championship is wide open with both sides capable of going all they way, so for one to be eliminated at this stage will be a huge disappointment. Much is expected of St. Finbarrs, who have five Cork minors on their panel, two of which didn't make the starting 15 against Inniscarra.

Add in Gemma O'Connor, Lynda O'Connell, Keava McCarthy, Sorcha McCartan and you have a very strong side. The Glen had an impressive, if maybe too easy, first-round victory over Éire Óg and this will be a different ball game altogether.

The Glen will need to be physically very strong here. They have slight but speedy corner-forwards and it's important the right ball is played into them to avoid 50/50 battles and maximise their pace.

A mouth watering game awaits.

Inniscarra on form against Muskerry

CAMOGIE

■ Olan Allen

**Inniscarra 3-19
Muskerry 1-11**

INNISCARRA got their SE Systems Senior Camogie championship back on track after a comfortable win over Muskerry in their second-round tie at Cloughdub.

The scoreline did not do justice to the division, who were well in this game in the opening half as the sides were level on four occasions.

Inniscarra upped the tempo approaching half time, and outscored their opponents 1-4 to 0-1 to lead by six points at the short break.

Inniscarra continued to dominate in the third quarter and added 2-5 to a point to put this game beyond reach.

Cliona Healy, Meabh Murphy, and Cliona Dooley were impressive for Muskerry.

Inniscarra dominated the middle of the park, with Katie O'Mahony making some telling runs, and Jeanne Casey's move out field at half time, proved crucial as they put Muskerry on the back foot.

O'Mahony opened the scoring with a point inside the first minutes. Two frees from Healy put Muskerry ahead, but three points from Casey, including two frees and one each from Aileen Sheehan and O'Mahony, turned the game in Inniscarra's favour.

After trailing by three, two frees from Healy and one by Meabh Murphy tied the score, but a goal and a point from Sheehan and three by Casey to just one for Muskerry from O'Shea had Inniscarra leading 1-11 to 0-8 at half time.

The winners extended their lead with three frees from Casey before Sheehan ran through the Muskerry defence to goal.

Rebecca Quigley followed up with a point before Geraldine O'Loughlin scored their third goal with Muskerry's only reply a point from O'Shea to leave Inniscarra leading 3-15 to 0-9 at the water break.

A speculative shot from Healy found its way to the Inniscarra net and she added two points, but three points from Casey and one by Jenny Burke completed the scoring.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 0-13 (0-5 f, 0-2 65), A Sheehan 2-2, G O'Loughlin 1-0, K O'Mahony 0-2, R Quigley, J Burke 0-1 each.

Muskerry: C Healy 1-6 (0-5 f), K O'Shea 0-4, M Murphy 0-1.

INNISCARRA: C Buckley, A O'Regan, C Ring, C Looney, R O'Mahony, E Looney, A Kavanagh (c), M Lyons, K O'Mahony, C Keane, A McCarthy, A Sheehan, J Burke, J Casey, R Quigley.

Subs: G O'Loughlin for Keane (ht), L Desmond for Lyons (43), B Holland for O'Mahony (44), A Ring for Looney (50), A Dineen for Sheehan (54).

MUSKERRY: L Cooney, C Healy, E Foley, J Tarrant (c), Meabh Murphy, R Murphy, C Dooley, K O'Shea, S O'Keefe, O Cronin, L O'Donoghue, K Crean, N McCarthy, O Cremon, Meghan Murphy.

Subs: S O'Regan for O'Donoghue (h-5), J Linehan for Cronin (38).

Referee: Michael Kelleher.

Killeagh prove too strong for Douglas

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Killeagh 2-17
Douglas 0-8

AN injury to a Douglas player with 12 minutes remaining in this SE Systems senior championship game in CIT brought a premature end to a contest, with Killeagh leading 2-17 to 0-8.

After a lengthy stoppage, while the player was attended to and awaited the arrival of an ambulance, Douglas conceded the game.

It was a huge statement of intent from a focused Killeagh as they brushed aside the challenge of a young Douglas side who found the going hard in the opening 30 minutes.

They improved immensely in the second half and battled to the finish.

Inside 20 seconds of the throw-in, Killeagh hit the front with Stephanie Beausang first timing a ground shot to the net.

Pamela Mackey responded, pointing from an acute angle to get Douglas on the scoreboard. Giving it everything they had, Douglas stayed with Killeagh for a spell.

Jess O'Shea and Anna Murphy exchanged points but despite winning possession, Douglas failed to make headway against a well-marshalled Killeagh rear guard.

With O'Shea leading their attack, Killeagh took a grip on the contest. A goal from O'Shea on 10 minutes was followed up with points from Stephanie Beausang, Chloe Sigerson, and Hannah Looney.

At the first water break, it was 2-7 to 0-2 in Killeagh's favour.

On the restart, they continued to hold the upper hand, and with Sigerson cutting a sideline ball over the bar which yielded two points, they were 2-14 to 0-4 in front. Katrina Mackey and Mairead Mulrooney on target for Douglas.

A much-improved performance from Douglas in the second half saw them match Killeagh score for score, with Killeagh adding five to Douglas' four before the game was brought to its premature conclusion.

Scorers for Killeagh: J O'Shea 1-6, C Sigerson 0-5 (0-2 f, 0-2 s), S Beausang 1-1, H Looney 0-3, R Sheehan, C Harney 0-1 each.

Douglas: K Mackey 0-5 (0-3 f), P Mackey, A Murphy, M Mulrooney 0-1 each.

KILLEAGH: KM Cullinane; E Treacy, A Walsh, N O'Keefe; C Daly, L Treacy, L McEvoy; H Looney, C Barry, C Harney, C Sigerson, R Sheehan; J O'Shea, R Fogarty; S Beausang.

Subs: N Walsh for Barry (35), K Ahern for R Fogarty (44), AM O'Connor for C Harney (50).

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh; J Donegan, A Curtin; J O'Rourke; C Nason, P Mackey, L O'Brien; M Mulrooney, K Holland; R Sheehan, A Murphy, K Mackey; E MacAndrew, E Kavanagh, A Walsh.

Subs: S Mulrooney for J Donegan (inj 18); D Harrington for A Walsh (29); J Leo for E MacAndrew (29); J O'Mahony for A Murphy (44).

Referee: Michael O'Mahony (Kilbrittain).

Sheehan on top form for Sars

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Sarsfields 1-17
Ballygarvan 0-12

THE brilliant point-scoring of Kathlyn Sheehan was what drove Sarsfields to victory in a highly competitive game against Ballygarvan in Castle Road on Saturday.

Trailing 0-8 to 0-6 at the break but with the wind at their backs for the second half, Sarsfields' forward division created better space and Sheehan picked off some fantastic points from all angles. Lucy Allen put paid to any hopes Ballygarvan had of getting something from the game when she goaled on 59 minutes to stretch Sars' lead to seven.

Ballygarvan threw everything at hot favourites Sarsfields in the opening half and were more than deserving of their two-point lead at half time. It could have been more but for the fact that they dropped too many balls into the comfortable hands of Molly Lynch.

Sarsfields lined out without Olivia McAllen and Claire Mullins, both injured, but there is no taking away from the competitive nature of Ballygarvan's approach to this game.

Izzy O'Regan was flying it for Ballygarvan around the middle of the park, often instigator and finisher of great moves. It was hard to keep that going throughout and in the second half while she had to drop back to assist ball forward, her presence up front was missed.

Sinead Lyons, the tremendous Ballygarvan servant that is Catriona Kelly, and Michaela Buckley were strong as Ballygarvan made all the running.

Hollie Herlihy started well, and Sarah Ahern made a point-blank save from her on twenty-six minutes. It was a hard-fought, compact game with little given from either side and referee Diarmuid Kirwan playing his part in letting it flow.

It was going to take a huge effort from Ballygarvan to maintain such work rate in the second half as the wind grew stronger.

Tara Crowley got the first score but the class of the stylish Sars forwards stepped up.

The game was more open, space was



Ballygarvan's Izzy O'Regan is strongly challenged by Sarsfields' Emma Casey, during their Senior Camogie Championship clash at Castle Road. Picture: David Keane

found and with it, Kathlyn Sheehan picked off three points inside three minutes.

Saoirse Desmond and Catriona Kelly (f) swapped scores before it became the Sheehan show again, three points and one from Orlaith Mullins as Sars began to pull away, four points now the gap.

Molly Kelleher and Michaela Buckley struck either side of Sheehan's eighth point, before Sheehan struck her ninth. When Lucy Allen goaled a minute later Sars were on their way to a quarter-final.

Scorers for Sarsfields: K Sheehan 0-9, L Allen 1-2, S Desmond 0-2, H Herlihy, C Casey (f), O Mullins C Lynch 0-1 each.

Ballygarvan: I O'Regan 0-3, C Kelly 0-2 (0-1 f), C O'Sullivan, T Crowley, M Buckley 0-2 each, M Kelleher 0-1.

SARSFIELDS: M Lynch; T Elliot, K Barry, G Cashman; C Irwin, N O'Callaghan, E Casey, C Casey, E Murphy; H Hollie, M Mullins, R O'Mahony; K Sheehan, L Allen, S Desmond.

Subs: O Mullins for M Mullins (31), A McNamara for C Casey (50), C Lynch and E Woods for R O'Mahony and S Desmond (60).

BALLYGARVAN: S Ahern; S Lyons, S Wynne, E O'Regan; L Kennelick, C O'Leary, K Dorney; A Moynihan, I O'Regan; M Buckley, C O'Sullivan, C Kelly; M Kelleher, E Ryan, T Crowley.



Sarsfields' Ciara Irwin wins possession ahead of Ballygarvan's Molly Kelleher, during their Senior Camogie Championship clash at Castle Road. Picture: David Keane

Subs: L Murphy for K Dorney (36), C Keohane and L Casey for C Kelly and T Crowley (60), S O'Donovan for C O'Sullivan (62).

Referee: Diarmuid Kirwan (Eire Óg).

Cahalane shines as St Finbarr's power to semi-final

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

St Finbarr's 2-21
Glen Rovers 2-12

ST FINBARR'S were in control from the outset in their SE Systems Senior Championship clash at Castle Road on Saturday and now advance straight to the semi-final, after getting a quarter-final bye.

Five points separated the sides three minutes into injury time when Clara Hurley brought off a fine save and Eimear Hurley doubled for a cracker of a goal at the other end to put the outcome to bed.

St Finbarr's were the far more balanced side with strength in every line and are now strong favourites to take this year's senior title.

Orlaith Cahalane was their standout player, causing big problems for the hour, to the point that the Glen put their most influential outfield player, Lauren Callanan, back to mark her, despite trailing

by seven points. It didn't pay off.

The Glen will rue some poor wides in the opening half that would have put kept them competitive to the break but they allowed the Barrs to stretch their lead. When Callanan scored a brilliant individual goal on 24 minutes, two Gemma O'Connor points, one from play, almost wiped it out within a minute.

The Barrs' spread of seven scorers compared with four for the Glen and just 2-3 coming from play for the latter was the difference.

Defensively Meabh Cahalane and Lynda O'Connell were in control, with the Glen making little headway down the right wing in the opening half until they switched Katie Walsh over and it improved matters a little but not enough.

The game failed to live up to expectations. It lacked excitement throughout and there were too many stoppages, but the Barrs won't mind. It was a strong all-round performance, the most balanced Barrs side in a long time, and their thoughts now turn to the semi-final on the weekend of October 16.

Scorers for St Finbarr's: G O'Connor 0-10 (0-9 f), EW Barrett 1-2, K McCarthy 0-4, E Hurley 1-0, S McCartan, O Cahalane 0-2 each, E Olden 0-1.

Glen Rovers: D Luby 1-9 (0-8 f), L Callanan 1-0, E Murphy 0-2, L Cunningham 0-1.

GLEN ROVERS: L O'Riordan; C Martin, K Falvey, A O'Rourke; L O'Sullivan, M Browne, M Hyde; L Callanan, L Cunningham; E Murphy, N O'Riordan, T McCarthy; A Wallace, D Luby, K Walsh.

Subs: J Hordford for C Martin (35), E Akinouli for N O'Riordan (40).

ST FINBARR'S: C Hurley; S Punch, A Egan, G Cahalane; L O'Connell, A O'Neill, C Golden; M Cahalane, A Shannon; E Olden, G O'Connor; E McCartan; E W Barrett, K McCarthy, O Cahalane.

Sub: E Hurley for E Olden (49).

Referee: F O Murchú (Valley Rovers).

Festival of camogie over hectic weekend is of great credit to organisers

CAMOGIE

by Mary Newman

IN what was a huge organisational task, the Cork juvenile committee, with the help of the Cork County Board, played 12 U12 finals over last weekend. This was done in conjunction with organising the Tesco Caman Camogie Festival for the Under 12 teams in the county. Young players from all the clubs enjoyed two fantastic days of camogie.

Well done to Liam Ryan and all the juvenile committee who worked so hard with the leagues and to development officer Esther O'Leary for organising the Caman Festival day.

UNDER 12 FINALS

In the U12A final played in Castle Road, Aghabullogue overcame a strong Killeagh side to take the title.

The U12A 1 title went to Newtownshandrum, who had a victory over Carrigaline in a game played in Blarney.

Brinny hosted the U12A 2 final where in horrendous weather conditions, the girls from Cloughduv and Ballyhea battled it out with huge determination before Cloughduv took the honours.

Castle Road was the venue for



Youngsters from Na Piarasigh and Glen Rovers, who enjoyed the Tesco Caman Camogie Festival in Castle Road.

the U12B final where Sliabh Rua got the upperhand on Bishopstown.

The rain continued to fall, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the Ballygarvan or Courcey Rovers girls in Castle Road and here it was Ballygarvan who prevailed to take the honours home.

Cobh got the upper hand in their battle with Na Piarasigh to take the U12B 2 honours.

Nemo Rangers took the title home in their U12B 3 final clash with Youghal.

Aghabullogue's second team got the upper hand on Rockbar to add the U12C crown to their A

title on what was a great weekend for their club.

Douglas and Clonakilty battled for the U12C 2 crown with a point separating them at the final whistle as Douglas held on to take the title.

At adult level, the games are coming thick and fast.

INTERMEDIATE

One game in round three will be decided this weekend with Valley Rovers meeting Fr O'Neill's today, Saturday, in Castle Road at 11-45am.

Round three games will go ahead next weekend. They are as follows.

On Saturday, Aghabullogue meet Newtownshandrum, Ballyhea take on Blackrock, Clonakilty meet the winners of the round two game Watergrasshill or Na Piarasigh, which went ahead last night and Brian Dillon's meet either Valley Rovers or Fr O'Neill's.

JUNIOR A

Nine teams remain in the hunt for the SE Systems junior A title. Castletyons meet Tracton in round three today.

On Saturday, October 9th, it's quarter final time with BallinacCarthy meeting Mallow, and St Vincent's taking on Charleville.

On Sunday October 10th, Sarsfields meet Ballinora and Castletyons or Tracton meet Sliabh Rua.

JUNIOR SECOND TEAMS

Glen Rovers and St Finbarr's will meet to decide the destination of the Lillie O'Sullivan cup after St Finbarr's edged out Aghabullogue with two points to spare in Monday night's semi-final.

At the other sides of the city, at the same time, Glen Rovers and Eire Og played out a thriller, where the Glen girls came from seven points down to secure victory.

The final goes ahead tomorrow,

Sunday, in Castle Road at 4.45pm.

JUNIOR B

Cobh are through to the SE System junior B final after they edged it by a point in an exciting semi-final with Aghada where it finished 2-10 to 0-15 in their favour.

They will meet the winners of the Rockbar / Youghal game which took place mid-week. The final is scheduled for Castle Road tomorrow, Sunday at 2.30pm.

JUNIOR C

Buttevant and Kilbree are through to the SE Systems Junior C final after they accounted for Castlemartyr and Kinsale last weekend.

Buttevant recorded a 1-16 to 0-13 over Castlemartyr, whilst Kilbree had a 4-11 to 1-3 victory over Kinsale.

The final goes ahead this afternoon in Blarney at 4.30pm.

JUNIOR THIRTEEN A SIDE

Semi-finals in the 13-a-side junior championship take place today, with St Colm's hosting Tracton at 3.45pm, and Duncorney, at home for their meeting with Erins Own at 5pm.

Minor championship at all levels continue also at this time, while the U14 and U16 competitions as well advanced at this stage of the year also.



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

No rest as plans for next season starts now

WITHIN weeks of the All-Ireland championship's conclusion, thoughts turn to next year.

What's needed by the counties that didn't take All-Ireland honours and what's required by the champions to stay on top.

Galway goalkeeper Sarah Healy is adamant the All-Ireland camogie champions "can go much further" than two final wins in three years.

Galway's status as camogie's outstanding team of recent years was cemented on September 12, following on as it did from their 2019 victory and Healy spoke of a determination to add further silverware in the coming seasons.

Galway manager Cathal Murray also said that the next challenge for his All-Ireland winning troops is to do back-to-back.

So, he doesn't seem to be going anywhere, and going on Healy's tone, the belief is certainly there that Galway can achieve such.

"We believe in our camp that we are a great team.

"We think of ourselves like that, so from the loss of last year we knew we were good enough to come back, we knew we were a good team, and that with the work we do that we can win two, we can win three," said the Galway shot-stopper.

"We just got to believe that and push on. We have the players to do that."

No more than winning captain Sarah Dervan who credited Cathal Murray for bringing Galway camogie to an elite level during the three and a half years he has been in the post.

"He has brought Galway camogie way further than it ever was. We were always knocking around semi-final stages, struggling to get to the final.

"He came in and the people that he brought in around him, the likes of Robbie Lane who has done a massive amount of work with us, have brought us so far.

"We can go much further."

With three marquee players in their early 30s time will tell if they decide to bow out at the top.

You can't underestimate the void Sarah Dervan-33, Catriona Cormican-33, and Niamh Kilkenny-32, will bring when they decide to hang up their boots.

Just as in Cork, we haven't yet replaced the likes of Orla Cotter, Rena Buckley, and Gemma O'Connor.

It takes time. But every county goes through it and Cork are in the fortunate position of not having to start from too far back.

We've won the last two out of three All-Ireland minor titles, losing the third final, and even when we weren't winning those titles, we were still winning senior titles.

Galway might feel however that there is another year there before

Cork bear the fruits of their transition and Kilkenny, having been around a long time, still have to replace the void filled by Anne Dalton.

Denise Gaule is 30 and Kilkenny will find it very difficult to replenish there when the time comes.

So, the big three are facing into a transitional period. Are Cork ahead in that regard?

You would think so with five debutants featuring in this year's All-Ireland final and the rest of the team in their mid-twenties, Ashling Thompson aside.

Cork are a year or two ahead of Galway and Kilkenny in that regard.

That didn't ease the pain of losing the All-Ireland final but it's something that future management can take as a positive.

It has yet to be announced if a new



Cork's Linda Collins in action during the All-Ireland Senior camogie final defeat to Galway. She has headed off on a two-year teaching stint in Dubai, which will see her out of the Rebels' panel.

Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

management team will take over the reins after Paudie Murray's ten seasons in charge.

Paudie is tipped to take over the Cork minor hurling role leaving the high-profile inter-county camogie position open.

A new management always brings a buzz for players, depending on who it is of course, and I think it's vital that there is an excitement around the new set up if there is to be one.

Changes also need to be made. Some players on the panel aren't up to the level and there are others not on the panel who should be, albeit many by their own choosing.

Where are Cork at this stage?

Linda Collins left for a two-year teaching adventure to Dubai yesterday while Hannah Looney will be in New York until next Spring at least.

Two huge losses. While Cork's semi-final win was very impressive and when it works, it looks great, I still feel we are too slow in getting the ball inside to our forwards.

From the outset Galway drove long diagonal balls into their corners.

We talk about keeping possession and working the ball through the lines and yet Galway's half back line completely dominated the game.

I also feel that Chloe Sigerson's best position is in the half back line Roll on 2021.



Linda O'Donnell, St Catherine's in action against Carbery captain Maggie Coppinger at Castle Road, Cork.

Picture: Larry Cummin

SE Systems Senior Camogie QFs

With St Finbarr's having received a bye into the last four, the three remaining quarter-finals will take place over the weekend.

It gets underway on Friday in CIT at 8pm when Killeagh play Inniscarra. Killeagh will now be without the USA-based Hannah Looney and that takes a key player out of the equation and now more responsibility will fall on Laura Treacy, Chloe Sigerson and Stephanie Beausang.

Inniscarra seem to be improving with every game and that bit of big match experience might see them edge this one.

Seandun are another team that seem to be improving with every outing and that could see them reverse their first round loss to St Catherine's even with Laura Hayes and Finola Neville in good form when they meet in Castle Road on Sunday at 4pm.

The meeting of Sars and Courcey Rovers also in Castle Road on Saturday at 2.15pm could very well be the game of the round and even without Linda Collins, the champions could shade this one but they will need to keep Katlyn Sheehan in check considering she bagged 0-10 in Sars' narrow win over Ballygarvan.

Seven teams looking to join Barrs in semis



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

SE Systems Senior championship quarter-finals

TONIGHT: Killeagh v Inniscarra; CIT, 8pm
TOMORROW: Sarsfields v Courcey Rovers, Castle Road, 2.15pm
SUNDAY: Seandun v St Catherine's, Castle Road, 4pm

SEVEN teams remain in the hunt for the SE Systems senior championship title after last weekend's games saw Ballygarvan, Éire Óg, Glen Rovers, Cloughduv, Carbery, Enniskeane, and Douglas all lose out.

This weekend we have three quarter-finals down for decision, while St Finbarr's have received a bye straight to the semi-final and await the winners of the Killeagh/Inniscarra game.

Inniscarra bounced back with victories over Muskerry and Enniskeane, having lost their opening game to the Barrs, and they now face a tough assignment as they take on a well-balanced Killeagh side who, following their opening round victory over Cloughduv, over-powered Douglas to advance to meet Inniscarra.

They have lost Hannah Looney who has moved to take up employment in the USA and her loss is huge; however they have superb players in Jess O'Shea, Laura Treacy, Chloe Sigerson, and Niamh Ni Chaoimh and they look to be one of the form teams this season showing huge intent in their games to date they are very focused and strong in all sectors.



Sarsfields' Ciara Irwin tackles Ballygarvan's Michaela Buckley, during their Senior Camogie Championship clash at Castle Road.

Picture: David Keane

Inniscarra are going through somewhat of a transition without the services of Rena Buckley, Treasa McCarthy, and Niamh McCarthy this season. They have a lot of younger players finding their feet, but with Joanne Casey, Rosie O'Mahony, and Aileen Sheehan to the fore they will push Killeagh hard in a bid to reach a semi-final meeting with St Finbarr's.

It's the reigning champions against the champions of 2019 as Courcey Rovers and Sarsfield's clash in what is sure to be an exciting game. Courcey's over-powered Ballincollig in their opening round game, but they were rocked on their heels in round three as Cloughduv pinned them to their collars before they closed it out with just a point to spare and they know they will need to up the pace significantly if the feats of 2020 are to be repeated.

Cork senior captain Linda Collins has moved abroad and her loss to Courcey's is huge; she played a major role last season as they captured the title for the first time, but they still have plenty of talent in their line-out with Fiona Keating and Jacinta Crowley leading the way in their battle with Cloughduv and they know what is needed to get over a strong Sarsfield's outfit.

Sarsfield's have been the stand-out underage side in the last few years, winning titles at all grades and, following disappointing in 2020 when they relinquished their title, they will be looking to go one better in 2021.

They had to battle hard against Ballygarvan before winning last weekend; Kaitlin Sheehan was hugely impressive when hitting nine points, but it took a late Lucy Allen goal to secure victory.

Their battle with Courcey's is one that could go either way.

Seandun are the only divisional side still in the hunt and with another impressive win under their belts over Éire Óg, their confidence is growing.

St Catherine's provide the next challenge and if they can maintain the momentum, a semi-final spot is well within their reach.

The sides have already met in round one where Catherine's edged it with a goal to spare, but this time out they will be pushed to repeat that result against a strong divisional side that had a round two victory over Newcestown before going on to knock out Éire Óg last weekend.

St Catherine's overcame a weakened Carbery sides in a game that never sprung to life; they were always in control and, no doubt, they would have liked a stronger challenge as they face into a quarter-final that will be a huge test for them.



Isobelle Sheehan, Cork city: There is no accommodation for students so that's a big thing for us. I'm studying law in UCC and I live at home but I know people who have to stay with relatives or on friends' couches. It's crazy. People are even staying in hotels and it's the same in Limerick, not just Cork. We have a lot of the resources we need in the college — it's the accommodation that's the issue.



The Ballinascorthy team that are the U12C camogie county champions. Back from left, Helen McManamon (trainer), Sinéad O'Callaghan, Kate Donegan, Dylan Twomey, Emily Walsh, Clara Cashman, Rachel Buttimer, Ava Jane McCarthy, Emilee Hansberry, Clara McManamon, Ava Crowley, Paul Kingston (trainer) and Colette Prochniak (mentor). Front from left, Meadhbh Collins, Aisling Kingston, Fiadh Pattwell, Rachel Prochniak, Amber Bishop (captain), Aine Fadian and Elise Walsh.

Courceys will put crown on the line against Sarsfields

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

COURCEY Rovers will continue the defence of their county senior camogie championship title when they take on Sarsfields in a quarter-final this Saturday, 9th, at Castle Road (2.15pm).

Big loss: Linda Collins.



The defending champions booked their place in the last eight with a tight 0-11 to 0-10 win against Cloughduv last weekend, and they were pushed all the way before emerging with their crown intact.

Jacinta Crowley topped the scoring charts for Courceys with 0-7 while Cork senior Fiona Keating chipped in with two points, as Courceys jumped a tricky hurdle – but they had to play without star attacker and Cork captain Linda Collins who has moved abroad to Dubai for work.

Collins racked up 3-5 in Courceys' opening-round win against Ballincollig so her absence will be felt in attack as she is one of the best forwards in the county.

At inter-county level, as well as being Cork captain this season, Collins also scored the match-winning point for the Rebels in the All-Ireland semi-final win against Kilkenny, as well as hitting 1-5 in last year's county senior final win against Inniscarra.

Still, Courceys have Cork seniors Fiona Keating and Saoirse McCarthy while Jacinta

Crowley is lethal from placed balls. Saturday's quarter-final opponents, Sarsfields, are heading into this game off the back of a 1-17 to 0-12 win against Ballygarvan last weekend in a game that saw 17-year-old Kathryn Sheehan score nine points from play, including eight in the second

half, while Lucy Allen chipped in with 1-2.

After last weekend's action, the full county senior quarter-final line-up is now known: Killeagh v Inniscarra, Sarsfields v Courcey Rovers, Seandún v St Catherine's, St Finbarr's – a bye. With the Barrs – who beat Glen Rovers, 2-21 to 2-12 – going straight into the semi-finals, it leaves three quarter-finals to be played this weekend. With Courceys v Sars on Saturday, St Catherine's (who knocked Carbery out last Sunday) will take on Seandún on Sunday, at 4pm in Castle Road, while Killeagh's clash with Inniscarra (who defeated Enniskeane last Saturday) is also to be played this weekend.

It's a busy Saturday (October 9th) for Carbery clubs with Ballinascorthy in Junior A action against Mallow at Castle Road (12pm throw-in) while later that day, at the same venue, St Colum's take on Erin's Own in the Junior 13-a-side (4.45pm). Clonakilty will play Na Piarsaigh in the county intermediate championship in Cloughduv on Saturday (3.45pm)

Enniskeane go down fighting



Laura Mannix put in a good showing for Enniskeane against Inniscarra. (Photo: David Ribeiro)

Adventure over for Enniskeane in their first senior championship

SENIOR CAMOGIE

INNISCARRA	3-11
ENNISKEANE	1-10

NOEL HORGAN REPORTS

TRAILING by 11 points, 2-7 to 0-2, at the interval, it seemed as if Enniskeane had little or no chance of prevailing in the SE Systems county senior camogie championship clash with Inniscarra at Coachford last Saturday.

Their prospects took on a rosier hue midway through the second half, however, as they had cut the gap to seven points. With a fresh breeze to their backs, they looked capable of making further inroads on the deficit.

Grateful for a converted free by Joanne Casey which ended a lengthy barren spell in the 50th minute, Inniscarra got back on track in the closing stages, effectively settling the issue courtesy of a goal from Aileen Sheehan four minutes later.

While there could be no disputing hotly-fancied Inniscarra were worthy victors, it's equally true to say Enniskeane – county intermediate kingpins last year – emerged from the fray with their pride very much intact.

Manager Elaine Aylward was certainly pleased with the way her charges put it up to Inniscarra – defeated senior finalists in 2020 – in the second half, acknowledging they were always going to have their work cut out to advance at the expense of such quality and experienced opposition.

'We knew coming here today we were facing a huge chal-

'We'll take an awful lot out of our first year up senior, because we're bound to benefit from the experience' – Elaine Aylward, Enniskeane

lenge, but we didn't fear it, we were confident we could get a result, and it was unfortunate we just didn't perform in the first half,' Aylward said.

'Maybe we gave Inniscarra too much respect, but, whether or which, we left ourselves with too much to do in the second half. Credit to the girls, they gave us a massive last 30 minutes, and we'll take an awful lot out of our first year up senior, because we're bound to benefit from the experience.'

It was largely a case of one-way traffic in the first-half when Inniscarra hit the ground running, with Enniskeane goalkeeper Kate Corcoran denying Aileen Sheehan an early goal before an expert bit of hooking by wing-back Daire O'Brien prevented Claudia Keane from pulling the trigger when a three-pointer looked likely.

Sheehan moved most menacingly for Inniscarra until Enniskeane switched their corner-backs, with Danielle Carroll reducing Sheehan's threat and Louise Duggan going on to perform heroically at the other side of full-back Celine Nyhan. The sterling resistance from Duggan, Nyhan and Carroll in front of dependable custodian Corcoran was about the only positive from Enni-

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Joanne Casey scored 2-8, 1-2 from play, for Inniscarra which brooks no argument about the game's most influential player.

Star moment: Aileen Sheehan's goal for Inniscarra in the 54th minute was well-taken, giving them an unassailable 3-10 to 0-8 lead at that juncture.

Talking point: It's fair to say Enniskeane didn't do themselves justice in the first half, and their cause would have been beyond redemption but for Inniscarra's erratic shooting, which brought them ten wides, before the interval.

What's next? It's the end of the road for Enniskeane, while Inniscarra move on to a quarter-final meeting with Killeagh.

skeane's perspective before the break, as Inniscarra held most of the aces.

Aided by a goal from Joanne Casey, they were 1-5 to 0-1 to the good when their goalkeeper Caoimhe Buckley deflected a shot from Enniskeane's Lauren Corcoran outside the posts in the 25th minute. Orla Cronin pointed the resultant 45, but Enniskeane's opportunities were severely limited otherwise in the first half, which finished with Casey bagging another goal for Inniscarra from a questionable penalty in stoppage time. Enniskeane's improvement in the third-quarter owed much to the input from Tara Sheehan, who posted two points, and Siobhain O'Driscoll up front, Aisling O'Driscoll at wing-back, and the ever-defiant Duggan, Nyhan and Carroll in the full-back line.

Eimear O'Brien chipped in with a point and Orla Cronin posted a brace from frees, leaving Enniskeane 2-8 to 0-7 in arrears with 46 minutes gone, but, much to Inniscarra's relief, the normally flawless Cronin was then off-target with a couple of scorable placed balls.

It prevented Enniskeane from increasing their momen-

tum at a crucial stage, and, after Joanne Casey ended a 16-minute fruitless period for Inniscarra and quickly tacked on another point from a free, the Mid-Cork girls regained their composure. They had moved 3-11 to 0-8 ahead before Enniskeane grabbed a few consolation scores, including an Orla Cronin goal from a free in stoppage time.

Scorers

Inniscarra: J Casey 2-8 (6f, 1-0 pen); A Sheehan 1-1; A McCarthy, K O'Mahony 0-1 each.

Enniskeane: O Cronin 1-7 (1-6f, 1 45); T Sheehan 0-2; E O'Brien 0-1.

Inniscarra: C Buckley; A O'Regan, C Ring, C Looney; R O'Mahony, E Looney, A Kavanagh; M Lyons, K O'Mahony; R Quigley, J Casey, C Keane; A Sheehan, A McCarthy, G O'Loughlin.

Subs: L Desmond for Lyons (inj. 38); N Dilworth for O'Loughlin (40); E O'Reilly for Sheehan (58); S O'Callaghan for McCarthy (58).

Enniskeane: K Corcoran; D Carroll, C Nyhan, L Duggan; D O'Brien, E O'Driscoll, A O'Driscoll; D O'Neill, L Mannix; O Cronin, O Coughlan, S O'Driscoll; L Corcoran, E O'Brien, T Sheehan.

Sub: C O'Mahony for O'Neill (ft).

Referee: B Walsh (Aghada).



Courcey Rovers' Saoirse McCarthy on the attack against Cloughduv. (Photo: David Ribeiro)

Coppinger: Carbery team has big future

BY GER McCARTHY

CARBERY captain Maggie Coppinger believes her division has a future in the Cork camogie senior championship.

The West Cork division suffered a 2-12 to 0-5 defeat at the hands of St Catherine's and exited the championship last weekend. Despite the loss, there was still much to be proud of considering the age-profile (approximately 24) of the starting Carbery team.

'We were missing a few girls today due to their club commit-

ments and their championship matches,' Coppinger told *The Southern Star*.

'It was great that Carbery was still able to field a team and everyone on the pitch played their hearts out. I'm very proud of them all. A few things, like that penalty miss, could have changed the game.'

Missing so many regular starters and fielding such an inexperienced and young starting team meant Carbery were always going to face an uphill battle against a more experienced opponent.

'This is definitely a team for the future,' Coppinger said.

'At the start of the year, we had a lot of girls sitting their Leaving Cert so bringing them up to senior is a whole different ball game for them to experience. The experience of playing at this (senior) level is phenomenal when it comes to developing players.'

'There are loads of clubs for Carbery to select from now even though we lost a few, Newcestown and Enniskeane, because they were doing so well. Things have definitely been

building in West Cork and it is great for all the younger players to come out and watch Carbery. They can see that one of their own is out there playing senior for Carbery and that maybe they could, one day, do the same.'

'When I was younger, that really helped me so it great to be able to line out for Carbery now and inspire the next generation.'

Coppinger's point is an important one as young camogie players from rural West Cork areas should aspire to play sen-

ior level.

'West Cork is so spread out and clubs are much smaller so it is hard to expect a club like ours, St Colum's who are 13-a-side, to get to the senior championship. That's why I also love getting out to play for Carbery as I always have a good time here,' Coppinger explained.

'This year will be like a building block for Carbery. We weren't able to field last year. Hopefully, fielding a team this year will make even more people want to come back.'



Captain: Maggie Coppinger.

Carbery's Kate Nolan and St Catherine's Niamh O'Regan battle for the ball during their county senior camogie clash on Sunday. (Photos: David Ribeiro)



CARBERY BOW OUT

Understrength Carbery are knocked out of championship

SENIOR CAMOGIE

ST CATHERINE'S 2-12
CARBERY 0-5

GER McCARTHY REPORTS

CARBERY'S interest in this year's Cork Camogie SE Systems Senior Championship was ended by St Catherine's at Castle Road last Sunday.

An understrength divisional side gave their all but could have no complaints with the final outcome against a seasoned and slicker St Catherine's.

Missing nine starters from their previous championship outing, Carbery were also without injured duo Moira Barrett and Hannah Sexton. Two missed goal opportunities in the opening half saw Carbery

change ends six points behind. St Catherine's dominated the third quarter and netted a late goal to win by 13 points.

'The Carbery girls that played out there did their best and you have to be proud of them,' Carbery management team member Jerry Ryan told *The Southern Star*.

'They represented their clubs with honesty. We were probably a bit unlucky that we didn't get a few more scores in the first 15 minutes. We got a penalty; it was saved and their goalkeeper made another great save shortly afterwards.'

'We were missing a lot of players for different reasons, those with football commitments at the same time as this match and those with injuries.'

A lively opening quarter produced an even game and a penalty miss. St Catherine's began confidently and had 1-1 on the Castle Road scoreboard inside three minutes. Aoife Hurley broke the deadlock prior to Niamh O'Regan firing into the net.

Carbery steadied the ship with their first score after 11 minutes. Kate Wall converted a free prior to the same player and Finola Neville exchanging points.

The West Cork division were presented with a glorious goal-scoring chance after 16 minutes. Orna Neville hauled down Kate Wall en route to goal but Kaitelyn Dineen's resulting penalty was saved on the goal-line and cleared by a relieved Catherine's defence.

That prompted an immediate St Catherine's response with two Aoife Hurley points

and a Finola Neville free making it 1-5 to 0-2. Carbery's Kate Wall saw a goal-bound shot brilliantly stopped by goalkeeper Yvonne O'Neill to end the half, as the Saints led 1-5 to 0-2.

Libby and Maggie Coppinger along with Kate Wall, Clara Crowley and Meabhdh Sexton toiled hard on Carbery's behalf but struggled to withstand a constant stream of attacks during a one-sided third quarter.

St Catherine's reached the final water break 1-12 to 0-2 in front thanks to five Finola Neville scores (three frees and two 45's) plus additional Chloe Draper and Aoife Hurley white flags.

Kate Wall would finish as Carbery's lone scorer and added three late points during a subdued closing quarter. St Catherine's were full value for their victory and scored a terrific goal after 57 minutes. The ex-

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Carbery's Kate Wall was her side's lone scorer but for sheer tenacity and scoring ability, St Catherine's full-forward Aoife Hurley deserves the accolade.

Star moment: Both of St Catherine's goals were well crafted but the winner's 16th-minute penalty save was a pivotal moment.

Talking point: Have divisions a future in the Cork camogie senior championship? Carbery were short nine players from their previous outing due to either injury or other GAA club commitments.

What's next? St Catherine's will face Seandún in the quarter-finals.

cellent Aoife Hurley slalomed through the Carbery defence and found the net to complete her side's scoring.

The winners advance to a quarter-final meeting with Seandún and encouraged by their latest display. As for Carbery, the West Cork division's first year back at the senior grade ended in disappointment, but there is plenty more to come from a young panel that will have benefitted from their 2021 experiences.

Scorers

St Catherine's: Aoife Hurley 1-4; Finola Neville 0-7 (4f, 2 45s); Niamh O'Regan 1-0; Chloe Draper 0-1.
Carbery: Kate Wall 0-5 (1f).

St Catherine's: Yvonne O'Neill; Orna Neville, Carolyn Motherway, Anne Marie Rohan; Rachel O'Callaghan, Laura Hayes, Evelyn Ronayne; Mairead Rohan, Eimear O'Brien; Niamh O'Regan, Finola Neville (captain), Linda O'Donnell;

Chloe Draper, Aoife Hurley, Clona Dunning.

Subs: Aine O'Regan for N O'Regan (45), Maura O'Regan for O Neville (45), Mäeve O'Keefe for M Rohan (50), Sara-Mai Clancy for L O'Donnell (inj, 51), Hazel Sheehan for A Rohan (56).

Carbery: Eimear White (Barryroe); Meabhdh Sexton (Barryroe), Aine Crowley (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Julie Sheehy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague); Maggie Coppinger (St Colum's, captain), Claire Kingston (Ballinascarthy), Emily O'Donovan (Kilbree); Clara Crowley (Ballinascarthy), Libby Coppinger (St Colum's); Kaitelyn Dineen (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Michelle Dullea (Ballinascarthy), Kate Nolan (Clonakilty); Caoimhe Murphy (Kilbree), Kate Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Róisín Ni Bhuachalla (Barryroe).

Subs: Grace Tobin (Ballinascarthy) for A Crowley (ht, inj), Siofra Patwell (Ballinascarthy) for K Nolan (39).

Referee: Dave O'Connell (Glen Rovers).



Carbery's Julie Sheehy gets away from St Catherine's Rachel O'Callaghan.



Sinead Collins accepts the Lillie O'Sullivan Cup from Mairead Donovan.

Cobh and Glen Rovers are deserved winners after two great finals

THE SE Systems Junior Championship finals took centre-stage with Cobh and Glen Rovers collecting the titles on offer following two great matches.

In the SE Systems Junior B final, Cobh had a 7-10 to 3-6 victory over Rockbán to be crowned champions.

Cobh led at the first water break 2-5 to 0-1 thanks to goals from Mari Moynihan and Jodi O'Donovan.

Rockbán settled into the game after that with Sarah Ahern finishing to the net and points from Jennifer Whelan and Elizabeth McGrath but was Cobh were still in charge, and were leading 2-8 to 1-3, at half time.

Moynihan, Ava Meaney and Chloe Smith were on target with Cobh points and inside 10 minutes of the second half, they'd struck for three goals: Meaney, Amy Duggan and Chloe Smith all finding the net and helping to stretch their advantage.

It was 6-8 to 1-5 at the second water break, with Jennifer Whelan and Eve Mullins hitting Rockbán's points.

The closing quarter saw Cobh well in control of proceedings with Meaney and O'Donovan adding a goal apiece to their tally as the victory appeared on the horizon.

Jennifer Whelan and Nicola Sheehan did raise green flags for Rockbán but, finishing stronger, Cobh were very comfortable winners.

Cobh's Erica Field was deservedly named as the Echo Player of the Match following an excellent afternoon's display.

COBH: E Walsh; E Moynihan, S McKeown, P Edmonds; H Hurlley, E Field, N Meaney; A Duggan, C Cashman; R Crotty, C Smith, E Tallon; A Meaney M Moynihan, J O'Donovan.

Subs: A Hart for E Moynihan (50), A Douglas for R Crotty (55).

ROCKBÁN: A Noonan; K Shaw, M Mc Sweeney, C Kelleher; A O'Connor, E McGrath, C McSweeney; N Sheehan (c), L O'Sullivan; M O'Sullivan, E Mullins, J Stokes; S O'Reilly, J Whelan, S Ahern.

Subs: C O'Riordan for M McSweeney, A O'Brien for J Stokes, M McSweeney for A Noonan (inj), D Twomey for S O'Reilly.

Referee: Nicki Boland (Blackrock).
Meanwhile, Glen Rovers

GAA

■ Mary Newman

took the SE Systems Lillie O'Sullivan Junior crown with a 4-9 to 3-10 victory over a St Finbarr's side that rallied in the closing quarter to put their opponents under severe pressure.

An exciting start saw Ella Buckley fire the Glen into an early lead with a goal and a point inside the opening four minutes of play.

Amy O'Herlihy kept the Barrs in touch with points before Rachel Myers finished to the net.

With Buckley and Isobel O'Meara adding to their tally, Glen Rovers regained the lead and at the interval it was 3-6 to 2-5 in their favour.

On the restart, goals from Buckley and Meaghan Martin saw the Glen stretch their lead and at the second water break they led 4-9 to 2-6.

The Blues came out determined for the remaining 13 minutes.

They really took the game to their great rivals, with Nicole Olden and Ciara Keating leading the way.

They chipped away at the lead as they added 1-3 without reply.

With the contest in the melting pot they had the gap trimmed to two points but despite huge pressure the Glen defence were strong and held out.

Ella Buckley was named as the Echo Player of the Match following a superb display for Glen Rovers on a thrilling afternoon.

GLEN ROVERS: M Sheehan; S Lane, S Busted, E O'Meara; R O'Halloran, K Buckley, C Halpin-Hurley; K Fitzgerald, E Buckley; A Lynch-O'Shea, E O'Meara, A Newman; A McCarthy, S Collins (c), M Martin.

Subs: C O'Sullivan for Newman, J Akinkouli for Halpin-Hurley (bs).

ST FINBARR'S: S Hallahan; O McCarthy, J Keating, M McTiernan; C Moore, I Keegan, A O'Herlihy; E Browne-Ryan, E Crowley; A O'Connor, N Olden, C Keating; N Varian, R Myers, SC Daly.

Subs: C Cotter for McCarthy, N McGreevey for McTiernan, M Fitzpatrick for O'Connor, A Byrne for Daly, Daly for Myers.

Referee: Willie Wallace (Midleton).



Aisling Wallace, Glen Rovers, Fiona Murphy, Éire Óg, in action during their Cork Senior Camogie Championship, at Castle Road. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Closing games should hot up

CAMOGIE



Linda Mellerick

IT'S down to the last seven this weekend in the senior championship.

It's a mixed bag to date in that no game has sent us away buzzing with the excitement of the tie. That should come as we enter the closing stages.

St Catherine's and Seandún were one of the earlier games where three points separated the sides at the end, St Catherine's coming out on top, but Seandún were disjointed and both sides were wasteful with scoring opportunities.

They meet again tomorrow and with a further three weeks behind them this should be a more clinical game.

Having said that, Seandún still haven't met as a group with the majority of their players still heavily involved in junior and intermediate championships.

They have improved with every game due to familiarity but with most players out in action today with their own clubs, how prepared can they really be for such an important game tomorrow.

Last Sunday, Carbery had to field without nine players due to football championships. Imokilly withdrew from their third-round game with Cloughduv, citing the inability to field due to football commitments, I understand here that the games didn't clash but clubs wouldn't release their players for the divisional side.

So, it begs the question, just where do divisional sides sit when it comes to the senior championship?

They are third in line, behind first and foremost their individual camogie clubs, then to their football clubs and if 'free' or 'released' then they'll play senior divisional. It is impossible to happily accommodate so many teams in such a short calendar window.

No one wants to be playing in November and December, that doesn't do justice to player's abilities.

The Cork LGFA and camogie board work well together to avoid fixture clashes. But they can't alleviate every



Ballygarvan's Ella Ryan has her shot blocked by Sarsfields' Tara Elliott, during their Senior Camogie Championship clash at Castle Road. Picture: David Keane

possible scenario and what can't be accommodated is clubs with dual players not releasing their players for opposite games.

So unfortunate as it is, the divisional side is down the pecking order.

There was a time that divisional sides played a preliminary round mini championship first and only one advanced to the senior championship 'proper'.

Maybe that's the way forward again so it's just one divisional side that's left which might be easier to manage.

Seandún have a handy side with strong potential, but it can't be tapped into and that must be extremely frustrating for any management.

Champions Courcey Rovers and Sarsfields meet today in Castle Road.

What a game Cloughduv gave Rovers last weekend. They almost pipped the holders and while Cloughduv were not on the tips of tongues as potential champions, what a scalp that would have been for them.

Linda Collins is a massive loss and maybe her presence has filtered negatively in the team to the point it's not just her scoring prowess that's missed. Because Rovers should still be in contention.

Sars are lacking a bit of zest for me. Whatever it is, there just doesn't seem to be any fire in their bellies. There is an in-

gradient missing in the squad that is the most important ingredient of all.

Katelyn Sheehan had it in the second half last weekend and Sars need that all over the field.

Olivia McAllen should be returning at this stage, and she's needed. I'll give them the nod for this one.

This column will be submitted before Killeagh and Inniscarra meet in MTU Friday night.

Now if only I had a crystal ball! Inniscarra just keep coming, don't they.

After a disappointing opening defeat to St. Finbarr's, it wasn't unexpected that they would beat Muskerry but the 3-19 was good.

They then went on to defeat an Enniskeane side that highly impressed in their opening victory against Douglas.

Killeagh have two strong wins behind them. Some feel they are potential county champions. I would have tentatively gone along with this before Hannah Looney left for New York.

Now, I just can't see them winning a county title without her. Should Laura Treacy's attacks from defence be snuffed out and Chloe Sigerson held to a reasonable return then Killeagh are vulnerable.

Will they be in the semi-final by the time this goes to print though? I think so.

Inniscarra beat odds to get into semi-final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Inniscarra 3-9
Killeagh 1-7

A STUNNING Inniscarra, in the game of the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship, ousted favourites Killeagh to book a place in the semi-final. They will meet St Finbarr's, who defeated them in round one.

The loss of Hannah Looney, now working overseas, was a significant blow for the East Cork side, but the fact Scarra held their opponents scoreless from play until the eighth minute of the second half said it all about their attitude and work-rate. Such was their intensity that the sliotar was taken off the line on three occasions, there were two saved penalties, and the ball hit the crossbar twice.

Killeagh led early, through Chloe Sigerson, before top-scorer Joanne Casey and Aileen Sheehan responded.

Ger O'Loughlin raised the first green flag, after 26 minutes, with an assist from the hard-working Katie O'Mahony: 1-6 to 0-4 at half-time.

Inniscarra kept their foot on the pedal for the second half, with sisters Joanne Casey and Ger O'Loughlin combining for another goal.

Killeagh were struggling against a side that used the ball well and showed great pace.

Casey extended the lead with a point from a free, before Sigerson had Killeagh's first score from play on 38 minutes.

It was 2-9 to 0-6 at the second water break. Casey punishing Killeagh's fouling.

Leah McEvoy cut the deficit, but the Inniscarra response was clinical, as Rebecca Quigley won possession and off-loaded to Aileen Sheehan, who made no mistake from close range.

Killeagh pushed forward in search of scores, with Caoimhe Buckley saving a Sigerson penalty, only for Laura Treacy to finish the rebound to the net. They then hit the crossbar on their next attack, but time was against them.

A spirited and determined Inniscarra held on and they now look forward to a meeting against St Finbarr's next weekend.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 1-8 (0-7), O-1 (45), A Sheehan 1-1, G O'Loughlin 1-0.

Killeagh: C Sigerson 0-6 (0-5 f), L Treacy 1-0, L McEvoy 0-1 f.

INNISCARRA: C Buckley; A O'Regan, C Ring, C Looney; R O'Mahony; Looney, A Kavanagh (c); M Lyons, K O'Mahony; C Keane, A McCarthy, A Sheehan; G O'Loughlin; Casey, R Quigley.

Subs: L Desmond for McCarthy (46), J Burke for G O'Loughlin (49), S O'Callaghan for K O'Mahony (60).

KILLEAGH: KM Cullinane; E Treacy, A Walsh, N O'Keefe; C Daly, L Treacy, L McEvoy; S Kent, C Barry; R Sheehan, C Sigerson, C Harney; S Beausang, R Fogarty, J O'Shea.

Subs: N O'Donovan for R Fogarty (41), N Walsh for S Kent (47), AM O'Connor for R Sheehan (51).

Referee: Fionn Ó Murchú (Valley Rovers).

Champs Rovers out after defeat

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Sarsfields 0-16
Courcey Rovers 1-12

CHAMPIONS die hard and this was the case in Castle Road, as Courcey Rovers relinquished their SE Systems senior camogie crown, but only after a one-point loss to Sarsfields.

The challengers took an early lead and settled into the game, while the loss of Courcey's leading scorer, the Cork captain, Linda Collins, who has moved abroad, was significant.

Rovers battled back in the second half and Sarsfields had to dig deep and defend strongly to hold on.

It was nip-and-tuck through the opening half.

Fiona Keating gave the holders an early lead inside two minutes of the throw-in, but Sars responded quickly and with Meabh Mullins, Kaitlin Sheehan, and Chloe Casey on target, they opened up a three-point lead.

Courcey's struggled to find their feet, but with Jacinta Crowley and Keating keeping them in touch, they were well in the contest. At the end of the opening quarter, it was 0-5 to 0-3 in Sarsfield's favour.

The Courcey's inside line had to work hard against a Sars defence that dropped a player back and crowded the drop zone, where Grainne Hannon worked hard to keep them in touch.

With Casey unerring from placed balls and Lucy Allen on target, Sarsfields opened up a 0-8-to-0-4 gap, but a strong closing five minutes to the opening half saw Courcey's retake the lead.

Lucy Crowley scored a point, before Grainne Hannon set up Jacinta Crowley to score a goal and with Keating adding a point, it was 1-6 to 0-8 at the interval.

Saoirse McCarthy extended the lead on the resumption, but Sarsfields upped the pace significantly and they had outscored Courcey's by seven points to one by the second water break to lead 0-15 to 0-9.

In typical champions fashion, Courcey's battled hard, so that three Crowley points and one from the substitute, Christine O'Neill, had the sides level after 59 minutes.

With the game there to be won, Orlaith Mullins edged Sarsfields back in front and from then to the full-time



Sarsfields defender Katie Barry clears against Courcey Rovers in the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship. Picture: Larry Cummin

whistle Courcey's strove for the equaliser, but they couldn't break down the Sarsfields defence, who stood firm.

Scorers for Sarsfields: C Casey 0-7 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), L Allen, M Mullins, K Sheehan, O Mullins 0-2 each, C Mullins 0-1.

Courcey Rovers: J Crowley 1-6 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), F Keating 0-3, L Crowley S McCarthy, C O'Neill 0-1 each.

SARSFIELDS: M Lynch; E Murphy, T Elliot, K Barry, C Irwin, N O'Callaghan (c), E Casey; C Casey, C Mullins; H Herlihy, M Mullins, R O'Mahony; S Desmond, L Allen, K Sheehan.

Subs: O Mullins for R O'Mahony (9 in), G Cashman for T Elliott (25), O McAllen for S Desmond (h-t), E Woods for H Herlihy (52).

COURCEY ROVERS: S O'Reilly; O Twomey, C Hayes, G O'Reilly; A O'Reilly, A Moloney, E Moloney; J Crowley (c), E O'Reilly; S McCarthy, F Keating; L Collins; E Maguire, G Hannon, L Crowley.

Subs: E O'Regan for C Crowley (40), A Hynes for E Maguire (45).

Referee: Dave O'Connell (Glen Rovers).



Fiona Keating, Courcey Rovers, under pressure from Niamh O'Callaghan, captain of Sarsfields. Picture: Larry Cummin

Seandún march to semi-final with decisive win over the Saints

Seandún 1-15
St Catherine's 0-5

SEANDÚN advanced to the semi-final of the SE Systems senior championship with a comfortable victory over St Catherine's, who finished the game with 13 players, losing Cork senior Laure Hayes three minutes into the second half to what looked like a harsh straight red, and Mairead Rohan followed shortly on a second yellow card.

In a game that was stop-start and never allowed flow, the city division were always in control.

Nicole Crean pointed two early frees before Aoife Hurley replied. The Seandún defence was dominant and two Amy O'Connor points had them in front at the end of the opening quarter: 0-5 to 0-2.

On the restart, Niamh O'Regan got one back for the Saints, and Crean and Finola Neville exchanged

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

frees, but Sinead Mills goal two minutes from the break reflected the division's dominance.

Hayley Ryan added a point before the half-time whistle: 1-8 to 0-3.

Neville hit a free on the resumption before Hayes' red card after she attempted to stop O'Connor heading for goal. With the numerical advantage, Seandún outscored Catherine's by three points in the following 10 minutes.

Crean was unerring from frees, while O'Connor and Lauren Homan hit points from play. Then came the second dismissal and it was already game over for the Saints.

Homan, Crean, and Kaitlin Hickey added points, while the last puck of the game saw Amy Lee deny

Neville from the penalty spot.

Seandún march on to a semi-final meeting with Sarsfields on Saturday, while St Finbarr's meet Inniscarra, both games in Castle Road.

Scorers for Seandún: N Crean 0-6 f, S Mills 1-0, L Homan, A O'Connor 0-3 each, K Hickey 0-2, H Ryan 0-1.

St Catherine's: F Neville 0-3 f, N O'Regan, A Hurley 0-1 each.

SEANDÚN: A Lee (Na Piarasigh); C O'Keefe (St Vincent's), C Ryan (Blackrock), N O'Connor (Na Piarasigh); M Scannell (Bishopstown), N O'Leary (Brian Dillon's), M McKeogh (Brian Dillon's); N Crean (St Vincent's), M Murphy (Blackrock); H Ryan (Blackrock), R de Faoite (Blackrock), L Homan (St Vincent's); A O'Connor (St Vincent's), K Hickey (Blackrock), S Mills (Brian Dillon's).

Subs: SK Brosnan (Brian Dillon's) for H Ryan (42), L O'Neill (Bishopstown) for S Mills (45), E Buckley (Na Piarasigh) for N O'Connor (55), E O'Connell (Brian Dillon's) for A O'Connor (58).

ST CATHERINE'S: Y O'Neill; M O'Regan, C Matherway, AM Rohan; R O'Callaghan, L Hayes, E Ronayne; M Rohan, E O'Brien; N O'Regan, F Neville, L O'Donnell; C Dreasper, A Hurley, C Dunning.

Subs: O Neville for L O'Donnell (54), M O'Regan for C Dunning (54). Referee: Andrew Larkin (Ballygarvan).

Mixed results for West Cork clubs as county champions bow out

BY GER MCCARTHY

COURCEY Rovers' reign as SE Systems Cork senior camogie champions was ended on a weekend of contrasting fortunes for West Cork clubs.

Sarsfields edged the senior county champions 0-16 to 1-12 in Castle Road following a tight encounter in which Courceys led 1-6 to 0-8 at half time. Jacinta Crowley netted what would turn out to be the county quarter-final's only goal but it was Sarsfields who moved up through the gears in the third quarter.

The eventual winners stretched their advantage to six points at one juncture but creditably, Courcey Rovers fought back to level the score with only a couple of minutes remaining. Orlaith Mullins fired over Sarsfields' sixteenth point and prevented Courcey's from grabbing a late equaliser.

"It was a great match," Courcey Rovers manager Mike Boland admitted to *The Southern Star*.

"There have been a lot of obstacles in our way this past year losing key players to injury and (Cork senior captain) Linda Collins moving to Dubai.

We came up short but in saying that you cannot fault our players as we were level with close to 60 minutes on the clock.

"In fairness to Sarsfields, they showed great character in getting over the line. It could have gone either way. We didn't play well the previous week against Cloughduv but that brought us on a bit extra against Sars. It wasn't enough in the end.

"You can't ask any more of our girls. There was a 16-year-old in there as well as two 17-year-olds against Sars. That wouldn't have been the norm for Courceys over the last three or four years. There is still a lot of positives to take from our season. Another three or four young players are coming through as well."

There was better news for West Cork in the SE Systems

Cork intermediate camogie championship last weekend. Clonakilty edged Na Piarasigh by three points to qualify for this weekend's intermediate semi-finals.

The Brewery Town led 0-5 to 0-3 following a close opening half and powered to a 0-11 to 0-8 victory thanks to Laura Bourke (0-4, 0-2 frees), Katie O'Driscoll (0-3, 0-1 free), Kate Nolan (0-2), Sinead O'Neill and Ciara Ryan (0-1 each) scores.

Clonakilty's reward for overcoming Na Piarasigh is a meeting with Aghabullogue in the last four of the county championship in Castle Road on Saturday. The latter saw off Newtownshandrum 1-11 to 3-4 following another close quarter-final. The second of this year's intermediate semi-final sees Fr. O'Neill's taking on Blackrock.

Mallow ended Ballinascorthy's interest in this year's junior A camogie county championship following a 2-5 to 0-8 quarter-final defeat at Castle Road last Saturday.

Ballinascorthy were 2 points down at the break but fought back valiantly only to come up short despite Siofra Patwell (0-6 frees) and an injured Moira Barrett (0-2) getting on the score-sheet. Michelle Dullea, Maeve Kingston and Cork senior football captain Martina O'Brien (who made some fantastic saves) also performed heroically.

"Our previous championship game was over a month ago," Ballinascorthy selector Mike Patwell said.

"We struggled to get many challenge games in beforehand which was disappointing. The future is still bright for Ballinascorthy as the core of our squad is so young. Of the starting fifteen last Saturday, four were under 16 and one was minor. We brought on two additional U16's during the game as well so there is a very good, young team emerging and Ballinascorthy will build on that. We have a minor county semi-final against Carrigtwohill to look forward to later this week as well."



Paudie Murray: Leaving camogie job.

Picture: Inpho/Laszlo Geczo

Murray camogie exit makes minor hurling appointment likely

THE appointment of Paudie Murray as Cork minor hurling manager appears imminent, with his decision to step down as Cork camogie boss after 10 years.

Murray informed the Cork Camogie Board on Monday night, ending a decade in which he guided the Rebels to the O'Duffy Cup on four occasions — 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018 — with the 2018 win part of a double (as he was also in charge of the intermediate side, which claimed All-Ireland glory). The Rebels were beaten senior finalists in 2012, 2016, and 2021.

Murray issued a statement outlining the joy he had as camogie manager.

"Having the opportunity to work with, and learn from, a backroom team of such professionalism, expertise, and knowledge was a huge honour and I will be forever indebted to them," Murray said.

"I wish to thank, and pay tribute to, an incredible bunch of players that I have had the honour to manage throughout my tenure.

"The joy, the tears, the sense of camaraderie, and the memories shared, will stay with me for ever. You have been a credit to yourselves and I thank your families and partners for inculcating in you a sense of decency, a humility, and a work ethic that will stand the test of time. I wish you every success in the future."

The camogie board thanked Murray "for his dedication and commitment to Cork camogie over the last 10 years and wish him the best of luck in the next chapter". They said: "There is no doubt that you are leaving Cork Camogie in a promising position and we will aim to build on the foundations you have laid to bring glory to Cork in the years to come." Prior to taking the camogie role, Murray was manager of Dohenys, whom he captained to Carbery JAF C glory in 1995. He also played hurling for Cloughduv and St Finbarr's.

His departure means that, as reported by *The Echo* last month, Murray's appointment as minor manager for 2022 would appear to be a formality. It's likely that it will be ratified by delegates at the November meeting of Cork County Board.



GAA

Denis Hurley

Wallace favourite to succeed Murray as Cork camogie boss

Eoghan Cormican

Jerry Wallace is the favourite to succeed Paudie Murray as Cork senior camogie manager.

Cork camogie chiefs are currently putting together the process that will deliver Murray's successor, with a selection committee comprising members of the executive expected to oversee Cork camogie's first senior managerial appointment in 10 years.

Frontrunner Wallace has spent the last four years as Cork minor camogie manager, during which time he steered the county to back-to-back All-Ireland titles in 2018 and 2019. Cork again contested the All-Ireland minor final this year, losing to Kilkenny on a 2-12 to 0-12 scoreline in last month's decider.

Prior to getting involved with the Cork minors, Middleton-native Wallace was physical trainer when the Cork hurlers won back-to-back All-Ireland titles in 2004 and 2005, served as Antrim senior hurling boss in 2012, before holding the position of director of

Limerick's underage hurling academy for two years.

Wallace has also managed and coached extensively at club level, including back-to-back Kerry SHC wins with Ballyduff at the beginning of the last decade.

A number of Cork players who tasted All-Ireland minor glory under Wallace have already transitioned onto the senior team, namely Laura Hayes, Saoirse McCarthy, Fiona Keating, and Ciara O'Sullivan. Cliona Healy, another All-Ireland minor winner, was introduced as a second-half substitute in this year's All-Ireland senior final defeat to Galway.

Others linked to the vacancy are outgoing selector Matthew Twomey, Cork intermediate camogie manager Mark McCarthy, and Dave Ellis. Twomey, who would be a popular choice among the players, was coach when Cork won the All-Ireland in 2014, holding the title of selector in 2015, '16, and this season. McCarthy is two years into his term as Cork intermediate manager, while Ellis has been

on the sideline with UCC's Ashbourne Cup camogie team in recent years.

Whoever takes the reins is likely to be planning for the 2022 season without this year's captain Linda Collins who recently emigrated. Midfielder Hannah Looney is another who has moved abroad since the conclusion of the 2021 inter-county season, but it is hoped that the dual star will be available for next year's championship.

The senior vacancy arises after four-time All-Ireland winning manager Paudie Murray brought the curtain down on his tenure on Monday. Murray, who also oversaw Cork's U16 hurling development squad this year, is expected to be confirmed as the new Cork minor hurling manager in the coming days. He steered the county to two National League titles during his 10 seasons at the helm, as well as seven All-Ireland final appearances.

"Having the opportunity to work with, and learn from, a backroom team whose professionalism, expertise, and

knowledge was a huge honour and I will be forever indebted to them," Murray said in his parting statement.

"I wish to thank and pay tribute to an incredible bunch of players that I have had the honour to manage throughout my tenure. The joy, the tears, the sense of camaraderie, and the memories shared will stay with me forever."

The Cork camogie board thanked Murray "for his dedication and commitment to Cork Camogie over the last ten years and wish him the best of luck in the next chapter".

Clare last week appointed a management team of eight individuals to succeed Ger O'Connell as Clare camogie boss. The team is Conor Dolan, Stephen Cusack, Franckie O'Halloran, Eanna Mulvihill, Ann Marie McGann, John Carmody, Colm Fitzgerald (son of Davy Fitzgerald), and Eugene Foudy.

Two-time All-Ireland-winning Galway manager Cathal Murray and Kilkenny's Brian Dowling will both remain in their respective roles for 2022.

Enniskeane claim U16 title

ENNISKEANE 3-13
NA PIARSAIGH 3-7

IN ideal conditions last Sunday Enniskeane took on Na Piarasigh in the U16A county final.

Enniskeane soaked up a lot of pressure from Na Piarasigh in the opening minutes before their main scorer Aine Ring opened their account.

Enniskeane were quick to reply with points from Rachel McCarthy and a Danielle O'Neill pointed 45.

It was nip and tuck to the first water break while Rachel and Danielle scoring again while Aine Ring kept Na Piarasigh

Enniskeane outscored Na Piarasigh in the second quarter 2-3 to 1-1 — the goals from Rachel McCarthy who was Enniskeane's biggest threat all day doubling on two great saves from keeper Sarah Kate Slaughter to finish both to the net.

Both sides struck another 1-1 early in the second half with Emma Eady striking for Enniskeane while Megan O'Connor and Aine Ring struck for Na Piarasigh.

Danielle O'Neill was sublime with seven scores from placed balls — while Na Piarasigh's Aine Ring hit 1-5 from frees — a superb display of sharpshooting from both



The Enniskeane camogie team that won the U16 A county final last weekend.

In the last quarter Na Piarasigh threw everything at Enniskeane and keeper Siobhan Cronin was outstanding with some beautiful fielding and clearing, frustrating the Na Piarasigh forwards.

On a day when all players gave their best performances some that stood out were Emer Hurley, Leanne O'Leary, Meabh Browne, Aine Hurley, Danielle O'Neill and Rachel McCarthy.

Enniskeane Siobhan Cronin, Katie Crowley, Emer Hurley, Leanne O'Leary, Sarah Hillard, Meabh Browne, Ciara Duggan, Danielle O'Neill (0-7), Rachel Dineen, Philippa Jennings (0-1), Molly Hillard, Rachel McCarthy (2-3), Emma Eady (1-0), Grace McCarthy (0-1), Aine Hurley (0-1), Grace Murphy, Lauren O'Sullivan, Caoimhe Fleming, Grace Nyhan, Laura Murray, Niamh O'Callaghan, Katie Murray, Caitlin O'Callaghan, Aoife Barry.

Na Piarasigh Sarah Kate Slaughter, Clara Black, Amy Coleman, Emma O'Mahony, Lauren Cunningham, Aine Ring (2-7) Kelly Casey, Jessica O'Connor, Shauna O'Connor, Claudia McSweeney, Lauryn O'Connor, Leah O'Connell, Meave Donovan, Kate Finnegan, Megan O'Connor (1-0), Naraika Golka, Lauryn Quinn, Sarah Downey, Hannah Mulligan, Molly Murphy, Katelynn Burns, Clara Murphy.



Cobh captain Niamh Meaney holds aloft the SE Systems Junior B championship trophy after her side's recent victory over Rockbán watched by Mairéad Donovan, chairman Cork camogie board

Erin's Own deliver the goods in second half to see off St Colm's

COMPETITIONS are reaching their conclusion and junior and underage championship titles found homes on what was another weekend of non-stop action.

JUNIOR 13-A-SIDE

In the SE Systems junior 13-a-side final, Erin's Own and St Colm's battled it out and at the first water break St Colm's led 0-3 to 0-2 and at half-time it was 0-5 to 0-4 as they held their lead. On the resumption Erin's Own edged in front with a goal and they maintained their lead as both sides added points to their tally and at the full-time whistle Erin's Own led 1-14 to 1-7 as they took the title. St Colm's Libby Coppinger was named *The Echo* player of the match with Erin's Own captain Melanie Dooley accepting trophy on behalf of her side.

JUNIOR C

Kilbree took the SE Systems Junior C title after they beat Buttevant. They laid the foundations for victory with a strong first-half performance with Caoimhe Murphy, Aoife Dullea, Mairéad Crowley, and Leanne Sheehy on target as they opened up a 1-7 to 0-2 half-time lead. Emily O'Donovan and Caoimhe Murphy added to their tally in the second half as they continued to hold the upper hand and with goalkeeper Heather Brimble denying Buttevant as they chased goals, Kilbree held firm to take the title on a 3-15 to 0-5 scoreline with Mairéad Crowley named *The Echo* player of the Match.

INTERMEDIATE

The weekend saw the SE Systems Intermediate Championship reach semi-final stage and just to recap on the quarter-finals, Blackrock had a 5-12 to 0-5 win over Ballyhea to set up a semi-final meeting with Fr O'Neill's who turned in a strong display to overcome Brian Dillon's on a 3-16 to 0-5 scoreline. Last season's defeated finalists Aghabullogue had to battle to the full-time whistle for their one-point win on a 1-11 to 3-4 scoreline over a Newtownshandrum side that gave it everything they had but just fell short. Clonakilty had to pull out all the stops in another close game where they had three

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

points to spare over Na Piar-saigh. Both sides were on top, but it was Clonakilty who shaded it to secure their semi-final spot. The semi-finals are down for decision this weekend with Clonakilty meeting Aghabullogue in Cloughduv today at 3pm and tomorrow Blackrock take on Fr O'Neill's in Na Piar-saigh at noon.

JUNIOR A

In the SE Systems Junior A Championship it was nip and tuck as Ballinascorthy and Mallow battled it out at the quarter-final stage. In a tight game where both sides gave it everything they had, Mallow took an early lead and a goal just before the interval gave them a 1-2 to 0-3 lead. Ballinascorthy battled through the second half and, at the finish, three points separated the sides as Mallow progressed on a 2-5 to 0-8 scoreline. Last season's defeated finalists Tracton made their exit at the hands of Sliabh Rua when the sides met on Sunday evening, in the last quarter-final the game between St Vincent's and Charleville was abandoned with two minutes remaining due to an injury to a St Vincent player, at the time Charleville held an eight point lead, this game will now be re-fixed therefore the scheduled semi-finals may not go ahead as planned this weekend therefore just one semi-final the meeting between Mallow and Ballinora today in Bishopstown at 1pm

MINOR

In premier minor, Sarsfield's 1 and Aghabullogue are through to the final with Enniskeane and Éire Óg meeting in the plate final. In Minor A, Sarsfield's 2 will meet Cloughduv in the semi-final and Glen Rovers who overcame Youghal in their quarter-final clash last weekend and will meet the winner of the Mallow versus Milford/Ballyhea game which was to be played midweek.

MINOR B

Tracton are through to the final following their victory over Ballinhasig. They await the winners of the Carrigtwohill-Ballinascorthy semi-final which was being played midweek.



Essie O'Connell, Seandún, is chased by Eimear O'Brien, St Catherine's, in the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship at Castle Road. Picture: Larry Cummins

Hectic schedule puts Seandún game in doubt

CAMOGIE



Linda Mellerick

ONCE again this weekend is a flurry of activity with the intermediate and senior championship semi-finals down for decision today.

The junior semi-final and remaining quarter-final between Charleville and St Vincent's also takes place. During the week there were rumours that Seandún may not field for their semi-final clash with Sarsfields. The reason being; they have players lining out at 12pm with Blackrock in their intermediate semi-final game against Fr O'Neill's and will have to turn out again at 4.15pm with their divisional side.

In addition, because the Blackrock players have a football championship match on Sunday and the St Vincent's players have their replay, it was felt that those clubs wouldn't release their players. Mid-week at the time of writing, both the Blackrock and St Vincent's players are lining out with Seandún. Last weekend the likes of Hayley Ryan and Katelyn Hickey had three championship games between their three commitments. That kind of demand screams injury.

I made a few phone calls to see what the situation was and if anything could be done to switch the intermediate or senior semi-finals to try and prevent, at the very least, the semi-finals going ahead on the same day. To be fair, Blackrock were given the opportunity to switch their intermediate semi-final to either Friday evening or Sunday and they decided on Saturday at noon.

You can't blame them for that. They have players working Friday night and why would they want to play second fiddle



Méabh Cahalane, St Finbarr's, can't stop the breaking Niamh Dilworth, Inniscarra. Picture: Dan Linehan

to Seandún and not have their own players as fresh as they can be for a crucial championship game. We would all have done the same in their shoes.

And it's not just about Blackrock, St Vincent's and Seandún. There are other clubs involved and the semi-final and final dates are known for a number of weeks now.

The camogie board, to their credit, have changed at least 15 championship matches this season to facilitate clubs due to divisions and dual players as ladies' football is played on Sundays only. This also comes at a cost with outsourced pitches and lights having to be paid for.

The board need to complete the adult section so as to also give the minors their time, which is held up because of adult participation. There is also a plethora of juvenile championship finals already slotted in until the end of October in Castle Road, where the board are also using the Colleges Pitch for the finals, of

which there are 40+. It's a logistical nightmare at the moment. One game change has already had a knock-on effect on seven games.

With a county the size of Cork the match situation is just rampant (thankfully) with the juvenile leagues now not finishing until mid/late November.

The county board is small, and the workload is immense. Works are already in motion for audio/floats etc for the county senior final so it's not easy to casually push it out a week.

With a condensed season, convention around the corner, to new intercounty management appointments, there's a lot to do and not a lot of time to do it in.

It's St Finbarr's v Inniscarra first up today. Don't you just have to truly admire Inniscarra. Twelve seasons now this team has been producing. Last year they looked tired. When they lost their county title to Courcy Rovers we all felt that we wouldn't see them in the serious end of business for a while, yet here they are again, in a semi-final even without the services of Rena Buckley.

And who would bet against them doing what they need to do to reach their fifth final in a row.

Off the top of my head, Rosie O'Mahony, Aoife Kavanagh, Katie O'Mahony and Niamh Dilworth are four remaining warriors that I can see, since their first title.

What service they have given. With so many games spread across various venues I actually haven't yet seen Inniscarra in action this season and I'm looking forward to the game today. Will they overturn their 2-11 to 1-6 opening defeat to the Barrs?

They'll go in as underdogs but sure haven't they done that all season.

Oh Killeagh, here we are again. Another crucial knockout where they failed to ignite and get a return up front. 1-1 from play.

As mentioned last week, Hannah Looney was too hard to replace. A very disappointing end to the season for them.



Essie O'Connell, Seandun is chased by Eimear O'Brien, St Catherine's during their senior camogie clash at Castle Road. Picture: Larry Cummins

It's down to the last four in race for senior crown

SATURDAY
SE Systems Senior Championship semi-finals at Castle Road: St Finbarr's v Inniscarra, 1.15pm; Sarsfields v Seandun, 4.15pm

IT'S down to the last four and it's St Finbarr's, Inniscarra, Seandun, and Sarsfield's that remain in the hunt for the SE Systems senior title.

Last weekend's quarter-finals threw up a surprise result with a strong Killeagh side over-powered by an impressive Inniscarra outfit; champions Courcey Rovers relinquished their title to a lively Sarsfield's side but Seandun's victory over St Catherine's was impressive but not unexpected.

The meeting between St Finbarr's and Inniscarra is a repeat of last season semi-final where Inniscarra edged it with a goal to spare. The sides also met in round one of this season's championship when the Barrs recorded a comprehensive 2-11 to 1-6 victory on a day when they were stronger in all sectors.

Since last season's semi-final clash, there has been changes in both camps with new faces making their mark for each side.

St Finbarr's are hugely strengthened by the acquisition of Down senior player Sorcha McCartan; the northerner is on work placement in Cork and on transferring to St Finbarr's has brought huge strength to their forward line, her ability to win possession and find the range has been a feature of their journey to the last four.

Younger players Ella Wiggington-Barrrett, Orlaith Cahalane, and Ciara Golden have all performed well and have blended in with experienced performers such as Keeva McCarthy, Gemma O'Connor, and Lynda O'Connell.

Cork senior manager Paudie Murray is at the helm and on their journey to date they have played two games; their open-



Referee Andrew Larkin during the Senior Camogie Championship game between St Catherine's and Seandun at Castle Road.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

ing round victory was followed by the defeat of Glen Rovers in a high-scoring contests and, having got over this hurdle, they received a bye to the semi-final. So, in effect, they have had just two championship games.

Inniscarra, in contrast, have had four outings and nothing beats games to get up to championship pace. With each game there has been improvements in their performances; after losing out to the Barrs in the first game they regrouped and recorded a win over Muskerry before a tough battle with Enniskeane which they won 3-11 to 1-10. They went into their clash against Killeagh as underdogs, but they tore the form book to shreds as they recorded an eight-point victory in what was the game of the championship so far.

From the outset they were focused; Joanne Casey, Aileen Sheehan, Katie O'Mahony, and Claudia Keane were all to the fore as they pressurised the Killeagh defence. At the back, Caitlin Looney, Aoife Kavanagh, and Erin Looney are strong defenders and, definitely, the extra games have stood to Inniscarra.

In the opening round game between the sides both defences were busy, but it was St Finbarr's use possession and fast movement of the ball working the lines that troubled Inniscarra, in their clash with Killeagh they broke down Killeagh's quick movement of the ball and they will, no doubt, aim to do the same on Saturday. St Finbarrs have been the side to maintain their pre-championship favourites tag to date and with an eight-point win over Inniscarra in round one under their belts they will be confident of advancing.

Sarsfield's had a preliminary round victory over Milford and advanced to round one where they defeated Newcestown they were pushed to the limits by a determined Ballygarvan sides in round three before closing it out with a late goal from Lucy Allen. They overcame champions Courcey Rovers last weekend with an impressive display and given the huge array of talent at their disposal it is no surprise to see them in the last four. Champions in 2019 they didn't enjoy the best of seasons in 2020, but this year they are a focused, well-balanced outfit with strength in all sectors.

Seandun have been superb to date and they won't fear the challenge Sars will pose. Having lost to St Catherine's in round one, they re-grouped and defeated Newcestown and Eire Og and went on to reverse the result of round one with a comprehensive win over St Catherine's and with Kaitlin Hickey, Amy O'Connor, Niamh O'Leary and Sinead Mills leading the way, they will not fear Sars.

SE Systems Senior Camogie semi-finals

Castle Road will host both of these eagerly awaited encounters on Saturday with St Finbarr's and Inniscarra first up at 1.15pm.

Both sides have improved as they progressed through the rounds especially Inniscarra as they recovered from a first round loss and impressed with a comfortable win over Killeagh in the last round.

The 'Barr's were much too strong for Glen Rovers and with a two week run in to this game might be that bit fresher, Gemma O'Connor is as effective as ever while Meabh Cahalane is also showing renewed energy.

Katie O'Mahoney, Aileen Sheehan, Aoife Kavanagh and Joanne Casey are all very experienced players who know how to win games of this importance could be crucial if it's as expected it goes to the wire.

Seandun and recent winners Sars meet at 4.15pm and the divisional side will have to contend with a number of their players lining out with their club Blackrock in the Intermediate Championship earlier in the day - not the ideal preparation for a game of this significance.

Sars have shown what they are capable in recent games and with Katlynn Sheehan in top form with

her scoring rate and if she is not held, Sars might just get over the line.

Paudie Murray has stepped down after 10 years at the helm with the Senior team, winning in that period four All-Ireland, League and Munster Championship titles and leaving the team in good shape to win a few more.

During his tenure he was co-operative and helpful, my thanks for his help at all times and the very best of luck for his next venture - strongly rumoured to be the Cork Minor Hurling Manager.

Sarsfields and Seandun meet in Cork semi-final

Camogie

Therese O'Callaghan

Sarsfields and Seandun will meet in the semi-final of the SE Systems Cork SCC following their respective victories at the weekend.

Seandun booked their spot after a convincing 1-15 to 0-5 win over St Catherine's. Significantly, the winners profited from a second bite of the cherry after they fell to the same opposition in the opening round by three points.

They were 1-8 to 0-3 up at half-time, Sinead Mills with the goal. St Catherine's faced an uphill battle in the second-half when reduced to 13 players.

Free-taker Nicole Crean got six points, while there were also other impressive scores from captain Lauren Homan (3), Amy O'Connor (3), Kaitlyn Hickey and Hayley Ryan to send them into the last four.

Meanwhile on Saturday, after a ferocious battle, Sarsfields defeated reigning cham-

pions Courcey Rovers 0-16 to 1-12. Orlaith Mullins registered the winning point in the final minute of regulation.

Courcey Rovers held a narrow 1-6 to 0-8 interval advantage. Captain Jacinta Crowley shot the crucial goal a minute before the break after being fed by Grainne Hannon.

But Sarsfields, with the wind behind them, enjoyed a prolific third quarter out-hitting their opponents seven points to three - five from play courtesy of Orlaith Mullins, Katlyn Sheehan, Chloe Casey (0-7 total), Lucy Allen and Clare Mullins. They also had a Casey penalty saved by Courcey Rovers goalkeeper Sinead O'Reilly. Courcey points from Crowley (2) and Christine O'Neill set up an exciting finish. However, Sars held out with Orlaith Mullins' late point deciding the contest.

Inniscarra face St Finbarr's in the other semi, also down for decision next weekend.

■ October 16: Cork Senior semi-finals: St Finbarr's v Inniscarra, 1.15pm; Sars v Seandun 4.15pm



Roisin de Faoite in action for Seandún against Sarsfield's. Picture: Larry Cummins

Fine first-half display sets Seandún up to book place in decider

Seandún 1-15
Sarsfields 0-11

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

DIVISIONAL side Seandún booked their place in the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship final after showing great determination to beat a Sarsfields side that knocked out holders Courceys in the last round.

Over the hour they were the more balanced side and they controlled the opening 30 minutes to lay the foundation for victory and a place in the decider against Inniscarra.

Sars, who were very jittery in that first 30 minutes, settled in the second half and got themselves back into the game by hurling with greater awareness. All credit to Seandún though, who stood up to the challenge to forge a well-deserved win with Cork star Amy O'Connor's first-half goal proving vital.

Referee Diarmuid Kirwin allowed the game flow as points from Nicole Crean, Kaitlin Hickey, and Hayley Ryan opened up a three-point lead inside 10 minutes. With their defence strong, Seandún held a tight rein on the Sarsfield's attack until a Ciara Irwin free got them off the mark.

Then a superb one-two move saw Hayley Ryan win possession and off-load to O'Connor who finished calmly. Captain Lauren Homan pointed twice and at the water break, it was 1-5 to 0-2.

Sinead Mills struck an excellent point on the restart as Seandún held the upper hand. Sars were left off the hook when O'Connor's pile-driver hit the upright and bounced wide. Roisin de Faoite pointed from play before Kaitlin Sheehan replied for Sarsfield's with a point, but with Crean unerring from placed balls

it was 1-9 to 0-3 at the interval. The division had a strong wind for the second half, but Sarsfield's re-jigged their line-up, which helped their cause.

O'Connor scored on the restart, but Sars began to gain the upper hand. They hit a purple patch with five unanswered points as Saoirse Desmond and Ella Woods found gaps in the Seandún defence. Three Desmond points and two from Woods trimmed the margin to five.

Crean and Kaitlin Hickey split the posts, Lucy Allen pointing for Sars, which left six in it for the last quarter.

Claire Mullins and Desmond struck for Sars but O'Connor, Homan, and Crean sent Seandún into a clash with last year's runners-up Inniscarra.

Scorers for Seandún: N Crean 0-5 (0-4 f), A O'Connor 1-2, L Homan 0-3, K Hickey 0-2, H Ryan, S Mills, R De Faoite 0-1 each.
Sarsfields: S Desmond 0-4 (0-1 f), E Woods 0-2, L McAllen, C Mullins, C Casey (f), K Sheehan, C Irwin 0-1 each.
SEANDÚN: A Lee (Na Piarasigh); C O'Keefe (St Vincent's), C Ryan (Blackrock), N O'Connor (Na Piarasigh); M Scannell (Bishopstown), N O'Leary (Brian Dillon's), L McKeogh (Blackrock); N Crean (St Vincent's), M Murphy (Blackrock); A O'Connor (St Vincent's), H Ryan (Blackrock), L Homan (St Vincent's), c); H Ryan (Blackrock), R De Faoite (Blackrock), S Mills (Brian Dillon's).

Subs: SK Brosnan (Brian Dillon's) for L McKeogh (15), E Buckley (Na Piarasigh) for N O'Connor (36), L O'Neill (Bishopstown) for M Scannell (55).

SARSFIELDS: M Lynch; T Elliott, K Barry, G Cashman; E Murphy, N O'Callaghan (c), E Casey; C Casey, C Irwin; C Mullins, M Mullins, H Herlihy; K Sheehan, L Allen, S Desmond.

Subs: O McAllen for T Elliott (21), O Mullins for C Irwin (h-t), E Woods for C Casey (36), M McCarthy for L Allen (50).
Referee: Diarmuid Kirwin (Éire Óg).



Rebecca Quigley drives forward for Inniscarra against Barrs defender Ciara Ring during their senior camogie semi-final. Picture: Larry Cummins

Inniscarra reach their sixth final on the bounce

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Inniscarra 1-11

St Finbarr's 1-6

INNISCARRA are back in the SE Systems Cork Senior Camogie final for the sixth time in a row.

For a side that lost their opening round to the same opposition, their progress since has once again been outstanding and they turned the tables on St Finbarr's in a well-deserved victory in Castle Road on Saturday.

From the second minute when Player of the Match Aileen Sheehan goaled, Inniscarra led, and at one stage by eight points. St Finbarr's pulled it back to four and had they not consistently gone for goal with close-range frees in the final 10 minutes, the game could have gone at least gone to extra-time.

In truth though, that would have been unfair to Inniscarra who were the better team throughout.

The squad that keeps on giving with a wonderful never-say-die spirit, Sheehan, Joanne Casey, and Katie O'Mahony were once again brilliant and their full-back line of Aine O'Regan, Ciara Ring, and Caitlin Looney were inspirational. Time and again they intercepted or dug deep and emerged with the ball.

The Barrs looked very nervy in the opening half, maybe their failure to get past the semi-final since 2008 played on their minds. The confidence that we have seen them play with this season wasn't there and a number of poor wides seemed to sap the adrenaline out of them. Scoring just one point from play in 30 minutes was a tall-tale sign as Inniscarra led 1-6 to 0-3 at the break.

Despite the close attention of Lynda O'Connell, Sheehan was unstoppable. Finishing to the net from a narrow-angle in the second minute she hit her third



Celebration time for Inniscarra at the final whistle as they progress to the final of the SE Systems Cork Camogie Senior Championship. Picture: Larry Cummins

point on the stroke of half-time, after taking the foul advantage, recovering, and hitting a lovely score.

She played deeper in the second half and still got forward for her fourth point on 56 minutes.

The work-rate of Inniscarra was immense, even though at times in that opening period as both teams were trying to gain the upper hand, their marking was slack, leaving Sorcha McCartan free to spread beautiful ball cross-field to Gemma O'Connor and inside to Orlaith Cahalane. Their defensive play inside however nullified the threat that was created.

Trailing by six points at half-time, the mountain was looking steep for the Barrs but not insurmountable. It was steeper after Claudia Keane and a Casey free made it eight.

But a lifeline arrived. A ball struck inside by Ciara Golden was batted by goalkeeper Caoimhe Buckley into the path of Keeva McCarthy who made no mistake. A five-point gap is little in hurling and there were 23 minutes left to play.

The goal evidently lifted the spirit of the Barrs, but Casey's free pushed them back down a little. McCartan and Cahalane hit another two, narrowing the gap to four, but that was as close as St Finbarr's got.

They had chances from placed balls and, in hindsight, with the number of frees they were awarded, they had enough to at least draw level. But at the time they were chasing the game.

They weren't making any headway in general play due to the intensity of Inniscarra, their magnificent defence, Sheehan, O'Mahony, and Casey, the latter assisting with easing the pressure on her defence and making brilliant runs up the right.

Inniscarra may have had just three scorers on the board, but the work rate of their forwards and ability to find the better-positioned player had a big say in their victory.

Scorers for Inniscarra: A Sheehan 1-4, J Casey 0-5 (0-4 f), C Keane 0-2.

St Finbarr's: G O'Connor 0-3 f, K McCarthy 1-0, S McCartan 0-2, O Cahalane 0-1.

INNISCARRA: C Buckley; A O'Regan, C Ring, C Looney; C Keane, E Looney, A Kavanagh; R O'Mahony; K O'Mahony; A McCarthy, R Quigley, A Sheehan; G O'Loughlin, J Casey, M Lyons.

Subs: J Burke for G O'Loughlin (h-t), L Desmond for R O'Mahony (56), N Dilworth for A McCarthy (61).

ST FINBARR'S: C Hurley; S Punch, A Egan, G Cahalane; L O'Connell, A O'Neill, C Golden; M Cahalane, A Shannon, E O'Leary, G O'Connor, S McCartan; E Wigginton Barrett, K McCarthy, O Cahalane.

Subs: E Hurley for E Wigginton Barrett (43), N O'Leary for A Shannon (53).

Referee: Cathal McAllister.



Seandún captain Lauren Homan chases Hollie Herlihy, Sarsfield's. Picture: Larry Cummins

Seandún end 27-year wait for Cork senior final appearance

Therese O'Callaghan

An outstanding performance from Seandún saw them defeat Sarsfields (1-15 to 0-11) and progress to the SE Systems Cork senior camogie championship final for the first time in 27 years.

And you have to hand it to Trevor Coleman's side as the Blackrock contingent had to quickly get over the disappointment of losing the intermediate county semi-final played just hours beforehand — and they all went on to play starring roles.

They also received a major boost with their captain Lauren Homan arriving home from holiday earlier than planned.

They attacked this game from the word go, and it was their brilliant first-half showing that secured a showdown with Inniscarra next weekend.

Amy O'Connor netted in the 10th minute to make it 1-3 to 0-1 after a superb one-two with Hayley Ryan.

With Homan causing problems, they were 1-5 to 0-2 up after the first quarter. But, no doubt about it, this was a marvellous team display — O'Connor hit the woodwork in search of a second goal. At the break, Seandún were 1-9 to 0-3 up.

Sarsfields introduced a couple of substitutes and they went on to outscore Seandún six points to three — Ella Woods, Saoirse Desmond and Lucy Allen points cutting the deficit to five, and they began to test the Seandún resolve.

Nicole Crean steadied the ship when she converted a '45, and at the three-quarter

mark, the board read 1-12 to 0-9. Twice Sarsfields came within five points but Seandún were up for the challenge.

Their final opponents Inniscarra will contest their sixth successive decider after they emerged winners over St Finbarr's, 1-11 to 1-6, in a dominant display. They now look to regain the title last held in 2018.

They controlled virtually most of the proceedings with Aileen Sheehan magnificent,

scoring 1-4. Joanne Casey bagged five points from frees but she was also hugely influential overall.

Under new management of Stephen McCormack, Rickey Leisk, Enda Dineen and Tim Griffin, they turned the tables on St Finbarr's who won comfortably when the sides met in the opening round. This time, there was no disputing the better team.

St Finbarr's, whose most recent title was in 2006, will have

regrets, namely their wide tally of 12, and especially their inaccuracy from scoreable frees.

Wind-assisted Inniscarra laid the foundation for victory in the first-half. They had the dream start as Sheehan found the net a mere two minutes in. By the first water-break, they were 1-3 to 0-2 up, thanks mainly to the threat of Casey, while their full-back line of Aine O'Regan, Ciara Ring, and Caitlin Looney and goal-

keeper Caoimhe Buckley were immense.

They led 1-6 to 0-3 ahead at the interval — Gemma O'Connor (two frees) and Sorcha McCartan the scores for the Barrs. The lead stretched to eight points.

However, a 37th minute goal from Keeva McCarthy gave the Barrs hope and approaching the second water-break it was 1-9 to 1-5. Even though scores dried up, Inniscarra saw it out.



Seandún captain Lauren Homan tries to stop the progress of Sarsfields captain Niamh O'Callaghan.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Homan leads by example in Seandún's quest for history

Cork senior camogie final

Therese O'Callaghan

Seandún are waiting 27 years to contest a Cork senior camogie championship final, and a lifetime looking for that elusive title.

Lauren Homan has the honour of leading them out in Castle Road tomorrow against an Inniscarra side who are competing in their sixth consecutive decider.

Even though she wasn't born when the divisional side's last showdown took place in 1994, the MTU student and a soccer player of note, is well aware of the history.

"Our attitude is, we have nothing to lose. We will give it everything. It has never been done before, we want to do it.

"There might be a little bit of pressure from that, but overall there is no pressure on us. We just want to go out and play and hopefully get over this hurdle.

"Being captain is big for my family and my club St Vincent's. When I got the call from Trevor (Coleman, manager), I was shocked. It has put a spring in my step and I try to

Inniscarra have been down this road before

What makes tomorrow's SE Systems Cork senior camogie championship final intriguing is that Inniscarra and Seandún lost their opening round games. Momentum, however, has been gained through those extra matches, combined with the passion and drive that is necessary to succeed.

Inniscarra have been down this road before. They haven't tasted success since 2018, but they were hugely effective against St Fin-

barr's. And if they can bring that same intensity, they will be hard to beat.

Captain Aoife Kavanagh and vice-captain Caitlin Looney form a strong defence, while Katie O'Mahony's work ethic is significant. Joanne Casey and Aileen Sheehan lead a formidable attack.

Meanwhile, if Seandún can continue to produce such high levels of camogie, this could be a historic day. Captain Lauren Homan and Amy O'Connor are excellent

at finding space, they showed how dangerous they are against Sarsfields.

Amy Lee is between the posts. The defensive spine is formed by reliable full-back Carol Ryan and centre-back Niamh O'Leary. Katelyn Hickey and Nicole Crean will have important roles around the midfield area where Susan Kate Brosnan could also be in line to start. A fascinating final in which both are capable of the win.

Words: Therese O'Callaghan

bring the girls along with me."

The city divisional side selects from six clubs — strongholds like Bishopstown, Blackrock, Brian Dillons, Na Piarasaigh, and St Vincent's while there is one representative from Nemo Rangers (Megan McCarthy O'Donovan, sub-goalkeeper).

Homan, a native of Blarney, is one of four Seandún players from St Vincent's. "St Vincent's have been great. We have four starters — Nicole Crean, Amy O'Connor, Courtney O'Keeffe, and myself.

"Even though we were playing junior club championship the day after the senior semi-final, they had no problem with us playing with Seandún.

"Every single one of them was down supporting us, they are a credit."

There is no shortage of experience in the Seandún line out — Amy Lee and Amy O'Connor are inter-county players of the highest quality, and Homan won All-Ireland senior medals with Cork in 2017 and 2018.

When it comes to commit-

ment, look no further than Blackrock and Homan herself.

In spite of losing an intermediate club championship semi-final less than five hours before the senior semi-final, Blackrock's Carol Ryan, Leah McKeogh, Katelyn Hickey, Michelle Murphy, Hayley Ryan and Róisín De Faoite took the field again.

Homan wasn't found wanting either.

"My boyfriend Aaron and I flew to Santorini (Greece) the night of the senior quarter-final and we were due back

eight days later which would mean missing the semi-final. Basically, we decided to get on a flight Friday night and come home.

"Aaron was so understanding, he plays with Delanys and he knew what was at stake. He said: 'Yeah, come on, let's go home.'"

They lost to St Catherine's in the first round but Seandún proved they have the stomach for battle. "We reflected on that performance. We hadn't been together that long. Our confidence and our self-belief was building and we knew we were good enough and that drove us on.

"Trevor is always positive with his comments. There was no pressure on us going into any of the games. That was in our favour. It will be the same going into the final, we are the underdogs."

Homan, however, acknowledges Inniscarra won't give them anything easy. "They have the experience of being in finals, of winning finals and they are such a good team. To be honest, we haven't looked at them. I think there is more pressure on Inniscarra than ourselves because they have

expectations. Whereas, we hope what we bring works for us on the day."

CAMOGIE

2021 All-Star nominees:

- Goalkeepers:** Sarah Healy (Galway), Amy Lee (Cork), Aoife Norris (Kilkenny).
- Full-back line:** Shauna Healy (Galway), Davina Tobin (Kilkenny), Devia Higgins (Galway), Colette Dormier (Kilkenny), Sarah Dervan (Galway), Libby Coppinger (Cork), Mary Ryan (Tipperary).
- Half-back line:** Meighan Farrell (Kilkenny), Laura Hayes (Cork), Caitriona McCormican (Galway), Siobhan Gardiner (Galway), Laura Treacy (Cork), Emma Helebert (Galway), Saoirse McCarthy (Cork).
- Midfield:** Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Hannah Looney (Cork), Ashling Thompson (Cork), Eireana Fryday (Tipperary), Shona Curnan (Waterford).
- Half-forward line:** Aoife Donohue (Galway), Denise Gauls (Kilkenny), Chloe Sigerson (Cork), Orla O'Dwyer (Tipperary), Katie Nolan (Kilkenny), Mary O'Connell (Kilkenny), Róisín Howard (Tipperary).
- Full-forward Line:** Siobhán McGrath (Galway), Alish O'Reilly (Galway), Katrina Mackey (Cork), Niamh Mallon (Down), Orliath McGrath (Galway), Cait Devane (Tipperary), Amy O'Connor (Cork).



THE KIERAN SHANNON INTERVIEW

Paudie Murray had a straightforward and simple objective each season during his decade as Cork camogie manager: 'Every year I was learning and improving. I couldn't be the person I was the previous year.' Though that chapter of his life has concluded, he is preparing for a swift return to patrolling the sidelines

Better by design

LOSING has never sat well with Paudie Murray so after last month's All-Ireland camogie final finished the way it did, he wasn't in the mood to stay around Dublin.

"I'm not a drinking man," he professes, "and it doesn't sit well with me when teams go on the tear after losing a game." And so, with his team having agreed to travel up and down on the one day in these Covid times, but with the kit man wanting to go for a pint or two nearby to soothe the pain of defeat, Murray offered his services to drive the kit van home himself.

Within three hours it was back in Murray's driveway, beating Jennifer and their two daughters by a bit to spare. The game itself was pretty much parked there and then as well.

"Losing, even if it's going for a cycle on a Sunday, eats me up, so my way to deal with it is to shut things down very much. I haven't watched that game back yet."

Of course it still invariably crops up and plays in his head at times; it still grates that he didn't win that fifth All-Ireland on his beat. Ask him how he feels about finishing up as Cork camogie manager last week and he describes it as "sad in some ways".

"You sometimes think: 'All right what if you'd have done X and Y differently in the final'. Our lead-up was good, our training exceptional. Tactically we did a lot of things right, and we put ourselves in a position with 10 minutes to go to win the game. But we maybe slipped away from our structure a bit at the end and drew Galway onto us (to lose 1-15 to 1-12)."

"So that's probably still eating me up a small bit. I always had this feeling about rebuilding the team a third time to win another All-Ireland. And we came very close to pulling it off. But in the end we failed."

In a way it was apt as well as being very Murray that after a decade at the wheel his last act as manager would be to still be driving something for the cause. And what a journey it was.

In his 10 years over the team, Cork contested seven All-Irelands, winning four. The other three years they exited at the All-Ireland semi-final stage, having lost by either a point or two. As long as he was there, they were there or thereabouts.

He's now set to drive another bus; though it hasn't been officially confirmed yet, he's set to become manager of the Cork minor hurlers. But as he's about to receive the keys for that journey, he maintains that's a very good Cork camogie bus he's handing over.

"I'd be very excited if I was taking this group. Certainly on the conditioning side of things they need to improve greatly but they're extremely young and the culture is really good within the dressing room. All our players come with notebooks and iPads to any meeting because they're so focused on getting better, whereas that wouldn't have happened seven or eight years ago."

He's seen some change over his time at the wheel: In Cork, in all of the sport. He remembers his first championship game over the team back in 2012, a game in a club field in Clare where they scraped a one-point win over the home side.

"I arrived on the bus and three girls had driven down from a Robbie Williams concert they'd been at the night before. And that's not me having a go at them; that was just the culture at the time, that's how they had been treated and so that's the way they treated their preparation."

"Then we arrived at the ground, the only part of the grass that was cut was to mark the lines of the pitch. In front of the goals there were two craters that I know I wouldn't want to be diving in. And then you went into the dressing rooms to find they were filthy."

Paudie Murray celebrates with his Cork players after their camogie All-Ireland final victory over Kilkenny at Croke Park in 2017.
Picture: Matt Browne/Sportsfile

"You compare that to now, where our first championship match is either played in Christy Ring Park (Páirc Uí Rinn) or Páirc Uí Chaoimh. The Cork County Board has taken a lot of stick down through the years, some of it justified and some of it maybe not. But for me, particularly in the last number of years, they couldn't do more for Cork camogie. I remember going into the 2018 All-Ireland when Páirc Uí Chaoimh was just open (and Frank Murphy was still CEO) and they couldn't give it to us often enough to train there."

"Now One Cork has come into it which covers camogie and ladies football as well as the hurling and football so there's very much a family feel about it. I know (current Cork CEO) Kevin O'Donovan is a big believer in that idea of being all one family — which is the way it should be."

"So the game is unrecognisable now, off and on the field. Players prepare differently now, prepare better now, so the game has changed for the better. If you look at the last couple of All-Irelands, it's a spectacle that everyone can sit down and watch whereas a few years before that they couldn't."

Murray credits that improvement less to the Camogie Association; he feels they've been "maybe pulled and dragged" into making rule changes, and maintains that the consistency of refereeing is still too far below the standard of play.

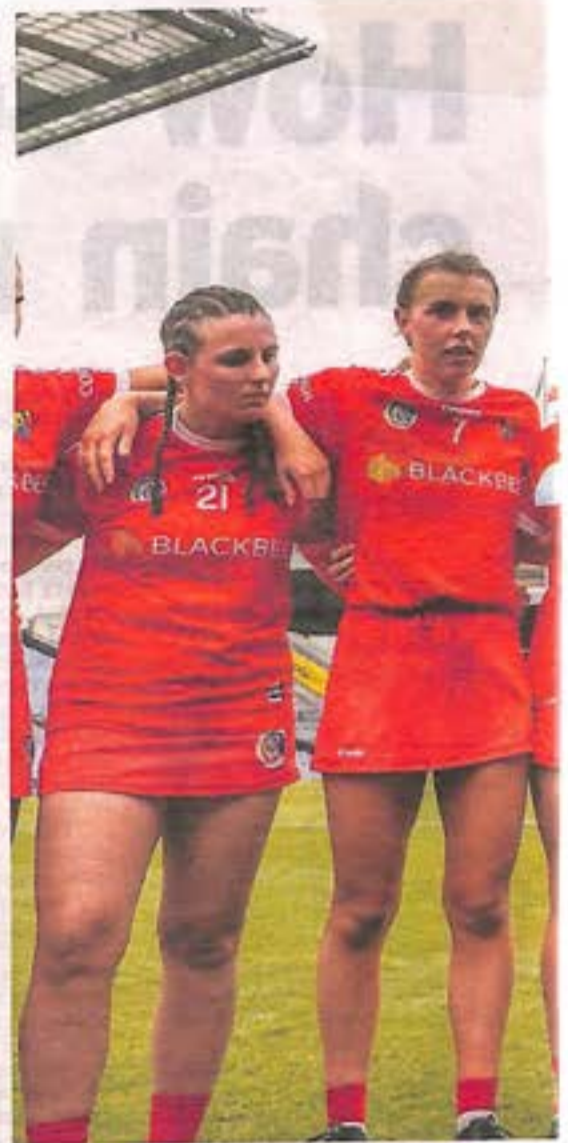
The biggest drivers of change have been the players.

A case in point: Their ability to strike and score from range. In 2016 Cork lost an All-Ireland final by seven points to Kilkenny, who played a defensive system Murray wasn't enamoured with but had to live with; instead of just complaining, he had to change. "Girls were only able to puck the ball over from within 35 yards of the posts. That was their scoring range. And when we looked at that in detail, the thing that stood out was that the girls weren't striking the ball correctly."

SO they went back to basics and he went back to his roots. Murray and his brother Kevin come from football country, Dohenys, Dumanway. Step outside their family home and you'd find the spot where Sam Maguire was born staring back at you.

He only took up hurling when he became a boarder in St Finbarr's, Farranferris. He just missed out by a year being coached by the legendary Canon Michael O'Brien, but he had the good fortune of being tutored by Seán O'Riordan.

"Seán would take footballers from West Cork into a ball alley with a squash ball and within five years turn them into Cork minor hurlers (Murray himself played in the 1988 All-Ireland final). Technically he was miles ahead of his time, just getting our feet and first touch right. And so the girls will laugh at me saying this,



but the spring after that Kilkenny game we went back to doing what Seán would do with us in Farranferris. We'd go up to the ball wall in Sarsfields at quarter to eight on Saturday morning with a squash ball."

It paid off the following September. We all remember that equalising, injury-time point from 65m by Gemma O'Connor, but just how exceptional it was for even her we probably didn't appreciate. At the time she was already a seven-time All-Ireland winner and a nine-time All-Star, yet ask Murray had O'Connor that shot in her locker in 2016 and he doubts it.

"She worked on that. And if you slow it down and look at that strike, technically it was spot on — her hips and shoulders pointing to the target. The following year then you had Amy O'Connor win a ball when we were a point down with five minutes to go and her feet and hips changed straight away. That ball was always going over the bar because her technique was so perfect from her work with the squash ball."

Murray also upgraded his management team in the wake of the 2016 final defeat. His brother Kevin won an All-Ireland as a player; indeed there was something very fitting that both Murray brothers would establish an auctioneering firm, Murray Browne, with Alan Browne, who, like Kevin, came off the bench to score a critical point in Cork's famous win over Kilkenny in 1999.

"It's funny," smiles Paudie. "Kevin was a very calm corner-forward and sometimes got the crap kicked out of him for it, whereas I was the corner-back that would tear the head clean off you. It's nearly the opposite now: I'm the calm guy on the line whereas Kevin can go off his head on the line! But as a coach, he'd be 10 times better than me."

Paudie would now see himself more as a manager, even a co-ordinator, than a coach. "There has to be a separation."

So he's more the John Kiely with Kevin more like a Paul Kinnerk.

He doesn't have selectors, never will. "The word drives me crazy. I just do not know why that word is still being used. It reminds me of the guy standing with his O'Neill's jacket on and his hand in the pocket and having a bit of craic with a couple of other guys — and he gets to pick a team? I'd be of the view that every person has a specific role."



Paudie Murray with his troops after they beat Kilkenny in the All-Ireland camogie championship semi-final this summer

Picture: James Crombie/Inpho



He seeks specialists. Like Niall Collins, his performance analyst that, along with Kevin, he'll be bringing to the Cork minor set-up. "We had a view within the camogie management team that we were the best-prepared Cork team leaving Cork. Now we were on a really limited budget but we felt it was achievable — and there were several years we achieved it."

He knows his own personal managerial style wasn't as warm as the great Eamon Ryan, as well as they got on, trying to accommodate the aspirations of so many dual players. ("We had a great relationship with Ephie FitzGerald as well," he says. "But I think at this stage we have reached a crossroads where if I had happened to be staying on in Cork camogie, there'd have to be a call made by our three dual players. I hate to say that because I have a dual background myself but it's just not physically possible. It doesn't help that you have two separate governing bodies that seem to work against each other more than they work with each other.")

Ask Ryan's former players how they viewed him and they'd all volunteer that he was a father figure. Ask Murray what he thinks his players would say and he knows he wouldn't evoke that sort of response, just as he didn't invite it. "They would probably say I'm quite cold. I suppose a manager can't be their friend. I wouldn't be an emotional character with them. But I would hope to think they would say that I was fair, honest. And that I gave it everything I had."

"When I took over you'd look at the other management set-ups that were out there and you'd study them. And even in the early months of 2013 I was fascinated with the Dublin football setup under Jim Gavin. His organisation, his planning for different scenarios that might arise in a game, which we would have done a lot ourselves, and just his emotional control and demeanour on match day."

"When I was younger, I would have been very emotional on the line. But it's something I worked on big time. I had to reinvent myself. And every year I stayed on with Cork camogie I had to reinvent myself. People would ask why you go back for another year to the camogie but the way I looked at was that every year I was learning and improving. I couldn't be the person I was the previous year."

IN 2021 Murray was again a different — better — manager to the one who had won another back-to-back All-Ireland in 2018.

"I brought two guys in that were very much arm-around-the-shoulder and very good with the players. Because players coming into the set-up now are different to players

who were coming in to me 10 years ago. I call them the Celtic Tiger babies — when they were naughty they were given an iPad. And those two guys were also able to relay to me things the players weren't happy about or wanted changed: They felt there were too many video sessions being done, so we had to get our message across in a different way."

Intuitively too, he was attuned that managing female players was different to managing male players. "I might be killed for saying this but the science shows that women are more emotional and value a social connection with each other more than men do. But if you give them an instruction and they buy into it, they will give it everything and do it, whereas in a men's dressing room there can be more egos."

"I think it's a shame that some coaches shy away from the female game. I'd say it to anyone: Go and train a female team because it puts you into a different environment where you have to learn quicker."

Now he's crossed over exclusively to the men's game after a couple of years coordinating Cork U15 and U16 hurling squads. Murray's appointment is a measure of Cork hurling's ambition — but also limitations. For all the talent there is in the county, he is able to provide an external and internal perspective which deems Cork has to up its game.

"I think as a county we're still a bit off it. Yes, there is an air of optimism and there are some good young players coming through, especially that exciting (2021) minor team. But I thought that optimism was too high going into the senior

final this year; I just couldn't see it happening."

"I've looked at a lot of games in the county the last couple of years, especially underage, and I know people talk about our conditioning isn't where it should be and I'd 100% agree with that, but I think there's a bigger issue in relation to how we coach and view the game. Coaches need to become more aware of how to teams set up."

"I was at a recent colleges match where a Cork team was playing a team from another county who set up with a very defensive structure. And the Cork team kept beating the ball down on top of them. My view is that the only reason someone

I think it's a shame some coaches shy away from the female game. I'd say it to anyone: Go and train a female team because it puts you into a different environment where you have to learn quicker

talks about a sweeper is because the opposition made that sweeper look good. We have a lot of educating to do on that side of things because it's still very pervasive, that old traditional Cork mentality to beat the ball down the field and use a 37-inch hurley."

And so he'll continue to go about his work in a non-traditional way. When he was over the U15 development squad, Murray ensured the net was spread as wide as to cover as many as 130 players, at least twice as many as normal. A similar principle will apply with the minors.

"We all know someone can come late to the party so why close the door on them prematurely? Even at 17 it's too early to judge whether they'll play (senior) for Cork. How many of them will play adult level with their club? That's the first real test. So it's about development first. I'm looking at young fellas who are very good but don't have the bulk of some guys who are beside them but less technically skilled as them."

"So it's important not to lose sight of the guy that needs to bulk up because that (bulk) is going to come."

Murray knows all about the long game. He's 51 now and yet for all his experience and nous, this is his first time over a men's Cork team. But he's been better for the wait. And so has Cork camogie.

Tribe duo battle Rebel star Looney for Player of the Year award

Stephen Barry

Three of the midfielders who faced off in the All-Ireland final have been nominated for the Camogie Association/GPA Senior Players' Player of the Year award.

Galway's Niamh Kilkenny, winner of the 2019 award, and her team-mate Aoife Donohue are short-listed alongside Cork's Hannah Looney.

Kilkenny scored two points in Galway's All-Ireland final victory over Cork, where Donohue added an inspirational point in a player of the match performance.

Dual star Looney scored two points in the other direction during that final, won 1-15 to 1-12 by the Tribeswomen.

"We saw how good Hannah Looney and Ashling Thompson were in the semi-final and that's why we put Aoife Donohue and Niamh there... we needed to go toe to toe with them in the middle of the field," said Galway manager Cathal Murray after the game.

"It was a brilliant battle because they all contributed and all got on a lot of ball... Four unbelievable athletes and four unbelievable players."

Players who are members of an inter-county panel participating in this year's Championship will now be invited to vote on their Player of the Year based on the final shortlists.

The overall winners will be announced on the night of the Camogie All-Stars Awards on November 26.

Camogie Association/GPA Senior Players' Player of the Year shortlist: Aoife Donohue (Galway), Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Hannah Looney (Cork).

Intermediate Players' Player of the Year shortlist: Sarah Crowley (Kilkenny), Maeve Kelly (Antrim), Roisin McCormick (Antrim).

Premier Junior Players' Player of the Year shortlist: Aileen Brennan (Wexford), Chloe Casha (Wexford), Ciara Donnelly (Armagh).

Paudie Murray is primed for the Cork minor hurling job

BY GER MCCARTHY

FOLLOWING a decade of glory at the helm of the Cork senior camogie team, Dunmanway-man Paudie Murray has gone in search of a new challenge.

At the time of writing, the four-time All-Ireland winning manager's next move has yet to be confirmed but he looks set to be named the county's new minor hurling manager in the coming days.

Having been involved with the Rebel Óg U16 boys for the past two years, Murray seems a perfect fit for the vacant minor role. Is a fresh start, albeit in a different if equally challenging position, something that Murray is relishing?

'This is obviously an area I am interested in getting into,' Murray informed *The Southern Star*.

'I have been working with the U16 (boys) this year. Look, you'd probably like to have things done differently but Covid was a major problem this and last year.'

'Would I like to go forward with them again? Absolutely but that is not my decision. It is a decision for the Cork County Board. I have got to respect that. The only thing I can say is that, if appointed, I will give it everything.'

'Was my time up with Cork camogie? It probably was. I always felt that a fresh voice was important. I'm very conscious that the next person coming in needs to make the standards even higher. Getting that person in there is going to be a major decision.'

'I have a connection there (with Cork camogie). I am ten years there and probably a lot of these players have grown up with me so I have major loyalties there still.' Paudie Murray makes a fair point as



A NEW DIRECTION

Cork won four All Ireland titles under Murray's stewardship. Credit: NPHO/Bryan Keane

Camogie has now become a really exciting game and probably a better watch than a lot of the hurling games

the demands and spotlight on modern day camogie, ladies football and GAA inter-county managers have never been more intense.

'I think it was easier (being a camogie manager) back along,' Murray said.

'My work is in the mortgage business. Back in 2012, we were going through a currency crisis and recession. The business was quiet compared to this year which has been extremely busy.'

'I still think that my energy levels probably weren't what they were two years ago. Trying to juggle work and giving it your all to Cork camogie outside of that, there is no doubt that there were weeks I had very

little sleep.'

Irrespective of what happens next, Murray's decision to step away from the Cork senior camogie panel he had developed such a strong bond with was not an easy one.

Interestingly, he says his mind was made up at the beginning rather than at the end of 2021.

'As I said, I've been involved with the Rebel Óg U16 (boys) hurling setup for the past two years. U15 last year, U16 this year and hoping to go further with them. If that was to be the case then this was going to be my last year with the Cork senior camogie team. So, look, my mind was made up fairly early.'

'I think we have left things in a very healthy state. It is a very young team, extremely young, if you judge it against the

top two, Galway and Kilkenny. Cork is, on average, five years younger per player.'

'I think there is a great culture within that setup now. I know for a fact that the players are looking to go back training straight away. Obviously, it is very important that whatever person comes in builds on that and what we have done. That is key from that side of things.'

Murray and his backroom team came within a whisker of winning the 2021 All-Ireland camogie final only to come up short to a more experienced Galway in the decider.

'The All-Ireland final loss has been difficult, there is no question about it and our management team is very hurt over it.'

'We were very close. Had we pulled it off I think it would have been, probably, our greatest victory. I don't think people from outside understand the difference in age between our Cork team versus Galway that day. The difference that makes on the pitch, physically, is that we were second best. Look, there is an age difference there and that is going to happen.'

'When we look back, our conversion rate was under 50%, there's was over 70% and there lies the problem. We created opportunities and just didn't

execute. That's hard to take.'

There is little doubt that Paudie Murray will be sorely missed within the Cork camogie community. The four-time All-Ireland winner helped raise the profile of the sport on a national level during his managerial tenure which began back in 2012.

Murray is leaving Cork camogie in a better state than he found it. So, what is his opinion of an evolving sport, both on and off the pitch, in 2021?

'The huge number of people that have stopped me in the street or texted me following this year's All-Ireland final would indicate the game has changed dramatically and for the better,' Murray said.

'Camogie has now become a really exciting game and probably a better watch than a lot of the hurling games. It can improve even more.'

'The Camogie Association needs a major shakeup. Probably a better calibre of people needs to get in there. I have said it a number of times, I think camogie needs to come under the GAA's umbrella. The sooner that happens, the better the game will grow. Until that happens, I think that things (change) will be slow.'

Murray is expected to takeover as Cork minor hurling manager



Camogie manager selection panel named

THE Cork Camogie Board has named a five strong panel that will decide who will replace Paudie Murray as the next Cork senior camogie manager.

The panel includes Cork camogie and football legend Rena Buckley, Board Liaison Marian McCarthy, former All-Ireland winning captain Linda Mellerick, ex-Limerick hurler Damien Quigley and Cork hurling great Ger Cunningham.

'It's a daunting challenge to follow in the footsteps of Paudie Murray and his team,' Cork Camogie chairperson Mariead Donovan said.

'As Cork is a premier county where Camogie is concerned, it is our duty to ensure those taking over the team build on the foundations that currently exist and bring us to the next level.'

'We, as a board, are excited to enter the next phase and we have no doubt, given the calibre of the panel, that the right person and team will lead Cork for the season ahead.'

Coppinger is shortlisted for All-Star

TEN members of the Cork camogie panel that reached the All-Ireland final last season have been nominated for All-Stars.



Cork dual star Libby Coppinger.

St Colums dual star Libby Coppinger is one of the ten listed and is nominated in the full-back line for her stellar performances throughout the season.

The 2021 Camogie Association All-Stars team will be announced at a gala banquet at the Osprey Hotel in Naas, Co. Kildare on Friday, November 26th subject to government guidelines.

The 2021 All-Stars team and Players' Player of the Year Awards will also be announced.

Other Cork nominees include Amy Lee, Laura Hayes, Laura Treacy, Saoirse McCarthy, Hannah Looney, Ashling Thompson, Chloe Sigerson, Katrina Mackey and Amy O'Connor.

All-Ireland champions Galway lead this year's nominations, with 12 players selected on the shortlist.

Kilbrittain-Timoleague claim U16 B county title

BY GER MCCARTHY

KILBRITTAI-TIMOLEAGUE and Clonakilty experienced contrasting Cork Camogie county championship fortunes last weekend.

The Kilbrittain and Timoleague amalgamation deservedly claimed the 2021 U16 B county title at the expense of Tracton in Castle Road.

Having come through an epic battle with fellow West Cork ri-

vals Barryroe the previous Monday, a county semi-final that required two periods of extra-time, Kilbrittain-Timoleague entered their county decider in confident mood.

Leading 2-1 to 1-2 at the interval, Kilbrittain-Timoleague moved up through the gears to claim a merited 3-9 to 1-6 victory.

Anna Crowley had an afternoon to remember for the new county champions by contrib-

uting 3-6 of her side's total.

Laura Sheehy added an additional 0-3 for a young Kilbrittain-Timoleague panel, the majority of whom will be back at the U16 grade once again next year.

Kilbrittain-Timoleague U16 panel: Rachel Warner, Katie Butler, Ellen Sexton, Isobel Bergin, Clíodhna Keohane, Eimear Hurley, Laura Sexton, Aoife O'Mahony, Niamh O'Mahony, Sinead Walsh, Laura Sheehy,



The Kilbrittain-Timoleague squad and mentors that won the 2021 Cork Camogie U16 B county title last weekend.

Caoimhe Moore (captain), Clíodhna Madden, Anna Crowley, Ciara Callaghan, Clodagh O'Sullivan, Alannah Rutherford, Ellen Cunningham, Kylie

O'Donovan and Ciara Walsh. Management: Paul Crowley, Denis O'Mahony, Raymond Hurley, Michelle Callaghan and Catriona Hurley.



Kilbree won the SE Systems Junior C camogie Championship.

Aghabullogue look to put disappointment of last year behind them

TODAY is a big day for Aghabullogue and Fr O'Neill's as they go in search of the SE Systems Intermediate camogie championship title in Castle Road at 3pm.

Defeated in last season's final, Aghabullogue have battled hard to again reach the decider as they bid to put that disappointment behind them.

All through the campaign they have shown huge determination and a will to get over the finishing line in all their games. In their opening game they overcame the challenge of Kilbrittain/Timoleague before going on to defeat Newtownshandrum in a battle to the finish where just one point separated the sides on a 1-11 to 3-4 score line.

They again had to show the same fighting spirit as they overcame Clonakilty to book a place in the final where they will meet a Fr. O'Neill's side who were knocked out at semi-final stage last season by eventual winners Enniskeane.

Aghabullogue are no strangers to Intermediate title success. They were crowned champions in 2012 and went up to Senior B grade but in 2018 the Senior B grade was abolished and they found themselves once again playing intermediate.

They reached the final in 2018 but lost out narrowly to their Mid Cork neighbours Eire Og.

Fr O'Neill's took the title in 2011 and there are five of that team still members of the current panel, Sarah and Kate Harrington, Rachel Steele, Yvonne Murphy, Nicola Nagle and Ciara McGrath, who was vice captain that day. Today she leads her club into the decider as captain.

Katie Ahern is now part of the management team having played in the 2011 decider, whilst Bridget Murphy was and still is on the management team.

They are a well-balanced outfit and have been impressive all through this campaign. In all sectors they possess players of huge ability, the excellent Cliona Healy who has steadily impressed at inter-county level with the Cork minor and Intermediate sides, and had now made the step up to be a member of the senior panel, has been one of the players who is hugely influential for Aghabullogue.

She is joined by Ciara McCarthy who featured with the Cork seniors in this season

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

All-Ireland championship, whilst the equally impressive Emma Flanagan, Julie Tarrant and Maebh Ring have also been to the fore for them, but the main threat to Fr O'Neill's will come from Healy and McCarthy and they will need to be able to contain the threat they will pose.

Fr O'Neill's route to the decider has seen them with a hard passage but they have answered all the hard questions when posed.

They have come through from the losers round section after they lost out to a very strong Blackrock side in their opening clash 1-11 to 1-7.

They brushed themselves down and got back to winning ways as they overcame Kilbrittain / Timoleague in the losers round clash to get their campaign back on track.

They went on to contest round three where they got the upper hand on Valley Rovers and onto to round four when they easily accounted for Brian Dillons. They turned the tables on Blackrock in a semi-final that was nip and tuck to the final whistle.

A first-half goal gave them a four-point interval lead and despite huge Blackrock pressure they held on to record a three point win and secure a place in today's final.

Clodagh Finn, Keelagh Cullinane, Sarah and Kate Harrington are hugely experienced players and they will lead the Fr O'Neill's challenge to take the title.

Both sides have impressed to date and have got over big challenges no more so that the ones posed by Newtownshandrum and Blackrock who would have been favoured to maybe go a step further but Aghabullogue and Fr O'Neill's ensured this did not happen.

The biggest test comes today as they both bid to be crowned champions. It should be a great final.

JUNIOR A

The replay of the SE Systems Junior A quarter final between Charleville and St Vincent's took place on Sunday last with Charleville advancing with two points to spare and now will meet Sliabh Rua on Monday in Castle Road in a bid to reach the final where Ballinora await.



Muskerry, winners of the 2007 camogie championship, the last division to lift the cup.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Inniscarra are a good model for camogie clubs

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick



A FEW weeks ago, I mentioned that a St Finbarr's versus Sarsfields final would be a good one.

I thought that, as I kept expecting Sars to find their mojo, it didn't happen.

Sars are just not exciting to watch at the moment. They are playing so flat it's hard to fathom. It's not so much that they lost their semi-final against Seandún last Saturday, it was the manner of the defeat.

Last year you wouldn't take too much notice of their under-performing. They were county champions and maybe they were still riding on the crest of their first title in 30 years. I felt their desire had temporarily left them. But after losing their title in 2020 you'd imagine that they'd come back this season all guns blazing, having tasted the vast canyon between winning and losing.

Sars should be like Inniscarra. They have been underage battle buddies all the way up. But there is no comparison in how the two teams now take to the field.

Sars scored just two goals on their way to last weekend's semi-final with Seandún. With one extra game, Inniscarra had scored 10. They made it 11 against St Finbarr's.

There's something to be said for losing your opening fixture with the way the championship is structured. Inniscarra had four games behind them heading into the semi-final last weekend.

The Barrs had just two after beating Inniscarra in their opening round and receiving a 'bye' into the semi. That undoubtedly played its part in their defeat.

It was Inniscarra's fifth game in as many weeks. For St Finbarr's, they just didn't hit form at all and you'd have to be disappointed for them after the effort they



Sarsfield goalkeeper Molly Lynch faces up to Hayley Ryan, Seandún, as she looks to clear off the line.

Picture: Larry Cummins

put in this year. But that's sport and it's all on the day.

So, we've an Inniscarra v Seandún final and I think this is going to be a great game tomorrow. Hopefully the weather stays dry, and the referee lets it run.

People have mixed views on divisional sides. Some feel it's unfair on clubs and they shouldn't be in competitions. I don't hold that view. I don't see many of the current players ever tasting senior club camogie in their career and they are more than capable of playing at that level.

Because of the catchment area of their club and by and large the small numbers within, they will remain at junior or intermediate for the foreseeable future. In fact, with the likes of Inniscarra, Eire Og, Sars, Douglas, Ballincollig and Carrigaline booming with underage players, the future of the city club is getting all the more concerning.

Should these players be denied a chance to compete with the best, to showcase their talent?

It's not as if divisional sides have been

dominating matters. It's 1994 since Seandún last made an appearance in a senior club final.

Muskerry beat the Barrs in the 2007 final. We haven't had a serious challenge from a divisional side for a long time and that's because it's just too difficult with the obstacles that are in their way with club camogie and, more recently, ladies' football.

Against all the odds Seandún have reached this year's county final. These girls are buzzing. It's huge for each one of them on a personal level and good luck to them tomorrow.

The commitment isn't always there when it comes to playing for your division, but this year all the girls have committed to the cause. They may not have trained collectively, but the effort they put in to wear the match day jersey is commendable. Manager Trevor Coleman, this week, gave some examples of the effort these girls have made.

"We played Newcestown and Blackrock's Carol Ryan got on a flight at 4am from London, flew into Dublin and drove down and played the game. Lauren Homan came home last weekend early from her holiday to line out with us in the semi-final.

"There's a great bond there, they just seem to have clicked. When Blackrock got beaten last Saturday in their championship semi-final, I was half expecting a phone call to say 'look Trevor, we're not turning up' but to be fair, they went home, knuckled down for the hour and came back and were rewarded.

"I don't think these girls realise exactly what they're after doing. Three matches nearly every weekend for a lot of them, two for the others, I just can't get over it and where it has come from.

"You can see the bond now. They have their arms around each other in huddles now whereas before they were standing apart."

It's the simple things that give the big signs.

Wallace rules himself out of Cork senior camogie job

Camogie

Eoghan Cormican

Jerry Wallace will not be putting his name forward for the position of Cork senior camogie manager and is instead remaining on as Cork minor boss.

Wallace, having guided Cork to back-to-back All-Ireland minor camogie titles in 2018 and 2019, was heavily linked with the senior post following Paudie Murray's decision to call time on his 10-year tenure earlier this

month, but he has confirmed to the *Irish Examiner* that he will not be applying for the senior gig.

The Midleton native and former Antrim senior hurling boss has committed to another two-year term as Cork minor camogie manager, at the end of which he will have been six years in the job.

Wallace's decision means Matthew Twomey, who was a selector in Paudie Murray's backroom team this season, is now the leading contender for the vacant post.

Who ends up getting the

nod to succeed Murray will be decided by a five-person selection committee made up of Cork hurling selector Ger Cunningham, Limerick's 1994 All-Star corner-forward Damien Quigley, 18-time All-Ireland winner Rena Buckley, six-time All-Ireland winner Linda Mellerick, and former Cork Camogie Board chairperson Marian McCarthy. The application process for interested parties opens next Monday, October 25.

"As Cork is a premier county where camogie is con-

cerned, it is our duty to ensure those taking over the team build on the foundations that currently exist and bring us to the next level. We have no doubt, given the calibre of the panel, that the right person and team will lead Cork for the season ahead," said Cork chairperson Mairead Donovan.

Elsewhere, Cork have secured 10 All-Star camogie nominations, two less than their All-Ireland final conquerors Galway. Among the dozen Galway nominees are All-Ireland winning captain

Sarah Dervan and midfielder Niamh Kilkenny, both of whom are chasing a seventh All-Star.

Cork's 10 nominees are goalkeeper Amy Lee, full-back Libby Coppinger, half-backs Laura Hayes, Laura Treacy, and Saoirse McCarthy, midfielders Hannah Looney and Ashling Thompson, and forwards Chloe Sigerson, Katrina Mackey, and Amy O'Connor.

Beaten semi-finalists Kilkenny and Tipperary picked up seven and five nominations respectively. Water-

ford's Shona Curran and Down's Niamh Mallon complete the 36-player shortlist. Galway's Cathal Murray was yesterday confirmed as the recipient of the 2021 Camogie Association Manager of the Year award. September's final win over Cork represented the second time in three years he steered Galway to All-Ireland glory.

The 2021 All-Star team will be announced at a banquet at the Osprey Hotel in Naas on Friday, November 26.

See Digest on Page 15 for full list of nominations

Kilbree camogie is on an upward path



The Kilbree junior camogie team who recently won the Junior C county title, beating Buttevant in the final.

CAMOGIE

John Bohane

KILBREE junior camogie team, who were only established in 2018, recently celebrated winning a Junior C County Championship title after they defeated Buttevant in the final.

Their success represents a great achievement for the fledgling adult team and augurs well for the future.

Kilmeen and Kilbree GAA Club PRO Marie Dorgan was thrilled with the nature of their triumph which saw them emerge victorious by 3-15 to 0-5.

"The team played as a cohesive unit on the day. There is a wonderful mix of experience and youth on this team. The final was a tough battle but the Kilbree ladies were always in control. Mairead Crowley was deservedly awarded the Player of the Match accolade. Her general play and free-taking were superb," Dorgan said.

Despite their adult team only being formed in 2018, Kilbree Camogie Club has experienced a lot of final heartache in the adult grade in the ensuing years. Dorgan said the players used this as a huge motivating factor before their county final clash against Buttevant.

"Kilbree were unlucky to lose to Castlemartyr in the 2018 championship. In 2019 the club lost the league final to Rockbawn after extra-time. However, a rejuvenated team defeated the same opposition in the county championship final in 2019. It was incredible to win a county title in the team's second year in existence.

"In 2020, Kilbree defeated St Fana-han's, Inniscarra, Na Piarasigh, and Kinsale to qualify for the Junior C final against a fancied Aghada side.

Despite being ahead and very much in contention for the entire match, Aghada pulled away to win in the last 10 minutes.

"The heartbreak of that loss drove Kilbree on this year. A depleted side lost to Castlemartyr in the county league semi-final after extra-time. Kilbree however saved the best for the championship. They beat a lot of good teams along the way to win the county title," she added.

Kilbree GAA Club is part of a very



Kilbree captain Sinead O'Donovan and Player of the Match Mairead Crowley celebrate after their county final victory.

vibrant community in Rossmore. The volunteer ethos is strong and there is great pride attached to representing their local club. The victorious team received a huge welcome home to Rossmore following their recent heroics said Dorgan.

"The team had very strong support from the general parish community and club members before the final and at the final. The close-knit community got right behind the girls in the quest for county glory.

"There was great pride in the community when the team captured the county title. The girls brought the cup home to great celebrations."

Kilbree were guided to championship glory by Sean O'Brien, Brian Deasy, and Pauric Reilly. The club PRO was full of praise for the talented trio.

"The three coaches have been great. They are very dedicated and work well with the players. The experienced coaching team did tremendous work with this team throughout the season.

"Capturing the county title was a just reward for their hard work and dedication."

Kilbree will be competing in the Junior B grade next season. The club official is confident they possess the quality and strength-in-depth to per-

form well in a higher grade.

"The team will move up a grade next year. They will be playing in the B grade. We have played teams from the B grade in challenge matches and other games. We have done very well in these games which is encouraging.

"Given the in-depth talent and experience within the squad, I am confident the team will perform well. Our immediate priority now is the Carbery Junior Championship which will be played in the coming weeks."

Kilbree Camogie Club was established in 2006. Camogie within the club is flourishing at present. The club boasts very strong numbers, very good facilities, good coaches, and a hard-working committee keen to drive them on. Their underage players have amassed great experience both for their club and school teams, while they have also achieved great success. The club is positioned well to enjoy a strong future.

"The club is in a good place. There is a strong mix of youth and experience in the junior squad. Fourteen of the county winning team are still U18. They have gained great experience in the last two years.

"There is great competition for places on the team. It is wonderful to have such a strong panel."

The club PRO said everyone in the club deserves to share in this latest county final triumph which is reflective of the hard work going on behind the scenes.

"Great work has been done by coaches and officers in developing the club to compete at all underage levels and now successfully at adult level. Numerous county and divisional titles have been won at U12, U14, minor, and now junior level which is a testament to all the hard work from the players, coaches, and committee members."

Dorgan is confident the club will continue to push on for more glory going forward.

"There is great enthusiasm among all officers, mentors, and players in our club. We have achieved great success in a short number of years. Numbers are very good at underage level and this should ensure a continuation of success at all levels. The club has had girls winning county, Munster, and All-Ireland titles with club, school, and Cork teams."

“The club is in a good place. There is a strong mix of youth and experience in the junior squad. Fourteen of the county-winning team are still U18.”



Rebecca Quigley drives forward for Inniscarra against St Finbarr's.

Picture: Larry Cummin

Surprise finalists could serve up a cracking contest



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

SUNDAY, SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship final: Inniscarra v Seandún, Castle Road, 3.30pm.

COUNTY final Sunday sees Inniscarra face Seandún, a pairing no one could have predicted at the start of this season.

Inniscarra looked tired in last year's final. Understandably, it was their fifth final in a row, after a long time on the road.

We felt that it would be a few years before we saw them back in a final. It wouldn't take long; such is their underage strength, but not in 2021. Scarra legend Rena Buckley is also unavailable, as she is expecting, so they were written out of contention.

Seandún, as a divisional side, were something of an unknown entity. They haven't been in the latter stages of the competition for a long time, Carbery probably going the furthest in the last 14 years, reaching the quarter-final in 2019, losing by a point after extra-time to Sarsfields, who went on to win the championship.

This year was harder for Seandún, with intermediate and junior games all within 24 hours of the divisional side's championship outing. Some were the same day. They had talent on paper, but that wins you nothing unless the commitment and a bond is there.

Both sides lost their opening rounds and coincidentally turned the tables on their slayers in the knockout stages, Seandún taking St Catherine's in the quarter-final and Inniscarra defeating St Finbarr's in the semi last weekend.

Based on last weekend's performances, this game has the ingredients of a thriller. Both sides are ripe with talent; they play



Seandún captain Lauren Homan takes a free against Sarsfields.

Picture: Larry Cummins

fast, and both will attack the game. Inniscarra took the game to the Barrs last weekend from the throw-in, Aileen Sheehan goaling inside two minutes.

Yes, they batted down the hatches in the second half. With a six-point lead and against the swirling wind that prevails in Castle Road, every team would do it.

The way to counteract that is pick off scores from further out, often not as easy as it seems in club camogie, but Seandún certainly have that ability, hitting some wonderful scores from distance last weekend.

Seandún have strength in every line. Starting with Cork senior goalkeeper Amy Lee, a good shot-stopper, alert off her line and very strong on puckouts. They've a solid defence in Courtney O'Keeffe, Carol Ryan, and Niamh O'Leary holding centre-back.

Nicole Crean and Blackrock's Katelyn Hickey, who had a fine game against Sars on the back of losing their intermediate championship semi-final only hours before, and Susan Kate Brosnan — who didn't start the last day but came in and

had a big impact around the middle of the field. She may start, but if not, is sure to make an appearance early on.

Up front they are packed with talent — captain Lauren Homan, having a fine season, Hayley Ryan, Amy O'Connor, Roisin De Faoite, and Brian Dillons' Sinead Mills. All good workers off the ball and all capable of scoring. They looked very slick in the opening half in their semi-final. Seandún tired in the third quarter and Sars hit a purple patch after half time. They'll be fresher this week.

Seandún had seven scorers in their 1-15 last Saturday, 1-11 from play. Inniscarra had three in their scored 1-11, 1-7 from play.

We're all familiar with Inniscarra at this stage. They are so experienced and the hunger they will bring is unquestionable.

Where will Joanne Casey and Aileen Sheehan line up? They both cover huge ground. Aileen was listed at left half forward in the semi-final, she played on the right, scored her goal from the left corner, and dropped back in the second half. Joanne was named at full-forward yet played deep particularly in the second half where she gathered ball defensively and tore up the right-wing alleviating pressure and creating attacks.

Inniscarra's defence was excellent against the Barrs. They'll need to bring that to the table again.

Midfield is going to be a key area and a great battle awaits between Katie O'Mahony, who is such an engine for Inniscarra, and Rosie O'Mahony against Nicole Crean or Katlyn Hickey and Michelle Murphy or Susan Kate Brosnan. Claudia Keane is versatile, but I'd expect her to be in an attacking role.

It brings me back to 1994 where I'd say it was the first time every neutral supporter wanted a divisional side to win when Seandún took on five-in-a-row chasing Glen Rovers in the final. What a cracker that was.

The club prevailed. Will they do the same on Sunday?

also shown improvement with every outing and with less complications this week will be formidable opposition.

Amy O'Connor, Amy Lee, Niamh O'Leary, Nicole Crean, Katlyn Hickey, Roisin De Faoite and Hayley Ryan impressed in the semi-final but they will need to be as good again this time round, and avoid a period in the game in which they were outplayed and outscored before regaining their composure and seeing off a determined Sars side in the semi-final.

Inniscarra were well in control in their win over a fancied St Finbarr's in their semi-final and the experienced gained in successive campaigns will stand them especially in a tight contest.

Joanne Casey, Claudia Keane, Aileen Sheehan, Katie O'Mahony, Aine O'Regan and Ciara Ring have what it takes to win games of this magnitude.

The make-up of the Inniscarra team may have evolved with the passing of time in recent years but what has not changed has been their work-rate, team spirit and that should be good enough to win what has the makings of an intriguing encounter.

In the Intermediate Final on Saturday at 3pm, it's Fr O'Neills and Aghabullogue, while in the Junior Final on Monday, Charleville play Sliabh Rua.

Cork Camogie have set up an interesting sub-committee to begin the search for a new senior manager. It includes former All-Ireland winning captains Glen Rover's Linda Mellerick, Inniscarra's Rena Buckley, Marion McCarthy — current Treasurer of the Board, Cork hurling selector Ger Cunningham and former Limerick senior hurler Damien Quigley. We wish them well in their endeavours.

Camogie Senior Final

Castle Road, the superb complex of the Cork Camogie Board has been a hive of activity in recent weeks and that continues this weekend with no less than three finals down for the decision.

The big one is the SE Systems County Senior Final featuring Seandún versus Imokilly on Sunday at 3.30pm.

This is Inniscarra's sixth final in a row, winning just two of the last five, and they will be anxious to improve on that ratio on Sunday and certainly the improvement they have shown since losing their first round tie would suggest they are in a good position to do just that.

However Seandún have



MOLLY LYNCH OF CORK, AFTER WINNING THE M. DONNELLY GAA ALL-IRELAND WOMEN'S POC FADA FINAL

Seandún rule in Cork



Seandún captain Lauren Homan with the trophy at Castle Road. Picture: Howard Crowdy

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

SEANDÚN captain Lauren Homan paid tribute to the efforts of all the clubs across the city division as they captured the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship with a 2-11 to 0-13 win over Inniscarra.

Homan's St Vincent's team-mate Amy O'Connor played a crucial part in delivering a title in the division's first senior final appearance in 27 years, hitting goals in either half.

However, it really was a squad effort, with many players in action across the weekend for their clubs in other competitions.

Homan was overcome with emotion at Castle Road as she gave her reaction.

"It's just unbelievable to have won a senior county championship, it's been a dream come through for me personally to captain the team, when I was asked by Trevor the team manager to take on the role earlier in the year I was shocked but delighted to do it.

"Every player gave it everything out there today and all through the campaign we have had to dig deep, a lot of times we have had to play two games a week with our club and divi-



Seandún captain Lauren Homan celebrates with her teammates following their victory over Inniscarra in Castle Road. Picture: Howard Crowdy

sion but everybody did it."

Indeed she believed the demanding schedule left the players battle-hardened and bonded.

"We only got together twice for training sessions as a group so it wasn't easy but we did what we had to do and it all came together."

She paid tribute to Inniscarra, in their sixth final in a row but losing for the third season in succession.

"Inniscarra are a good club team, they really came back into the game and had us under pressure when they got our lead back to two points

but we rallied and our second goal gave us a big boost and I think it probably knocked them a bit as they had come back from being six points down."

Homan went to school with many of the Scarra players, as she resides in the parish and knows how much camogie means out there.

"I know a lot of the Inniscarra girls well as I went to school with some of them and they are a great club and they played their part in a great game."

■ See inside for report.

History makers Seandún land first Cork senior camogie crown

Cork Senior Camogie Championship final

Seandún	2-11
Inniscarra	0-13

Ger McCarthy
Castle Road

Two Amy O'Connor goals helped Seandún claim their first Cork senior camogie championship title following a four-point defeat of Inniscarra at Castle Road yesterday afternoon.

The divisional side put the seal on a remarkable campaign by denying an Inniscarra team appearing in their sixth consecutive county decider.

Seandún's players, many of whom represented their junior or intermediate clubs on the same day or within 24 hours of lining out for their division, deserve every accolade. Inniscarra fought every inch of the way but a goal in either half from Cork's Amy O'Connor plus a late Amy Lee penalty save ensured the cup would reside with Seandún.

"It is absolutely unbelievable," Seandún manager Trevor Coleman said shortly after the final whistle.

"What these girls have put themselves through on behalf of their division and now they have gotten exactly what they deserved. They are an absolute credit to all concerned.

"Most of all they are a credit to Camogie. Everything they were asked to do, they went and did it, over and above



Seandún celebrate after capturing the Cork Senior Camogie Championship trophy after a 2-11 to 0-13 win over Inniscarra in the final at Castle Road. Picture: Howard Crowdy

what was asked of them. They are an inspiration, to be honest."

The eventual winners had the benefit of a strong wind on a heavy Castle Road pitch in the opening half. The division made full use of the elements with five different scorers creating a 0-5 to 0-1 lead after 8 minutes.

Nicole Crean (free), Amy O'Connor, Sinead Mills, Katelyn Hickey, and Lauren Homan handed their side the best possible start. Unable to get into any rhythm, Inniscarra relied on two Joanne Casey

efforts (one free) to stay in touch.

Inniscarra reminded their opponents of their scoring threat when Cork goalkeeper Amy Lee denied Aileen Sheehan a goal after 14 minutes.

Seandún's response was swift with Lauren Homan landing a long-range free before the same player released Amy O'Connor. The corner-forward cut in past two defenders and found the net to make it 1-6 to 0-2 just shy of the quarter hour.

The remainder of a fiercely contested opening half saw In-

niscarra take advantage of five Seandún wides to reduce the deficit. Sinead Mills and Nicole Crean (free) added to the leaders total but two Joanne Casey frees and a superb Katie O'Mahony effort meant Seandún led 1-8 to 0-5 at the break.

Inniscarra dominated the third quarter with Joanne Casey (one 45 and two frees), Katie O'Mahony and Aileen Sheehan scores making it a 2-point game after 46 minutes.

Seandún were struggling to recreate their first half form when Amy O'Connor billowed

the net to make it 2-9 to 0-10 at the final water-break. A cracking closing quarter saw Amy Lee save a penalty at one end before having her own penalty stopped by Caoimhe Buckley. In the end, Seandún withstood a late Inniscarra fightback to take the title.

Scorers for Seandún: A O'Connor (2-1), N Crean (0-3, 0-3 frees), L Homan (0-3, 0-1 frees), S Mills (0-2), K Hickey and R de Folle (0-1 each).

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey (0-6, 0-1 45', 0-5 frees), K O'Mahony (0-2), A Sheehan, C Keane and N Dilworth (0-1 each).

SEANDÚN: A Lee (Na Piarasigh); C O'Keefe (St. Vincent's), C Ryan (Black-

rock), N O'Connor (Na Piarasigh); M Scannell (Bishopstown), N O'Leary (B Dillons), L McKeogh (Blackrock); N Crean (St. Vincent's), K Hickey (Blackrock); L Homan (captain, St. Vincent's), M Murphy (Blackrock), H Ryan (Blackrock); S Mills (Brian Dillon), R de Folle (Blackrock), A O'Connor (St. Vincent's).

Subs: N Crean (St. Vincent's) for M Scannell (38), L O'Neill (Bishopstown) for L McKeogh (54, inj), C Coleman (Na Piarasigh) for S Mills (60).

INNISCARRA: C Buckley; A O'Regan, C Ring, C Looney, R O'Mahony, E Looney, A Kavanagh (captain); M Lyons, K O'Mahony; R Quigley, J Casey, C Keane; A McCarthy, A Sheehan, G O'Loughlin.

Subs: J Burke for A McCarthy (48), N Dilworth for G O'Loughlin (38), L Desmond for R O'Mahony (52).

Referee: Niall O'Neill (Midleton)

Coleman: Players showed huge pride

Reaction

■ Mary Newman

TREVOR Coleman from the Na Piarsaigh club had the honour of managing the Seandún side who captured the title at Inniscarra's expense.

He was absolutely thrilled that his charges got over the line, rising to the occasion in what was the city division's first senior final appearance in 27 years, against a Scarra outfit playing in their sixth successive decider.

"We are really delighted to win and to bring the title to the city clubs," said Coleman.

"There are girls playing here today who would have been playing senior for the first time but they set about playing with the division and they showed huge pride in representing their club.

"It's been a hard task but we took each game as it came and game by game we got more confidence.

"With divisional sides, it's hard to get together but the girls worked away and played with their clubs.

"Some of them played two games a week but they did it and never once did they give out they just got on with it."

Seandún played with the wind in the first half and settled quickly and Coleman was happy with the opening 30 minutes.

"We picked off some great points and it settled us and with the wind in our favour we pressed for scores.

"We knew they would come out strong in the second half and they did."

As Coleman expected, Inniscarra came at them in the second half and his side were pinned to their collars to hold their lead.

Amy O'Connor's ability to raise green flags, so often in evidence for Cork, was a critical factor in such a tight game at Castle Road.

"We led at the break by two goals but they really upped the pace in the second half," said Coleman.

"When they got it down to two points we were under pressure but Amy O'Connor grabbed a vital goal and it turned the game back in our favour.

"Amy has an eye for goal and today she got two that were the difference in the finish.

"All year I had been saying to her pop the ball over the bar, 'take the point' but today we said go for it any chance you get and she did.

"I am delighted for the girls and for all who worked with us to make it happen for Seandún."

Amy Lee also made a penalty save coming down the stretch when the Muskerry outfit were throwing everything they had at Seandún to rescue the game. Lee actually had a penalty of her own denied by Scarra keeper Caoimhe Buckley, but it didn't matter given their advantage in the closing stages.



Seandún celebrate capturing the senior camogie title following their 2-11 to 0-13 win over Inniscarra at Castle Road.

Pictures: Howard Crowdy

Seandún hold off Inniscarra in final

Seandún	2-11
Inniscarra	0-13

Camogie

■ Linda Mellerick

SEANDÚN are the SE Systems Cork senior camogie champions after a pulsating final in Castle Road.

There was high drama in the closing minutes with two penalties, first to Inniscarra, then to Seandún, and both were saved. Had Inniscarra goaled, it would have left just two points between the sides but Amy Lee stood tall.

The ball went up the field, Seandún won a penalty. You'd imagine Seandún would put the ball over the bar to make it a six-point gap. Instead, Lee was called up to go for goal but Caoimhe Buckley denied her.

Scarra came on the attack again and Claudia Keane and Niamh Dilworth hit points until a Nicole Crean free made it a four-point advantage and then the final whistle sounded.

Playing against a strong wind, and squinting into the blinding sun in the first half, Inniscarra put seven, at times eight, behind the ball. They're

very strong on the break and hit a strong patch after the first water break, with two points on the trot before Sinead Mills settled her side with an important point for Seandún.

Seandún started well and aided by that forceful wind, they hit five on the bounce in response to a Joanne Casey free, through Crean (f), Amy O'Connor, Mills, Katlyn Hickey, and Lauren Homan.

Scarra got to grips with the wind and picked up a lot of breaking ball. However, as their packed defence drove high ball out Seandún centre-back Niamh O'Leary was very strong and in the corner, Courtney O'Keefe was tight and tenacious.

Inniscarra needed to keep the gap tight before getting the wind and it was working for them until Lauren Homan passed up the line to Amy O'Connor who rattled the net: 1-6 to 0-2 at the

water break. Inniscarra won the second quarter. Joanne Casey (f) and Katie O'Mahony struck over two before Sinead Mills hit another settling point. Casey and Nicole Crean swapped points to make it 1-8 to 0-5 at the break.

Katie O'Mahony's point straight after the restart added to by a Casey 45 left four between them. The pressure was now on Seandún as Inniscarra drove forward.

Kathlyn Hickey and Michelle Murphy did Trojan work around the middle of the field and Player of the Match Niamh O'Leary foiled, intercepted, and broke out with the ball time and again to alleviate the pressure. Inniscarra will rue five second-half wides.

There were two points between the sides entering the final quarter. Susan Kate Brosnan added impetus for Seandún when introduced but Inniscarra were in the ascendancy and looked fresher.

Their hard work was dashed when Amy O'Connor's patience inside paid

off, and she hit the net for the second time.

The drama of the final quarter had the large crowd roaring on both sides. Two penalties, two saves, three points in injury time, before referee Niall O'Neill signalled the end and the celebrations began.

Scorers for Seandún: A O'Connor 2-1, N Crean 0-3 (f), L Homan 0-3 (0-1 f), S Mills 0-2, R De Faite, K Hickey 0-1 each.

Inniscarra: J Casey 0-8 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), K O'Mahony 0-2, A Sheehan, C Keane, N Dilworth 0-1 each.

SEANDÚN: A Lee (Na Piarsaigh); C O'Keefe (St Vincent's), C Ryan (Blackrock), N O'Connor (Na Piarsaigh); M Scannell (Bishopstown), N O'Leary (Brian Dillon's), L McKeogh (Blackrock); N Crean (St Vincent's), K Hickey (Blackrock); L Homan (St Vincent's), M Murphy (Blackrock), H Ryan (doj); S Mills (Brian Dillon's), R De Faite (Blackrock), A O'Connor (St Vincent's).

Subs: S K Brosnan (Brian Dillon's) for M Scannell (39), L O'Neill (Bishopstown) for L McKeogh (54), C Coleman (Na Piarsaigh) for S Mills (61).

INNISCARRA: C Buckley, A O'Regan, C Ring, C Looney, C Keane, E Looney, A Kavanagh; R O'Mahony, K O'Mahony, A McCarthy, R O'Quigley, A Sheehan; G O'Loughlin, J Casey, M Lyons.

Subs: J Burke for A McCarthy (h-t), N Dilworth for G O'Loughlin (38), L Desmond for R O'Mahony (52). **Referee:** N O'Neill (Midleton).



Mairead O'Donovan, Cork County Camogie Board chair, presents the cup to Seandún captain Lauren Homan.

>>> Linda Mellerick with the player of the match, Niamh O'Leary.



O'Neill's boss is overjoyed with win

REACTION

■ Mary Newman

FR O'NEILL'S manager Billy Harrington was drenched to the skin but smiling broadly after a superb effort from his side as a hard-earned victory over Aghabullogue.

"They are absolutely fantastic girls, this is my second year involved with the team and to be honest it is a pleasure to be involved with them.

"They really worked so hard and it was not alone today as we carved out this win but all year they have been excellent and they really deserve this title.

"It has been a strange season with Covid restrictions and everything but we really got back moving in May and from then until today every single one of them gave everything in the quest of taking the title."

Having lost out in their opening game to Blackrock, Harrington said revealed they didn't panic.

In fact, it probably helped the players and panel focus on the standards needed to be set to get their hands on the intermediate title.

"We lost out to an excellent Blackrock side in the first game of championship by three points and on the day we were minus a few players through injury and in all fairness there was little between us.

"So we knuckled down and worked hard, this team have had roughly 80 training sessions and we played a lot of game in preparation for championship.

"We had some excellent game in Waterford against top-class opposition and all these game helped us build a good bond and more importantly got us match-fit."

Having played with the aid of the strong wind and driving rain in the opening half Fr O'Neill's really had to work hard to protect their lead as Aghabullogue came out for the second half with the elements in their favour.

Their manager had huge faith in his charges and knew they would fight to the finish.

"On a day like today it's always a gamble: do you play with the wind and try to get ahead or do you close down shop and then go for it in the second half?"

"I'm always of the opinion go for it in the first half if you get the chance and then protect it if you are ahead.

"We really had to do that today but to their credit, every one of our girls stood up and were counted.

"They worked really hard to contain the strong Aghabullogue challenge."

Losing such a tight game was tough to take for the Muskerry outfit, 2-6 to 0-11, but goals often win games and they certainly did at rain-soaked Castle Road.

Fr O'Neill's claim intermediate title

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

FR O'Neill's 2-6
Aghabullogue 0-11

THE Nano Nagle Cup will rest in East Cork this winter after Fr O'Neill's bridged a 10-year gap to be crowned SE Systems Intermediate Champions in horrific weather conditions in Castle Road.

Playing with the gale-force wind in their favour in the opening 30 minutes O'Neill's laid the foundations for victory and in the second half they really batted down the hatches adding just a point to their tally but just how important that point was as in the finish it was the score that separated the sides.

Playing against the howling wind Cliona Healy fired Aghabullogue into an early lead. Yvonne Murphy replied before Aghabullogue stretched it with two points as Emma Flanagan and Ella Foley hit the target.

Digging deep and playing with huge determination, Fr O'Neill's drove forward. Keelagh Cullinane scored and by the end of the opening quarter, they hit the front with Yvonne Murphy's long-range free going all the way to the net.

The weather deteriorated but both sides worked hard. The Aghabullogue defence had their hands full as O'Neill's continued to push forward with the elements in their favour.

The sides exchanged frees through Kate Harrington and Cliona Harrington but the East Cork side led by a goal on 25 minutes.

With Yvonne Murphy, Claire O'Brien and Kate Harrington to the fore, O'Neill's were on top and they grabbed a vital goal four minutes before the interval as O'Brien finished Yvonne Murphy's long-range free to the net.

They were turning into the wind in the second half but had a two-goal advantage: 2-5 to 0-5.

The second half was all about grind-



Fr O'Neill's celebrate after defeating Aghabullogue in the SE Systems Nano Nagle Cork Intermediate Camogie final at Castle Road.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

ing out a result. The rain came teeming down but the intensity of the contest increased too.

O'Neill's dropped Clodagh Finn back as they set about containing the Aghabullogue attack. Meadhbh Ring pointed to cut the deficit five minutes into the half but Keelagh Cullinane replied for O'Neill's.

From then on it was about protecting their lead, as Aghabullogue pushed forward. Cliona Healy converted a free and it took a superb save from keeper Nicola Nagle to deny Emma Flanagan, as Nagle got her hurley to the ball and deflected it over the bar at a crucial time in the contest.

Flanagan caused problems for the Fr O'Neill's rearguard and at the sec-

ond water break, it was 2-6 to 0-9.

Aghabullogue were far from out of it. Ciara McCarthy and Healy scored as the O'Neill's tried to batten down the hatches, excellently marshalled well by captain Clara McGrath, Aoife Higgins, Rachel Steele and goalkeeper Nicola Nagle.

With eight minutes on the stopwatch left Healy split the posts to leave just a point between the sides. The finale was frantic as Aghabullogue battled furiously for an equaliser and Fr O'Neill's brought all bar two players behind the ball as they dug deep to protect their lead.

They survived, with *The Echo* Player of The Match Yvonne Murphy

in the thick of the action as they worked the ball to safety to the sound of the full-time whistle.

Scorers for Fr O'Neill's: K Cullinane 0-4 (0-3 f), Y Murphy 1-1 (1-0 f), C O'Brien 1-0, K Harrington 0-1.

Aghabullogue: C Healy 0-5 (0-2 f), E Flanagan 0-3.

A Twomey, E Foley, M Ring 0-1 each.

Fr O'Neill's: N Nagle, S Murphy, C McGrath, L Lawton, A Higgins, S Harrington, R Steele, Y Murphy, C Finn, C O'Brien, K Cullinane, D Corcoran, C O'Doherty, K Harrington, A Dalton.

Subs: E Fitzpatrick for A Dalton (44), N Cowhig for C Finn (in 53).

AGHABULLOGUE: L Cooney, C O'Connell, M Cotter, E O'Shea, E Curtin, M Ring, A Barrett, R Barrett, C McCarthy, A Twomey, E Flanagan, J Crowley, C Healy, J Tarrant, E Foley.

Subs: K Honchan for A Twomey (55), N Barry-Murphy for J Crowley (55), B Cotter for R Barrett (59).

Referee: Fionn Ó Murchú (Valley Rovers).



Fr O'Neill's Nicola Nagle and Deirdre Corcoran celebrate after defeating Aghabullogue.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Sr Lelia Finn presents the Nano Nagle Cup to Fr O'Neill's captain Clara McGrath.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cracking final on the cards at Castle Road

THE last adult championship semi-final of 2021 saw Charleville edge out Sliabh Rua in a close contest where just a point separated the sides at the final whistle.

Charleville will meet Ballinora in the final today at 3pm in Castle Road.

On their paths to today's clash both have impressed, Charleville had a point to spare over Sliabh Rua in round one in a high-scoring contest where they had to fight to the finish to secure their place in round four where they had to meet St Vincent's twice.

In the first game with Charleville, St Vincent's were leading by eight with two minutes remaining but the game had to be abandoned due to an injury to a St Vincent's player.

In the replay, Charleville had to dig deep before securing a narrow victory and a place in the semi-final where they again had to show huge determination to once again overcome the challenge of Sliabh Rua and again they did it with just a point to spare.

They have some excellent players in Fiona Nelligan, Kathleen Dore, Molly Jackman, Sophia Hudner and Alex O'Keefe and they will put in a huge effort in their clubs bid

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

to take the title.

Ballinora overcame Tracton in their opening round game to advance to round four where they had to much strength for Sarsfields.

They went on to turn in another impressive display as they hit 21 points against Mallow to secure their place in today's decider.

Since winning the Junior B title in 2019, Ballinora have settled in well to the Junior A grade and with the league title already secured, they will be looking to make it a double and their bid to achieve this will be led by captain Aoife Nic Abhaird, Rose Murphy, Cliona Dooley, Kate O'Shea and Alannah Linehan in a game that is sure to bring a big crowd to Castle Road.

MINOR

The SE Systems Minor championships are continuing and dates are set for the finals in all four grades.

In the Premier minor championship, Sarsfields overcame Eire Og to book their place in the final where they will meet Aghabullogue who had a semi-final victory over Enniskeane.



Ballinhassig, were Premier U14 county championship winners.

The final will go ahead on November 7.

In the SE Systems Minor A championship, Cloughdov secured their place in the final with victory over Sarsfields 2.

They have to wait to find out who their opponents will be after Glen Rovers and Milford/Ballyhea failed to be separated after extra time in a high scoring contest in Milford on Monday last.

That replay goes ahead this weekend in Glen Rovers with the winners meeting Cloughdov on November 7th.

In the SE Systems Minor B championship, BallinacCarthy overcame Carrigtwihill to advance to a final meeting with Tracton, who had a semi-final win over Ballinhas-

sig. That final will take place next Saturday.

The SE Systems Minor C championship final is also down for decision on the same day. Here, Erin's Own will meet Barryroe. Erins Own overcame Nemo Rangers to make it to the final with Barryroe recording a victory over Grenagh in their respective semi finals.

UNDERAGE

There has been huge underage activity all through the season at underage level and in recently weeks there have been with finals in championships and leagues competitions taking place.

In the Premier U14 championship final, Ballinhassig took the titles amid tremen-

dous excitement as they had a 5-7 to 2-10 victory over Eire Og.

In the U14 A championship decider, Kilbrittain/Timoleague had a 4-8 to 3-5 victory over Middleton to take the title home.

The U14 B championship final was a close affair and in a high scoring battle it was Sliabh Rua who came out on top as they defeated Newtownshandrum 3-13 to 2-10.

Kilworth and Nemo Rangers contested the Under 14 C championship final with Kilworth coming out on top with six points to spare, 2-4 to 1-1.

At under 16 level Eire Og and Sarsfields were due to contest the Premier final last

weekend but this was cancelled due to weather conditions making the pitch unplayable.

The U16 Premier 2 Championship title was won by Cloughdov as they defeated Middleton 2-9 to 0-7.

Enniskeane had five points to spare when they defeated Na Piarasigh to take the Under 16A championship title.

The U16 B championship title went to Kilbrittain/Timoleague, defeating Tracton 3-9 to 1-6, whilst Kinsale defeated Banteer to take the Under 16 C Championship title.

A lot of titles have been decided and there are still more to come as the push to get everything completed continues.



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

HISTORY was made by Seandún last Sunday with their first senior camogie championship title.

It was 1994 that they last appeared in a final, defeated by five in a row chasing Glen Rovers.

Prior to this the divisional sides to have taken the title were Muskerry (1933 & 2007), Carrigdhoun (2004) and Imokilly (1947 and 1972-1976).

The euphoria which surrounded the victory within the Seandún camp I think surprised even them. It meant an enormous amount. I popped into St. Vincents last Sunday evening, home of captain Lauren Homan, where the team celebrated, and it was absolutely rocking. There were club players present from Vincents and in fact, at the game there were many mentors and club teammates of the players cheering them on and undoubtedly inspired. This win was huge for junior and intermediate city clubs, and with the same team available next season, they'll be all out for back-to-back titles. There will be other club players now eager to get on this team. They'll realise that they too can play at the top level in Cork and that in turn will improve clubs as it raises standards.

Seandún started with flair and it was in the first quarter that they won this game. They led 1-6 to 0-2 on fifteen minutes.

Inniscarra won the second quarter 3 points to 2 and in general play Inniscarra had got to grips with the game and the sides were evenly matched outfield. But in the third quarter Inniscarra were well on top and won it five points to one. During that period Seandún were struggling around the middle of the field with Inniscarra running at them and seemingly having an extra player at times. Seandún looked to be tiring in

County win means so much to Seandún girls



Seandún and Blackrock players are in fine voice as they celebrate their County senior camogie title success following a fantastic win over Inniscarra in the final, which was played at Castle Road. Picture: Howard Crowdy

that middle third —Katie O'Mahony's engine was again to the forefront. I thought Seandún's half back line in particular were very good during that onslaught, Niamh O'Leary getting player of the match and Carol Ryan also having a fine game alongside Courtney O'Keefe further back.

Inniscarra scored 11 goals coming into this final. They had goaled in every game. So, holding Inniscarra goalless had a huge say in Seandún's win and to give her credit Amy Lee brought off a couple of lovely saves and saved a crucial penalty.

Seandún's forwards were seeing very little of the ball at that stage and

then out of the blue, a couple of attacks, and Amy O'Connor with probably her second touch of the ball in that second half scores the goal that sealed the match for Seandún.

It wasn't even the fact that it gave them a five-point lead with 12 minutes of normal time remaining. It swung the outfield battle because

Lauren Homan followed it up with a free and Inniscarra only managed one further point in that 12 minutes (before injury time where they hit two) whereas they had hit five in the first sixteen minutes after half time.

The penalties — I don't know what either of them were awarded for. The penalty Seandún conceded I can only assume was for mouthing. Had that gone in, this game could have had a different outcome.

There was five points in it. That would have made it two and Inniscarra would have bombarded Seandún. Then Inniscarra conceded a penalty at the other end.

The mind boggles as to why Amy Lee was called up to go for goal, and she was called up to go for it, otherwise there was 14 other players that could have tapped the ball over the bar from 21 yards. That too was saved by Inniscarra keeper Caoimhe Buckley.

It's tough on Inniscarra. They've lost the last three finals and that's hard to take. For Seandún it was a dream come true for these players and may they enjoy the celebrations. Incidentally — a bit of trivia. Niamh O'Leary's mother Karen O'Leary (Mellerick) played at left half back on the last Seandún team to reach the final, in 1994.

On the All Star nominee selection — I think Cork's representation of ten players is fair enough except for Meabh Cahalane. I thought she had a consistent and solid season and she has a right to feel disappointed at being left out.

Charleville drive on in final quarter to claim title

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Charleville 2-9
Ballinora 1-8

IN a thrilling SE Systems Junior A camogie final, a storming last quarter from Charleville was enough to see them take the title after a great battle with Ballinora. At the interval there was only a point in it as Ballinora led 1-2 to 0-4 and at the second water break there was still only a point separating the sides. Two goals from Charleville in the last quarter gave them a firm advantage and while Ballinora responded with two points, and despite huge pressure in the closing stages, the Charleville defence stood firm. Played in glorious weather conditions on Castle Road, Ballinora opened the scoring with a free from Kate O'Shea inside two minutes. Charleville responded with points from play from Alma Jones and Kate Liddy, and with Fiona Nelligan converting a free, they led at the first water break 0-3 to 0-1. They extended their lead with a point from Jones but, battling to gain a grip, Ballinora responded



Charleville, the SE Systems Cork Junior A Camogie champions.

with another O'Shea free before they hit the front with a goal on 22 minutes from Claire Dooley. Both defences came under a lot of pressure, but they held firm to the half-time whistle where Ballinora held the narrowest of leads, 1-2 to 0-4. On the resumption, Charleville were quickly back on level terms thanks to a point from Liddy, but Ballinora responded and went two points clear with Rose Murphy converting twice, from a

free and a penalty. Amid huge excitement, Charleville responded and again it was all square with two points on the trot from Nelligan frees. The sides remained deadlocked as Siobhan O'Regan pointed to put Ballinora ahead and Nelligan again levelled and a point from O'Regan just before the second water break had Ballinora a point clear, 1-6 to 0-8. Both sides continued to give it their all as the final quarter got

underway and the Mid Cork side led by two points on the resumption courtesy of Dooley's score. Charleville responded with Nelligan converting another free. They hit the front and went a point clear with a goal from Liddy before Jones found the back of the net soon after. Now four points clear, they looked comfortable, especially when Nelligan pointed from play. Digging deep Ballinora had a point back through O'Regan, but

they were unable to break down Charleville who held on to take the title and win promotion to intermediate grade in 2022. Charleville's Laura Doyle was named as *The Echo Player of The Match* after an excellent performance for her side. **Scores for Charleville:** A Jones, K Liddy 1-2 each, F Nelligan 0-5 f. **Ballinora:** C Dooley 1-0, S O'Regan 0-3 (0-1 f, 0-1 pen), K O'Shea 0-2 f, R Murphy 0-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 pen), K Dooley 0-1. **CHARLEVILLE:** S O'Neill, M Murphy, M Jackman, K Dore; R Jackman, M Jones,

S Hudner, E Murphy, A O'Keefe, F Nelligan, K Liddy, T Dore, A Jones, K O'Reilly, L Doyle.
BALLINORA: A. Linehan; S O'Keefe, K O'Halloran, A Murphy, M Murphy, B Holmes, G Linehan; N McCarthy, A Nic a Bhaire (c); KA Creen, S O'Regan, K O'Shea; K Dooley, C Dooley, R Murphy. **Subs:** A Quirk for K O'Halloran (40), L Walsh for McCarthy (45), E Murphy for A Murphy (48).

Underage
In underage finals over the weekend Sarsfield's and Eire Og battled it out for the U14 Premier Cup and after a close battle Sarsfield's emerged as winners with three points to spare, 0-12 to 0-9. The U14 B League Cup was won by St Fanahan's who defeated Bandon while the U14 C League Plate saw Nemo beat Bride Rovers. The U16 Premier League Cup was won by Sarsfield's who defeated Clonakilty and in the U16 A Championship Plate final Laochra Og beat Castlemartyr. Kilbrittain/Timoleague won the U16 B League Cup at Barryroe's expense. The U16C League Cup was won by Banteer who defeated Watergrasshill, and Castlelyons had a point to spare over Tracton as they took the U16 B League Plate.



CAMOGIE
Linda Mellerick

Inniscarra will have a break before Munster

AFTER four hours of mediation talks mid-summer, it was agreed that the outstanding provincial and All-Ireland series of games from the 2020 club camogie season would be played from mid-November 2021.

The 2020 series will be completed by mid-December, with the All-Ireland finals set to be played by the December 19.

The 2021 provincial and All-Ireland club series will run after this.

That means that Inniscarra who will represent Cork in Munster will have a break.

For and against that really, as it's hard to halt momentum and then pick it up again.

It's nice to have the senior championships completed in Cork. With the unpredictable weather, the earlier you can finish the better.

Cork's championship was condensed into six weeks. I can fully appreciate the desire of the board to get games played as quickly as possible.

There are 67 camogie clubs in Cork, which is massive, and when you attach that to the hurling and football season running concurrently, pitch availability is a weekly migraine.

Playing the club season in autumn months, of course, also reduces available hours, which pushes more games into a packed weekend, as we saw for divisional and dual players.

Is there a compromise as demands on the players was intense?

With 19 senior clubs, is the format we are using the best one now with first and losers' rounds?

It's something we may not have to reflect for 2022 if the camogie association follow the GAA and bring forward the All-Ireland finals to week one in August.

To start the club championship mid-August would be great.

There would be no need to condense the championships into six weeks then as I think it's just too much on players. Dual players and divisional players aside, I'm sure all clubs in the latter stages of this year's championship felt the same.



Inniscarra's Aine O'Regan controls the sliothar ahead of Seandun's Lauren Homan during the SE Systems Cork County Senior Camogie Championship final at Castle Road. Picture: Howard Crowdy

Certainly, as we head to the knock-out stages, a two-week gap should be allocated if possible. There has been no confirmation of a date change from the association, but surely they'll follow suit. With Cork camogie having recently abolished the senior B grade they won't want to go down a premier and senior A route and the games still have to be played regardless of standing. My views on this year's champion-

ship was that it was fair. In many games the standard disappointed. Does that coincide with the timing and conditions? We can make excuses I suppose. There were some heavy defeats inflicted in earlier rounds. That happens unless you are going to grade teams. The stronger clubs wouldn't want that. Every club hopes for a cushy opening couple of rounds to get them into their stride.

With Imokilly giving a walkover to Cloughduv, not the first time this has happened with a divisional side, maybe a preliminary 'divisional' championship should be played with one advancing. Sarsfields, Killeagh, and Ballincollig disappointed. Ballincollig have such a long way to go, that focusing on rebuilding should be key for them. Hannah (no surname required) was a huge loss for Killeagh. Would she have been worth three



Seandun's Nicole O'Connor celebrates her Senior Camogie win against Inniscarra with Rebecca O'Rourke and Sinead Warren following the final whistle at Castle Road. Picture: Howard Crowdy

goals against Inniscarra — that was the gap?

Even though Sars reached the semi-final I'm putting them in the disappointing category as their performances were below par.

They have oceans of talent hence why they are still reaching the latter stages.

St Finbarr's will be very disheartened with their semi-final defeat. They didn't perform on the day with their decision making in the final quarter also contributing to their defeat.

Courcey Rovers had a roller-coaster championship, almost being pipped by spirited Cloughduv in round four and then losing the quarter-final narrowly after the loss of Linda Collins abroad.

St Catherine's had a commendable season, losing out to champions Seandun at quarter-final stage.

Milford are rebuilding while Newcestown and Eire Og are holding their own in their infancy senior years.

And then we had the two finalists. Inniscarra, in an impressive sixth consecutive final, and Seandun, always strong on paper but not as a group. That all changed this year and with some inspiring scoring throughout, they took the title by four points in an engrossing final.

They're strong contenders in 2022 for back-to-back with the same panel available. For 2021, it's a wrap.

Heartbreak for Enniskeane in U16 league final

ENNISKEANE 2-10
YOUGHAL 3-12

THERE was heartbreak for Enniskeane in the U16A county league cup final against Youghal in Inniscarra on Monday.

Enniskeane had hopes of adding this title to the championship already won this season. On the front foot early on, they failed to capitalise on

the opportunities presented, allowing a more physical and stronger Youghal to score and settle. Youghal's Amy O'Connell, their scorer in chief, punished every time, finishing with 0-11 to make Enniskeane's task very difficult. Enniskeane scored from Molly Hilliard and Danielle O'Neill, leaving the half-time score Youghal 1-9 to 0-4.

On the resumption Enniskeane dug deep and when

Danielle O'Neill scored a goal from 45 metres out, it was game on. Youghal hit the net again just before the second water break to lead 3-11 to 1-8. Grace McCarthy then goaled and Enniskeane fought hard to get themselves back into contention. On the day Youghal were deserving winners, however Meabh Browne, Sarah Hilliard, Clara Duggan, Molly Hilliard and Danielle O'Neill worked hard for Enniskeane.

Enniskeane: Siobhan Cronin, Katie Crowley, Emer Hurley, Leanne O'Leary, Sarah Hilliard, Meabh Browne, Clara Duggan, Danielle O'Neill (1-5), Rachel Dineen, Philippa Jennings, Molly Hilliard (0-3), Rachel McCarthy, Emma Eady, Grace McCarthy (1-1), Aine Hurley, Grace Murphy, Lauren O'Sullivan, Caoimhe Fleming, Grace Nyhan, Laura Murray, Niamh O'Callaghan, Katie Cronin, Caitlin O'Callaghan, Aoife Barry. **Youghal:** Claire McCarthy, Jess

Kelly, Jane Savage, Eimear O'Regan, Rachel Murray, Ruby Kennedy, Sorcha Kilgannon, Saorla O'Leary (0-1), Alex Cashman, Raina Landers (1-0), Amy O'Connell (0-1), Poppy Deveraux, Emma Delaney (1-0), Aoibhe Daly (1-0), Carman von ron Quinn, Makena von ron Quinn, Autumn Deveraux, Taylor Ahearne, Sarah Nocholson, Doireann Mulane, Amy Lyons. **Referee:** Prionnais O'Clodain (Clondrohid).

More silverware for Condon and Twohig

BY GER MCCARTHY

CORK Camogie U16 All-Ireland winning co-captains Millie Condon and Fiona Twohig added to their trophy collections when they received Celtic Ross Hotel West Cork Sports Star Youth awards.

Each quarter, an outstanding young local sports star is honoured with an award, and both Millie Condon (Ballinascarthy) and Fiona Twohig (Valley Rovers) were selected after they led the Rebels to Munster and All-Ireland U16A glory during the summer.

Condon and Twohig played leading roles in helping Cork overcome a talented Kilkenny in the All-Ireland decider in July. Dual-player Condon proved one of the Rebels' most consistent performers throughout 2021. Twohig took home the Player of the Match award in the All-Ireland U16A final after scoring 1-3 of her side's winning total in their 2-12 to 2-10 triumph over the Cats.

Both were surprised and delighted to receive the quarterly West Cork Sports Star Youth accolade.

"Looking back, it is still quite hard to believe we won an All-Ireland especially with everything that happened because of Covid," Twohig told *The Southern Star*.



Award winner Millie Condon with her parents Jack and Clare, grandmother Marguerite and sister Annie. (Photos: George Maguire)

"We didn't have much time to prepare. Everything happened so quickly this year. It was just week after week. So, to win an All-Ireland blew us all away and everyone was a bit overwhelmed at the time. The win is only setting in now but we are able to enjoy it."

Donie Daly and his Cork management team got to work once the all-clear was given to

return to the training pitches. Zoom sessions were all well and good but Cork needed to gel a squad of over 30 camogie players shortly before embarking on their All-Ireland campaign.

"We didn't know a lot of each other's names the first night we went back training with Cork," Millie Condon said, "But there was no stopping us once we got going. Donie Daly was hugely

important to us. He was the one that started a lot of the panel off with Cork from day one. This is my second year working with Donie and he has been brilliant to me and all the girls on the Cork panel."

The Cork U16s were handed a tough opening group including Dublin, Tipperary and Galway. Reaching the All-Ireland U16A final was an achievement



All-Ireland winning Cork U16 camogie captains Millie Condon and Fiona Twohig received Celtic Ross Hotel West Cork Sports Star Youth awards.

'It is really nice for Fiona and I to get recognition at the end of a long year'
— Millie Condon

in itself but Twohig, Condon and the rest of the Cork panel understood it would take something extra-special to see off

Kilkenny. Now, winning this coveted West Cork Sports Star Youth is great end to a memorable year.

"It is really nice for Fiona and I to get recognition at the end of a long year," Condon added.

"Getting this award repays a lot of the hard work that went in to helping Cork become All-Ireland U16 champions," Twohig added.

'Camogie was a great distraction from 'when's my next scan?'

John Fogarty

MARIANNE WALSH apologises for her hoarse voice. "There have been a few celebrations the last few days," the Mooncoin corner-back laughs about their Kilkenny camogie junior final win over Piltown on Saturday.

Who could blame her? Twelve months ago, the then 25-year-old nurse was diagnosed with Grade 3 Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

In June, she finished her course of chemotherapy but had returned to training a month before that.

It was a famous weekend for the club as Mooncoin completed the junior double on Sunday when their hurlers beat Tullogher-Rosbercon. On Monday, it was revealed Walsh was also nominated for Kilkenny's junior camogie player of the year.

Speaking to the *Irish Examiner*, she recalls her journey from diagnosis to last weekend's triumph:

Q: Was the hurley ever out of your hand during your treatment?

A: No, never. I had my PICC (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter) line in one arm and my hurley in the other. I work in Waterford University Hospital so I know exactly what I was getting myself in for so in that way it wasn't too bad. For six to eight months, I was living from appointment to appointment, getting bloods done, getting treatment, going in for clinics. Having the routine of camogie was a great distraction from 'when's my next scan?' and 'when's my next treatment?'

The girls and the management were just so good, they just treated me as if I wasn't sick. But they were so supportive. When I did one lap of the field, they were saying, 'Jesus, well done, fair play.' Even when it was half a lap they were congratulating me. It was my way of forgetting what was going on with the rest of my life.



INSPIRATIONAL: Marianne Walsh secured a Kilkenny JHC camogie medal with Mooncoin after their win over Piltown. Walsh won the medal just five months after completing a course of chemotherapy. Picture: Patrick Browne

Q: You felt normal in the team environment?

A: Exactly. I never viewed myself as being somebody who should be pitied. I never wanted people to feel sorry for me. I just wanted to get out and try and live like a normal 26-year-old would be. This was just a small bump in my road that I need to get past. Going up, meeting people and playing hurling was my way of doing that even though I was still being treated. I finished June 15.

Q: When do you go back to work?

A: I'm going back in three weeks' time. I'm actually going back on my birthday. I said I'd go back then because it would be a normal birthday unlike last year when I had just received the news. I always worked on it so I said why should this year be any different?

Q: When was your first full training session?

A: I trained throughout the treatment and was back on the field when the clubs were allowed to return in May. It was July, I think, when I took part in a full training session

and only took five to 10 minutes for a break. I played my first full match in August with the second team and the first full match with the first team in October. I got to play 12 matches in all this year so I was quite happy.

Q: Your family must be thrilled for you?

A: My father Michael lives and breathes the sport down here. My mam Margaret and my two brothers Bill and Pat, it has been a tough year for us all. They were the ones who were seeing me most. They are very proud of me and I

wouldn't have got this far if it wasn't for them, my friends, my teammates, and management. My team-mate Lorraine Delahunty had a tough year this year too. Her partner James Dermody passed away earlier this year and I have to applaud what she's done. The two of us were going through a difficult time but we always supported one another and the team have been incredible. I'm just so thrilled with what our team has been able to do. Our group has always been close but I really felt it this year that we wanted to win for

'I never viewed myself as being somebody who should be pitied. I never wanted people to feel sorry for me'

one another. It wasn't a case of somebody saying to themselves that "I want a medal at the end of this year". You could see people were trying for the benefit of the rest. Everyone wanted everyone's game to be as good as it could be.

Q: Have you got an opportunity to take some time for yourself to fully appreciate the journey you've been on?

A: We were out celebrating with the lads on Sunday night and I kind of turned around and said to myself, "This time last year I didn't even have an official diagnosis yet, I'm five months after finishing chemo and I'm after playing in a county final."

I'm actually pretty proud of myself. You do what you do to survive and that was my way of doing it. I had a goal. I was asked if I wanted to be re-graded to the second team but I said "no". If I did that, I wouldn't push myself to try and get on the first team. If I'm worthy or if I'm good enough to get on that first team, I'm going to push myself. I said that if I got five minutes in a county final this year that would be more than enough for me but the county final was the goal. I was blessed to get 55 minutes."

Minor final glory for Sarsfields and Cloughduv

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Sarsfields 1-14
Aghabullogue 1-9

AT the end of a close opening quarter Sarsfields had opened up a two-point lead by the first water break in the Premier Minor Camogie final.

Cliona Lynch pointed an early free and a goal from Kaitlin Sheehan had them four clear until Aoife Twomey had Aghabullogue on the scoreboard with a point before she added a goal.

Lynch fired over two more scores which meant Sars led 1-3 to 1-1 at the water break.

The Riverstown side maintained their lead with points from Saoirse Desmond, Lynch and Olivia McAllen, while Twomey and Amy Dineen found their range for Aghabullogue: 1-7 to 1-3 at half-time.

The third quarter saw Aghabullogue hit three points through Twomey and Aoife Barrett to keep the pressure on Sars.

Lynch converted another free and added one from play and at the second water break, it was 1-9 to 1-6 to Sarsfields.

Aghabullogue came out for the final quarter determined, but Sars' defence stood firm despite being put under serious pressure at times.

Ava Fitzgerald, Lynch Clodagh O'Donovan and Orlaith Mullins kept the scoreboard ticking over for Sarsfields and while Barrett and Dineen responded, Sars held firm to take the title.

For Aghabullogue Twomey, Dineen, and Barrett were particularly hard-working with the Player of the Match nod going to Barrett.

Sarsfields' captain Gaby Cashman was presented with the inaugural Tommy Golden Cup by Sheila Golden.

Scorers for Sarsfields: C Lynch 0-7 (0-6 f), K Sheehan 1-0, S Desmond, A Fitzgerald 0-2 each, O Mullins, C O'Donovan, O McAllen 0-1 each.

Aghabullogue: A Twomey 1-3 (0-3 f), A Dineen 0-3, A Barrett 0-3 45.

SARSFIELDS: M Sheehan, E O'Brien, A McNamara, A McCarthy, T Elliot, C Lynch, C Galvin, G Cashman (c), E Twomey, O Mullins, O McAllen, C O'Sullivan, E Hegarty, K Sheehan, S Desmond

Subs: C O'Donovan for C O'Sullivan, A Fitzgerald for E Hegarty

AGHABULLOGUE: L Cooney, M McCarthy, C O'Connell, L Corkery, A O'Shea, A Barrett, E O'Shea, M Ring, R Barrett, A Twomey, M Buckley, N Barry-Murphy, A Dineen, K Honohan, C Daly

Subs: E Buckley for C Daly (inj 6), O Cahill for E O'Shea (inj 25), E O'Shea for M McCarthy (1-1).

Cloughduv 5-8
Milford/Ballyhea 4-6

Cloughduv took the Minor A title in an exciting contest as they overcame Milford/Ballyhea at Na Piarasigh.

Milford/Ballyhea opened the scoring with a Caoimhe Sheehan point, Aoife Lehane levelled, but they hit the front again with a Caoimhe Morrissey goal.

Cloughduv hit back to draw level courtesy of points from Caoimhe Foley, Amy Sheppard, and Lehane before another goal, from Jane Foley, had Milford/Ballyhea 2-1 to 0-4 in front at the water break.

Cloughduv keeper Emma O'Sullivan denied them a third goal on the restart with an excellent save but an Ava Clifford score edged Milford/Ballyhea four clear. Cloughduv came back impressively as a



Sheila Golden presents the Tommy Golden Cup to Sarsfields camogie captain Gaby Cashman



Cloughduv captain Clodagh Sheppard holds aloft the Minor A camogie cup after her side overcame Milford/Ballyhea in the final

goal from Olga Barry-Murphy and an Sheppard free levelled matters and then a second goal, from Lehane, gave Cloughduv a 2-5 to 2-2 half-time lead.

On the restart, Cloughduv opened a five-point lead with Niamh MacNabola and Barry-Murphy on target.

Milford/Ballyhea responded with a goal from India Hanley before they reduce the deficit to the minimum with a Shee-

han point.

Cloughduv upped the pace with Caoimhe O'Mahony striking for the first of her three goals before the second water break with the score at 3-7 to 3-3.

The Avondhu amalgamation came out fighting in the second half, Sheehan clipping over the points to trim the gap to two.

Cloughduv were not to be denied however, O'Mahony raised her second green flag and Lehane followed up with a point.

Milford/Ballyhea reduced the deficit to five before O'Mahony completed her hat-trick. While Milford/Ballyhea managed another late goal, the final whistle soon went.

Player of the Match went to Laura Buttiner, Cloughduv, who gave an outstanding display at centre-back.

Scorers for Cloughduv: C O'Mahony 3-0, A Lehane 1-3, O Barry-Murphy 1-1, A Sheppard 0-2 (0-1 f), N MacNabola, C Foley 0-1 each.

Milford/Ballyhea: J Foley 2-0, C Sheehan 0-4 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), C Morrissey, I Hanley 1-0 each, A Clifford 0-1.

CLOUGHDUV: E O'Sullivan; K Browne, L Bateman, A Coughlan; H Kerins, L Buttiner, F Drinan; N MacNabola, C Sheppard; C Foley, O Barry-Murphy, A Sheppard; C Collins, A Lehane, C O'Mahony.

Subs: S O'Callaghan for A Coughlan, B Kelleher for C Collins.

MILFORD/BALLYHEA: E Goggin; L Shortt, L Dillon, O'Toole, K Gilbourne; Y Stack, O Linehan, C Buckley; C Sheehan, S McCarthy, A O'Sullivan, J Foley, I Hanley; A Clifford, C Morrissey, O Murphy.

Subs: A Crowley for C Morrissey, C Crowley for O Murphy.

Róisín fires Barryroe to county camogie title

BRILLIANT Barryroe won the county minor C camogie championship final in Cloughdun on Saturday morning after beating Erins Own by 1-10 to 0-10.

The teams were tied at 0-3 apiece at the first water break, with Róisín Ni Bhuachalla (2) and Ciardha McCarthy on target for the West Cork side. Barryroe enjoyed a strong second quarter with points from Róisín Ni Bhuachalla and a crucial goal from Ciardha McCarthy, and this pushed them into a 1-5 to 0-4 lead at half time. Barryroe's defence held out well despite pressure from Erins Owns and goalkeeper Caoimhe Ni Bhuachalla made some very important saves.

The second half started with some further points from Róisín Ni Bhuachalla and captain Róisín McCarthy. Erins



Barryroe captain Róisín McCarthy receives the Shirley Murphy Cup.

Own were still applying pressure on the Barryroe goal but Caoimhe Ni Bhuachalla was equal to their best efforts. Another great point from Róisín Ni Bhuachalla relieved the pressure and at the second water break there was a goal between the sides. In the final quarter, Barryroe defended their lead and scores were hard to come by with both teams trading



The Barryroe camogie team that won the minor C camogie championship final last weekend.

frees. At the final whistle, there was great relief and rejoicing as Barryroe came out on top and were county champions.

The Shirley Murphy Cup was presented to captain Róisín

McCarthy and Player of Match was awarded to Caoimhe Ni Bhuachalla.

Barryroe: Caoimhe Ni Bhuachalla; Sinead Walsh, Alison McCarthy,

Nicole Sweetnam; Claire Tobin, Jessica McCarthy, Holly Collins; Róisín McCarthy (0-1), Sarah Harte; Aishling McKeogh, Róisín Ni Bhuachalla (0-8, 5f), Tara Fleming; Ciardha McCarthy (1-1), Clara

Collins, Claire Dullea. Subs: Meabh O'Sullivan for Claire Dullea, Mia O'Driscoll for Holly Collins, Emma Collins for Ciardha McCarthy, Ellen O'Donovan for Claire Tobin.

GREAT EFFORT Battling Bal come up short in final



The Ballinascarthy minor B camogie team that lost, 1-8 to 1-6, the county final to Tracton in Killbrittain last Saturday. The team is trained and coached by Mairead and Elaine Galvin, Michael Pattwell, William McCarthy, Aiden Cahalane and Imelda Cahalane. Back, from left, Rachel Cahalane (captain), Lydia Sutton, Shauna O'Driscoll, Michelle O'Driscoll, Kate Ryan, Maeve Kingston, Emma Galvin, Ella Cullinane, Siofra Pattwell and Clara Heverin. Front from left, Ella Cahalane, Ella Kingston, Muireann Fadian, Millie Condon, Grace Flynn and Aolbhin Ryan.



Celtic Ross Hotel West Cork Youth Sports Star Award winner Fiona Twohig, of Valley Rovers GAA Club, with her parents Fergus and Mary and brother Joe at the recent award presentation. Fiona was joint captain of the Cork camogie team that won the U16A All-Ireland title during the summer. (Photo: George Maguire)



4. Sinead Mills and Niamh O'Leary, Brian Dillon's camogie players who won the Cork senior camogie championship with Seandun.



Tracton players celebrate their SE Systems Minor B camogie championship title win.

McCarthy is Tracton star

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Tracton	1-8
Ballinascarthy	1-6

DESPITE trailing by a point at the interval Tracton turned this SE Systems Minor B championship final into victory in an exciting contest at Kilbrittain.

A goal from Captain Rachel Cahalane helped Ballinascarthy hold the lead to the half time whistle.

Two points from Siofra Pattwell were replied to by Anna Fahy with three points from play and one from Shauna Dempsey for Tracton.

Little divided the sides through the second half.

Lydia Sutton kept the scoreboard ticking over with two Ballinascarthy points.

Anna Fahy was equal to the task for Tracton.

Anna Fahy converting three pointed frees and one point from play but the vital score for Tracton came when Orlagh Dempsey's long range free landed in the goal mouth where Heather Corcoran reacted quickest to finish to the net.

Tracton captain Kellie McCarthy was named as *The Echo* player of the match after leading her side to victory with a superb display.

Scorers for Tracton: Anna Fahy 0-7, Heather Corcoran 1-0, Shauna Dempsey 0-1.

Ballinascarthy: S Pattwell 0-4 (0-1f), R Cahalane 1-0, L Sutton 0-2 (0-1 f 0-1 45).

Tracton: M Doody; L Quinn, K Murphy, R Walsh; A Cummins, K McCarthy, J Piggott; E McGuinness, O Dempsey, S Dempsey; A Lowney, M Fahy; A Fahy, H Corcoran, S Kidney.

Ballinascarthy: E Kingston; E Cahalane, K Ryan, A Ryan; M Kingston, E Cullinane, C Heverin; M Condon, M O'Driscoll; S O'Driscoll, S Pattwell, L Sutton; E Galvin, R Cahalane (c), G Flynn.

Sub: M Fadian for E Cahalane (30).

Barryroe	1-10
Erin's Own	0-10

A goal separated the sides in a highly entertaining SE Systems Minor C championship final as Barryroe and Erin's Own battled it out for the title in ideal weather



Barryroe winners of the SE Systems minor C camogie championship.

condition in Cloughdub GAA grounds.

In a close opening quarter the sides were evenly matched and at the first water break it was level pegging 0-3 each.

Roisin Ni Bhuachalla pointed a Barryroe free and with Ciardha McCarthy on target from play and Roisin Ni Bhuachalla from a frees they matched Erin's Own who had points from Aoibhinn Drummey from play and two pointed Ella Collins frees.

Erin's Own lost the services of their goal keeper Grainne Guest with a shoulder injury and they had to reshuffle their line out with Kiera Mulcahy moving in to take up the goal keeping role. Emma O'Neill moved to full back and Grace Kirwan came into the corner back position.

Barryroe upped the pace in the second quarter with points from Roisin Ni Bhuachalla and a crucial goal from Ciardha McCarthy.

Ella Collins responded with a pointed Erin's Own free as the Barryroe defence held out well despite huge pressure from the Erin's Own attack. Barryroe keeper Caoimhe Ni Bhuachalla was kept busy as she had to be at her very best to deny Erin's Own and at the interval it was Barryroe who led by four points 1-5 to 0-4.

Roisin Ni Bhuachalla and captain Roisin McCarthy extended the Barryroe lead

with second half points.

Ella Collins and Aimee Corcoran kept Erin's Own in touch with points but despite pressure putting on the Barryroe defence, Erin's Own could find no way past a solid Caoimhe Ni Bhuachalla.

Roisin Ni Bhuachalla relieved the pressure with a point and at the second water break just a goal separated the sides. In the final quarter the Barryroe defence had to defend their lead, both sides traded pointed frees but despite huge Erin's Own pressure they failed to breach the Barryroe rear guard that held firm to the final whistle.

The Echo player of the Match award went to Caoimhe Ni Bhuachalla who was tremendous in the last line of defence for Barryroe denying Erin's Own with some superb saves.

Scorers for Barryroe: R Ni Bhuachalla 0-9 (0-5f's), C Mc McCarthy 1-1 R Mc McCarthy 0-1.

Erin's Own: E Collins 0-7 (0-3 f's 0-1 45), A Corcoran 0-2, A Drummey 0-1.

Barryroe: C Ni Bhuachalla; S Walsh, A McCarthy, N Sweetnam; C Tobin, J McCarthy, H Collins; R McCarthy (c) S Harle; A McKeogh, R Ni Bhuachalla 0-08, T Fleming; C McCarthy, C Collins, C Dullea.

Subs: M O'Sullivan for C Dullea, M O'Driscoll for H Collins, E Collins for C McCarthy, E O'Donovan for C Tobin.

Erin's Own: G Guest; A O'Donoghue, K Mulcahy, E O'Neill; S Casey, H Healy, E O'Donnell; A Corcoran, L Gassley, E Norton, E Collins, A Drummey(c); C Lyons, A Connolly, L Murphy.

Subs: G Kirwan for G Guest (in 15).

Eoghan Cormican

It is not yet a done deal that Davy Fitzgerald will coach the Cork camogie team in 2022.

Douglas' Matthew Twomey, a selector during Paudie Murray's tenure, has been recommended by the Cork Camogie Board's five-person selection committee to take charge of the senior team and is hoping to have as coach in his back-room team recently departed Wexford hurling manager Fitzgerald.

But the *Irish Examiner* understands it is not yet certain that Fitzgerald will throw his lot in with the beaten All-Ireland finalists for next season.

Off the back of the selection committee proposing Twomey as Paudie Murray's successor, the Cork Camogie Board was due to meet last night to consider the new Cork senior camogie management team, but that meeting was postponed at the 11th hour.

Fitzgerald is no stranger to camogie sidelines having trained the Clare minor team that reached the 2008 All-Ireland final. In more recent times, he helped Ardrahan to Galway senior championship success in 2018.

The prospect of getting involved with the Cork camogie team in 2022 was put to Fitzgerald during an interview with sports journalist Valerie Wheeler last month, to which Fitzgerald replied, "I would rule out nothing".

Having ended his five-year reign as Wexford manager in

Fitzgerald in talks to take Cork camogie coaching role



Davy Fitzgerald is being lined up to become the coach of the Cork camogie team, working under Matthew Twomey. Fitzgerald ended his five-year reign as Wexford boss in July. Picture: Matt Browne/Sportsfile

hurling set-up, be that as a player or manager.

It is expected to become clear in the coming days whether Clare's 2013 All-Ireland winning manager will be involved with the Cork women next season.

What is certain is that Twomey, as the choice of the selection committee put together by the Cork board, is set to assume the Cork reins.

That five-person selection committee consisted of former Cork hurling selector Ger Cunningham, former Limerick hurler Damien Quigley, 18-time All-Ireland winner Rena Buckley, six-time All-Ireland camogie winner Linda Mellerick, and former Cork camogie board chairperson Marian McCarthy.

Twomey served as coach when Cork won the All-Ireland in 2014, holding the title of selector in 2015, '16, and again this season when Cork came up short to Galway in the All-Ireland final.

July and with Galway last month opting for Henry Shefflin as their new hurling boss, 2022 will be the first time since 1989 that Fitzgerald is not involved in an inter-county

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Anything but academic

Hurling star Shane O'Donnell opens up on the sickening effect of concussion

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Kinsale: The U16 C plate winners.

Barrs bag minor crown against battling Midleton

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

St Finbarr's	2-20
Midleton	2-11

ST FINBARR'S and Midleton played out a closely contested SE Systems Premier 2 minor championship final in Castle Road with victory going to St Finbarr's after an exciting contest where a strong second half performance helped turn the tide in St Finbarr's direction.

Weather conditions were superb given the time of the year and with sun shining it helped to make it an exciting contest for the players and attendance.

In an action packed contest Midleton led at the half time whistle thanks to two goals from Rachel Ryan.

Both sides were on target with excellent points and play swinging from end to end.

Nicole Olden, Orlaith Cahalane, Aoife Byrne O'Riordan and Sophie McTiernan kept the scoreboard ticking over for St Finbarr's as Vivienne Gleeson and Abbie Foley kept Midleton in front as they added points to their tally to hold a 2-7 to 0-11 interval lead.

St Finbarr's dug deep on the resumption and applying a lot of pressure they put the Midleton defense under huge pressure.

Nicole Olden, Orlaith Cahalane, Aoife Byrne O'Riordan, Ella Wiggington-Barrett all pickled off points as they began to find gaps in the Midleton defense.

At the opposite end of the pitch the St Finbarr's defense were much tighter as they closed down the Midleton attack



Mairead Donovan presents the Premier 2 Minor trophy to St Finbarr's captain Ciara Hurley.

allowing them little room and it was left to Vivienne Gleeson to keep the scoreboard ticking over with points from frees as Midleton strove in stay in the contest.

Goals were vital for St Finbarr's and it was one a piece in the second half from Orlaith Cahalane and Alex Moynihan that helped put the game beyond Midleton's reach.

St Finbarr's Nicole Olden was named as *The Echo* Player of the Match.

Scorers for St Finbarr's: O Cahalane 1-11, A Byrne-O'Riordan 0-3, A Moynihan 1-0, N Olden, C Golden 0-2 each, S Tiernan Wiggington-Barrett 0-1 each.

Midleton: V Gleeson 0-10, R Ryan 2-0, A Foley 0-2. ST FINBARR'S: C Hurley, K O'Shea, C Callanan, C Walsh, L Morley, S Daly, A O'Callaghan, N Olden, C Golden, A Byrne-O'Riordan, S McTiernan, E Wiggington-Barrett, E Hallahan, O Cahalane, A Moynihan.

Subs: M Murphy for S Mc Tiernan O'Callaghan for A Moynihan

MIDLETON: J Connaughton, M Kelly, L Hogan, R Hennessey, C Cronin, Y Abernethy, M Daly-Harkin, I Nestor, A Fitzgerald, E O'Sullivan, J Keegan-O'Connell, L Goulding, A Foley, V Gleeson, R Ryan.

Subs: S Ni Teangana for C Cronin (h/i), E Lamb for L Goulding (inj), K Quirke for E O'Sullivan.

UNDER 14 AND 16 COMPETITIONS CONCLUDED

The curtain came down on competitions recently when the U14 and U16 league and championship finals were decided.

In the U16 premier plate final Valley Rovers had a five point victory over Aghabullogue on a 2-13 to 2-8 score line.

Ballinhassig took the U16 A league plate with a win over Na Piarsaigh.

The U16 A championship plate was won by Laochra Og won with a victory over Castlemartyr.

The U16 B2 championship went to Clonakilty with a win over Aghabullogue.

In the U16 C league cup final Banteer defeated Watergrasshill.

In the U16 C league plate the title went to Kinsale as they overcame Dungourney.

The U16 B league cup was won by Kilbrittain-Timoleague who beat Barryroe.

The U14 A premier league title was won by Sarsfields as they overcame Eire Og.

The U14 A league cup was won by Midleton with a victory over Kilbrittain/Timoleague.

The U14 A league plate title went to Kill-eagh as they defeated Cloughduv.

The U14B 2 league title was won by St. Fanahan's as they got the upper hand on Bandon and the U14 C league cup was won by Kilworth who defeated Grenagh.

The U14 C league plate went to Nemo who defeated Bride Rovers.



Davy Fitzgerald: Committed to working with the team one to two days a week next season

Davy Fitz agrees to take Cork camogie role

John Fogarty

Davy Fitzgerald has agreed to come on board as coach to Cork senior camogie team.

The *Irish Examiner* understands the 2013 All-Ireland SHC winning manager has committed to working with the team one to two days a week next season.

Fitzgerald is to link up with manager Matthew Twomey, who had been a selector to Paudie Murray in the previous management team. The potential in the Cork group and the prospect of helping to guide them to success is said to excite Fitzgerald who has assisted camogie teams at club and county level in the past.

Fitzgerald is also said to be enamoured by the idea of focusing entirely on coaching and removing himself from the time constraints of management. Travel was also one of the reasons why Fitzgerald, 50, stepped down as Wexford senior hurling manager. The shorter commute to Mallow and Cork city was appealing to the Sixmilebridge man. Fitzgerald also has additional personal and business commitments in the new year.

Speaking recently, the former Clare, Waterford and Wexford boss didn't rule out getting involved with Cork camogie or a camogie team. "Yeah that would be some craic wouldn't it?" he told *RedFM* before continuing, "I would rule out nothing. I can remember the first 10 years I was managing. I often trained three or four teams as well as playing for Clare at the time."

"I often help out teams no matter who it is. I think I just need a small bit of a breather, just a small bit of time to recharge the batteries. Would I rule out doing anything? No, I'll be involved with someone or do something."

A special meeting of the Cork camogie board which was due to ratify the new senior management team last Wednesday was postponed. It is now expected to take place in the coming days.

Fitzgerald had asked the selection committee for some more time to consider the offer. That group comprises former Cork hurling selector Ger Cunningham, former Limerick hurler Damien Quigley, 18-time All-Ireland winner Rena Buckley, six-time All-Ireland camogie winner Linda Mellerick, and former Cork camogie board chairperson Marian McCarthy.

St Mary's on top after 30 years

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

St Mary's, Midleton 2-2
Coachford College 0-5

ST Mary's High School, Midleton took the Cork Colleges Senior A title as they edged out Coachford College in a close contest in Castle Road in ideal conditions on an excellent surface.

On three occasions the sides were level and it looked as if we might have to go to extra time but a goal two minutes into added time from Aishling McCarthy was enough to tip the balance in St Mary's favour and give them a first title since 1991.

All over the field, they had excellent performers, particularly Aoife Healy, Mary Millerick and Rachel Leahy.

Leahy gave St Mary's the lead after six minutes, and using the strong wind they pressurised the Coachford defence who stood firm, with Eireann O'Shea, Aoife Twomey and Maria Buckley working hard.

With both schools dropping a player back, so scores were hard to come by. Coachford got off the mark with an Amy Sheppard free 10 minutes in and her second free made it 0-2 to 0-1 at the first water break.

Coachford batted down the hatches as St Mary's pumped a lot of balls into the danger zone.

That pressure finally told when Lilly Hayes-Nally was quickest to react to Kate O'Brien's long-range free as it dropped into the square and she finished smartly to the net: 1-1 to 0-2.

With the strong wind, Coachford came out of the blocks fast in the second half and were level thanks to Sheppard, a point from play and another from a placed ball.

Both goalkeepers were kept busy Caoimhe O'Mahony and Chloe Lane showing great calmness under pressure with good handling and distribution all through.

After the second water break, O'Brien hit St Mary's first score of the second half and against the breeze, they were enjoying the lion's share of possession.

Sheppard converted a 45 with four minutes remaining to tie it up but St



St Mary's Midleton players Niamh O'Connor, Caoimhe Cronin and Fave McGrath fight for this ball with Aoife Ring and Maedhby Ring of Coachford College in the Cork Colleges Camogie Senior A final at Castle Road. Picture: Dan Linehan

Mary's struck for the winning goal in the closing stages.

Scorers for St Mary's Midleton: A McCarthy, L Hayes-Nally 1-0 each, K O'Brien (f), R Leahy 0-1 each.

Coachford College: A Sheppard 0-5 (0-3 f, 0-1 45).

ST MARY'S: C Lane (Castlemartyr); C Cronin (Midleton); R Murphy (Fr O'Neill's); N O'Connor (Killeagh); M Millerick (Fr O'Neill's); A Healy (Aghada); S Kent (Killeagh); G O'Neill (Fr O'Neill's); R Leahy (Aghada); A Brenner (Killeagh); D Kiniry (Dungourney); F McGrath (Castlemartyr); K O'Brien (Fr O'Neill's); A McCarthy (Castlemartyr); L Hayes-Nally (Castlemartyr).

Sub: G Rooney (Fr O'Neill's) for F McGrath (39).

COACHFORD: C O'Mahony (Cloughduv); M Leahy (Aghabullogue); L Buttiner (Cloughduv); R Barrett (Aghabullogue); E O'Shea (Aghabullogue); A Twomey (Aghabullogue); M Buckley (Aghabullogue); A Sheppard (Cloughduv); A Barrett (Aghabullogue); N Barry-Murphy (Aghabullogue); M Ring (Aghabullogue); L Daly (Inniscarra); K Honahan (Aghabullogue); A Lehane (Cloughduv); A Ring (Inniscarra).

Sub: E Buckley (Aghabullogue) for L Daly.

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).



Rosin Murphy, St Mary's Midleton, is tackled by Aoife Ring, Coachford College. Picture: Dan Linehan

More cup joy for Midleton



Captain Amy Morgan and Dara Kiniry of St Mary's, Midleton celebrate with the Merriman Cup after they defeated Coachford College in the Cork Colleges Camogie Senior A final at Castle Road on a scoreline of 2-2 to 0-5. Picture: Dan Linehan



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

IN a year when we had new county champions for the third year in a row and a season when Seandún won the senior championship for the first time, represented by six clubs; Brian Dillon's, Blackrock, St Vincent's, Na Piarraigh, Bishopstown, and Nemo Rangers, it's time to select the Reardens Senior Camogie Team of The Year.

With my *Echo* colleague Mary Newman, these are the 15 players that we selected.

Congratulations to all, and indeed to all players that took part in this year's championship.

The Reardens All Star presentation night was due to take place on Tuesday, December 7, but has been deferred until early in the new year, Covid restrictions allowing.

Please keep an eye on the social media channels in case this has to change due to Government regulations.

GOALKEEPER

CAOIMHE BUCKLEY (Inniscarra)

Saved three penalties during the quarter-final (2) and final; a good decision making and shot stopper.

Was strong throughout as Inniscarra reached the league and championship finals. Tested in several games, Buckley stood firm under pressure and played with confidence.

DEFENDERS

COURTNEY O'KEEFFE (Seandún)

Part of a very strong defensive Seandún unit. Brilliant in the full-back line, typically in the corner. Held Inniscarra goalless in the final after they had struck 11 goals coming into the final. A tight marking, teak tough defender.

CAROL RYAN (Seandún)

Alternating between the full and half-back line, Ryan was consistently effective, especially in the final against a second-half Inniscarra onslaught. Throughout the season, Ryan was not found wanting; hugely dependable.

NIAMH O'LEARY (Seandún)

Played a pivotal role at centre-back during the season. Strong under the dropping ball and has a good hand. Always patient and got many vital flicks / touches in. Breaks out well and off loads to teammates left and right. Player of the match in the county final.

HANNAH LOONEY (Killeagh)

Played a starring attacking, defensive role for Killeagh before work commitments took her to New York ahead of Killeagh's quarter-final. Her absence was too much for her team-mates to absorb and they exited the championship.

LAUREN CALLANAN (Glen Rovers)

Glen Rovers' most influential player throughout the league as champions, and championship campaign. The Glen lost out in the fourth round to St Finbarrs with Callanan still emerging with her reputation intact.

MAEBH CAHALANE (St Finbarr's)

A disappointing exit for St Finbarr's at the semi-final stage, but Cahalane had a consistent season for her club. A tight marking versatile defender very effective at breaking out and launching attacks.

MIDFIELD

KATELYN HICKEY (Seandún)

Worked extremely hard all year around the middle of the park. Won a considerable amount of ball using it intelligently. Had a hectic schedule between club camogie and football in addition to her divisional commitments yet gave 100% in every game. Played a leadership role.

KATIE O'MAHONY (Inniscarra)

The consistency of this player who plays with her heart on her sleeve is admirable.

A phenomenal engine and a player

Seandún dominate Reardens Camogie Team Of The Year



Seandún and St Vincent's players Lauren Homan, Nicole Crean, Amy O'Connor, and Courtney O'Keeffe celebrate their County senior camogie title win over Inniscarra in the County Senior Camogie final. Three of the four, Homan, O'Connor, and O'Keeffe have made the Reardens Team Of The Year. Picture: Howard Crowley



Enniskeane player Tara Sheehan. Picture Denis Minihane



Inniscarra player Joanne Casey. Picture: Jim Coughlan.



Glen Rovers' Lauren Callanan. Picture: Mike English

who doesn't just perform when things are going Inniscarra's way. When the going gets tough she becomes a real leader. Inniscarra reached both the league and championship finals.

Katie had a good final, but it wasn't enough to take the title on the day.

FORWARDS

AILEEN SHEEHAN (Inniscarra)

A brilliant season for the scoring ace. Top scorer for Inniscarra alongside Joanne Casey, the duo tormented defences with the west Cork side hitting 11 goals in reaching the final. Played that bit deeper in the final which suited Seandún as it minimised her goal scoring threat.

JOANNE CASEY (Inniscarra)

Part two of the dynamic Inniscarra forward duo. Oppositions' tormentor in chief.

Physically strong with great speed and extremely accurate from placed balls and play. Difficult to stop when in full flight.

AMY O'CONNOR (Seandún)

At times, even with the minimum of possession, O'Connor's goal-scoring prowess swung games in Seandún's favour.

She scored the only goal of the game in the semi-final and her two goals in the final, her second in particular as Inniscarra were staging a comeback, sealed Seandún's victory.

LAUREN HOMAN (Seandún)

Homan had a tremendous season. Was to the forefront in what was an excellent season for her.

There is little doubt that the energetic forward's inspirational play and point scoring led the path to Seandún's first senior county title. An excellent captain.

KATELYN SHEEHAN (Sarsfield's)

An excellent year for the young Sarsfield's corner-forward. Very stylish, and capable of picking off lovely points from difficult angles.

Takes on a leadership role up front. Scored in every game, the highlight being nine points from play in their fourth-round win over

Ballygarvan. A deserving addition.

TARA SHEEHAN (Enniskeane)
With Enniskeane making their senior championship debut, Sheehan showed no signs of being overawed in their debut clash with Douglas, causing havoc for their defence, hitting seven points from play.

Reardens Camogie team of 2021: Caoimhe Buckley (Inniscarra); Courtney O'Keeffe (Seandún); Carol Ryan (Seandún); Niamh O'Leary (Seandún); Hannah Looney (Killeagh); Lauren Callanan (Glen Rovers); Maebh Cahalane (St Finbarrs); Katelyn Hickey (Seandún); Katie O'Mahony (Inniscarra); Aileen Sheehan (Inniscarra); Joanne Casey (Inniscarra); Amy O'Connor (Seandún); Lauren Homan (Seandún); Katelyn Sheehan (Sarsfield's); Tara Sheehan (Enniskeane).

Award for camogie stalwart

Niamh Aine Ryan

nryan@cornukidsworld.com

Can we get a round of applause for Cork's Marie Clancy?

She is to receive nationwide recognition for her years of dedicated volunteer work with St Catherine's Camogie Club at next week's virtual Federation of Irish Sport Volunteers in Sport Awards ceremony.

Marie Clancy is without doubt the driving force of St Catherine's Camogie Club. Having first got involved in the club as a player at underage level, Marie joined the committee as a 14 year old. Various chairpersons, secretaries, and team managers have come and gone over the years, but Marie has never stepped back or taken a break from her busy roles.

She has filled many important roles over the years and has dedicated her time tirelessly to helping the club run. Now the club's President, she is seen as a great sounding board by many in the club and is always on hand to help out and encourage everyone.

The Volunteers in Sport Awards, supported by EBS, celebrate the contributions of the band of volunteers across the country who give their time to Irish sport and physical activity

every year. This equates to approximately 37.3 million hours of volunteering across Ireland's 13,000 registered sports clubs and associations and, according to Sport Ireland's 2021 'Researching the Value of Sport in Ireland' report, is worth an estimated €1.5bn to the exchequer.

Throughout September and October members of the public, sports clubs and governing bodies were invited to nominate an individual whose contribution to sport and physical activity in Ireland has made a real difference to their community, club or county.

The nominations and award recipients were selected by a judging panel consisting of 12 individuals drawn from sports administration, the volunteer community and media, and included former director general of the GAA Paraic Duffy, RTÉ broadcaster Marie Crowe and CEO of Gaisce Yvonne McKenna.

Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht, Jack Chambers said: "It is an honour for me to support this year's Volunteers in Sport Awards and help recognise so many fantastic volunteers in our community. "These awards have a special place in the sporting

calendar as they recognise those who have given an incredible amount of time throughout the year who have ensured that sport can take place in our communities, and they do so without the expectation of gratitude or reward." He added: "The amount of hard work and dedication that these volunteers give to sport in Ireland is quite truly astonishing and I am privileged to support both the volunteers and these awards. I would also like to thank the Federation of Irish Sport and EBS, and all who will help make these virtual ceremonies a memorable occasion for all."

Speaking about the awards, CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport, Mary O'Connor said: "Despite another very challenging year for sport, we have once again seen how important volunteering has been to communities across Ireland. We have an enormous amount of gratitude for the army of volunteers who have ensured that sport could take place in a safe and controlled manner.

"Whether it be on pitches, courts, tracks, pools or even community halls across the country, the volunteers are always there to make sure sport and physical activity continues to

take place around Ireland. It gives me immense pride to be able to recognise so many of these volunteers at next week's virtual Volunteers in Sport Awards and I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all of this year's recipients."

Mary added: "I would

like to also thank EBS for their continued support in bringing wider recognition of volunteers in sport in Ireland to life. I would also like to express my gratitude to Minister Jack Chambers who will be taking the time out of his schedule to attend

our virtual ceremonies next week and helping us to champion and celebrate the recipients." The awards will be streamed live each evening from 7pm on the Federation of Irish Sport's Facebook page over three days. Tuesday 7 Decem-

ber will see the Leinster and Special Recognition Award live streamed with the Munster, Connacht and Special Recognition Award on Wednesday 8 December. The Ulster and Outstanding Achievement Award will be on Thursday 9 December.



THUMBS UP FOR MAM: Oulart-The Ballagh captain Mary Leacy celebrates with her three-year-old son Jake after Sunday's All-Ireland senior club camogie semi-final win over Slaughterneil. Picture: Matt Browne/Sportsfile



Marie Clancy.



The Kilbree players – Rachel Deasy, Kate O'Donovan, Caoimhe Murphy and Mary Murphy – on the Sacred Heart team that won the Munster Senior A camogie league final on Monday.



JOHN WEST FÉILE AMBASSADOR AND KILKENNY CAMOGIE PLAYER DENISE GAULE

Leacy and Jacob shine for Oulart-The Ballagh

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

First-half goals from Wexford legends Una Leacy and Ursula Jacob and eight points from play by the Kehoe twins, Shelley and Stacey, ended Slaughtneil's bid for a fifth consecutive AIB All-Ireland senior club camogie final appearance, as 2015 champions Oulart-The Ballagh claimed a 2-15 to 1-11 semi-final win at Donaghmore Ashbourne.

Oulart have another giant to slay in next Saturday's decider at Nowlan Park as title-holders Sarsfields lie in wait following their 0-11 to 0-4 victory over Drom & Inch on Saturday.

On this evidence, they look more than capable of doing so, their experience and scoring power capable of accounting for any outfit on a going day, with apart from the aforementioned, the likes of skipper and another ex-Model County hero Mary Leacy, Ciara Storey, Anais Curran and Aileen Brennan all involved.

By nine minutes, the Wexford side led by 1-5 to 0-0. After Shauna Sinnott pointed almost from the throw-in, Stacey Kehoe and Jacob slotted a pair apiece before Una Leacy goaled after Shelley Kehoe had drawn the cover with a run through the middle.

Tina Bradley slotted a couple of points for Slaughtneil, who added a third after winning a free from which Louise Dougan converted to leave it 1-5 to 0-4 at the first water break.

Clíodhna Ní Mhianáin reduced the margin to a goal but catastrophe struck when following Shelley Kehoe's point, Jacob's free from 55m was deflected by Dougan beyond Jolene Bradley to put seven between them once more. That margin had grown to ten by the interval (2-10 to 0-6).

Therese Mallon had a Slaughtneil goal in the first minute of the second half after a block by Céat McEldowney of Katie Gallagher's attempted clearance. Orla McNeill followed with a point but the Oulart riposte was notable, Una Leacy, Shauna Sinnott and Shelley Kehoe firing the last three points of the third quarter to make it 2-14 to 1-8. They only had to avoid a collapse from that juncture and with such experience in their ranks, that was never going to happen.

On Saturday, Siobhán McGrath shot seven points as Sarsfields ground out their victory over Drom/Inch in Edenderry. Conditions were dreadful, ensuring it was just 3-2 in favour of the Galwegians at the change of ends but they found another level in the latter period, McGrath and her sisters Orlaith and Niamh standing tall. Drom/Inch fought hard but were over-reliant on Tipp forward Eimear McGrath, who provided all four of their points, a return that was never going to be enough.



Glanmire Community College, winners of the Cork Colleges Intermediate A camogie title.

Glanmire edge out the Gaels

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Glanmire Community College 2-8
Gael Colaiste Mhuire AG 2-2

GLANMIRE Community College and Gael Colaiste Mhuire AG played out a close and exciting Cork Colleges Intermediate A final on Saturday last in Castle Road.

The sides were evenly matched over the hour and the scoreline of a six point victory for Glanmire Community College doesn't do justice to the game as a contest.

In the end, a goal one minute into added time from Neveah O'Connell was the score that put daylight between the teams and gave Glanmire breathing space to finish the game as a contest and win the title.

With the strong wind favouring them in the opening half Gael Colaiste Mhuire AG enjoyed plenty of possession, but despite getting in for plenty of scoring opportunities, they failed to convert them.

And it was Glanmire Community College who opened the scoring ten minutes into the game with a Sinead Hurley point.

At the first water break Glanmire had extended their lead to two points with Sinead Hurley pointing a free and on the resumption the same player had her side three points in front as she added to their tally with a point from play.

Enjoying a lot of possession and applying pressure, Gael Colaiste Mhuire AG's persistence paid off when Cait Ni Cheilleachair finished to the net to tie the game up.

Nessa Treacy edged Glanmire back in front with a point but working hard Gael Colaiste Mhuire AG continued to win possession and with Amy McCarthy working hard up front they kept the pressure on.

Just before the interval Olivia McAllen grabbed a goal that was to be a vital score for Glanmire Community College.

She evaded several tackles before firing the ball to the net and at the half time whistle it was Glanmire who led 1-4 to 1-0.

Turning to play with the wind in their favour for the second half Glanmire were hit an early killer blow as Gael Colaiste



Laura Dunlea, third year and Sinead Hurley, TY, at the Glanmire Community College unveiling of their new state-of-the-art astro turf facility, at Glanmire Community College, Brooklodge. Sinead scored four points in Glanmire's win over Gael Colaiste Mhuire AG.

Mhuire AG showed huge determination with a goal inside two minutes of the restart from Jessica Ni Chonchúir and now just one point separated the sides.

Nessa Treacy relieved the pressure with a point to edge Glanmire two points clear but it was Gael Colaiste Mhuire AG that were winning huge possession and keeping the pressure on the Glanmire defence.

Abbie Lynch-O'Shea swung over a superb effort from distance to put just one between the sides and with Ella Buckley pointing a long range free the sides were level 2-2 to 1-5 at the second water break.

Caoimhe Galvin edged Glanmire back in front with a point and they begin to gain a grip in the contest.

Glanmire were now winning vital possession.

Nessa Treacy pointed from play and with Sinead Hurley adding a pointed free, a goal separated the sides with two minutes remaining.

Gael Colaiste Mhuire AG still had opportunities as they kept the Glanmire defence on their toes but a break up field saw Neveah O'Connell finish to the net for the

score that put the game out of their reach and secured the title for Glanmire at the end of a very exciting contest.

Scorers for Glanmire Community College: S Hurley 0-4 (0-2f's), O Mc Allen, N O'Connell 1-0 each, N Treacy 0-3, C Galvin 0-1.

Gael Colaiste Mhuire AG: C Ni Cheilleachair, J Ni Chonchúir 1-0 each, A Lynch O'Shea, E Buckley (f) 0-1 each.

Glanmire Community College: A McCarthy (Sarsfields), A McAllen (Sarsfields), C Rice (Sarsfields), E O'Callaghan (Sarsfields), L Walsh (Sarsfields), K Mulcahy (Erins Own), Holly O'Mahony (Watergrasshill), C Galvin (Sarsfields), S Hurley (c) (Sarsfields), Hannah O'Mahony (Watergrasshill), O McAllen (Sarsfields), K Daly (Brian Dillon's), I Ryan (Sarsfields), N O'Connell (Sarsfields), N Treacy (Sarsfields).
Sub: L Byrne (Sarsfields) for I Ryan.

Gael Colaiste Mhuire AG: S Sloughter (Na Piarasigh), M Ni Bhrosnachain (Glen Rovers), E Ni Ghamhna (Na Piarasigh), K Ni Chathasaigh (Na Piarasigh), O Ni Mhuiríse (Glen Rovers), C Gosti-Nic Shuibhne (Na Piarasigh), A Ni Cholmain (Na Piarasigh), E Ni Chleirigh (Na Piarasigh), K Ni Ghabhain (Rockban), A Nic Carthaigh (Glen Rovers), E Ni Bhuachalla (c) (Glen Rovers), A Ni Loingsigh-Ni She (Glen Rovers), L Ni Chonchúir (Na Piarasigh), N Golka (Na Piarasigh), J Ni Chonchúir (Na Piarasigh).

Subs: C Ni Cheilleachair (Blarney) for L Ni Chonchúir, L Nic Giolla Phadraig (St Vincent's) for K Ni Ghabhain, K Ni Ghabhain for N Golka.

Referee: Barry Day (Aghada).

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Club Senior Championship semi-finals: Sarsfields 0-11 Drom and Inch (Tipperary) 0-4, Oulart the Ballagh (Wexford) 2-15 Slaughtneil (Derry) 1-11.
All-Ireland Junior B Club semi-final: Naomh Treasa Dungannon (Tyronne) 2-6 Na Brideoga (Mayo) 2-4.

Not even an ACL tear could stop Hannah powering to more glory

Timoleague teenager enjoyed another remarkable year of success in road bowling

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

HANNAH Sexton's rise through the bowling ranks – and her growing collection of honours – is sensational. But even more remarkable is that she snaffled up All-Ireland U18 and Munster intermediate titles within five weeks despite having a cruciate tear in her left knee.

On May 29th last, the Timoleague teenager partly tore her ACL in action for the Cork intermediate camogie team during a Division 2 league game against Galway.

'It was inside the first 15 minutes, I just landed down on my leg and my cruciate tore,' Hannah explains.

That injury ended her camogie season – but it didn't shut the door on her road-bowling ambitions.

'I saw a specialist and was told that I could bowl away once the leg was strapped,' she explains.

'I didn't need to

get an operation, thank God, but as long as the leg was strapped and it was straight-line running, I could bowl on.'

Hannah didn't need to be asked twice. It took time to get used to bowling with the heavy strapping, but soon the game's most dominant underage star was back into the swing of things. In late August, in the delayed 2020 championships, she defended her Munster U18 title

that kept the defence of her All-Ireland crown on track. Again, she swept to glory. Her All-Ireland triumph in Newtownhamilton, Armagh was never in doubt as she signed off her underage bowling career with back-to-back U18 All-Irelands.

That follows on from Hannah's back-to-back U16 All-Irelands, too.

It's a staggering record. She has done what has never been done before.

From U12 to U18 Hannah has dominated. She



Celtic Ross Hotel West Cork Sports Star monthly award winner Hannah Sexton with her parents Brian and Mary, and sisters Laura, Ellen and Margaret. (Photos: George Maguire)

'As long as the leg was strapped and it was straight-line running, I could bowl on' – Hannah Sexton

won all nine Munster underage finals she played in. Her record is phenomenal, as is her roll of honour: U18 (3), U16 (3), U14 (2) and U12 (1).

A few weeks after her latest All-Ireland success came Hannah's big highlight of the past year – she won the Munster intermediate title (again, the delayed 2020 competition) with a two-bowl final victory over Ciara Buckley at Templemartin.

The rewards are huge, as Hannah now advances to the senior ranks for 2020. She's in with the big guns. There was a rare All-Ireland final defeat when she lost the intermediate decider to the experienced Sinead Kiernan in October, but that's a blip in the grand scheme.

'Winning the intermediate Munster is the stand-out from this year, says Hannah, who has added a Celtic Ross West Cork

Sports Star monthly award to her collection, in recognition of her achievements this year.

'I started at intermediate in 2019 and wanted to get up to the senior grade as fast as possible, but I didn't think it would happen this year and so fast. To win Munster and go up to senior, that was a dream,' she says.

Hannah also enjoyed success, alongside Wayne Parkes, at the King and Queen of the Roads Festival in September. They defended their Youths' International Triple Crown title against German and Dutch opponents. Yet more silverware.

With the bowling season now

over, Hannah is focussed on rehabbing her left knee.

'I am not getting an operation and they were waiting for me to finish up bowling so I could start my rehab properly. I finished up after the All-Ireland in late October so I have been in rehab the last two months. Obviously I hope to be back at the start of next year's bowling, and to get back playing camogie too,' she explains.

Having won All-Ireland and Munster titles while not 100 percent fit, and with a cruciate tear, just imagine what a fully-fit Hannah is capable of in 2022.

Daring greatly to defy odds and



1 **A**RE you still at the camogie? It's a question that comes up a lot, over the Christmas break. You might meet cousins or school-friends or college friends who haven't seen you in a while. You're trying to place

Eimear Ryan

each other, colour in the sketched outline: Jobs and partners and kids and cities of residence. And sport.

'Ah yeah, still going,' you say.

You see them do the mental arithmetic. Chances are they know the year you finished school, or graduated college, or played minor. It's a while back now.

Apropos of nothing, you bring up Pauline McCarthy, the unstoppable 62-year-old who scored a goal in the Limerick junior B ladies football final last month.

'Lots of people put pressure on you but why should you give up something if you like

doing it?' she told the *Limerick Leader* after helping St Ailbes to victory. But Pauline is an outlier.

To be fair, it's a question worth asking. You love the sport despite the bruises, the rainy training sessions, the sometimes crushing disappointments and the general lack of fanfare. You've put in a fair amount of years. Will you do another?

2 There is a sense of unfinished business. An eminently avoidable injury interrupted your 2021 season. You have to tell a succession of nurses, doctors, physios, friends, and

team-mates how you came by this injury, and the embarrassment does not diminish with each telling. Suffice to say, your skateboarding days are over.

It's a young woman's game in a lot of ways – skateboarding, certainly, but also camogie. You're astonished by the young talent coming through in your club – how fearless they are, how calm under pressure. That enviable injection of pace. And then there's the visible strength of today's inter-county stars, years of quality S&C under their belts.

The routines posted to Instagram: Dumbbells, Gym+Coffee, dog-walking,

sea-swimming. Entire lives geared towards excellence. You were never that disciplined, not even when you were their age. Could you be that disciplined now?

3 The first set of physio exercises were very modest in scope. You think of that scene in *Kill Bill*, where Uma Thurman is in the back of a car after waking up from a coma, trying to wiggle her big toe.

It's not as bad as all that, of course, but when you've been in a cast for six weeks, you begin to depersonalise your injured limb. You can't see it, and you can't manoeuvre it

get back in the camogie arena

without using your hands or crutches; it no longer feels yours. That first set of exercises is all about becoming reacquainted. Rotating the joint as much as you can.

Moving it from left to right, as far as it will go, imitating the movement of windscreen wipers. And yes, lots of toe-wiggling.

4 You are told your dorsiflexion will never be the same. You love this word, dorsiflexion, even as it describes your limitations. It means you can't really squat anymore, or properly bend your leg forward. Put your toe to the wall,

then move your knee forward to meet the wall also. Easy, right? Now try on your bad leg.

'It's great that you're still fairly young and fit,' your physio tells you, 'it'll help your recovery.'

And you are lucky in that respect, but in hurling years, you're old.

Perspective is everything.

5 Even when you get your cast off, you use your crutches to get up the stairs that night. After only six weeks, you trust the crutches more than your own two feet. It comes back slowly, the

trust. The sole of your repaired foot gets pins and needles when you put it flush to the floor, no longer used to that sort of contact.

You can stand, but walking feels much harder. It means putting most of your weight on the dodgy foot. You laugh out loud in the kitchen when you take your new first steps, startling the cat.

Walking, swimming, cycling. One by one, they all come back.

6 Your physio tells you it's time to try running but you're afraid, afraid, afraid. You tried it once on the treadmill in the

gym and you were convinced your foot was going to shatter.

You know it's all in your head, this feeling, but it still causes your heart to judder in your chest. It's wild, the effect that the brain can have on the body.

At your parents' house, on the big lawn out the back with the dog running circles around you, you make yourself jog slow circles. It's not pretty, but it's a start.

7 You used to be very cynical in your youth – unemotional, hard even – but as you've gotten older that thick skin has become more permeable.

You find yourself weeping up at books, movies, poignant Christmas ads. You do a bit of yoga and meditation. You read the odd self-help book.

One of these is *Daring Greatly* by Brene Brown, which takes its title from the following speech by Theodore Roosevelt, the first and lesser of the Roosevelt presidents: 'It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood ... who at the worst, if he falls, at least

fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.'

This has become known as the 'man in the arena' speech, and not, strangely, the 'hurler on the ditch' speech. But it cheers you up, for some reason. Maybe it's not self-defeating to pursue something where you're constantly coming up short. Maybe it's daring greatly.

8 Are you still at the camogie? Yes, I am still at it – or at the very least, camogie is still at me.



Loreto Fermoy Munster D Sevens camogie winners: The school's teams have a lot of games to look forward to in the months ahead.

Wealth of talent as camogie gets up and running

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT is good to see camogie back in schools and colleges after the long break due to Covid restrictions. It is also good to see the competitions up and running again, and it is great to see that a lot of schools camogie is flourishing and growing.

Recently, we had two excellent finals in Castle Road, where St Mary's High School Midleton breeched a 30-year gap when they took the Cork Colleges Senior A champions title as they edged out Coachford College in a close contest.

It was great to see a former Killeagh and Cork star, the legendary Anne Leahy, on the side line lending a hand. Leahy was a huge part of the Killeagh and Cork camogie teams in the 1980s and is a teacher in St Mary's.

It was thanks to her that, many years ago, camogie got off the ground in St Mary's and there was no one more proud than Leahy as they were crowned champions.

Glanmire Community College and Gaelcholáiste Mhuire AG played out a close and exciting Cork Colleges Intermediate A final with Glanmire Community College taking the honours with a strong finish in what was a first title for them at this level.

Cork colleges will feature strongly after the Christmas break, when the Munster colleges competitions resume.

Already Cork has an interest in the Senior A, with Coachford College through to the semi-final.

Midleton are still in contention and will meet Doon in a quarter-final clash.

In the Munster Senior B, Coláiste an Phiarsaigh are still involved, while in the Senior D AG Mhuire Carrigtwohill will meet Ballincollig Community School in the quarter-final.

The pupils in Loreto Fermoy have also



The St Mary's Midleton team celebrate with the Merriman Cup after they defeated Coachford College in the Cork Colleges Camogie Senior A Final at Castle Road, Cork. Picture: Dan Linehan

been busy since the school season got under way and their pupils got back on the playing fields again.

They report that pupils joining the teams in Loreto have reached a record high in the history of the school. They recently organised a very successful first- and second-year blitz, which was held in the school and which saw more than 70 girls take to the playing field.

The event was organised by Loreto Gaels Transition Year GAA Future Leaders, who did an excellent job organising the event and ensuring everything went smoothly.

In competitive action, Loreto's senior teams were also playing recently. They had a hard-fought victory over Coláiste na Toirbhirte Bandon, which sees them go through to the Senior B Cork Colleges semi-final.

Trials were held in the school in advance of the Munster 7's competition. Two teams were selected, with both putting in a lot of hard work in advance of the competition. One of the sides were crowned Munster D Shield champions in a competition that took place in Mallow, while the school's cup team were narrowly beaten in the Munster final after extra time.

Every player enjoyed a great day at the blitz and some excellent camogie was played.

There are a lot of games to look forward to in the months ahead. Amongst the competitions that the school will participate in for the 2021/2022 season are the Munster senior league, junior competitions, first-year competitions, and the second-year blitz. These will all take place in the coming months and ensure plenty of camogie for all the participants.

Training continues after school on Mondays and Thursdays for the girls in Loreto, and the enthusiasm in the school is huge. The school's players are currently representing the following clubs: Castlelyons, Fermoy, Kilworth, Bride Rovers, Watergrasshill, St Catherine's, Mallow, and Ballyduff (Waterford).

Amongst the school's past pupils who have gone on to greater things is St Catherine's and Cork senior player Laura Hayes.

There is huge interest amongst all age levels in representing Loreto on the playing fields. This is hugely positive for the school at a time when player retention is vital, and it demonstrates the work that schools and clubs are doing at grass-roots level.

'Camogie is a hobby – having children helped me to realise that'

Eoghan Cormican

No sooner has Mary Leacy taken our call when the sound of young children making their presence felt becomes clearly audible in the background.

We ask Mary if we've caught her at a less than convenient time, but she assures us that everyone is where they should be and so we're okay to drive on.

"Now, if you'd have rang five minutes ago, it was total chaos. We're organised now, though," laughs the busy mammy.

This afternoon at UPMC Nowlan Park, the Oulart-The Ballagh captain will again be on minding duty, but it is Sarsfields' renowned forward line rather than her own two smallies who she'll be keeping a close eye on.

When the Camogie Association drew up their proposed master fixture schedule for the Covid-affected 2021 season, the plan was to complete the postponed 2020 All-Ireland club series in late June and early July. Such a schedule, had it not been subsequently torpedoed by furious inter-county players and disgruntled clubs, would have sidelined a then heavily pregnant Leacy.

The association's eventual adoption of a split-season model, with inter-county going first, bought her the necessary time and means she will lead Oulart into today's 2020 All-Ireland club final five months after giving birth to her second boy.

Having worn the title of captain when Oulart returned to the winners enclosure in Wexford after three seasons away last year, it was always the 36-year-old's intention to step back inside the whitewash after giving birth for a second time.

Those plans, though, hit a significant roadblock in June when a severe dose of sciatica in the final month of pregnancy had her bedridden for three days straight. The pain, Leacy recalls, was pretty brutal.

Baby Matthew arrived hale and hearty a few weeks later



Mary Leacy with her son Jake, aged three, last weekend.

in early July, making a big brother out of three-year-old Jake. Fast forward another six weeks to mid-August and the half-back was to be found dusting off her trademark white helmet.

"The hardest thing was having to commit again. When I was pregnant, I didn't have to go training and I could do what I wanted in the evening. It was lovely," said Wexford's 2007 All-Ireland winning captain.

"You are in a totally different mindframe when you are away from it, but after around two sessions, I was back in the zone again. It is kinda like an addiction. The bond and the camaraderie that you have with all the girls, there is nothing in life can beat that.

"Now, going back playing did and does take a lot of organisation between myself and my husband. It was grand when I only had one child and I could leave him off at my mam's or my mother-in-law's, but you can't really do that with a toddler and a baby so there is a fair bit of organising involved."

But all such effort is absolutely worthwhile, with the four-time All-Ireland winner and three-time All-Star singing the benefits of continuing to play on after starting a family.

"Your life doesn't stop when you have children. Continuing to play is good for you and good for them. You need your break and you need to be getting out and exercising, as well. I really couldn't advocate it more, it is fantastic for your mental health.

"As well as that, it is good to bring the young lads along and show them the heritage of the GAA and what we have all been brought up with. Having them there with you at the end of a game is lovely too in terms of savouring the moment." And on that latter note, Leacy adds that motherhood has definitely lent perspective.

"Before I had the kids, you'd take camogie really, really seriously. Whereas now, you really do know there are other things in life more important. Camogie at the end of the day is a hobby and having children helped me to realise that." It's a hobby, mind, that they are right good at down in Oulart, the club today chasing a third All-Ireland crown since 2012.

Mary's younger sister Una was captain for their maiden triumph nine years ago and such has been the recent form of the Leacy sisters and Ursula Jacob that their run to the 2020 decider has had the feel of a stroll down memory lane.

"For us, it is unbelievable to be back in an All-Ireland final. The older you get, the more you appreciate it because you don't know if you'll get the chance to play on this stage again. I am really enjoying my hurling at present, I feel there is no pressure on me. I have all the young girls around me and they are doing all the running!



Newtownshandrum were the Division 4 Cork Féile Na nGael camogie winners.

Juvenile year a fine success

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE Cork Camogie convention took place online recently due to current restrictions.

It reviewed a comprehensive and busy year on the playing fields at all levels and the juvenile committee gave an outstanding account of what was a hugely busy and successful season for the young camogie players in Cork.

Delegates heard that in 2021 there were a total of 50 finals and 945 underage games in total played. Considering games did not get underway until June 2021 the outstanding work done by the juvenile committee was phenomenal.

Without doubt they could not have completed the mammoth programme of games without the tireless work of a hard-working and dedicated Juvenile Committee comprised of Liam Ryan, who was juvenile coordinator, Mairead O'Donovan, county board chairperson, Darina Foley, county board registrar, Marian McCarthy, county board treasurer, Mary McSweeney, Hilda O'Mahoney, Natasha Durrity, Mairead Lynch, Ollie Moroney, Paul Meagher, Eilish Nyhan, Lorraine O'Connell, Tom Scanlan, and Gwen Fitzpatrick.

The two main venues for the underage finals were the superb venue that is the Camogie Grounds in Castle Road and also the Colleges pitch in Castle Road.

In total there were eight Cork Féile Na nGael Finals, ten Under 12 Go Games League Finals, nine Under 16 League Finals, ten Under 16 Championship Finals, ten Under 14 League Finals and ten Under 14 Championship Finals.

The clubs showed huge cooperation in getting games played and from the outset it was a challenging objective to complete leagues and championships in essentially a five month window from mid-June to end of October but to their credit the clubs rolled up the sleeves and got stuck in.

Whilst some Finals slipped to the second week of November these were mainly down to club requests and or unavailability of pitch for originally scheduled



Valley Rovers and Glen Rovers players after their Féile Na nGael camogie group game in Brinny.

games. Whilst there were many challenges with scheduling of games the committee endeavoured to work with all clubs to find suitable dates for all fixtures and as always everything eventually sorted itself out.

The committee had a big job on the Return to Play as firstly they had to complete several 2020 championship finals but to their credit they got this done.

Amongst the competitions organised in 2021 were the Under 12 Go Games and these were organized over two phases, in Phase 1 teams were placed randomly within eight team groups and all teams played seven games within those groups.

This phase allowed all teams to find their correct level for Phase 2 whilst this did lead to some mismatches in Phase 1, it did allow for correct grading of teams going into Phase 2 in almost all cases.

In Phase 2 teams were again divided into a group of eight and then put into two groups of four based on results from Phase 1, the top two teams from each group moved forward to Semi Finals of that Under 12 Go Game Section.

Overall the league was a great success with minimum number of games for each team being ten and maximum of twelve. There were over 370 Under 12 games

scheduled and played amongst the eight teams that entered the leagues.

League finals were completed by the end of September, and for the clubs who did not reach the concluding stages there was a superb Under 12 gala day held in Castle Road where all clubs got to participate.

There was huge interest as the Cork camogie board organised a superb Féile Na nGael competition and the Féile mantra of "No one is left behind" was plain to be seen as Camogie was played all day in every corner of the city and county and in total there were seven divisions and fifteen venues, teams were divided into seven groups with each group subdivided into two groups.

The top teams from each group qualified for the group final, in total 54 teams took part on what can only be described as a superb day for Cork camogie.

There was a surprise visit from Camogie Association president Hilda Breslin who called to Castle Road for Féile before heading to Páirc Uí Chaoimh for the All-Ireland senior championship quarter finals.

Next week we will look at the structures which were in place for the under 14, 16 and minor competitions.

PERFECT MATCH

Kehoe is a standout for Oulart in All-Ireland final the day after her wedding

JUST 24 hours earlier, Stacey Kehoe was walking up the aisle. Now, she was thundering into challenges, having swapped a white dress for red and black jersey and shorts, high heels for football boots, a bouquet of flowers for a hurley.

The midfielder covered every blade of grass as Oulart-The Ballagh won their third AIB All-Ireland senior club Camogie title, Kehoe and many of her illustrious team-mates among the survivors from the initial one in 2012.

Una Leacy stole the headlines with a phenomenal hat-trick of goals, the two in the second half ensuring that Sarsfields would always be kept at bay as they attempted to turn around the 2-4 to 0-1 quarter-time deficit that was still 2-7 to 0-4 at the interval.

But it was Kehoe who had the player-of-the-match award to go with her medal and a sparkling ring from a very memorable weekend.

In truth, it was a stunning team performance, with so many of the match-ups going the winners' way and some of the newer members of the squad standing up to be counted along with the more established operators such as Kehoe, her twin

 Oulart	4-8
 Sarsfields	2-9

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Shelley, Leacy and her sibling Mary, the victorious captain, Ursula Jacob, and Anais Curran. Aileen Brennan and Aoife Dunne were outstanding too but this was all about the unit.

Leacy scored an absolutely sensational goal in the 10th minute after good work from Jacob, and Shelley Kehoe followed up two minutes later, after Sarsfields goalkeeper, Lauren Glynn had made two brilliant saves.

Glynn would make another fantastic stop from Una Leacy but the full-forward would respond to Sarsfields goals from Siobhán McGrath and Klara Donohue after the resumption to maintain a gap that was needed as the dethroned champions fought desperately to retain their grasp on the Bill and Agnes Carroll Cup.

There were four successive



points from Orlaith McGrath (two) and her sisters Siobhán and Clodagh before Shelley Kehoe had the final say after forcing a turnover.

'Whenever we needed the goal, the girls popped up the far end,' said Stacey Kehoe. 'We kept at it, kept plucking away at the scores. One to 15, and whoever came on, the whole panel, everyone put their arms, their legs, everything on the line and it paid off.'

'We break it down to 15 minutes at a time. The biggest thing we concentrate on is the rucks. Whether it's a hurl, an arm or a leg, as long as we get the numbers on

the break and we come out with the ball, we don't care who wins it, as long as we get possession.'

'We gave Sarsfields the respect they deserve as All-Ireland champions but we know we're a good team. Everyone believes in each other and that's what got us over the line today.'

The Wexford representatives showed a voracious appetite for work.

'That came from the Thomastown game (Leinster final) when we were two points down and did dig deep and pulled it out of the bag. That belief and the momentum we

WINNING FEELING: Oulart-The Ballagh revel in their success after winning the All-Ireland Club Championship

gained brought us on each week. It's easy to get over the line when the performances are coming.'

Remarkably, Oulart-The Ballagh will be defending their title early in the New Year, with the All-Ireland series for the 2021/2022 campaign getting under way.

'We'll have a break and we'll go again in January. We know days like this don't come around too often but when you get the taste of winning and have that hunger, it's easy to continue going training.'

For now though, Stacey Kehoe more than anyone, is entitled to celebrate.

'What a 24 hours we're having,' said the grinning No 8. 'Days don't get much better than this: get married yesterday and get over the line today in a club All-Ireland.'

'We're delighted. Credit where it's due. Everyone that was at the wedding, we stayed on the 7-Ups, we stayed on the Mi-Wadis but by God we'll lift the roof off Oulart tonight!'

OULART-THE BALLAGH: Lauren Sinnott, M Leacy, A Brennan, K Roche, A Dunne, C Storey, M O'Dowd, Stacey Kehoe, A Curran, K Gallagher, Shelley Kehoe, Louise Sinnott, U Leacy, U Jacob, Shauna Sinnott. **Scorers:** U Leacy 3-0; Shelley Kehoe 1-3; U Jacob 0-3(2fs); K Gallagher, A Curran 0-1 each.

SARSFIELDS: L Glynn, R Kelly, K Gallagher, L Ward, J Daly, A Dealey, T Kenny, N McGrath, C McGrath, K Donohue, O McGrath, S Spellman, S Corcoran, S McGrath, M Conroy. **Subs:** R Murray for Dealey (34), C Kenny for Daly (45). **Scorers:** S McGrath 1-2(0-1f); C McGrath 0-3(2fs, 1-4f); K Donohue 1-0; N McGrath, O McGrath 0-2 each. **Referee:** Andy Larkin

'People said: 'Oh they're an ageing team,' and all this. That's bull. Age is only a number'

AIB All-Ireland Club camogie championship final

Oulart-The Ballagh (Wexford)	4-8
Sarsfields (Galway)	2-9

Daragh Ó Conchúir
UPMC Nowlan Park

Two-year-old Mike was jumping around excitedly leaving UPMC Nowlan Park. Twice he landed on his knees on the path and you waited for the wailing. It didn't come. Indeed the second time, you'd nearly swear he threw himself down full force for the good of it.

'We breed them tough down our way,' came the response to an expression of admiration for the hardiness of the youngster.

'His mummy just scored three goals in the All-Ireland final,' was the addendum.

Mike's dad Barry captained Oulart-The Ballagh to their first Leinster hurling title in 2015, his sisters, the twins Shelley and Stacey played monumental roles as they garnered a third AIB All-Ireland senior club camogie championship medal on Saturday, the latter named player of the match, 24 hours after getting married.

But the goal frenzy of Barry's partner, and Mike's mother Una Leacy, 14 years after her first-half brace as a teenager had helped secure

Wexford's first All-Ireland since her own mother Margaret's third in 1975, was the standout individual contribution.

In all, Una and her older sister Mary would win four All-Irelands with Wexford, meaning the two generations have been involved in all seven of the county's ultimate successes. This is the siblings' third club title, Una having been captain when they won the first in 2012. Margaret won five with Buffers Alley.

With Mary leading this Oulart-The Ballagh side, she joined Una and their clubmate Karen Atkinson as a skipper of victorious club and county sides, six months after giving birth to her second son Matthew. Her eldest Jake is best friends with his aforementioned first cousin.

Una has had a long history of injury problems in both her knees that have required a series of operations and she has postponed surgery on the two of them to contribute to the current run.

That she was even on the pitch to lay waste to Sarsfields' two-in-a-row dreams was miraculous. Mike didn't lick it up off the ground.

'I was kind of retiring myself after every match,' admitted Leacy afterwards. 'The Thomastown (Leinster final), after that I was retired. Before the county semi-final against Glynn Barntown, I didn't know if I was going to play that.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION: Oulart-The Ballagh's Mary Leacy's son Jake celebrates with the team after their All-Ireland club championship win over Sarsfields in Nowlan Park on Saturday. Picture: Dan Sheridan/Inpho

'Dr Conal McCarthy, the GP, he did brilliant to get me sorted. I got an injection in my knee and only for it I wouldn't have played those matches. I was in at the hyperbaric chamber with Gummy (physio Donal O'Connor) on Wednesday night and Thursday night and was back into him this morning to strap me up. Going into him this week I wasn't in the same position as last week

(before the All-Ireland semi-final against Slaughtneil). Last week I went into him I couldn't walk, my knee was really swollen. I have found the hyperbaric chamber amazing.'

The first goal was pure genius and along with Shelley Kehoe's major two minutes later established a nine-point lead at the first water break that was to prove critical.

The second and third were immediate responses to the second-half strikes of Siobhán McGrath and Klara Donohue that kept the gallant Sarsfields at arm's length despite their resolute efforts, driven on by captain, Niamh McGrath.

'I couldn't believe it! I know I scored three goals but I missed I don't know how many. It was the longest sec-

ond half. In fairness, they never gave up. True champions. They fought to the very hand. We just though, 'Blow up the whistle!' 'Coming in here today, no one gave us a chance. We were listening to podcasts during the week. They're the best motivation you can get. They didn't give us a chance. 'Oh they're an ageing team,' and all this. That's all bullshit. Age is only a number.'

There is another All-Ireland title on offer in the new year now but with player of the match Stacey Kehoe having had to tone down her wedding celebrations 24 hours beforehand, that can wait.

'She got married yesterday and player of the match performance today. I think she covered every blade of grass in Nowlan Park. We've young girls coming too and I think when the want and the will is there to win, you've a chance.'

Scorers for Oulart-The Ballagh: U Leacy (3-0); Shelley Kehoe (1-3); U Jacob (0-3, 2fs); K Gallagher, A Curran (0-1 each).

Scorers for Sarsfields: S McGrath (1-3, 2fs); N McGrath (0-4, 2fs); K Donohue (1-0); O McGrath (0-2 each).

OULART-THE BALLAGH: Lauren Sinnott, M Leacy, A Brennan, K Roche, A Dunne, C Storey, M O'Dowd, Stacey Kehoe, A Curran, K Gallagher, Shelley Kehoe, Louise Sinnott, U Leacy, U Jacob, Shauna Sinnott.

SARSFIELDS: L Glynn, R Kelly, K Gallagher, L Ward, J Daly, A Dealey, T Kenny, N McGrath, C McGrath, K Donohue, O McGrath, S Spellman, S Corcoran, S McGrath, M Conroy.

Subs: R Murray for Dealey (34), C Kenny for Daly (45).

Referee: Andy Larkin

'Our chain is getting shorter but our links are getting stronger'

Daragh O Conchúir



EVEN by the standards of Clanmaurice and Kerry camogie, the circumstances of their 2020 AIB All-Ireland Junior Club semi-final triumph over Athleague last month were truly bizarre.

They are the same unit at adult level, though the development of two junior clubs and more at underage level points to a much needed increase in depth.

To that end, they are accustomed to overcoming odds,

progressing four grades from junior B to intermediate in under a decade in the green and gold, winning the premier junior title at Croke Park in 2019.

Just a few months later, the same crop of players finally got over the line in the club championship and they are back in the decider now against the same opposition, Raharney, in Moyne Templeouhy (tomorrow 2pm), after garnering a fourth consecutive Munster title.

They were tight anyway heading into the semi-final due to the ineligibility of stalwarts Olivia Dineen and Julianne O'Keeffe, who had not participated in the 2020 campaign due to being pregnant and going travelling respectively.

Then Covid-19 took a swipe the night before. With 2019 skipper Liz Houlihan due to give birth in February there were no alternatives.

Fortunately, camogie rules don't necessitate a full complement by the start of the second half as they do in GAA.

It was and is symptomatic of the group's DNA, the molecular strength of the bond and what they would do for one another. That has been forged through bad and good, through a shared sense of mission, of place, of belonging, of representation.

So, Clanmaurice just went and won the game quite convincingly and now face a repeat of the 2019 decider, which they won after a replay.

"I don't know what I would do without the girls and without camogie," says inspirational defender Niamh Leen,

who climbed the Hogan Stand steps at Croke Park as Kerry captain to receive the Kay Mills Cup in 2019.

"It's been our lives since we have been so young. Initially, I put on a Kerry jersey when I was 11 and I haven't taken one off since. I have been playing since I was 15 with Clanmaurice and I am 24. So it's been a journey.

"The All-Ireland semi-final win just shows the strength of this team and the determination that we have and the fight and the support that we have for one another.

"We knew we just had the bare 15 and then when we got the text on the Friday night (about the Covid issues), I had a moment, and I'm not going to lie. I was texting and snapping some of the girls and we all had a bit of a moment of feeling sorry for ourselves.

And then we were like, 'Wouldn't it just be unreal if we were to win with just 14?'

"That was the mentality going up in the car that morning. We met in Kildimo for a cup of coffee and we are all just buzzing. I have never experienced such high emotion around a game. We were just on a high, we were like: 'This is going to be incredible, we are going to be the team that win an All-Ireland semi-final with 14 girls.'

That mental gymnastics, prouetting from doubt to certainty, meant Athleague didn't stand a chance. But it was a less taxing journey for a side used to being short on numbers. Even tomorrow, with Houlihan the only named injury or a Covid close contact. Raharney have a panel of 30. "We always said Clanmaur-



Clanmaurice's Niamh Leen: 'I don't know what I would do without the girls and without camogie.' Picture: Inpho/Ryan Byrne

ice is about quality over quantity 'cos we definitely don't have the quantity. Something Tricky (manager Mike Enright) said a couple of weeks ago, he said our chain is getting shorter but our links are getting stronger. And it's so true. The respect I have for every single girl on this panel and even the management team. We are the kind of team that when people tell us we can't we are kind of like: 'Well, we are going to prove you wrong on that.' I hate being told that I can't do something. I hate not being able to do something as it is, so being told I can't do it is just another level."

The current numerical situation isn't sustainable of course as Kerry rise through the ranks but Causeway and Cill Ard will hopefully provide more players to the Kingdom cause in time. Leen herself, as a teacher back in her old secondary school Causeway Comprehensive, does a lot of coaching and is excited about the future.

Unfortunately, the small but fervent North Kerry support will be split and Clanmaurice will be shorn of many who would have made the trip to Tipp by the involvement of Kilmoyley hurlers in the Munster final tomorrow afternoon.

Laura Collins' two brothers, Daniel and Robert — who is also Leen's boyfriend — will be lining out, as will the Fitzells, Luke and Dougie.

"How many young Kilmoyley girls are going to be going to the Munster final instead of watching us play in an All-Ireland final? We are supposed to be the role models, we are supposed to be inspiring and yet, you can't see, you can't be."

Pilates, a bit of luck, and hard work keeps McCarthy young

Daragh Small

With a career spanning over 50 years, Pauline McCarthy hasn't ruled out playing Ladies football and camogie for Limerick club St Ailbe's past her 63rd birthday next November.

Her secret is pilates — but also a bit of luck and plenty of hard work — and that combination has helped her to avoid serious injury and operate at the top level of inter-county action.

The now-legendary Ballybricken native has also played soccer for a number of clubs, and rugby too, but she calls herself a camogie player playing football. And she has seen it all since her debut season as an 11-year-old for the local junior team.

"Back in the 1970s, when you were going to training, you had to listen to the trainer because they would tell you when the next night's training was on, the time and where it was on," said McCarthy.

"If you didn't listen, you wouldn't know. You didn't get a text on WhatsApp and there was no WhatsApp group,

there were no telephone calls to cancel matches either. You couldn't cancel a match at the drop of a pin.

"There even used to be a lady here years ago and when they were arranging matches, they used to send a poster of the match that was coming up in a month's time, and it had to be played because there was no way of cancelling it.

"You can actually see them not paying attention in the group at training when they are having a chat now. If the texts don't come out you probably wouldn't have anyone at training."

Times have changed in the past half-century but McCarthy soldiered on through thick and thin.

She represented a Cork club and won two All-Irelands with them, mistakenly got called up to a Cork inter-county panel that only lasted for one match, and also wore Munster colours.

But she was Limerick through and through, she starred with the county's footballers for a couple of years during the 1990s, while she began with the camogie team

way back in 1974 and only finished up in 2005.

"When I was 11, I was playing corner-forward for Ballybricken," said McCarthy.

"At the same time, I played U14 football and hurling with the boys. I was the only girl playing. I was a freak altogether. It was frowned on for a girl to be playing, it was very unusual.

"I went on and won every county championship from my underage years, I had two U16s, four U18s and eight U21s.

"At adult level, I have lots of trophies and medals. I had seven Limerick camogie senior championships, I couldn't tell you how many leagues I have played and won, I have four senior football with St Ailbe's, I have two Cork senior football club championships, I have two Munster club championships with Newtownshandrum and I have two All-Irelands with Newtownshandrum. With Ballygran, I won five county championships, three Munster club championships and one All-Ireland club, all around that late '70s time.



Pauline McCarthy with her St Ailbe's team-mates as they were crowned Limerick senior football champions in 2020.

"I've kept all the medals here in a press. Some are in a drawer, depends on whether I was playing or not. I have a lot, I have a good few of them outside in an outhouse with the rain coming down on them. But the important ones I keep in the house."

It's a fabulous career that will likely never be matched again but she continues to strive for more success and she scored 1-2 for St Ailbe's in their Limerick Junior B Ladies football final victory over Dromcollogher-Broad-

ford in Croom, one week after her 62nd birthday.

Then, on December 11, she was back in the camogie county final when St Ailbe's ran an impressive Doon side close, only to lose by four points in the end.

Nevertheless, McCarthy hasn't called time on her playing days just yet.

"It's hard and you need to have good physical condition," said McCarthy.

"A few years ago we started a Gaelic4Mothers&Others here in St Ailbe's. They did

their cruciates, calf muscles, quad muscles, fingers, everything. But an awful lot of them had never done anything physical.

"If you were thinking of doing football or camogie at the age of 40-something never having played or not having played in 20 years, you can't just walk out onto the field because the young ones will kill you."

McCarthy has only begun to focus on optimising her physical condition in recent years and, away from the game, she has never been busier.

She is an IT manager with Milford Care Centre and Covid-19 has transformed her working week. The constant battle with phishing scams is an added battle that the hospice, daycare and nursing home could do without.

The next big fundraiser is on Sunday, January 30, when the annual Milford Hospice 10km takes place.

She added: "The 10k is all about fundraising and a lot of the staff take part. It's a good day out and we get loads of support from the local people, they are absolutely fantastic."

Twomey primed for a new Cork challenge



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

FOR the first time in 11 seasons Cork camogie will have a new voice leading their dressing room.

It's not an unfamiliar voice; Matthew Twomey has been involved with Cork's elite squad intermittently for a total of five years during Paudie Murray's 10-year reign.

This time though, he's the boss, and it's a position he feels privileged to be in.

"It's a massive honour. I suppose this time 12 months ago I wasn't even involved in the 2021 management, but when Paudie offered me a particular role I was very happy with it," Twomey said.

"It was kind of down my alley, dealing with the players, trying to get the dressing room into a very good place, and that was exciting, so the year itself, I feel we had a good year.

"I suppose heading into the All-Ireland we were the best prepared I'd ever seen the team, just on the day itself our conversion rate wasn't good enough. Galway beat us, probably a bit of inexperience in us, but since then to get this role, it's a huge honour for me.

"It was always something that was on my radar and now that it's mine it's just a massive honour. One thing I'd have to say going into next year is that we're not going to press the nuclear button on it.

"This year was good enough, with just some tweaking to go into it. We'll bring our own characters."

That includes getting former Clare, Waterford, and Wexford manager Davy Fitzgerald in for a coaching role.

"Having Davy Fitz on board is a massive coup, there's a great buzz about the place. It's great for Cork camogie, but it's also huge for the Camogie Association in general that people like Davy are looking to come into camogie and its not frowned upon anymore.

"Paudie was brilliant, what he did for Cork camogie over the past 10 years was huge, but we'll just put our own mark on it now. Davy is his own character, I'm my own character, I'd be very player orientated as well so we'll see how that goes."

Looking back on last year's All-Ireland final, when Katrina Mackey got her goal on 48 minutes, it looked as if Cork would kick on. They didn't, but they were so close, so it's not as if drastic changes are needed?

"No... we had a couple of bad wides after Katrina's goal, we had a chance of another goal. The disappointing thing I suppose is that rather than pushing on, we sat back. We drew them on to us and they'd more experience with being in the last couple of finals.

"We had five girls who started in their first All-Ireland final. They're after two trips to Croke Park now after last year's semi-final and final and that's going to bring them on massively.

"Linda Collins is out for the year,



Matthew Twomey is the new Cork camogie coach., having been involved in a number of roles during Paudie Murray's tenure.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



Former Wexford manager Davy Fitzgerald will bring a lot of experience to the Cork camogie set-up.

Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

working abroad; we'd be hoping to have Hannah Looney back early next year. We've also got Sorcha McCartan from Down who has transferred to us so that's a huge asset. Some of the girls will be wiser as well.

"As things go with the top four or five, we've the youngest squad with only one player over 30.

"Laura Treacy is one of our more experienced players now and is only 25 or 26. The Mackeys are around 27."

The league starts in February, the championship at the end of May with the All-Ireland final on August 6-7.

It will be a compact 32 weeks and Cork got their season underway in early December with a fitness test in Banteer.

"We're just trying to get our fitness up now and get a couple of challenge matches in ahead of the league. Some players are still playing club championship and others are playing Ashbourne, so we'll just have to keep an eye on that one."

Twomey has seen camogie progress hugely since he first got involved with the Cork senior team in 2014.

"I suppose, looking at it back in 2014, I came in with the view that the players were going to learn from me. If I'm honest, I learned more from the players.

"The current set-ups, the fitness, the skill levels, the tweaking of rules recently certainly helped the game. It's more exciting.

"Our semi-final and final last year were mammoth games. I still would have preferred to have won a poor final than lose a classic, but it just shows where the game is at, the bar is rising all the time, fitness has gone through the roof and the physicality of the players is brilliant."

Cork lost a number of players over the past few years to retirement. True leaders. Is Cork still missing those leaders?

"You'll always take players stepping up and since Gemma O'Connor, Aoife Murray, and Orla Cotter left we have replaced them. Definitely this year some players stood up and we're hoping, as a management team, to almost force other players to step up.

"Players need to come of age now. We don't care if that player is only 18 or 19. It's either in there or it's not."

Involved from 2014-2016 and back in the fold in 2020, Twomey now holds the top job and is targeting silverware.

"We're going to take the league very seriously. Cork haven't won it for a few years so we're very focused on trying to get a good league campaign. We were close this year when reaching the semi-final.

"We're going to have a good rap off it while all the while doing strength and conditioning. The next six weeks will be torture for the players. You get to know each other a lot better when you're suffering like that and you find out who the leaders are. You can tell from even our first day back, you can see the drive is there in the girls. Their demeanour is good."

Camogie board did tremendous work to complete all competitions

THE priority for the Cork Camogie County Board when they got the green light to resume playing activities was to get the remaining games from their 2020 calendar played.

This was a huge challenge given that they also had a calendar of league and championship games for 2021 to get sorted.

When one considers all of this had to be done in a short space of time, there is huge credit due to the board for the manner in which everything was achieved.

It must also be noted that at the start of 2020, the board had a new chairperson taking office, with Ballincollig's Mairead O'Donovan assuming the role, a new vice-chair, registrar, and children's officer also took office with Rachel Wycherley from Ballinora in the vice-chair role, Middleton's Darina Foley took on the registrar's job and Norrie Cotter-Lynch, Cloughduv was the new children's officer.

The new executive got stuck in and were ready to roll once they got the go-ahead and they firstly had to get the minor A, B C and D championships completed.

At juvenile level there were county championship finals at Premier U16, U16 A and U16 B.

At U14 level they had to complete the B championship while they also had plate finals in U16 A and B and the U14 B plate final.

Clubs were given time to prepare and it



The Glen Rovers team which won the 2021 senior camogie league.

was all systems go to get everything completed before the 2021 leagues got underway; when they did it, was great to see all clubs moving along swiftly and keeping the show on the road. By the time competitions were ready to begin, the board had all their grading in place and league competitions got the season up and running at adult level. Fifteen teams entered the senior league with 15 club teams and four divisions entered in the senior championship. At intermediate level there were 12 clubs in both the championship and league competitions while the junior A grade also had 12 teams in championship and league.

CAMOGIE

by Mary Newman

At junior B level 14 were entered in championship; 13 in the league, junior C had 12 teams in championship and 14 taking part in the league. Junior 13-a-side had six teams in championship and eight in league.

Hit

The junior second teams competitions continued to be a hit with second adult teams in most clubs and 18 signed up for championship and 19 in the league. At minor level there were 12 teams with

four in premier, four in premier 1 and in Premier 2 we had eight teams, with a two tiers after initial round robin in premier 1 and premier 2.

The minor A grade had 20 teams, minor B had 13 teams, and the minor C had nine teams.

The board endeavoured to hold as many of their adult finals as possible in Castle Road and it was a wonderful opportunity for players to play in the home of Cork camogie.

The senior county final took place on the October Bank holiday weekend October 24, with the intermediate county final played the day before.

We had the junior A county final on Sat-

urday October 30 and the junior B county final on Sunday October 3.

The junior C county final was played in Blarney on Saturday October 2 with the junior 13-a-side county final on Saturday October 9 in Castle Road.

The junior second teams' county final for the Lillie O'Sullivan Cup was in Castle Road on Sunday October 3.

The SE Systems Senior County Championships are Seandún, the intermediate was won by Fr O'Neill's, and the Junior A title went to Charleville.

Cobh won the junior B, the junior C was won by Kibree, and the junior 13-a-side title was won by Erin's Own.

The junior second team championship for the Lillie O'Sullivan Cup was won by Glen Rovers.

Sarsfield's won the Premier Minor Championship, St Finbarr's won the premier 2, Cloughduv were crowned minor A champions, the minor B title was won by Tracton and Barryroe took the minor C title.

Glen Rovers won the senior league title, the intermediate league was won by Blackrock; Ballinora took the junior A league, the double was achieved by Cobh as they won the junior B league.

Castlemartyr won the junior C league, the junior 13-a-side was won by Grenagh and the junior second team's league was won by Eire Óg.

Incredible work at all levels by a hard-working and dedicated county executive who it must be remembered are all volunteers.

Cork management teams named and all are ready for new season

Camogie

by Mary Newman

WITH the recent announcement by the Cork board of Trevor Coleman (Na Piarasigh) as manager of the Cork Intermediate team for 2021 it completed the line-up of managements for Cork Camogie teams for 2022.

Trevor, who was involved with the Seandún senior team that took county championship honours in 2021 is expected to name his backroom team shortly and this will be ratified at a meeting of the county board early January. It is anticipated that among the back room team he will name will be Trevor Allen who was on the Seandún back room team with Trevor Coleman while Ken Bulman, and David Ellis, who is also involved with the county minor sides, are the names being mentioned to be part of the group Coleman will be nominating when the county board meets to ratify his appointment.

Earlier in the month the county board confirmed and ratified the appointment of Matthew Twomey to the position of Cork senior camogie manager for a two year term and his management team includes Davy Fitzgerald on the coaching side.

Already the Cork senior panel are preparing for a busy season ahead and training commenced



Cork — Munster and All-Ireland under 16 A camogie champions.

before Christmas and had a short break before returning on Tuesday last.

While the groups for the national league are as yet not announced it is anticipated that the leagues will get under way the first weekend of February but we await confirmation of this.

Hugely successful minor manager Jerry Wallace continues in the role where he guided the county to back-to-back titles in 2018 and 2019 and he will oversee the Cork minor team with a strong back room team which includes Ger Cunningham from UL Camogie (not to be confused

with the former Cork hurler), Michael Boland, Ollie Hallihan, Dave Ellis, Sonya Walsh, Ollie Hallihan, Brendan O'Driscoll, John Daly, Lucy Wallace, Ryanna Power, Paul Griffin and Cristóir Casey.

The minor management will also have the Cork under 17 development squad under their remit and work is under way where players born in 2005 will form this squad and approximately 122 players will be looked at before the group is completed. Some players in this group would have been involved at Inter-County under 16 level and

four teams will be selected in the New Year for the mentors to view the players in games and training.

Brendan O'Driscoll from the minor management will act as lead coach to this group and will be assisted by the minor management.

Minors start

With a February start for the All-Ireland minor championship, where Cork have been drawn in a challenge group with Galway and Dublin, the minor management have put in a lot of work in recent weeks and they broke it

up into groups where they had three teams working away.

The Cork Reds and Cork Blues were made up of players nominated from the clubs and the Cork Whites made up of players from the 2021 minor panel and 2021 under 16 Cork panel and players that did not make the 2021 Cork minor panel.

Of these players twelve are or have been involved at inter-county previously and are currently working with Cork Whites team, which consists of 42 players and 64 players born in 2004. They attended trials over three Sundays in December.

The Cork Reds team features 31 players from Charleville, Grenagh, Erin's Own, St Finbarrs, St. Fanahans, Kilworth, Castlelyons, Fermoy, Dungourney, Blackrock, Milford, Buttevant, Killeagh, St Catherine's, Douglas.

The Cork Blues team featured 33 players from Ballincollig, Inniscarra, Tracton, Courcy Rovers, Kibree, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Glen Rovers, Na Piarasigh, Ballinascorthy, Siabh Rua, Bishopstown, Brian Dillons, Fr O'Neill's and Barryroe.

By the time the minor panel will be announced Saturday January 15 the mentors will have seen approximately 110 players before they settle on their panel. Donie Daly, who guided the under 16 sides to back-to-back All-Ireland titles, will be bidding for three in-a-row as he continues in the role for 2022 and his management team remains the same with Mossie O'Sullivan, John Maloney, Michelle Gould, Stephen O'Mahony, Roberta Crowley and Colette O'Neill all continuing.

The Under 16 management have been busy and they have already named their panel for the season ahead and training is well under way.

So it all systems go on the inter-county scene as we look ahead to what we hope will be a Covid free and enjoyable season for Cork teams.

CAMOGIE

JANUARY

8th-9th: AIB 2020 Intermediate and Junior Club Championship finals.

FEBRUARY

5th-6th: Littlewoods National League Div 1&2 (R1); Tesco Minor Championships (R1).
12th-13th: CCAO Ashbourne weekend; Tesco Minor Championships (R2).
19th-20th: Littlewoods National League Div 1&2 (R2); Div 3&4 (R1); Tesco Senior Post Primary finals; AIB Club Championships semi-finals.
26th-27th: Littlewoods National League Div 1&2 (R3); Div 3&4 (R2); Tesco Minor Championships (R3).

MARCH

5th-6th: AIB All-Ireland Club Championship finals; Tesco Junior Post Primary finals.
12th-13th: Littlewoods National League Div 1&2 (R4); Div 3&4 (R3); Tesco Minor A quarter-finals.
19th-20th: Littlewoods National League Div 1&2 (R5); Div 3&4 (R4); Tesco Minor A semi-final.
26th-27th: Littlewoods Div 2 League quarter-finals and relegations semi-finals; Div 3&4 (R5); Tesco Minor A final.

APRIL

2nd-3rd: Annual Congress; Littlewoods Div 2 League semi-finals.
9th: Littlewoods Div 1 & 2 League finals.
9th-10th: Littlewoods Div 3&4 League finals.

MAY

21st-22nd: Senior and Premier Junior Championships (R1).
28th-29th: Senior and Premier Junior Championships (R2); IFC (R1).

JUNE

4th-5th: Senior and Premier Junior Championships Round match; IFC (R2)

11th-12th: Senior and Premier Junior Championships Round match; IFC (R3)
18th-19th: Senior and Premier Junior Championships Round match; IFC (R4).
25th-26th: Senior and Premier Junior Championships Round match; IFC Round match.

JULY

2nd-3rd: Senior Intermediate Premier Junior Championships (R5)
9th-10th: Senior & Intermediate quarter-

finals; Premier Junior Championship (R6).
16th-17th: Senior & Intermediate Relegation Finals.
23rd/24th: All Ireland Senior, Intermediate and Premier Junior semi-finals.

AUGUST

7th All Ireland Senior, Intermediate and Premier Junior Championship Finals

NOVEMBER

26th-27th AIB Junior Club Championship Preliminary Round (Britain v Munster)

DECEMBER

10th-11th: AIB All-Ireland Club Championships semi-finals
17th-18th: 2022 AIB All-Ireland Club Championship finals

Clare Camogie on

Eoin Brennan

THERE was a confident air of optimism as Clare Camogie assembled virtually for their Annual General Meeting on Monday evening.

With membership at an all-time high, spectator numbers on the rise, healthy finances, the ongoing development of Fr. McNamara Park and a strong work ethic amongst their executive, Chairman Joe O'Donnell, elected unopposed for his fourth year at the helm of Clare Camogie, was understandably glowing in his praise for all involved at any level of the code in Clare.

"Membership this year is the highest on record in Clare and well over 500 matches were organised in a relatively short season. I thank all clubs for being so willing to adhere to such a well drafted fixture list and the fixtures committee themselves for such great work.

"I also want to thank the officers of Club Clare, Clare GAA, Clare LGFA and all clubs for

their support and cooperation throughout the year.

"I'm also delighted that we have now got a professionally developed strength & conditioning plan in place. This programme is designed to be age appropriate and covers players from Under 14 to adult.

"There will be many benefits from this in terms of fitness, agility, stability and injury prevention and ultimately better performance in matches in the coming years."

Membership increased by 18% over the past twelve months, from 4,019 to 4,742, with the financial figures reported by Treasurer Martin Kaiser also reporting a major boost to the Clare Camogie coffers compared with 2020.

"Our total income increased by slightly more than €100,000. €50,000 of this is from higher grants to cover both inter-county seasons (2020 and 2021) and the sports resilience funding for Covid-19 restrictions (€33,000). €40,000 is from additional sponsorship and donations, Club

Clare (€17,500) and El Electronics (€13,000) as the main contributors along with the fundraising efforts of the 300-Club, Brid MacNamara's walk and the Clare Camogie gold Classic organised by Conor Dolan. The difference in fundraising came from the full 300-club levy compared to last years' 50% discount."

While expenditure was also up €50,000 this year, Clare Camogie still reported a €102,129 profit in 2021.

Special guests at the Clare Camogie AGM included Munster Camogie Chairwoman Marion Graham and Clare LGFA Chairman Sean Lenihan who both complimented Clare Camogie on their continued development on and off the field, with special mention for the county grounds at Fr. McNamara Park.

There were no contests at the election of officers but there are two positions to be filled in January after Vice-Chairperson Eleanor Skelly (Scariff-Ogonnelloe) and Development Officer Jimmy Kenny (Banner) both stepped down from their roles.



Joe O'Donnell who was elected unopposed as Chairman for his fourth year at the helm of Clare Camogie
Photograph by John Kelly

Motions and Recommendations to Clare Camogie AGM 2021

Bylaws

Bylaw 3: That an annual levy of €12 per adult member and €6 per underage member will be applied to fund maintenance and development of our county grounds Fr. McNamara Park. Collection will happen after main registration deadline on the 1st May and for late registrations on the 1st November annually. Every club will receive additional tickets into the annual 300-Club draw in line with the levy paid (1 ticket for every €120 paid).

will be replaced with:

Bylaw 3: That an annual levy of €12 per adult playing member and €6 per underage playing member will be applied to fund maintenance and development

of our county grounds Fr. McNamara Park. Collection will happen together with the individual annual registration payments.

Clare Camogie Executive (Passed)

New bylaw 18:

By entering a team into a competition organised by the Clare County Board the club and its players automatically give consent that video footage of their games can be taken by videographers approved by the county board or by one of the two clubs participating in a game. If requested, the videographer has to provide an unedited copy of the video footage to the opposing team at no cost. The club who authorises a videographer is responsible that the videographer fully adheres to the social

media policy of the Camogie organisation and where applicable to the specific guidelines included in the Code of Behaviour (Underage) 2020.

Clare Camogie Executive (Passed)

Fixtures Recommendations

That our underage competitions will see a change from even to uneven ages, i.e.: Go games at U7, U9 and U11 Non-competitive and small-sided U11 League Championship at U13, U15, U17 and U21

Clare Camogie Fixtures Committee (Failed)

That the Junior B Shield be reinstated in the Junior B Cham-

ampionship.
Sixmilebridge (Forwarded to Fixtures Committee)

That players who are on county teams at U16 and under be released for club matches if not in the starting 15 at county level. Similarly for Junior county team players.

Clooney-Quin (Forwarded to Fixtures Committee)

Grading Recommendations

That the grading committee take a players current situation/circumstances into account for the year which they are being graded for and not how previous years have gone for them.
Clooney-Quin (Forwarded to Grading Committee)

CLARE CAMOGIE EXECUTIVE 2022

Presidents: Kitty McNicolas, Michael O'Halloran
Chairman: Joe O'Donnell (Cratloe)
Vice-Chairperson: To be filled
Secretary: Ann Sanz (Banner)
Asst Secretary: Caroline McAuley-Rynne (Inagh-Kilnamona)
Fixtures Secretary: Marie-Louise Kaiser (Newmarket)
Treasurer: Martin Kaiser (Newmarket-on-Fergus)
Assistant Treasurer: Billy Murphy (Kilkishen)
PRO: Brid MacNamara (Ruan)
Assistant PRO: Mary McMahon (Éire Óg)
Registrar: Billy Murphy (Kilkishen)
Development Officer: To be filled
Fr. McNamara Park Grounds Officer: Jimmy Kenny (Banner)
Fr. McNamara Park Clubhouse Officer: Denise Brookes (Clooney Quin)
Munster Delegates: Ann Sanz (Banner), Caroline McAuley-Rynne (Inagh-Kilnamona)
Delegates to Munster Convention: Ann Sanz (Banner), Marie-Louise Kaiser (Newmarket-on-Fergus)
Delegates to National Congress: Ann Sanz (Banner), Brid MacNamara (Ruan), Caroline McAuley-Rynne (Inagh-Kilnamona), Joe O'Donnell (Cratloe)
Children's Officer: Aideen McCormack (Banner) (Appointed Position)
Health & Well-Being Officer: Ann-Marie McGann (Appointed Position)
Data Protection Officer: Martin Kaiser (Newmarket-on-Fergus) (Appointed Position)
Secondary Schools Servicing Officer: Anne McMahon (Kilmaley) (Appointed Position)



Brid MacNamara (Ruan) who continues in her role as PRO

Photograph by John Kelly



Fixtures Secretary: Marie-Louise Kaiser (Newmarket-on-Fergus)

Photograph by John Kelly

the up

AGM Briefs

Hair and nail motion doesn't make the cut

Camogie referees may have to educate themselves on hair and beauty products as part of their match-day responsibilities if a Truagh-Clonlara proposed rule change is passed at the Camogie Association Convention in 2024.

With jewellery already banned from training and matches, the South East Clare club are looking to extend that prohibition list to include fake nails (glue and gel), eye lashes and hair extensions. If spotted, match officials can treat any indiscretions as dissent which could lead to a dismissal. Submitted to Monday's Clare Camogie AGM, as rule changes to the Official Guide Part 2 can only be dealt with every three years, Truagh-Clonlara were advised to resubmit their motion at AGM 2023.

Membership on the up

Club membership in camogie clubs around the county grew by as much as a fifth, it was revealed by Registrar Evelyn O'Brien in her 'Clare Camogie Registration Report' to Monday's AGM. Despite the country being in lockdown until the summer, membership increased from 2020 by 18% as numbers grew from 4,019 to 4,742 this year.

A further breakdown of those figures denotes the rise in adult player membership from 517 to 588, underage from 2,757 to 3,304 and even non-playing and social members rose from 744 in 2020 to 860 in 2021.

"It's great to see such an increase in membership in these uncertain times and it is a testament of the growing popularity of camogie." Noted the Bodyke Registrar.

Give respect, get abuse

Abuse from the sidelines towards match officials is on the increase according to Clare Camogie Referee's Committee Member Marie-Louise Kaiser in the committee's report.

"There seems to be an increase in referee abuse by mentors on the sideline and spectators, especially when it comes to the latter stages of the competitions. We will be encouraging any referee to report same and will refer to the relevant committees. Please remember that any form of referee abuse is unacceptable and will not be tolerated."

The Referee's Committee, consisting of Ger Hoey, Marie-Louise Kaiser, Ann-Marie McGann, Mary Griffey, Joe O'Donnell and Kevin Walsh also noted that due to COVID, no in-person refresher course was held or a referees foundation course that could have recruited new referees. In 2021, 29 active referees were available to officiate at over 540 competitive matches in the condensed Clare Camogie Calendar.

Dual Senior Championship clash a concern

The only main pockmark in 2021 was the direct clash of County Senior Camogie and Ladies Football Championship fixtures on the same weekends. With senior camogie matches scheduled for every Saturday and ladies football on Sundays, dual players and clubs were seemingly punished and not celebrated for being adept at both codes.

The prevalence of COVID and the condensed playing season in 2021 understandably forced the Fixtures Committees' hands but there were conflicting views on the issue's resolution for 2022.

"There were lessons learned from the first year of the split season at national level that have been used to draft inter-county fixtures for 2022 and as the inter-county competitions will be finished in mid-summer, I'm confident that our club championships will be played and completed much earlier than in 2021." Mentioned Joe O'Donnell in his speech.

However, there was a word of warning from Clare LFGA Chairman Sean Lenihan who noted that the dual dilemma may be ongoing for the coming season.

"I don't think it's going to get any better this year. We've got our Masters Fixtures plan for 2022 from Croke Park and the club window is still very tight, leaving only seven or eight weekends available before the Munster Club Championships kick into gear. "But look, we certainly will work with Clare Camogie to see how we can achieve the optimum especially for the dual clubs."

No slack in development of Fr. Mc

Following extensive remedial work on the playing surface in 2020, Fr. McNamara Park in Doora was further developed over the past twelve months according to the Field Committee of Joe O'Donnell, Seamus O'Sullivan, Martin Kaiser, Joe Robbins, Denise Brooks, Mike Duggan and Jimmy Kenny. 100 tonnes of sand were spread on the new surface, with the focus now switching to the development of a second pitch.

Further improvements in 2021 included: the laying of a footpath along the fence as a spectator area, the provision of a media platform to facilitate videoing, broadcasting, etc; development of an unused area to provide much-needed extra car parking; Erection of an electronic scoreboard and clock.



CELEBRATION TIME: Raharney celebrate as they become AIB Junior All-Ireland Club champions. 'It's a pinch-me moment,' said player of the match Hannah Core. 'I'm a bit speechless.' Picture: Inpho/Ben Brady

Core strength sees Raharney home

All-Ireland Intermediate club camogie final

Raharney (Westmeath) 1-7

Clanmaurice (Kerry) 0-7

Daragh Ó Conchúir Longorchard

Raharney got the better of the key moments to prevail against Kerry's Clanmaurice in the All-Ireland intermediate club camogie final.

Hannah Core provided the first of those when finding the net in the fifth minute, but goalkeeper Anna Weir's contribution was as significant as she made a brilliant

save from Jackie Horgan in the first half when Clanmaurice held sway, and then followed it up with a near-miraculous stop from a Patricia Diggins Exocet in injury time.

Those moments, plus the response to going behind for the first time when Horgan and Jessica Fitzell pointed quickly at the start of the second half for Clanmaurice, were critical. They shot the next six points to go four clear.

"It's a pinch-me moment," said player of the match Core. "I'm a bit speechless. It was a great game, a really tough battle. I'm just delighted with my performance and

all the girls' performances. We battled to the end. It was brilliant.

"We were told, once the ball was in there, get in straight away. We've been training hard and focusing on that.

"The minute the ball dropped anywhere around the square, it was 'game on'.

"We knew it wasn't over after that first 15 minutes. It was going to be a tough battle to the end to get over the line. Clanmaurice were brilliant. We knew it was going to be a dogfight from the word go, and a goal off the bat wasn't going to finish the game.

"It feels brilliant. We've

had our fair share of disappointment. To finally get over the line is brilliant. I can't put into words how great it feels."

Scorers for Raharney: H Core (1-2), A Shaw (0-3, fs); A Doherty, A O'Malley (0-1 each).

Scorers for Clanmaurice: J Horgan (0-5, 2fs, 1'45); P Diggins (f), J Fitzell (0-1 each).

RAHARNEY: A Weir, K Coleman, J McKeogh, M Geraghty, A Keogh, F Leavy, A Doyle, L Doherty, A O'Malley, M Kelly, A Nea, A Shaw, A Doherty, H Core, E Core.

Subs: M Carroll for Keogh (fb), E Finn for Kelly (36), Keogh for Doyle (44).

CLANMAURICE: A Fitzgerald, E Ryall, N Leen, M Costello, R McCarthy, S Murphy, A O'Connor, P Diggins, J Horgan, A M Leen, E Slattery, A Behan, J Fitzell, L Collins, B Horan.

Referee: Philip McDonald (Cavan).

Impeccable Corbett helps win war of attrition for Scariff-Ogonnelloe

Munster senior club camogie championship

Scariff-Ogonnelloe (Clare) 1-8

Inniscarra (Cork) 0-8

Therese O'Callaghan Ballyanly

The impeccable free-taking of Aisling Corbett was the standout feature for Scariff-Ogonnelloe as they secured victory in the Munster club senior camogie championship semi-final at Ballyanly on Saturday.

The game was a war of attrition that saw the Clare champions progress following a titanic battle.

After a slow start, they moved a point clear at half-time, and with the strong wind to their backs in the second-half, they withstood everything that Inniscarra threw at them.

Defeated county finalists Inniscarra, who were representing Cork as divisional side and champions Seandún are not eligible to take part, got off to a flying start.

They were four points clear inside the first 10 minutes but an injury to their midfielder Katie O'Mahony upset their momentum.

Having said that, Scariff-Ogonnelloe were already beginning to find their feet and when Alva Rodgers netted in the 15th minute - their opening score - from a Corbett free, they settled to go 1-2 to 0-4 in front at the break.

Mairéad Scanlon stretched the lead after the restart.



Eimear O'Reilly and Rebecca Quigley battle for possession in the Munster Camogie Senior Club Championship semi-final between Inniscarra and Scariff-Ogonnelloe at Ballyanly. Picture: Larry Cummins

Inniscarra had not scored since the eighth minute and they received a further setback when defender Erin Looney was forced off injured.

Joanne Casey restarted the scoreboard in the 43rd minute and they trailed 1-6 to 0-6 at the second water-break.

Again Casey narrowed the gap, but lovely stick work from Labhaoise O'Donnell kept her side three clear.

In spite of losing sterling defender Susan Vaughan to a straight red card amid a hectic finish, Scariff-Ogonnelloe held on.

They will meet titleholders Drom-Inch in the final in two weeks after the Tipperary side overcame Newcastle West in the second semi-final today, 0-10 to 0-7.

Once more, the wind was a factor, Drom-Inch ahead 0-8 to 0-5 at the short whistle having played with the elements. They went five points to nil up in the first-half courtesy of Miriam Campion, Joanne Ryan (2) and Eimear McGrath.

McGrath weighed in with seven overall while Rebecca Delee scored six for her side. Scorers for Scariff-Ogonnelloe: A Cor-

bett (0-5 frees), A Rodgers (1-0), M Scanlon (0-2), L O'Donnell (0-10).

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey (0-7, 0-5 frees, 0-1 45), C Keane (0-1).

SCARIFF OGOONELLOE: R Daly; A Walsh, S Daly, A McGee; S Vaughan, C Doyle, R Minogue; A Barrett (J-Capt), L Daly; J Daly, L O'Donnell, L Grady; A Rodgers, A Corbett, M Scanlon (J-Capt).

Subs: C McNamara for L Grady (36).

INNISCARRA: C Buckley; R O'Mahony, C Ring, C Looney; A O'Regan, E Looney, A Kavanagh (Capt); M Lyons, K O'Mahony; J Casey, J Burke, A Sheehan; N D'worth, C Keane, R Quigley.

Subs: E O'Reilly for K O'Mahony (10 inj), L Desmond for J Burke (half-time), G O'Loughlin for E Looney (40 inj), A Dineen for N D'worth (42), E Looney for T Quigley (57).

Referee: Mike Flanagan (Limerick).

Kenny on cloud nine as Rynagh's gain revenge

St Rynagh's 1-11
Gailltír 0-10

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

MARK DUNNE admitted that he couldn't stop thinking back on the 2019 AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Club Camogie final as the clock ticked down on the 2020 decider at Semple Stadium yesterday.

On that occasion, the St Rynagh's team he manages jointly with his sister Molly led by a point late on, only for Gailltír sub Una Jackman to slam home a goal and shatter their dreams.

Once more, the Offaly champions held a narrow lead, two points ahead after the teams had been level six times, and once more, Gailltír drove forward.

It was different this time, however. Dunne's charges claimed the last two scores and the Agnes O'Farrelly Cup was bound for the Faithful County rather than returning Suirside.

'It's huge, especially after losing the last one and what we had to do to get there in the first place. It's sweet,' Dunne admitted.

'It's hard to reflect on it straight away what kind of game it was. At times there was some really good camogie, at times it was a dogfight. I thought it was never going to be blown up in the end. The nightmares were coming back.'

'The work those girls put in, no more than Gailltír when they won it. Today was our day. Gailltír are a fantastic team and they were fantastic again today. There was probably one moment changed the game and they'll be back stronger again.'

'They never stopped which we



SHARPSHOOTER: St Rynagh's forward Kate Kenny fires over



DELIGHT: Gráinne Dolan lifts the Agnes O'Farrelly Cup for St Rynagh's

'I think once we got our structure right playing against the wind they probably struggled for a few scores. We weren't executing the final ball up front ourselves but in general, we were on top. I think after the first two points, there was a ten-minute spell where we hadn't a puck-out.'

'Both teams were struggling to get their forwards on it in attacking areas but we got a couple of crucial scores at the end, when they pushed on, we capitalised on the space a bit more.'

'There was probably a phase when we were getting sucked back the field too far and we lost a bit of shape up front. Once we got that back and were just patient, and they abandoned the sweeper we'd given them, we had one-on-one and chipped over a couple of great scores.'

ST RYNAGH'S: E Gilligan, E Sullivan, S Moran, M Doorley, K O'Connell, G Dolan, E Corcoran, H Dolan, R Egan, L Sullivan, S Hanamry, S Flannery (35), M Daly, A McLoughlin, K Kenny, L Merrison, A O'Regan (60+3).
SCORERS: K Kenny 0-9 (9h), A McLoughlin 1-1, M Daly 0-1.
GAILLTÍR: C Jackman, M Sheridan, K Lynch, H Flynn, A Hartley, C Carroll, E Mahony, L Sheridan, S Fitzgerald, Aoife Fitzgerald (C Hoctor (60+3), C O'Sullivan, R Flood (M Heffernan 35), A O'Sullivan, A Corcoran, Annie Fitzgerald.
SCORERS: Aoife Fitzgerald 0-6 (6h), A Corcoran 0-2, Annie Fitzgerald, A Hartley 0-1 each.
REFEREE: G Donegan (Dublin).

expected. We learned that the last time, they don't stop.'

The moment Dunne referred to was Aoife McLoughlin's 33rd-minute goal that gave his team a lead they never relinquished.

It is not one Ciara Jackman will remember fondly. The Gailltír goalie had an otherwise outstanding game, making one excellent save and a number of similarly smart interventions but her fumble from McLoughlin's 30-metre shot was significant.

So too, however, was Ellen Galli-

gan's double save from Anne Corcoran and Alannah Sullivan at the other end in the 52nd minute, not to mention Kate Kenny's nine points. The last of those, in injury time, just before Mairéad Daly opened that crucial four-point gap, was one for the ages.

'I thought I was going to overcarry it,' noted a grinning Kenny after collecting her player-of-the-match award. 'I overcarried one right before it, so I just let it hop off the ground and I got it back and I turned. I just said, 'Oh just shoot and hope for the best,' so I took a shot and it sailed over the bar and the crowd was unbelievable behind me. I was delighted.'

'I'm just so happy that all the hard

work we put in over the last three years really has finally paid off and we can reward our managers for everything and all the work they put into us.'

Annie and Aoife Fitzgerald had points on the board for the Blues within 38 seconds of the throw-in but despite that apparent shock to the system and playing into a very strong wind, there was no sense of anxiety.

'We didn't panic but we nearly target making mistakes early in a game now to get it out of our system,' Dunne observed. 'Some days we start fast but there's a good few times we've started slow and conceded easy scores so it wasn't something that was new to us.'

9
Kate Kenny's nine points were crucial for St Rynagh's with Aoife McLoughlin bagging the vital goal

St Rynagh's' revenge mission proves successful

2020 AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Club Camogie final

St Rynagh's (Offaly) 1-11
Gailltír (Waterford) 0-10

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Mark Dunne admitted that he could not stop his mind wandering back to the 2019 AIB

All-Ireland Intermediate Club Camogie final as the clock ticked down on Saturday's 2020 decider at Semple Stadium.

On that occasion, the St Rynagh's team he manages jointly with his sister Molly led by a point late on, only for Gailltír sub, Una Jackman to crash a goal and shatter their dreams.

Once more, the Offaly champions held a marginal

upper hand, two points ahead after the teams had been level six times, and once more, Gailltír poured forward.

This time, it was different though. Dunne's charges claimed the last two scores and the Agnes O'Farrelly Cup was bound for the Faithful County rather than returning Suirside.

'It's huge, especially after losing the last one and what we'd do to get there in the

first place. It's sweet,' Dunne admitted. 'At times there was some really good camogie, at times it was a dogfight. I thought it was never going to be blown up in the end. The nightmares were coming back.'

The turning point was Aoife McLoughlin's 33rd minute goal that gave the Offaly side a lead that they never relinquished.

Gailltír goalkeeper Ciara

Jackman had an otherwise outstanding game but her fumble that allowed McLoughlin's shot creep over was pivotal. So too, however, was Ellen Galligan's double save from Anne Corcoran and Alannah Sullivan at the other end in the 52nd minute along with Kate Kenny's nine points.

The last of those, in injury time, just before Mairéad Daly opened that coveted four-point

gap, was one for the ages.

'I thought I was going to overcarry it,' noted a grinning Kenny after collecting her player-of-the-match award.

'I just said: 'Oh just shoot and hope for the best,' so I took a shot and it sailed over the bar and the crowd was unbelievable behind me. I was delighted. I'm just so happy that all the hard work we put in over the last three years really has finally paid off.'

CAMOGIE

2020 AIB All-Ireland junior club final: Rahamoy (Westmeath) 1-7 Clannascilla (Kerry) 0-7; **2020 AIB All-Ireland Intermediate club final:** St Rynagh's (Offaly) 1-11; **Munster senior club semi-finals:** Iniscarra (Cork) 0-8 Scariff-Ogonnetloe (Clare) 1-8; **Drom-Inch (Tipperary) 0-10 Newcastle West (Limerick) 0-7.**

Former Wexford manager Davy Fitzgerald is now involved in the Cork senior camogie coaching set-up.



'Davy's addition is a huge statement'

New Cork camogie manager Twomey is excited by addition of Davy Fitzgerald

BY GER MCCARTHY

NEW Cork senior camogie manager Matthew Twomey feels the addition of Davy Fitzgerald to his coaching team is a real statement of intent.

Twomey's appointment as Cork boss – and successor to Paudie Murray – has been somewhat overshadowed by the decision to sign up former Wexford, Clare and Waterford hurling boss Fitzgerald to the new Cork camogie backroom team.

It's an eye-catching addition designed to strengthen the Rebels' bid for glory in 2022, and new boss Twomey is excited by Fitzgerald's appointment.

'To be fair to Paudie Murray, the management teams he set up, coaches like Kevin Murray, are very hard to replace,' Twomey explained.

'That was in my head; if we want to succeed we have to try and match, if not better things, which are very hard to do. Davy Fitzgerald is just a bundle of energy. His experience, his knowledge.

'There wasn't too much of a conversation about getting involved. It was very easy for him as he sees Cork's players as elite players. They are amongst the top teams in their sport.



New Cork camogie manager Matthew Twomey.

'(Former Cork player) Anna Geary played a huge role in getting Davy involved so massive credit is due to her. Davy sees this as an opportunity to do something different. I think it is a huge thing for us, for our players. It has been a breath of fresh air.

'It is a massive statement for the Camogie Association to have a person of Davy's calibre willing to get involved with the Cork team. It is a huge statement and I'm hoping things will progress from this, not just for Cork but for the game of camogie itself. Can we push on from this appointment?

'The players have really taken to him. Our training sessions, so far, have been entertaining. The banter is flying in both di-

'The players have really taken to him. Our training sessions, so far, have been entertaining'
– Matthew Twomey

rections. It is the first time I've seen Ashling Thompson quiet in a long time!

Twomey has pieced together a jigsaw he hopes will lead Cork to the big prizes this year as the 2021 defeated All-Ireland finalists look to build on an encouraging campaign last time out.

The new Cork boss is also eager to build on the great work carried out by his predecessor Paudie Murray, who held the position for ten years and led the Rebels to four All-Ireland senior titles.

Twomey was an integral member of Murray's backroom team throughout the latter's tenure and knows the current senior set-up inside out. Stepping into the managerial role will be challenging but the Douglas clubman is ready to make the step up.

'It is a massive honour to become Cork senior camogie manager,' Twomey said.

'I've been involved the last

few years and it wasn't on the radar until I was approached. It is a huge, massive honour for me, for my wife Maria, my kids, my family and my club, Douglas.

'I started off back in 2014 and know what's involved. The year gone by (2021) is probably the most positive year I have had with Cork.

'Everything we have done with this group of Cork senior players, no matter how high you raised the bar, they were and are willing to go further. That's testament to them. When my name was being mentioned about this job, it was the Cork players who drove my decision, their enthusiasm to right the wrongs of last year. It was an easy decision after speaking to the Cork players.'

First up for Twomey and his Cork senior camogie squad will be the 2022 Littlewoods National Camogie League. Last year, Cork went all the way to the Division 1 semi-finals only to lose out to eventual All-Ireland champions Galway 1-19 to 1-17. So how will the new inter-county manager approach his first competition?

'We have been speaking a lot about how we will approach the league,' Twomey admitted.

'We want to do a bit of both,

bleeding new players that are on the panel to see where they are at. But, we haven't won the national league in a while and it is something that is on our radar. It is trying to get the balance between both objectives, that will be key and that is our job.'

This year is going to be hectic for Twomey, but this is a new managerial role he has gotten on merit. There is a lot happening off the pitch but the Douglas man is looking forward to the challenge.

'Growing up, I aspired to be manager of the Douglas senior hurling team, which I got to,' Twomey stated.

'Then I got involved with camogie back in 2014 and it has just taken over. Was it on my radar (to become Cork senior manager)? No, but when the opportunity came about it was fantastic.

'I do envisage a lot of work but I have a fantastic backroom team around me. We are all going to roll up our sleeves and allocate as much work as we can to share the load. I am very excited about the coming year. It is being out on the pitch trying to improve the players (that I'm looking forward to.) I have big boots to fill but will give it a go anyway.'

Cork away to Clare in opener

MATTHEW Twomey's first game in charge of the Cork senior camogie team will be an away trip to Clare in a Littlewoods National League Division 1 Group 2 game in late February.

The Rebels are joined in Group 2 by Clare, Kilkenny and Limerick, while Group 1 includes Galway, Tipperary, Down, Offaly and Dublin. The top team in each of the two groups advances to the Division 1 final, while the bottom in each group go into the relegation final.

Cork will travel to Clare for their league opener on the weekend of February 19th/20th, and the following weekend the Rebels are home to Limerick. On the weekend of March 12th/13th, Cork host Kilkenny in a rematch of their 2021 All-Ireland senior championship semi-final that Cork dramatically won with an injury-time Linda Collins point.

The Division 1 final and relegation play-off will both be played on the weekend of April 9th and 10th.

Meanwhile, in Littlewoods National League Division 2, Cork – managed by Trevor Coleman (Na Piarasigh) – have been drawn in Group 1 with Wexford, Meath, Derry and Kildare. Group 2 includes Waterford, Westmeath, Kilkenny and Tipperary, while Antrim, Kerry, Galway and Laois are all in Group 3. In Division 2, which has 13 teams, the top team from each of the three groups go into a draw where two will receive a bye to the semi-finals while the third team will go into the quarter-finals alongside the three teams that finish second in the groups. The relegation play-offs will include the bottom team from each of the three groups, and a draw will be held where one team goes straight into the relegation final and the other two play in a relegation semi-final.

The 2022 Tesco Minor A Championship sees Cork drawn in Group 2 alongside Galway and Dublin. Group 1 includes Waterford, Kilkenny and Clare, while Tipperary, Limerick, Wexford and Antrim are in Group 3. The group winners go into a draw with two advancing to the semi-finals, and the other county will go into a quarter-final but will have home advantage, subject to satisfactory venue. Cork begin their minor A campaign away to Galway on the first weekend of February.

Collins enjoying her new adventure in Dubai

LINDA Collins hasn't ruled out a return to the Cork senior camogie set-up this year – but for now she's happy with her new adventure in Dubai.

Speaking to Sinead Farrell of *the42.ie*, the Courcey Rovers forward, who captained the Rebels last season, revealed how much she is enjoying her job as a teacher in the United Arab Emirates, a role she started two weeks after the Rebels' 2021 All-Ireland final loss to Galway.

With the national league fixtures released this week, the new season is starting to take shape – but, for now, Collins is happy where she is in Dubai.

"You still would have that fear of missing out or I'd see the girls out together and you have so many memories with them, but then you also think that you've had some great times playing with Cork and I do want to try something different and see how I'd get on," Collins said.

"If it wasn't for me, I would have come home but I am really enjoying it so I will

stay for as long as I'm enjoying it. I'm getting such a different experience out here. I've been to two or three different countries at this stage between midterms and weekends.

"But there's been no camogie played at home since I've come out, so we'll have to wait and see what I'll be like in March and April next year. It might be a different story."

Collins is hopeful that Cork will bounce back from last year's All-Ireland final defeat to Galway and go one step further this season.

"It is upsetting and I don't know, do you ever get over losing an All-Ireland final," Collins said.

"It's probably one of the loneliest places to lose a final. I just hope the girls drive on next year because they've gained so much experience. Even the younger girls who were starting in Croke Park for their first time this year. They'll be one more year more experienced next year."



Cork forward Linda Collins is currently working as a teacher in Dubai.

Better team won says McCormack

INNISCARRA manager Stephen McCormack admitted "the better team won" as his club crashed out of the Munster Camogie Senior Club Championship at the semi-final stage last weekend.

Scarra were beaten 1-8 to 0-8 by Clare's Scariff Ogonneloe in a keenly contested last-four clash at Ballynanly on Saturday afternoon.

Joanne Casey scored seven of her side's eight points to keep them in contention until the end, but ultimately Alva Rodger's goal, and injuries to Katie O'Mahony and Erin Looney in each half, proved decisive as Scariff progressed to the provincial final.

"Look, it's very disappointing," said McCormack shortly after full time.

"To be fair, Scariff are a very good

CAMOGIE

■ Andrew Horgan

side, and we gave it absolutely everything. We had a very good start, and then we conceded a soft goal.

"We didn't take advantage of the wind when we had it, so we are obviously hugely disappointed.

"The nature of the first half there ... it was very stop-start, and we just couldn't get back into our rhythm.

"I think you saw we lost a couple of big players early in the game, and that had a little bit of a bearing on it as well. But it is what it is, the better team won today, and unfortunately now we just have to suck it up.

"There was a bit of a breeze and it probably picked up a small bit in the second half, if anything, but we go out to start every game strongly, and we were confident our girls would battle until the very end.

"That's what they did, they threw everything at it.

"We were very unlucky there, we just needed a break, but unfortunately it just didn't come our way today."

Reflecting on the campaign as a whole, McCormack admitted that it didn't go according to plan, but he believes his players will bounce back in 2022 where they will be looking to claim more silverware.

"It was disappointing," he added.

"We lost the league final, we lost the county final, and we lost today.

"But these are the games we want to play, and we will be hungry to be back next season.

"We know there are really good teams in Cork. We didn't win Cork this year, and that's obviously the ambition next year.

"We are back to square one now, so we will start again.

"I think every team will be looking at it and thinking they have a chance, and we are no different.

"We will prepare as best as we can and give it our all next season again.

"The girls are super, they have been unbelievable all year. People were writing them off, but all year they have been incredible.

"You would feel for them today, but they will be back again, no question."

Na Piarsaigh's Amy Lee is new Cork senior camogie captain

NA PIARSAIGH'S Amy Lee will captain the Cork senior camogie team for 2022.

The Cork county board made the announcement recently, and the player and her club are thrilled with the news.

Lee took over the role of goalkeeper at the start of the 2020 season, when she confidently stepped into Aoife Murray's shoes following the latter's retirement.

For 18 seasons, Murray was the number one camogie goalkeeper for the Cork senior team.

Come the championship games every year, she was always the first automatic name on the team sheet and, for five seasons, Lee was Murray's understudy. Rarely called upon during championship games, Lee remained patient and was learning all the time from one of the best goalkeepers in the game.

Lee became number one keeper in 2020 and

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

stepped in confidently between the posts. Having joined the senior panel in 2015, it was a huge step for her to finally be taking the number one slot.

However, she took to it like a duck to water and has established herself as one of the best in the business.

She holds an All-Ireland intermediate winners medal from 2018, when she was also a member of the senior side who took the title on the same day.

Lee won a senior county championship medal in 2021 with divisional sides Seandun and she had an outstanding year in goal for Cork, Seandun and Na Piarsaigh.

She is a great example to all the younger players in the squad, who will look to her for guidance in the weeks and months ahead.

In confirming the nomination, the Seandun committee thanked Cork county board for giving them the honour of selecting the senior captain for the upcoming season.

Lee has always been a fantastic role model for younger players across the county.

She is always willing to help out with volunteering at goalkeeping workshops and was involved with the Seandun Féile skills competitions and helping out with the minor county finals hosted by Na Piarsaigh.

Most recently, Lee spent a full day in Castle Road at the U12 Tesco Camán County Festival, sharing tips with the players, standing in for photos, and encouraging the future Cork stars.

Best of luck to Lee and the Cork senior panel for the season ahead.

They begin their league campaign in February and are busy training three times a week in Castle Road and preparing for the season ahead.

Galway Camogie end Supermacs link

Eoghan Cormican

■ All-Ireland camogie champions Galway will have a new sponsorship logo on their jersey this season after it was confirmed Galway Camogie and Supermac's have ended their 20-year partnership.

The fast-food chain will continue to serve as the main sponsor of the county's hurling and football teams, but their long-standing arrangement with Galway Camogie has come to an end. In a statement confirming the end of Supermac's involvement in Galway Camogie, county board chairman Brian Griffin said Galway hopes "to make an announcement shortly in relation to future plans".

"Galway Camogie will be forever grateful to Pat and Una and their team in Supermac's for their support over a consistent period of time and we like to believe our

success over that period has proven to make the agreement mutually beneficial.

"We wish Pat and Una every success in the future and note their ongoing commitment to female sport with their recent announcement of sponsorship of Galway Women's Football Club." Commented Supermac's MD, Pat McDonagh: "Both myself and Una have been delighted to have been associated with various Galway Camogie teams for over 20 years. We have seen some outstanding performances with the All-Ireland final wins of 2013, 2019, and 2021 being the highlights. This current Galway Camogie team, led by Cathal Murray, has proved to be the most successful of all. Their dedication has brought this about and we wish them and their management team continued success over the coming seasons."



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

BRIAN DILLON'S Niamh O'Leary, thanks to her part in Seandun's first ever senior camogie championship title win over Inniscarra last October is one of the three Echo Women in Sport Winter quarterly winners for 2021.

For a player who gives 100% to every team she is involved with, it's a well-deserved accolade.

Her commitment off the field is as strong as when she's on it but reserved in nature and always praising other players above herself she is somewhat taken aback at the award.

"Oh, that's mad," was her response.

"Thanks very much. I'm delighted on behalf of the team."

Starting her career at the age of seven Niamh recalled Saturday mornings in the Tank Field under the care of Niall McLoughlin.

"We just played games which was great fun and Niall is still up there to this day doing the same with so many young girls, giving them the stepping stone to great friendships and a sporting life.

"Coming through underage we won a few Séandun underage blitzes.

"Then we started to struggle with numbers at training and were losing a lot of games.

"We got a new management team in 2012 as we were coming out of U14. We won an U16 league and minor championship and the big one would have been winning the Intermediate league and championship double in 2015.

"That was amazing for us. I've been very lucky with the Brian Dillon's group I came up with."

Struggling numbers wise, like so many clubs, unfortunately, the feeder St Patricks' School stopped playing camogie when Niamh was in second year, and it has affected the playing numbers in the club.

With Brian Dillons runners up to Blackrock in the 2012 U16B championship and Blackrock having no representative on the Cork U16B panel, the honour of captaining Cork fell to Dillons, who had two representatives, Niamh, and her good friend Sinead Mills.

Both names were put into a hat with Niamh being pulled out.

She captained Cork to All-Ireland U16 success that year, 2013, which is an achievement few are lucky to enjoy during their career.

"I was on Cork U14 development squads, but that U16 win was unreal.

"Coming back to Brian Dillon's with the cup and everyone cheering the bus as we pulled in. It was mad," she recalls.

Niamh made the Cork U16A panel in 2014 and was on Cork's minor panels in 2015 and 2016.

All-Ireland success didn't come during those years, but Niamh relished being on those panels and developing all the time.

She played Ashbourne cup with UCC for four years from 2016-2019 but it wasn't until 2020 that she got a call to the Cork Intermediate panel by then manager Mark McCarthy.

But things didn't go according to plan as Niamh explains.

"We only got a few months training due to Covid and then we were told that the camogie association only wanted one adult team per county playing championship, so we had to withdraw.

"That was hugely disappointing for us all. 2021 was interrupted as well and we failed to advance our group on scoring difference, which was a big blow to us, particularly after we had beaten the eventual All-Ireland champions Antrim in that group."

Despite her inter-county exploits Niamh never believed she'd ever win



O'Leary never expected to win a county

Niamh O'Leary takes on Kilkenny's Danielle Quigley.
Picture: Patrick Browne



Linda Mellerick of The Echo, presents the Player of the Match Award to Seandun's Niamh O'Leary following the County Senior Camogie Championship final against Inniscarra at Castle Road.
Picture: Howard Crowley

The Echo Women in Sport Awards

mind win them, as no one club benefits.

"I think divisional sides should be allowed in competitions. Of course, winning one now I would say that, but it gives players an opportunity to play at the top level.

"There are players that may never otherwise get that opportunity. So, I think it's great, it improves players which in turn improves clubs and also improves players for inter-county level.

"I go up to Brian Dillon's and there are still people congratulating me, people I didn't think would have taken any notice.

"News of Seandun's success spread very quickly. Even the hurling and football side of Brian Dillon's were very good to us.

"They had their street league finals a few weeks ago and they asked the Dillons' Seandun players to bring the cup up and lead the parade.

"There were young girls and boys that day getting pictures with us so that's great for them to see that.

"To see that they can play with a junior or intermediate club and have that success."

a senior county title, not to mention being Player of the Match in the final. 2021 in that regard was a year that will live long in her memory.

"I probably would have laughed a year ago if you told me that I'd have a senior county medal.

"Seandun didn't always enter a team in the senior championship. Two years ago was my first time ever playing with them.

"When you're playing with an Intermediate club you're never think-

ing of a senior championship but when the opportunity came to play with Seandun, and we had the players and the talent you think that you might actually go out and hold your own against these senior clubs with seasoned senior players and a lot of cork players.

"So, it was a shock to win it."

Her boyfriend Darragh captured the final whistle on video and Niamh blushes as she recalls it.

"Oh, I cringe looking back at that. I

was jumping around the place.

"But it's mad to think that the players from so many clubs celebrated together so much and what it meant to us.

"There was girls crying. Some of them had never won a county at any level so it was a huge achievement for them."

What does Niamh think of the view some people hold with regards divisional sides, i.e., that they don't like to see them in competitions, not to



Cork minor camogie manager Jerry Wallace who is hoping to go one better this year and take the minor title.

Cork minor and U16 camogie panels are announced for 2022

THE Cork U16 and minor managers have been busy in the last few months as they look ahead to what they hope will be a successful inter-county season in 2022.

Cork are the holders of the Under 16 title and will go in a defending champions, the minor lost out in last season's final to Kilkenny so they will be hoping to go one better this year.

The under 16 will be hoping to build on their success of 2021 and retain the title won in tremendous fashion when they overcame Kilkenny.

There are nine counties in the battle for the U16 A championship crown and will be three groups of three as of now the groups are not drawn yet but Cork, Clare, Dublin, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford are the counties who will be in the race for the title.

The group winners will go into a draw with two drawn to go to the semi-final and the other group winner will go to the quarter final with the three second placed teams.

Manager Donie Daly has been busy in the last few months having turned their attention to assembling a panel training got under way and is currently going very well with strength and conditioning session and one pitch session each week.

The panel have also played a few games against the minor trial teams and they have games arranged for the weeks ahead as preparations continue.

Speaking to Donie Daly recently he expressed delighted with the fitness and skill levels of the girls.

"We are happy with the way things are going.

"We gave them two weeks off over Christmas and we will continue in the week ahead to get ready for championship."

Whilst the dates for the group game are not finalised yet the Saturday or Sunday 16/17 July are the quarter finals, Saturday or Sunday 23/24 July for the semi-finals and Saturday/Sunday 30/31 July for the U16 A final.

The U16 panel is as follows: Ellie Buckley (Aghabullogue), Maeve Lonergan (Ballincollig), Aoife Cottrell (Ballinacorney), Amy O'Riordan (Ballinora), Ellie McAuliffe (Ballinora), Louise O'Neil (Ballinora), Lucy O'Connell (Blarney), Ava McAuliffe (Castlemartyr), Amy McCarthy (Clonakilty), Amy Sheppard (Cloughduv), Emma O'Sullivan (Cloughduv), Orlaith Cremin (Eire Ogi), Aoibhinn O'Neil (Erin's Own), Grainne Finn (Fr. O'Neills), Sarah Murphy (Glen Rovers), Julie Gu-

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

ney (Mallow), Isabelle Nestor (Midleton), Alice Buckley (Newcestown), Keeley Goulding (Rockban), Anna Nestor (Sarsfields), Ava Fitzgerald (Sarsfields), Clara Rice (Sarsfields), Kate Fennesay (Sarsfields), Laura Dunlea (Sarsfields), Nessa Treacy (Sarsfields), Rachael Roche (Sarsfields), Sinead Hurley (Sarsfields), Ally Mulkenina (St. Catherine's), Aoibhe Daly (Youghal).

The Cork minors have a very early start to their year as their championship gets under way early with the All-Ireland championship starting February Saturday 5 or Sunday 6 with a trip away to play Galway the opening championship game for Cork.

There are ten teams in two groups of three and one group of four, the three group winners will go into a draw with two of the teams going to the semi-finals and the other team going to the quarter final to join the three second placed teams.

In Group 1 we have Waterford, Kilkenny, Clare, in Group there are Galway, Cork and Dublin and Group 3 it is Tipperary, Limerick, Wexford and Antrim.

On Saturday / Sunday 12/13 February Cork will host Dublin in their second game.

The quarter-finals are down for decisions for March 12/13 with the semi-finals down to be played on Sunday 19/20 March and the final taking place on the weekend of 26/27 March.

Cork are in a tough group with Galway and Dublin both strong contenders at minor level and the trip to Galway will be a tough one for Jerry Wallace's side as any slip up and you are under pressure with just one game to go.

The hope would be that a semi-final slot could be secured so it will be all systems go for the big opener.

In preparation for their opening game they hope to play games against MUT, UCC and the Cork Intermediates whilst already they have had a game against reigning champions Kilkenny where after a highly competitive outing it finished level.

The minor panel has been announced to the players and media by the management but we have been requested by the county board not to use it in print until they give us the go ahead to do so therefore we will have it as soon as we get the go ahead from the county board.



The UCC intermediate Meagher Cup squad.

Inter-county ready to roll

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

WHILST on the field activities are not up and running yet, a lot of interest is turning towards inter-county activities and with the Littlewoods National leagues scheduled to begin on the first weekend in February, the Cork senior and Intermediate management teams now have their fixture schedules and opponents and both will be hoping to be at the latter end of both competitions come the final shake up.

In the Division 1 Littlewoods National League nine teams will battle it out for the title.

There is one group of four teams and one group of five.

In Group one, reigning All-Ireland champions Galway are grouped with Tipperary, Down, Offaly and Dublin.

Cork are joined in group two by holders Kilkenny, Limerick and Clare.

The top team in each group got straight to into the final with the bottom in each group into a relegation final.

It's disappointing that the Association have not facilitated semi-finals and given that they have allowed a free weekends in case of back matches one would imagine as it would have only taken up one more weekend semi-finals could have been facilitated and when one considers the division one final is down for decision April 9th / 10th, semi-finals could easily have been slotted in.

Cork have a bye on the opening weekend and will open their campaign on the weekend of Feb 19/20 and with each game a must win game Cork will be hoping to get off to a good start when they will make the trip to their coaches Davey Fitzgerald's home county of Clare for their opening game.

Round two will see Cork host Limerick on Feb 26/27 and the big game is undoubtedly the meeting with Kilkenny which goes ahead on the weekend of March 12/13 in Cork.

Group two is a tough group and whilst All-Ireland champions Galway will be expected to top the group an ever-improving Tipperary will be determined to continue



The MTU Purcell Cup squad.

their team building and give a good account of themselves when the sides meet on March 19th/20th.

In Division 2, there are thirteen teams with two groups of 4 and one group of five and Cork have been drawn in the group of five which guarantees them four game and this is something that the new management team under the guidance of Trevor Coleman will be glad of.

In their first year at the helm they will need competitive games to help get the best possible panel together for championship.

Cork open their campaign on February 5th / 6th when they host Wexford, it's off to Kildare on February 19th / 20th.

Cork host Derry on the weekend of March 12/13 and the following weekend they hit the road again with a trip to Meath.

The quarter finals are down for March 26/27 with semi-finals on Sunday April 3 and the final on April 9/10.

In Group two, it's Waterford, Westmeath, Kilkenny and Tipperary, while Antrim, Kerry, Galway and Laois make up Group 3.

In Division two we thankfully have semi-finals and the top team from each of the three groups go into a draw where two will receive a bye to the semi-finals while the third team will go into the quarter-finals alongside the three teams that finish second in the groups.

The relegation play-offs will have the

bottom team from each of the three groups, and a draw will be held where one team goes straight into the relegation final and the other two will play in a relegation semi-final.

Easter Weekend Saturday / Sunday April 16/17 are pencilled in for league final's replays whilst the Association have set aside the weekends of Saturday / Sun 23/24 and Saturday / Sunday April 30 May 1 for the provincial championships.

It has been a busy few weeks also for college students as the Ashbourne, Purcell and Meagher Shield round robin schedule of fixtures has continued.

With UCC and MTU participating in all three competitions there is big Cork interest.

The weekend of Saturday / Sunday, February 12/13 is a big one for CCAO with the finals Ashbourne Cup and Shield and the Purcell Cup competitions taking place.

The previous weekend will see the semi-finals of the competitions taking place and whilst the semi-finals and final have always taken place over the one weekend due to Covid restrictions this year's again the semi-finals and finals will be all played on separate weekends.

The CCAO are currently sourcing a venue to hold the finals and as soon as a venue is available it will be announced.

So it very much all get set and ready to go for what we hope will be a great few months for all our Cork inter-county teams as games come thick and fast.

Scariff Ogonnelloe's sister act hoping for Munster glory

Therese O'Callaghan

A provincial club final is a big occasion for any player, so you can imagine the excitement in the Daly household when 20-year-old triplets Rachel, Susan, and Lynda line out alongside their younger sister Jennifer in the Munster club senior camogie final against Drom-Inch in Mallow tomorrow (3pm).

From Killaloe in east Clare, all four will take to the field with Scariff Ogonnelloe as they attempt to dethrone the Tipperary champions.

In their Munster semi-final victory over Inniscarra, goalkeeper Rachel was defended by Susan at full-back, Lynda was selected at midfield, while 18-year-old Jennifer played an attacking role.

They have played camogie from a young age, starting with the boys hurling team in Killaloe before moving to nearby Ogonnelloe camogie club, who later combined with Scariff.

Rachel, a third-year science education student in UCC, appreciates the significance of tomorrow's showdown, saying it will be a special day for them as a family.

"It is the stuff of dreams really for all four of us to be playing in the final. It is what



Triplets Rachel, Lynda, and Susan Daly with younger sister Jennifer, after training this week. Tomorrow marks the first occasion that all four sisters will be starting in a Munster senior club final. Picture: Eamon Ward

we have trained for. There is no point in not completing it now. Jennifer (first-year) and I are in UCC, and Lynda and Susan (second-year) are studying in IT Carlow. We

performed against Inniscarra. It took us a while to settle into that game, they had four points on the board before we scored.

"Hopefully we can rectify those mistakes. Aisling Corbett's free-taking contributed to us getting over the line. She used to be a goalkeeper and has won the Long Puck. We all have great confidence in her, she is a key player for us."

Drom-Inch are the current titleholders and got past Newcastle West — also by three points — to reach the decider. Rachel believes there will be little between them.

"It will go down to the wire. Because we defeated them in 2019, they will be looking for revenge. But we will be gunning for them too. They narrowly beat Inagh/Kilnamona in the 2020 final."

With the possibility of all four sisters joining up with the Clare senior set-up once their club campaigns ends, success, it is hoped, would inspire all teams.



Loreto Secondary School, Fermoy, who defeated Ardscoil Dungarvan in the Munster Senior B Schools camogie final.

Picture: via @CamogieLoreto and @roversGAJ

Galway camogie sponsorship deal 'transforms ambitions'

Joel Slattery

Galway Camogie have announced a €250,000 sponsorship deal, which they say will benefit every young girl who plays the sport in the county.

The All-Ireland champions will formally launch the partnership with Westwood Global, described as providers of managed service solutions to manufacturing technology companies, later this month with the deal seeing teams from U14 to senior sponsored by the Maynooth-based company.

The deal which will run over five years, the Connacht

county added, shows "the substantial commercial value of camogie in its own right" after the ending of a deal with Supermacs which covered both Galway's hurling and camogie sides.

"What is different about this deal is that it has been conceived and negotiated as a standalone deal for camogie in Galway," said county board chair Brian Griffin.

"We believe it is the first significant sponsorship for a county that recognises the substantial commercial value of camogie in its own right, and it sets a new benchmark for the sport."

"Women's sport is trans-



Galway's captain Sarah Dervan lifts the O'Duffy Cup.

forming. A few years ago, our ambition for sponsorship was to be able to defray the costs of jerseys and kits for our teams.

Now we will have substantial sums of money to invest directly to support camogie across the county. Every girl and young woman who plays camogie in Galway will benefit from this deal. It transforms our ambitions for the coming years."

Geoffrey Stoddart, commercial director with Westwood Global, said: "Like us, Galway camogie is committed to excellence, diversity, equality, and success so this was a perfect opportunity for us to give something back by enabling these players to compete at the highest level and by supporting the growth of camogie across Galway."



Aoife Gould with her mother, Michelle.

Mother and daughter feature for Loreto Fermoy teams

ST Vincent's camogie coach Michelle Gould has managed her school Loreto Fermoy's camogie team to two senior camogie titles. They recently defeated Mount Mercy in the Cork Colleges Senior B County Final and a week later they secured the Munster Senior C League title, beating Ard Scoil Dungarvan. Michelle's daughter Aoife was part of the team. This comes on the back of Michelle being appointed goalkeeping coach for the Cork U16 team, again this year, who are going for three All Ireland titles in a row.



Pender
camogie
the forth
GAA club
old and f

Gardaí are still investigating what horror unfolded on the banks of the Grand Canal in Tullamore, Co. Offaly, last Wednesday afternoon.

But what is known so far is that 23-year-old Ashling left Durrus National School some time between 3.20pm and 3.30pm that afternoon.

She then made her way to the popular walking and running spot named after 25-year-old Fiona Pender, who was pregnant when she vanished without a trace in August 1996.

It would have taken primary school teacher Ashling about 10 minutes to drive from the school where she taught First Class to the walkway named after the still missing local woman.

And it is believed that, around this time, Ashling contacted her mother Kathleen to let her know what time she would be home for dinner.

A friend explained: 'Ashling would

DEDICATED: Ashling was getting ready for the camogie season ahead



have finished about three o'clock and she would have left the school around 20 past or half past three.

'She went straight to the canal bank walkway for a jog, and some time before starting her run, she was in contact with home to let them know what time she would be home for dinner. Her mother had the dinner ready and was waiting with it when the guards got in contact.'

Ashling's former camogie coach, Donal Rigney, believes the 23-year-old had her running gear in her car so that she could get a run in while on her way home from work.

The senior Mountbolus Camogie coach said: 'Ashling would have started playing when she was five or six. Around here, if you're a girl, you play camogie and if you're a boy, you hurl.'

'Ashling would have had 15 or 16 years' experience playing with the club and for the past three years she played on the senior team.

'I think she must have had her gear in the car and she was walking and running every day as part of getting fit for the season ahead.'

'Training for the season isn't due to start for another few weeks but

'There aren't enough nice words to describe her'

some of the girls like Ashling were doing their own thing to keep fit.

Carbery U14 players set their sights on Cork

BY GER MCCARTHY

CARBERY U14 camogie is in a healthy state following impressive performances against their Muskerry counterparts.

The Carbery division's U14 camogie panel has been put through their paces as part of Cork camogie's three-step player development phase since the beginning of November.

'Phase 1 involved seven weekly training sessions that commenced in early November,' Carbery U14 camogie's Teddy O'Regan explained.

'This phase was open to all Carbery club players born in 2008 and where approximately 50 players registered. We finished at Christmas and selected 30 players to go forward to Phase 2, the Divisional Academy.

'Development Academy squads are picked after the development hubs have concluded and are exclusive for participation and competition basis. Matches are the primary focus of this phase.

'Carbery played our first game against Muskerry last week in St Plunkett's GAA grounds in Abihill where we ensured each girl got a minimum of two quarters playing time. Carbery is planning to play Carrighoun, Avondu,



The 2022 Carbery U14 camogie panel that took part in challenge matches against Muskerry.

Imokilly and Seandún in a series of upcoming challenge games.'

Phase 3 of Cork camogie's development programme is the most important and where divisional players who impress during training and matches are nominated to participate in the Cork U14 development squad.

'The 2022 Cork U14 camogie panels will be selected from nominated divisional players,' O'Regan explained.

'This will consist of three panels made up of 24 players

on each. These panels will be trained and prepared for various blitz days to be held throughout the year. After the development squads have been picked, Cork U14 training will revert to once a week and must not interfere with club fixtures.'

The current Carbery U14 panel includes players from Ballinascarthy, Bandon, Clonakilty, Enniskeane, Kilbree, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Newcestown and St Colum's. Under the tutelage of Teddy O'Regan (Bandon), those talented U14s

are being trained by Paul Kingston (Ballinascarthy), Jackie O'Sullivan (Newcestown), Denis O'Mahony (Kilbrittain), John O'Keefe (Kilbree), Tom Scanlan and Colin Wedlock (Clonakilty), Mairéad O'Driscoll and Marian O'Neill (Enniskeane). The hope is that as many Carbery camogie players as possible progress to the final phase and get an opportunity to represent Cork at U14 inter-county level over the coming months.

'That is certainly the expectation,' O'Regan added.

'Carbery's primary objective is to provide an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for the girls at the hub and academy phases. We want the girls to make new friends while improving their skill levels and becoming aware of their competency. Then, they will go back to their clubs with a renewed enthusiasm for camogie.'

The 2022 Carbery U14 camogie panel includes Aoife Kingston, Karen Lucey (Ballinascarthy), Caoimhe O'Sullivan, Clodagh Barry, Ella McCarthy, Emma O'Connell, Evelyn Mc-

Carthy, Keeva Power, Maoliosa O'Regan, Maria O'Donovan, Meabh Doyle (Bandon), Emily Cregan, Niamh Barrett, Roisin Duggan, Sofia McCarthy (Clonakilty), Ciara O'Driscoll, Erin McCarthy, Rebecca O'Neill (Enniskeane), Eabha O'Driscoll, Ellie Collins (Kilbree), Ciara Walsh, Hannah Twomey, Laura Sexton and Niamh O'Mahony (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Erin Condon, Karen O'Sullivan, Maebh O'Donovan, Rachel Crowley, Roisin Wilson (Newcestown) and Abbie O'Sullivan (St Colum's).



Mount Mercy, winners of the Cork Colleges Junior B camogie Championship title.

Hectic month for schools

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

COLLEGES camogie has been busy in recent weeks and no more so than on the provincial and local stage with Cork schools all busy completing competitions. **Mount Mercy 6-10**
Scoil Mhuire gan Smal 1-5

Mount Mercy made up for losing the recently Senior B final when they captured the Cork Colleges junior B championship title at the expense of Scoil Mhuire gan Smal Blarney in Bishopstown recently.

Despite what the scoreline suggest it was a tough contest with the Mounty Mercy girls made to fight for every ball to the end by a Scoil Mhuire gan Smal side that never gave up and were battling to the very end.

The experience of the Mount Mercy side was vital with a lot of them having played at the higher grade it showed as they were a very balanced outfit.

It was Scoil Mhuire gan Smal who made the better start and we were five minutes into the contest before we had the opening score which came from Roisin O'Connell who send a superb long range strike sailing over the bar.

The fast surface of the Bishopstown 4G pitch saw the ball moving fast and both sides were able for the challenge it presented as the kept the ball moving fast.

The Scoil Mhuire gan Smal defence stood strong in the opening quarter as they repelled a lot of Mount Mercy attacks and it was 12 minutes in before Mounty Mercy were on the score board as Aisling Lombard pointed a close in free.

MOUNT MERCY: L O' Sullivan (Bishopstown); E Dillon (St Finbar's); C O'Neill (St Finbar's); E O'Driscoll (Ballinora); M Twomey (St Finbar's); K Cahalane (St Finbar's); S O' Sullivan (Inniscarra); T Goulding (Ballincolbarr's); A Carroll (Bishopstown); E Casey (Ballinassig); M O'Rourke (Ballinassig); N Kingston (c) (Ballinassig); R Grant (Bishopstown); A Lombard (Bishopstown); H O'Connor (St Finbar's).

Subs: M McGolderick (Eire Og) for A Carroll (h/t); K Moynihan (Ballinassig) for R Grant (45); R Moran for E Casey (45); E Good (St Finbar's) for E Dillon (50); S Heffernan (Bishopstown) for E O' Driscoll (55); B Hegarty (Inniscarra) for S O'Sullivan (56); SK O'Meara (Glen Rovers) for M Twomey (56); K O' Neill (Cloughduv for T



Presentation Mitchelstown, winners of the Cork Colleges Intermediate C Camogie Shield final.

Goulding(56).
SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL BLARNEY: E Warren (Blarney); E Buckley (Grenagh); E Cronin (c) (Grenagh); V Murphy (Grenagh); A O' Sullivan (Rockbar); E Henchion (Grenagh); A Twomey (Rockbar); M O'Herlihy (Rockbar); A Hanlon (Blarney); M O'Shea (Grenagh); S Forrest (Blarney); R O'Connell (Grenagh); L O'Connell (Blarney); K Warner-Lane (Grenagh); E Kendallien (Rockbar).

Subs: C Quinn (Grenagh) for K Warner-Lane (h/t); M Roche (Grenagh) for V Murphy (50); N Kenny (Grenagh) for E Kendallien (50); A O'Neill (Blarney) for A Hanlon (50).

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).
Loreto Fermoy 4-6

Ard Scoil Na Daoise, Dungarvan 0-2

Having won the Cork Colleges Senior B title, Loreto Fermoy added the Munster Senior C League title when they defeated Ard Scoil Na Daoise, Dungarvan, in the Munster Senior C League final.

Ally Mulherrins gave Loreto the lead with a goal inside the third minute and with Ava Hallihan pointing a free it settled Loreto.

Ally Mulherrins and Ciara Morrison added goals to the tally to leave Loreto leading 3-2 to no score at the water break.

Emma Doyle extended the lead with a goal and Ard Scoil's Anna Hickey pointed to leave Loreto comfortably ahead 4-2 to 0-

1 at the interval.

Ava Hallihan, Chloe Draper and Cliona Dunning hit points to which while Ard Scoil replied with one Emma Hickey, as Loreto stretched their lead Ard Scoil's had a mountain to climb but to their credit they battled hard to the end but came up against a very determined and balanced Loreto team that proved too strong a day where the score didn't justify their efforts.

LORETO PANEL: Coleman (Castletyons); E Fahy (Kilworth); SM Clancy (St Catherine's); S K Reals (Castletyons); A O'Sullivan (Mallow); S Hayes (Bride Rovers); S Morrison (Castletyons); A Hallihan (Castletyons); C Morrison (Castletyons); L Hallihan (Castletyons); A Beirne (Castletyons); A Barry (Bride Rovers); E Doyle (Watergrasshill); C Dunning (St Catherine's); A Mulherrins (St Catherine's); A Gould (St Vincent's); C Draper (St Catherine's); C O'Flynn (Kilworth); F Dunne (Kilworth); C O'Flynn (Kilworth); M O'Donohoe (Castletyons); N Parle (Bride Rovers); R Feehan (Kilworth); A O'Donovan (Ballyduff Upper); C O'Riordan (Castletyons); S O'Driscoll (Kilworth); C Harrington (Watergrasshill); K Roddis (Bride Rovers); M O'Connell (Bride Rovers).

In the Munster Junior D final, Coláiste An Chroí Naofa Carrig na Bhfear lost out to Laurel Hill Limerick, in the Cork colleges Intermediate C shield final Presentation Mitchelstown took the title as they defeated St. Mary's, Mallow and in the U16's A South Cup final Ard Scoil na Mara Tra-more overcame Coláiste Choilm 2 Ballincollig.

Coachford pipped in Munster decider

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cashel CC	1-7
Coachford College	0-7

A PENALTY save by Cashel goalkeeper Molly Gilmartin in the first half of the Munster Senior A Colleges final proved to be the decisive factor in the Tipp school getting over the line in a tough encounter with Coachford College at Castle Road.

It was a low-scoring game, 0-3 apiece at half-time, and we had to wait until the 25th minute for the first score from play. That was through Lisa O'Connor, Cashel's second point, as they chased a Coachford side who had made a great start with Aoife Twomey converting three frees.

Coachford enjoyed a lot of possession in the opening quarter but the strong Cashel defence stood firm.

Gilmartin's penalty save was a huge moment, with Anna Fahey levelling before the break. Coachford were still well in the game at half-time but the concern was that their failure to make their dominance count early on would come back to haunt them.

Cashel came out in determined mood for the second half and they hit a purple patch. Tipp minor Grace Moloney led the way, superbly aided by Emma Horgan, Fahey and Ella O'Dwyer.

Moloney's goal, followed by an O'Connor point, gave them an edge, even if Laura Buttiner steadied Coachford with a free: 1-6 to 0-4 at the second water break. Cashel extended their lead through O'Connor with nine minutes remaining but Coachford rallied and began to find gaps in the Cashel rearguard. Aoife Barrett split the posts followed by two Laura Buttiner frees, making it a one-score game.

Try as they might they failed to grab the vital goal as Cashel just hung on to take the title.

Coachford will be disappointed given that they did have a few late chances to narrow the gap, wayward shooting and going for goal when maybe the option to take a point was there, were factors.

Credit to a well-drilled Cashel for standing firm in an exciting last quarter.

Scorers for Cashel: L O'Connor 0-5 (0-3 f), G Moloney 1-0, A Fahey 0-2.

Coachford: A Twomey, L Buttiner 0-3 f each, A Barrett 0-1.

CASHEL: M Gilmartin; E O'Dwyer, E Butler, A Keane; L Kavanagh, A Gayson-Molloy, K Dooney; L O'Connor, E Horgan; K Browne, A Murphy, E Browne; A Mazzola; G Moloney (c); A Fahy. L Fahy for A Mazzola (28); L Baire for E Browne (45); E Gillespie for K Browne (47).

COACHFORD: C O'Mahony; M Buckley, L Buttiner, A Dineen; E O'Shea (c); A Barrett, R Barrett; E Buckley, M Ring; K Honohan, N Barry-Murphy, A Twomey; A O'Leary, S Sheehan, A Ring.

Subs: A Lofly for R Barrett (inj 38); A Foley for A Ring (40); E Buckley for K Honohan (44); I Golden for A O'Leary (60).

Referee: John O' Leary (Mallow).

Gritty Gailltír earn fourth Munster title in succession

Munster intermediate club camogie final

Gailltír (Waterford) 1-11
Knockavilla (Tipp) 0-11

Therese O'Callaghan Mallow

Gailltír were crowned AIB Munster intermediate club camogie champions at Mallow on Saturday for the fourth successive year — their fifth title in six seasons.

Even though they were a point behind at the break, they rose to the occasion, and it was a 46th-minute goal from Alannah O'Sullivan that ultimately put daylight between the teams.

Credit too to their inspirational free-taker Aoife Fitzgerald, and player of the match Clodagh Carroll.

They trailed 0-6 to 0-5 at the half-way stage but they hit the first three points of the second-half and would not be overtaken again.

There was an element of what might have been for gallant Knockavilla who battled all the way.

Free-taker Eimear Heffernan made it a two-point match with two minutes remaining to set up a grandstand finish.

The Tipp side were unable to close the gap any further, however and the final score of the afternoon, registered by Laoise Forrest, in stoppage time sealed the win.

Scorers for Gailltír: Aoife Fitzgerald (0-6, 0-5 frees, 0-1 45); A O'Sullivan (1-0); L Forrest (0-2); M Comerford; S Fitzgerald; K Lynch (0-1 each).

Scorers for Knockavilla: E Heffernan (0-7, 0-6 frees); E Fryday (0-2); C McCormack; E Browne (0-1 each).

GAILLTÍR: C Jackman; M Sheridan; H Flynn; A Hartley; L Sheridan; C Carroll; E Mahony; K Lynch; S Fitzgerald; M Comerford; C O'Sullivan; Annie Fitzgerald; Aoife Fitzgerald; L Forrest; A O'Sullivan.

KNOCKAVILLA: S Ryan; E Hodnett; M McCormack; L Farrell; S Furlong; B Ryan; S Ryan; C McCarthy; N Slattery; E Fryday; E Gleeson; E Browne; E Heffernan; E O'Mara; C McCormack.

Subs: R Farrell for E Hodnett (half-time); D Hales for E Gleeson (50); E Ryan for C McCormack (65 inj).

Referee: Aaron Hogg (Clare).

Scanlon's goal secures Munster crown for Scariff Ogonnelloe

Munster Club Camogie Final
Scariff Ogonnelloe (Clare) 1-8
Drom-Inch (Tipperary) 1-7
Therese O'Callaghan
 Mallow

Scariff Ogonnelloe regained the AIB Munster senior camogie club title in dramatic fashion at Mallow on Saturday with a late, late goal from joint-captain Mairead Scanlon.

Defending champions Drom-Inch looked set for the win but Scanlon's green flag in the 66th minute made it a great day for east Clare, following on from St Joseph's success in the Harty Cup semi-final.

And a big crowd stayed on at the Mallow venue to cheer on Scariff Ogonnelloe.

It was the first time Caoimhe Bourke was beaten. The Tipperary county net-minder was brilliant for her side but could not repel Scanlon's blistering shot.

The AIB championship celebrates the toughest players in camogie and this certainly was a great advertisement for the game.

Along with Scanlon, who was crowned player of the match, Aisling Corbett contributed vital scores from frees while Alva Rodgers, Abby Walsh, and Amy Barrett also excelled.

Essentially though, this was a tremendous team effort for David Sullivan's charges who never gave up — Sullivan is a native of Lorrha, Tipperary. It was also a special day for the Daly family — triplets Rachel, Susan, and Lynda, and their younger sister Jennifer.

Susan Vaughan's red card from their semi-final win over Inniscarra was also overturned, leaving her free to play at wing-back where she

was her usual assured self. She also played a crucial role in the winning goal.

There was nothing between the sides in the first half.

Eimear McGrath, reliable from frees, opened the scoring. But it was three in a row from Scariff Ogonnelloe placed ball expert Aisling Corbett that put her side ahead after nine minutes.

It didn't take long for the McGrath sisters Aoife and Eimear to have the teams on level terms at the first water break, 0-3 apiece.

The close nature of the contest continued in the second quarter.

There were two goal opportunities for the Clare side but twice Bourke kept her side in it, pulling off two top-drawer saves from Alva Rodgers. The second attempt did result in a point in the 22nd minute.

The titleholders ended the half with a point from free-taker Eimear McGrath leaving it 0-4 each at the short whistle.

Scariff Ogonnelloe built up momentum after the resumption. Corbett and Scanlon pushing them two ahead. But right on the three-quarter mark, Eimear McGrath cut the deficit. It was 0-5 to 0-6 at the second water break.

Corbett frees pushed the lead out to three points before Miriam Campion struck the first green flag of the game in the 56th minute to achieve deadlock, 1-5 to 0-8. It came directly from an Eimear McGrath lengthy free.

On a roll now, the Premier girls added points from Joanne Ryan and Eimear McGrath and looked destined to retain the cup. But it was Scanlon's major that left Scariff Ogonnelloe celebrating wildly at the final whistle.

Eimear McGrath, who was accurate throughout, missed a scoreable free to send the game to extra-time. But she shouldn't be faulted as she



was one of Drom-Inch's best players.

Scariff Ogonnelloe play the Leinster champions next.

Scorers for Scariff Ogonnelloe: A Corbett (0-5 frees), M Scanlon (1-1), A Rodgers (0-2).

Scorers for Drom-Inch: M Campion (1-0), E McGrath (0-5, 0-4 frees, 0-1 45), J Ryan and A McGrath (0-1 each).

SCARIFF OGGONNELLOE: R Daly; B Wiley Murphy, S Daly, A McGee, S Vaughan, C Doyle, R Minogue; A Barrett (J-Capt), A Walsh; J Daly, L O'Donnell, L Daly; M Scanlon (J-Capt), A Corbett, A Rodgers.

Subs: L Grady for J Daly (48 in); J Daly for A Corbett (57).

DROM-INCH: C Bourke; M Connolly, C Brennan, E Cahill; A McGrath (Capt), M Ryan, N Treacy; M Burke, N Long; E McGrath, A Kennedy, M Campion; J Ryan, A Eviston, D Dunne.

Subs: K O'Dwyer for A Kennedy (40).
Referee: Dáimuid Kirwan (Cork).

Robyn McKenna, Ashling Corbett, and joint captain Mairead Scanlon, celebrate after Scariff Ogonnelloe won the Munster Senior Camogie Final, on their return to Scariff in Co Clare; top left, Rachel Minogue raises a cheer; Supporter Roisin Nugent applauds.
 Pictures: Ray McManus/Sportsfile

Clanmaurice make it five on the trot

Kerry's Clanmaurice made it five AIB Munster Club junior camogie titles in a row at Mallow on Sunday, getting the better of An Rinn 0-9 to 0-5. They held off the stiff challenge of the Waterford side to record a narrow 0-4 to 0-3 lead at the break. Thankful too, to captain Patrice Diggin who foiled Onelia Ni Fhaoláin's designs on goal in the run-up to half-time.

An Rinn continued to battle but Clanmaurice resumed control at the second water-break, 0-7 to 0-5, thanks in the main to Jackie Horgan and Diggin.

A couple of late Diggin scores sealed the win. Fiona Morrissey, the An Rinn number six, was selected player of the match.

Meanwhile, Cashel Community School were crowned

Munster Colleges senior A champions following their hard-earned 1-7 to 0-7 over Coachford College in the Cork camogie grounds, Castle Road on Saturday.

The sides were tied three points apiece at half-time before Cashel captain Grace Moloney struck the all-important goal in the second half.

— Therese O'Callaghan

Ciara O'Sullivan

CAMOGIE | NEWCESTOWN | 20

LAST summer, after Ciara's impressive performances for Cork in the Munster senior camogie championship, then manager Paudie Murray spoke of his delight at the Newcestown teen's development and how she had played 'very, very well' in the provincial series. That was the latest indication that the young forward is on the right track.

Having only made her senior inter-county debut in Covid-hit 2020, Ciara played ten times for Cork last season, across all competitions, including starts in the business end of the All-Ireland series. The UCC student wants to build on that platform this year and nail down a starting spot in Cork's championship team. The experience she gained last year will help her. Ciara is excited for the inter-county season ahead, given the potential of a young Cork team that's determined to get back to the top of the charts. Closer to home, the two-time All-Ireland winning Cork minor wants Newcestown to lay down a marker as a senior club in the championship. In the past two seasons they have been knocked out by the team that went on to be crowned champions — and Ciara will be central to Newcestown's plans to kick on in 2022.

DID YOU KNOW? Ciara is a second cousin to Ireland's fastest woman and Olympian, Ballineen Bullet Phil Healy.



Fiona Keating

CAMOGIE | BALLINSPITTE | 20

AHEAD of the 2021 season, rising Cork dual star Fiona made a big decision: she decided to focus solely on camogie at senior inter-county level. It was a tough call to make, given her success as a dual Cork minor, but it was the right one. The decision to focus fully on camogie has seen her blossom.

The Courcey Rovers forward won her spot in the Cork attack last season, played ten times for the seniors across the league and championship, including starts in the All-Ireland semi-final and final, and scored 2-13 in total. 2021 was the season where UCC student Fiona showed what she can do — and the 2019 Celtic Ross Hotel West Cork Junior Sports Star wants to kick on this year.

Again, camogie is her focus at inter-county level, and with new manager Matthew Twomey in charge, Fiona is eager to impress and also fire the Rebels to league and championship glory. In UCC colours, she will play both camogie and football and has her sights set on the Ashbourne Cup and O'Connor Cup, and then Courceys want to get their hands back on the Cork senior camogie championship crown, too. Exciting times for an exciting talent.

DID YOU KNOW? A dual star at club level, Fiona scored FIVE goals in West Cork's 2020 county senior football championship semi-final win against Aghada and then scored a HAT-TRICK for Courceys in the 2020 county camogie final!



NEXT GENERATION



Seandún's Leah McKeogh tries to close down Caitlin Looney of Inniscarra in the SE Systems Cork County Senior Camogie Championship final at Castle Road. (Picture: Howard Crowdy)

CAMOGIE ROUNDUP

A decade-long era came to an end in Cork camogie as Paudie Murray stepped down at the end of 2021, having taken charge in 2012.

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CORK GAA YEAR BOOK 2022

another Waterford goal but Cork pushed on in the closing stages to win by 2-19 to 3-8. They had a further boost as the draw for the knockout stages gave them a semi-final bye, with Kilkenny providing the opposition after beating Wexford in the quarter-finals.

Both semis were held in Croke Park on August 29 and by the time Cork took to the field they knew that they were playing for a final spot against Galway, who had seen off Tipperary. Games against the Cats in recent times have always been closely-fought affairs and this was no different. With the outstanding Chloe Sigerson, Mackey and Orla Cronin impressing, Cork established a 0-10 to 0-6 half-time lead against the reigning champions and even moved five ahead in the second half but Mary O'Connell's goal brought Kilkenny right back into it and Denise Gaule had the sides level.

While Cronin put Cork in

front, Kilkenny roared back with three points on the trot but Cronin and Keating levelled before Cronin was red-carded. However, the numerical disparity for the last few minutes didn't effect Cork and captain Linda Collins, not long on as a sub, scored the winning point, 0-15 to 1-11.

The lead-up to the final was dominated by the appeal against Cronin's sending-off and word finally came on September 11, the day before the game against Galway, that the Enniskeane woman would be available. The Tribeswoman, champions in 2019 before losing their crown to Kilkenny in 2020, were the only side that had beaten Cork all year and they would again break Rebel hearts at the end of a frenetic game.

While Galway had the first four points, a pair of scores in quick succession from Hannah Looney brought Cork into the game and Cronin and Mackey were also on the scoresheet as they went in trailing by a

point at half-time, 0-9 to 0-8. The same advantage was still there after a cagey third quarter, with Looney having to make an important goal-denying intervention. Then, after the water break, Cork looked to have moved up a gear as Cronin levelled with a super score before Collins set up Mackey for a wonderful goal.

Galway were hard-beaten though and Carrie Dolan and Ailish O'Reilly brought them back to within a point before O'Reilly set up Siobhán McGrath for a goal and a 1-13 to 1-11 lead. Cronin replied with a Cork point but Galway's Orlaith McGrath landed two late points to give them victory by 1-15 to 1-13.

There was disappointment for the intermediate side as, while they beat Antrim and Kildare in the group stages of the competition, defeat to Kilkenny in their final match meant that they, the Cats and Antrim all finished level on points. Cork had the worst scoring difference and so unfortunately missed

out on the knockout stages. The minor team reached the All-Ireland final but, like the seniors, suffered heartache as Kilkenny beat them by 2-12 to 0-12 in Limerick.

At club level, Amy O'Connor was the hero as her two goals gave Seandún victory over Inniscarra in the final of the SE Systems Cork Senior Camogie Championship in October. The city divisional side, appearing in their first final in 27 years, were winners by 2-11 to 0-13, having led by 1-8 to 0-5 at half-time. Nicole Crean and captain Lauren Homan each scored three points while Joanne Casey was Inniscarra's top scorer with eight points.

Goals from Yvonne Murphy and Claire O'Brien helped Fr O'Neills to a 2-6 to 0-11 win over Aghabullogue in the intermediate final while Charleville had a 2-9 to 1-8 victory over Ballinora in the junior A decider, goals from Kate Liddy and Alma Jones helping their cause.

Unfortunately for him and for Cork, he wasn't able to sign off on a winning note and add to the four O'Duffy Cups already won in his reign as the Rebels lost narrowly to Galway in the All-Ireland final in Croke Park. In the fact that it was a first final appearance for Cork since 2018, the year represented progress and new manager Matthew Twomey will have a strong platform to work from. With the start of the year delayed due to Covid, the league format saw three teams split into nine groups and Cork came out on top in their section, beating Tipperary and Waterford to book an automatic semi-final spot on June 13. Their opponents were to be the Tribeswomen, who had also topped their section

and though Cork trailed early on in Nowlan Park, a goal from Amy O'Connor had them right back in contention by half-time, at which stage they trailed by 1-7 to 1-6. While Galway threatened to pull away in the second half, Cork stayed with them and a late Fiona Keating point sent the game to extra time. The Connacht side were stronger in the additional period though and won by 1-19 to 1-17 after 80 minutes.

There was a gap of just over a month to the start of the All-Ireland championship, where Cork would share a group with Down, Dublin and Waterford. In the interim, the Munster championship slotted into the schedule and Cork took the silverware with a 4-20 to 2-9 win over Limerick at The

Ragg in Tipperary. Katrina Mackey finished with 2-8 for Cork while Ciara O'Sullivan and Ashling Thompson also netted.

They carried that momentum into the All-Ireland series, opening with a 2-19 to 0-12 win over Dublin in Páirc Uí Rinn on June 17. Mackey goaled for Cork in the second minute following a brilliant Hannah Looney run and it paved the way for a 1-11 to 0-6 half-time lead, with O'Connor adding another goal on the resumption to ensure that Cork triumphed comfortably. A week later, Páirc Esler in Newry was the destination for a clash against Down and while the hosts were no pushovers, Cork recorded a second win, 1-13 to 0-10. Orla Cronin, Laura Hayes and Izzy O'Regan had had points

for Cork before Keating's goal coming up to half-time gave Cork a cushion. While their supremacy was never in doubt in the second half, neither could they pull away from the home side.

It was back to Páirc Uí Rinn on July 31 as Waterford – also with two wins under their belt – visited but Cork came out on top to secure top spot. It wasn't all plain sailing, though, as Niamh Rockett fired in an early Waterford goal and soon after that the visitors had another green flag, through Vicky Falconer.

Cork were shocked into action but came back well as O'Connor and Mackey both scored goals and the home side led by 2-8 to 2-4 at half-time. The Rebels had moved six points ahead by the time Falconer got



Victorious Seandún players celebrate their title win. (Picture: Howard Crowdy)



Seandún captain Lauren Homan. (Picture: Howard Crowdy)



The Cork Minor camogie panel, who will open their championship campaign on Sunday away to Galway.

Walsh: Cats start with clean slate

Camogie

Daire Walsh

Grace Walsh has admitted the Kilkenny camogie team will be "starting from scratch" when they kick-start their Littlewoods Ireland National League Division One campaign against Limerick today (John Lockes, Callan, 2pm).

Despite being the defending league champions, the relinquishment of their All-Ireland senior crown last August — in a semi-final defeat to Cork — ensured there was plenty of soul searching over the winter months. The Tullaroan star remains philosophical about how 2021 panned out overall, but acknowledges Kilkenny's championship form fell below the required standard.

"I think sometimes we forget when we're playing sport that it's not always about the wins. It's about the journey. We were kind of laughing about it earlier, but we won the league final last year. That's something I'm definitely proud of anyway and happy with that win," Walsh remarked at yesterday's virtual league launch.

"We didn't perform last year in the championship, I think that was very evident. We just didn't reach our peak at all, but these things happen. We've a clean slate now and we're starting from scratch. Just looking forward to getting back on the pitch on Saturday."

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Walsh has been working on the frontline at St Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin — initially as a clinical nurse manager and most recently as a tracheostomy clinical nurse specialist.

The latter position has a Monday to Friday schedule and early morning starts, making it easier for her to travel back home for collective evening training. While urging a note of caution, she views the recent lifting of restrictions as a sign that the worst of the pandemic is behind us.

"I do think things are getting better. We do need to be careful to a certain extent as well, but we just have to listen to the experts. They're there for a reason and they're putting restrictions or lifting restrictions for a reason. I think it's all positive and it's looking good. Hopefully it stays that way," Walsh added.

While defending league champions Kilkenny host Limerick (Callan, 2pm), at the same time Down travel to The Ragg to take on Tipperary. The game between Galway and Offaly was postponed last night and has been re-fixed for the weekend of March 26/27.

Cork teams line out for a new season of action

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

IT'S all systems go as inter county games get the season up and running with All-Ireland minor championship and division 2 national league this weekend there is plenty to look forward to.

TODAY

Littlewoods Division 2 National League: Cork v Wexford.

Castle Road, 2pm

CORK and Wexford get the season up and running in Castle Road as the Littlewoods Division 2 league gets underway.

With new managements at the helm Cork will be looking for a victory to get their season up and running, for the last two seasons the second squad have been there or there about but have just fell short and the hope is that this year they will kick on and go that one step further to take ultimate honours.

Trevor Coleman from Na Piarasaigh takes over as manager and following on his involvement with the Seandun senior team he will be looking forward to the challenge inter-county management will present.

Thirteen teams in two groups of four and one group of five will battle for the league title and Cork are in a group of five and will follow on this weekend's clash with a trip to Kildare on February 19th before heading to Meath for their last game the following weekend.

The quarter finals are down for March 26/27 with semi-finals on Sunday April 3 and the final on April 9/10.

Coleman and his backroom team have been busy assembling their panel and they are boosted by several players who previously were part of the Cork All-Ireland winning Intermediate or Senior sides who have now been re-graded to play at division two grade.

The sides is captained by the experienced Finola Neville and whilst a panel has not been released when going to print we can expect to see Katie Walsh, Sarah



Cork's Finola Neville is tackled by Kerry's Sara Murphy during the Littlewoods national camogie league division two, at Castle Road

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Ahern, Kate Wall, Aisling Moloney and Niamh O'Leary from last season panel still involved.

Lauren Callanan who has been one of the Intermediate team's standout performers is out with a broken hand picked up in the first training session of 2022 on January 2.

Wexford make their return to division 2 following on a hugely successful 2021 at premier junior grade where they captured the All-Ireland title. They were relegated out of Intermediate three years ago and they return to the Intermediate grade under the watchful eye of Alan Brennan who engineered their promotion last season.

The Oularth the Ballagh man is looking forward to the challenges ahead:

"When I came into the job I said it was my job to get them back up and we're there now and we have to drive on."

For Brennan and his players this is just a step on the overall path of Wexford's return as an elite camogie county.

Wexford are re-building. Last year's win was the first All-Ireland since 2012

and for a county like Wexford that is something that is not acceptable to them.

Amongst the players who he will be looking to get their campaign off to a winning start will be sharp shooter-Chloe Cashel, Emma Codd, Aileen Brennan and Ailis Neville.

TOMORROW

All-Ireland Minor Championship: Cork v Galway, Tynagh, Loughrea, 2pm

They don't come much harder than this, a trip to Galway for the Cork minors as they go in search of a win in the opening round of the Minor All-Ireland championship.

Having lost out in last season's final Jerry Wallace and his back room team will be determined to get it right this time out.

They have been busy in recent weeks preparing and it's a very new panel with just seven of last year panel still available including Orlaith Mullins who captains the side, Anna Fahy, Avril Cashman, Orlaith Cahalane, Emily O'Donovan, Ciara Walsh, Caoimhe Murphy, Leah Hallihan and Aoife Healy who will call on the experience gained last season.

With no under 16 championship played in 2020 the form of this Galway sides is somewhat unknown but in 2021 they lost out to Kilkenny in a nail-biting semi-final with two point separating the sides and manager Aaron Fox will be hoping he can go one better and reach the final this season.

Cork minor panel: Orlaith Mullins (Sarsfields), Abbey Lynch O'Shea (Glen Rovers), Amy O'Sullivan (Mallow), Ana Fahy (Tracton), Aoife Barrett (Aghbullogue), Aoife Healy (Aghada), Avril Cashman (Kilbree), Caoimhe Murphy (Kilbree), Chloe Lane (Castlemartyr), Ciara Morrison (Castlemartyr), Ciara Walsh (Carrigtwohill), Edel Sheehan (Eire Og), Eimear Duignan (Mallow), Ellen Crowley (Inniscarra), Ellen Murphy (Kilbrittan / Timoleague), Emily O'Donovan (Kilbree), Emma Cantillon (Douglas), Emma Fitzpatrick (Fr O'Neill's), Fiona Twohig (Valley Rovers), Grainne O'Mahony (Eire Og), Grainne O'Neill (Fr O'Neill's), Jill Connaughton (Middleton), Kellie McCarthy (Tracton), Leah Hallihane (Castletyons), Lily May Farrell (Ballincollig), Meabhdh de Burca (Carrigtwohill), Meaghan Martin (Glen Rovers), Meghan McCarthy-O'Donovan (Nemo), Millie Condon (Ballinascarthy), Niamh Nash (Siabh Rua), Orlaith Cahalane (St Finbar's), Tara Crowley (Balygarvan), Tara Elliott (Sarsfields), Thea Coleman (St Fanahan's).

'I just love camogie, it gives me the most joy in my life'

IT'S NOT so much that Amy O'Connor could have been a contender – she was a contender. In another version of her life, she could have followed the path of Denise O'Sullivan, another Knocknaheeny native, who chased the dream of a professional soccer career, with the Republic of Ireland and North Carolina Courage in the US.

O'Connor had talent and potential to travel the same path – except that wasn't her dream. Instead, her love of camogie defined her sporting choices.

And she has always had that independent spirit. To those who would like to portray her home place on the hills overlooking Cork city in a certain way and focus on anti-social issues or the lack of educational opportunity, she smashed any limiting stereotypes. When her local school didn't teach chemistry as a Leaving Certificate option, she pressured for it to be added and ended up securing a scholarship to UCC, from where she graduated with a pharmacy degree.

That sense of place is rooted deep in her. She is fiercely loyal to her home club St Vincent's, a junior club. She never thought of using it as a stepping stone for a move to a senior outfit.

A four-time All-Ireland senior camogie winner with Cork, she explains why she decided to concentrate on camogie, given that she excelled at underage soccer and could have pursued a semi-professional career, having lined out in a European U19 Championship semi-final alongside Katie McCabe.

'I have always been very education-driven but I don't think that was the main factor for me. There were probably opportunities there to go to the US or the UK. But for me it was genuine – I just loved, love playing camogie.'

'I didn't get the same feeling of joy when I played soccer or Gaelic football and that's ultimately why I chose to play camogie because it was genuinely the thing that I loved the most and the thing that gives me the most joy in my life.'

'In soccer over the last few years the opportunities are becoming

By Philip Lanigan

greater, the women's teams are starting to get a bit more noticed, more investment, but for me I definitely wanted to concentrate on camogie. Like I always say when I grew up, I didn't want to be a doctor, I didn't want to be a pharmacist, I didn't want to be a teacher, I wanted to be a Cork senior camogie player. So that was it for me.'

Things came to a head right around the time of that U19 European semi-final.

'Literally after that, it started to clash a bit more. I remember we had a qualifier in Sweden, I believe, and on the same day it was the All-Ireland semi-final, and I just rang up and spoke to the team manager. At the time I thought it was a very difficult decision and I worked myself up but in reality, it wasn't a difficult decision. I always knew what my decision was going to be.'

'Then the All-Ireland final had come around. I had missed the qualifier in Sweden and again they were due to fly out on the day of the All-Ireland final and I just rang up and said I can't. To me at that time there was a sense that maybe I will never get that opportunity again [to play in an All-Ireland final]. It was all I ever wanted. That was 2014.'

Growing up in Knocknaheeny, she admits there were lots of other diversions which could have taken her in all sorts of directions.

'Yeah, definitely distractions but I am glad that my mam and dad, they didn't

GREEN SCENE: Amy O'Connor played for Ireland at the U19 Euros



TAKE IT AS RED: Cork ace Amy O'Connor knows the importance of sporting role models for young girls cannot be understated



push me down any route. They weren't involved in the GAA or anything like that, but they always kept me involved in something.'

'They would be dropping me to a pitch seven nights a week, sometimes twice a day for a Gaelic match or a camogie match. They always kept me involved in something. They didn't push me but encouraged me to ensure that I had a good education.'

'At the time there was probably nobody in my immediate area that I could say as a female sportsperson that I looked up to. The people I would have looked up to outside the area were Gemma O'Connor and Jenny O'Leary.'

'But hopefully (now) in my area we have Denise O'Sullivan, that is somebody the young girls can look up to. So, you are hoping that as more people get involved and as more people are achieving from my area the younger girls today will be inspired to do something. Not to be distracted by whatever

distractions are out there for them.'

Seven years on from the 2014 All-Ireland final – with the Rebelettes enjoying further successes in 2015, '17 and '18 – and she was wearing number 14 in last September's final. While the result this time went against Cork, Galway rally squeezing home in a thriller, she is philosophical about the heart-ache of losing.

'It is very difficult – to be honest you probably never get over it. I suppose we need to look at the bigger picture as well. Croke Park, it is the loneliest place in the world when you lose. I remember going to the sideline to my family and being so upset. Literally a tug in my heart at the thoughts that we had just lost.'

'But then when you sit back and look at the reality of things and go over the road to Crumlin or Temple Street, children were really sick or dying. In the grand scheme of things, it is just a game, it is just a sport. Now it is difficult, because obviously we put so much time into it and it is something that we love so much.'

'You set out at the start of the year, and it is all you want to achieve and when it doesn't happen it is disappointing. Hopefully we

will have a chance to go again.'

'With Cork we hadn't experienced a big win over one of the top teams in a couple of years. That feeling you search for every single year... we probably got that back when we beat Kilkenny in the semi-final in 2021. It was almost like a relief I suppose... all the work we had put in was probably worth it.'

'Obviously, it didn't transfer across to the All-Ireland final, but it is a feeling. But it is shorter than 40 seconds – probably 20 seconds. That is what you chase and chase and chase and please God I will have that feeling again at some stage this year and hopefully when it matters the most.'

The Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues start back this weekend and O'Connor feels that camogie can surf all the positive vibes around women's sport after a breakout year.

'It's been huge. Women had a great year last year. I think camogie might be an untouched gem. Thankfully we've Littlewoods who have come on board – six years ago now. We've seen it in soccer, ladies football have always been a couple of steps in front with attendances and stuff. There are huge opportunities in camogie for the sport to explode.'

28
Cork top the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship roll of honour with 28 wins



Fiona Twohig scored four points for Cork. Picture: Mary Browne

Twohig points way for Cork minors with a two point win over Galway

Galway	0-6	CAMOGIE
Cork	0-8	Mary Newman

CORK got their All-Ireland minor championship campaign off to a winning start on Sunday afternoon with a hard-earned two point victory over a strong Galway side in a low scoring contest in tough conditions in Galway.

Weather conditions forced the switch of this All-Ireland minor champions opening round game between to Kilbeacanty GAA ground in Gort as the pitch in Tynagh was unplayable due to continuous overnight rain.

In a close opening half both sides played with huge intensity and they were evenly matched with a lot of rucks and tight play on a pitch that cut up quickly and was heavy under foot.

It was Cork who turned around in the lead with a two point advantage after playing with the aid of the wind in the opening thirty minutes but they had to give it everything they had to carve out a superb victory.

Cork got off the mark and settled with a Fiona Twohig pointed free four minutes into the game.

Catherine Hanley replied pointing Galway forty five before Orlaith Cahalane edged Cork back into the lead with a point.

It was thirteen minutes before we had the next score as both defences held the upper hand.

Corcoran had Galway on level on twenty three minutes but cork closes the half out strong with two point without reply from Orlaith Mullins and a pointed Fiona Twohig free to lead 0-4 to 0-2 at the interval.

Galway started the second half in determined fashion and they were back on level inside four minutes of the restart with Orla Mullins and

Hanley finding the range to tie the sides up.

It took Cork a while to find a response and on forty three minutes captain Orlaith Mullins led their response with a point followed by one from Fiona Twomey on the three quarter stage as she again showed her accuracy form placed balls to edge Cork ahead once again as two evenly matched sides battled hard to gain control.

Galway dug deep and again took the game to Cork and two points without reply from Olwen Rabbittie and Catherine Hanley had the side's level again with nine minutes remaining.

Battling furiously to find a winner Cork's Fiona Twohig edged her side back into a one point lead with a pointed free with three minutes on the stop watch.

Leah Hallihan then added to the tally to put Cork two clear as the clock ticked into added time and it was enough to see cork close out the game and take two valuable points as they take on Dublin next weekend in Cork.

Scorers for Cork: F Twohig 0-4 (fs), O Mullins 0-2, O Cahalane, L Hallihan 0-1 each.

Galway: C Hanley 0-3 (0-2 45's 0-1), O Rabbittie, S Corcoran O Mullins 0-1 each.

Cork: J Connaughton; M De Burca, A Barrett, T Elliott; C Walsh, A Healy, E Duignan, E Sheehan M Condon; F Twohig, O Mullins (c), O Cahalane; G O'Mahony, C Murphy, C Morrison.

Subs: L Hallihan for C Murphy (39), T Crowley for C Morrison (58), M Martin for G O'Mahony (58).

Galway: L Freeney; H Kenny, J Glynn, R Kelly; G Leen, C Hickey (c), A Heenan; K Coleman, M Gannon N Mc Inerney, O Rabbittie, T Maher; C Hanley, O Mullins, S Corcoran.

Subs: M Mulryan for T Maher (h't), A Crowe for H Kenny (h't), K Madden for K Coleman (45), A Barry for C Hanley (55). Referee: John Dermody (Westmeath).



Wexford defender Sarah Harding Kenny tries to keep possession from Cork corner-forward Katie Walsh. Picture: Larry Cummins

Gruelling opening league defeat for Cork

Wexford	0-14	CAMOGIE
Cork	0-9	Mary Newman

A DISAPPOINTING start for Cork as they lost out to a strong Wexford outfit in the opening round of the Littlewoods Division 2 National League in Castle Road on Saturday.

It was a tough start for Cork's second adult team against a Wexford side who were crowned Premier Junior champions and were able to field the likes of Aoife O'Connor, Linda Bolger, Sarah O'Connor and Aine Lacey, who all possess experience at senior level during their glory days in Croke Park.

Rachel Harty opened the scoring with a Cork point but with the crosswind favouring Wexford in the opening half, the visitors applied a lot of pressure on the Cork defence. Jackie Quigley, Ciara O'Connor, Mags Byrne, Aoife Guiney and Emma Walsh pushed them four points up inside 15 minutes.

Cork settled with three Joanne Casey frees and a Lauren Homan point from play, which had the sides level with six minutes to go to the break.

Wexford finished the half stronger with Ciara O'Connor and Byrne finding their range again.

The sides swapped points on three occasions in the third quarter with Casey and Ciara O'Connor continuing to nail scores from placed balls. Wexford were always dangerous on the attack and drawing frees, O'Connor made no mis-

take. With Sarah O'Connor pointing from play with six minutes remaining, Wexford were four points in front.

Cork battled hard but could make little headway against a strong Wexford defence where Aine Lacey and Maeve Sinnott were on top. And with Michelle Marin and Sarah O'Connor ensuring a steady supply to their inside line they kept the pressure on the Rebels.

Casey had the deficit down to three points as she pointed a free with three minutes remaining but Wexford finished stronger with points from Leah Walsh and Ciara O'Connor to take the win.

Cork will be disappointed at losing but will value having got a good tough game, something that will stand to them as the season progresses.

Scorers for Cork: J Casey 0-7, R Harty, L Homan 0-1 each.

Wexford: C O'Connor 0-6 (0-4 f), M Byrne, A Guiney 0-2 each, J Quigley, E Walsh, S O'Connor, L Walsh 0-1 each.

CORK: S Ahern; G Hannon, K Falvey, D Carroll; L Doyle, A Moloney, L O'Sullivan; R Harty, J O'Leary; J Casey, F Neville (c), L Homan; K McCarthy, H Ryan, K Walsh.

Subs: R O'Shea for K Walsh (44), A O'Callaghan for J O'Leary (56), G Hannon for L Doyle (62), N O'Leary for R Harty (62).

WEXFORD: L Brennan; S Harding Kenny, A Lacey, L O'Leary; M Sinnott, E Walsh, M Martin; A Guiney; S O'Connor (c); A Cardiff, C O'Connor, C Cashe; M Byrne, J Quigley, L Walsh.

Subs: L Bolger for M Byrne (38), J Dillon for C Cashe (38).

Referee: A Hogg (Clare).



Lauren Homan gets past a challenge to score a point against Wexford.



Owees (Cork): On February 4, 2022, peacefully, at home and in the presence of her loving family, ELIZABETH (BESSIE, nee Lucey), late of Fairfield Avenue, Glen Rovers Camogie and Ladies Committee, beloved wife of the late Danny and loving mother of Ted, Teresa (Cahalane), Ber (Moynihan), Eliz (Cronin), Mary (O'Sullivan), Donal and Patricia and beloved sister of the late Nell. Sadly missed by her loving family, sisters Bridie and Kit, brothers Jack and Pat, grandchildren,

Mullaney hoping to develop Tipp's 'ruthless streak'

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Bill Mullaney was a happy man as his Tipperary side produced a power-packed first-half performance to overwhelm Down 3-16 to 0-3 in the opening Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Group 1 tie at The Ragg on Saturday. Ciara Hogan, Casey Hennessy, and Jenny Grace racked up goals in the first 17 minutes and that is something Tipp will look to improve on, having failed to capitalise on goal opportunities in agonising semi-final defeats in last year's League and Championship.

"I thought it was a good performance for the first half in particular," said Mullaney.

"We really got our game going early. The girls applied themselves and worked very hard and that was the whole thing about today. Working hard, getting going and getting the League off to a good start, and I thought we did that.

"We have to be working on everything but we are working on combinations as well, always supporting the player. We worked it well. I thought we took some great scores, worked through the lines and tried to be patient on the ball, and take the best opportunity that was available to us.

"Something else we need to

work on is getting goals. We're probably not clinical enough or ruthless enough. I think last year, we probably could have gone for or taken more goal opportunities and we didn't and we suffered from so that's something else we have to consider this year."

Courtney Ryan was among a host of impressive newcomers, slotting in at centre-back with Karen Kennedy awaiting a shoulder operation.

"Courtney is a fabulous player. We ran out the panel — we only had 21 so everybody was getting an opportunity today. And the girls we took off didn't do anything wrong. It's just we need to see everybody and give everybody an

Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League results

Division 1: Galway v Offaly (cancelled), Tipperary 3-16 Down 0-3, Kilkenny 1-18 Limerick 1-10.

Division 2: Cork 0-9 Wexford 0-14, Meath 3-8 Derry 3-5, Westmeath 0-4 Waterford 0-14, Kilkenny 3-8 Tipperary 0-7, Galway v Laois (cancelled).

opportunity. It took them a while, those players that came on in the second half to get going but everybody is in with

a chance and it's up to themselves to put their hands up. We need to have options, we need to have girls looking over their shoulders, we need to have competition within the panel.

"The Drom & Inch girls will be back in the next couple of weeks. They've had a long year, they need a break. Fourteen months without a break is a long time. But at the same time, they'll have to earn the jersey. We're not handing it out cheaply. The girls that are there now are doing a great job and a great start today but it's only a start."

In Group 2, defending champions Kilkenny kept Limerick at arm's length with a 1-18 to 1-10 triumph at the John Lockes

ground in Callan. Limerick began well in their quest to topple the titleholders and led by a point early on thanks to scores from Caoimhe Lyons and Rebecca Delee. Niamh Deely, Miriam Walsh, and Aoife Doyle had responded though when Katie Nolan struck for a 12th-minute goal and that took the wind out of the Shannonsiders' sails.

The gap continued to extend in the second half but Delee's goal midway through the second half brought them to within six points once more, with a glimmer of hope. Brian Dowling's black and amber contingent saw it out well though, Walsh and Nolan knocking over points to keep their rivals at bay.

Camogie stars ready for battle



At the launch of the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues, which begin on Sunday, were Orlaith McGrath of Galway, Grace Walsh of Kilkenny, Niamh Rockett of Waterford, and Amy O'Connor of Cork. To purchase tickets visit www.camogie.ie. Picture: David Fitzgerald/Sportsfile

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK ASHBOURNE CUP PANEL 2022			
Aine Mullins	Serfields	Karla Blair	Cashel King Cormac
Aine O'Regan	Imiscarr	Kate Wall	Kilbrittain/Thomaspark
Aisling Egan O'G	St. Ysharry's	Kay O'Sullivan	Carrigrohane
Baile MacFhionn	Malbeg St. Paul's	Laura Hayes (C)	St. Catharine's
Caoimhe Mackrory	Imiscarr	Laura Lennane	Shannon Rivers
Clara Beechler	Ene Og	Lauren Comerford	Monaculla
Clara Golden	St. Finbarr's	Linda O'Donnell	St. Catherine's
Clara O'Sullivan	Callis	Maeva Lynch	Newcastle
Clara Ring	Newcastle	Maggie Coppinger	St. Columba
Cliona O'Leary	Imiscarr	Molly Kelleher	Rallygarra
Chloeagh Carroll	Rallygarra	Molly Lynch	Saryphilly
Chloeagh Finn	Ballinacorney	Mona Coghlan	Glynis Beardsmore
Eadaoin Murphy	Fr. O'Heale	Niamh O'Brien	Killinua Bog
Emma Dempsey	Tullaroan	Nicola Harle	Altavary
Emma Murphy	Glynis Beardsmore	Orlaith Kelleher	Crough/Tipperary
Emma Keating	Glen Bovers	Rachel McCarthy	Clanacorney
Fiadh Sheehan	Courcy Bovers	Roslyn Conway	Feeble/Willamona
Fiadh Sheehan	Clanacorney	Sarah O'Brien	Templeglantine
Fiadh Sheehan	Ene Og		



Kilbree's Caoimhe Murphy and Emily O'Donovan were involved with the Cork minor camogie team that beat Galway last weekend.



DCU celebrate with the Ashbourne Cup after defeating UCD in Sunday's final at Waterford IT. DCU saw off their Dublin rivals 1-14 to 0-5.



The Cork team all smiles after winning away to Galway in the minor A camogie Championship opener. Picture: Hany Marzouk

Cork hope to build on victory in Galway with home win over Dubs

SUNDAY: Tesco All-Ireland Minor Championship: Cork v Dublin, Castle Road, 2pm

THE Tesco All-Ireland Minor Championship continues this weekend when Cork host Dublin in Castle Road on Sunday.

It's the second game in the group series for Cork; for Dublin it's their opening game with a home game against Galway to come on February 19.

A win for Cork will see them top the group and secure at the very least a quarter-final spot with the possibility of a place in the semis. The group winners will go into a draw with two going straight to semi-finals and the other to the quarter-final to join the three second-placed teams.

With just three teams in the group and two to qualify it is tight and every result is vital. Last weekend Cork travelled to Galway and came away with a hard-earned but deserved victory in tough conditions.

With very heavy and persistent rain in Galway on Friday and Saturday the pitch conditions were far from ideal; it cut up quickly once the game got underway which led to a lot of rucks and stoppages in play.

In a low-scoring contest Cork showed huge character to carve out a two-point victory having played with the strong wind in the opening half and they led by just two points at the break.

Twice Galway levelled matters before a late rally saw Cork hit two points to win 0-8 to 0-6.

Manager Jerry Wallace was delighted with the win, but he knows Dublin will present an-

CAMOGIE
Mary Newman

other huge challenge this weekend. Last year the sides met at the All-Ireland semi-final stage where Cork just about hung on for a two-point win and the Dubs will be determined to reverse that result.

In last week's game, four of Cork's eight scores came from frees and Fiona Twohig showed just how important it is to have a good free-taker; one that can hold the nerve when the pressure comes on.

Last Sunday, with the sides level on 0-6 apiece, she nailed a free to edge Cork one clear with time almost up and with Leah Hallihan adding one from play. Cork held out for a hard-fought victory.

Wallace will, however, be looking for more from his attack this weekend with just three players on the scoresheet from play and this is an area where he will be hoping to see a huge improvement.

Little is known about Dublin, two years ago we didn't have an U16 All-Ireland championship to give us a guide as to their strength.

Having endeavoured several times this week to speak to their management we failed to get a response. However we do know that John O'Connell from the Lucan Sarsfields club is at the helm again this season and he will be looking to build on reaching the last four in 2021.

Dublin camogie has made huge strides in recent years with huge emphasis having been put on underage development and they are beginning to see the results.



Cork's Millie Condon in action in midfield against Dublin during their Tesco All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship at Castle Road. Picture: Larry Cummins

Minors make it two wins on bounce with big win over Dublin

Cork 2-15
Dublin 0-5

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

PLAYING against the strong wind in the first half, Cork set the foundation for this big victory in the Tesco All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship clash with Dublin in Castle Road yesterday. Cork were by far sharper and having had a tough game under their belts last weekend against Galway, it showed as from the throw-in they were lively and fast on their feet.

The underfoot conditions were difficult; heavy overnight rain made the pitch soft making it hard for both sides to gain clean possession.

Cork were by far the fitter of the sides; they were first to every ball and their skills level and first touch were excellent as they dominated in all sectors.

In defence, they had excellent performers in Aoife Barrett and Aoife Healy, Millie Condon worked hard all through while up front their forwards as a unit were excellent with Orlaith Cahalane, Fiona Twohig, and Ciara Morrison to the fore as they opened up the Dublin defence.

Fiona Twohig pointed two early frees to settle Cork and two in a row from Ciara Morrison extended the lead which was added to by Cahalane and Twohig as Cork held the upper hand. Dublin could find no way through the strong Cork defence, but they won a 45 and with Leonie Power finding the range they were on the scoreboard, but it was little return after 22 minutes with the strong wind in their favour.

Cork continued to hold the upper hand and with Cahalane showing the Dublin defence a clean pair of heels and firing to the roof of the net. Dublin were in deep trouble, the same player

pointed before the break and it was 1-7 to 0-1 in Cork favour at the short whistle.

On the resumption Cork continued to win possession and going at the Dublin defence. They piled on the scores and eight points without reply with 19 minutes of the second half tells the story as Edel Sheehan, Leah Hallihane, Twohig, Cahalane, Anna Fahy, and Meaghan Martin all found the range.

Dublin tried to gain something from the game; Jennifer Moore pointed a free but a superb move saw Twohig cleverly send a quick pass to the unmarked Cahalane who finished to the net for Cork's second goal and there was no way back for Dublin. They did have the last say with three points reply, Leonie Power (2) and Sinead Daly on target, but it mattered little as Jerry Wallace's side finished their campaign as group winners.

Scorers for Cork: O Cahalane 2-3, F Twohig 0-5 (0-4's 0-1 45), C Morrison, A Hallihan 0-2 each, A Fahy, M Martin, E Sheehan 0-1 each.

Dublin: L Power 0-3 (0-1 45, 0-1), S Daly 0-1 (f), J Moore 0-1 (f).

Cork: J Connaughton; M De Burca, A Barrett, T Elliott; C Walsh, A Healy, E Duignan, E Sheehan M Condon; O Mullins (c), F Twohig, O Cahalane; G O'Mahony, A Fahy, C Morrison.

Subs: T Coleman for C Walsh (29); L Hallihan for G O'Mahony (29); T Crowley for C Morrison (42); M Martin for O Mullins (42); C Lane for J Connaughton (42).

Dublin: C Hewson; J Moore, S Codd, C Ni Bhuachalla; M Browne, A Curraoin, A Ryan (c); H Gibbs, L Power, C Finn, A Nyhan, Z Thorne; S Daly, G Shanahan, E Fogarty.

Subs: A Scott for G Shanahan (36); R Fitzsimons for A Curraoin (42); C Ware for E Fogarty (42); E Quigley for A Nyhan (50); T Brady for Z Thorne (59).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).

Deely and Flynn star as DCU claim cup

Ashbourne Cup

Daragh Ó Conchúir

DCU came out on top in an all-Dublin final to get their hands on the Ashbourne Cup for the first time in the competition's long history, at the WIT Arena in Carriganore, beating UCD by 1-14 to 0-5.

Though UCD have a successful record in the top grade of third-level camogie competition, they had not been triumphant since 2008 and the final pairing was a fresh one after the dominance of Waterford IT and UL in the past decade.

UCD had no answer to the class of Niamh Deely at centre-back for the winners however, and her fellow Kilkenny native Jane Cass was also heavily influential.

DCU pulled clear in the second half and impressive Waterford attacker Abby Flynn put the icing on the cake with a simple finish for a goal in the 56th minute, after being set up with a hand-pass from Westmeath full-forward Ciara O'Looney.

That made it 1-13 to 0-4, an illustration of the control Séamus Kelly's side had exerted prior to Flynn's close-range finish.

Flynn's pace and accurate shooting were a feature of DCU's performance, the Gailltír sharpshooter finishing with 1-5 but in truth, the Glasnevin outfit were on top all over, with Clara Phelan, Sarah Harding Kenny, and skipper Ciara O'Connor to the fore.

Sorcha Ryan battled hard at full-back as UCD never gave up but they couldn't threaten from the time Fitzgerald opened the scoring.

UCD just couldn't make any inroads and were second best in most sectors of the pitch, relying on placed balls from Amelia Shaw, Niamh Comerford, and Moira Barrett to get the scoreboard moving.

In all, 34 teams and more than 700 players have been involved in the four third-level championships, since they got under way in September and yesterday was certainly a memorable one for the Couch sisters from Dublin, emerging victorious from the day's two finals. Zoe was part of a dominant half-back line for DCU. Earlier on, her twin Jody, as well as another sibling Gaby were involved as TU Dublin made it a fantastic double in the Purcell Cup final. Six consecutive points after the restart proved decisive and though NUIG fought back and got to within three, they had left themselves too much of a mountain to climb and fell short by 0-12 to 0-8.

The win sealed a remarkable double for TUD, who on Saturday also won the Corn Uí Mhaolagáin with their second team overcoming UL by 0-9 to 0-4.

In the weekend's other decider, UCC defeated UCD in the Fr Meaghair Cup final by 1-9 to 1-8.



Cork minor camogie captain Orlaith Mullins taking on the Galway defenders. Picture: Hany Marzouk



Orlaith Cahalane, Cork in action on the half-forward line against Dublin during their Tesco All-Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship at Castle Road. Picture: Larry Cummins

Flynn seals first Ashbourne Cup title for DCU

DCU came out on top in an all-Dublin final to get their hands on the Ashbourne Cup for the first time in the competition's long history at the WIT Arena in Carriganore, beating UCD by 1-14 to 0-5.

Though UCD have a successful record in the top grade of third-level camogie, they had not won it since 2008 and the final pairing was a fresh one after the dominance of WIT and UL in the past decade.

DCU pulled clear in the second half and impressive Waterford attacker Abby Flynn put the icing on the cake

with a simple finish for a goal in the 56th minute to make it 1-13 to 0-4.

Flynn's pace and accurate shooting were a feature of DCU's performance, the Gailltír sharpshooter finishing with a goal and five points to her name, but in truth the Glasnevin outfit were on top all over, with Clara Phelan, Sarah Harding Kenny and skipper Ciara O'Connor among plenty of others to stand out.

Sorcha Ryan battled hard at full-back as UCD never gave up but they couldn't threaten from the time

DCU opened the scoring.

Ava Lynskey, recent All-Ireland club final player of the match with St Rynagh's, Kate Kenny and O'Connor, who split the posts with the last puck of the sliotar from a free wide on the right sideline, all bagged braces while the industrious O'Looney also registered a deserved score.

UCD just couldn't make any inroads and were second best in most sectors of the pitch, relying on placed balls from Amelia Shaw, Niamh Comerford and Moira Barrett to get the scoreboard moving.

Jody Couch - whose twin sister Zoe enjoyed success with DCU - as well as another sibling Gaby were involved as TU Dublin beat NUIG 0-12 to 0-8 in the Purcell Cup.

The win sealed a remarkable double for TUD, who on Saturday also won the Corn Uí Mhaolagáin with their second team overcoming UL by 0-9 to 0-4.

In the weekend's other decider, UCC got what would prove to be a forgettable 24 hours under way for UCD by coming out on top in the Fr Meaghair Cup final by 1-9 to 1-8.



Clara Morrison in action for the Cork minor camogie team in their win over Galway.

Picture: Hany Marzouk

Cork ready to face Dublin

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT WAS an early start for Cork's minor players last weekend, with the Tesco All-Ireland Championship first rounds getting under way, while there were games in the Littlewoods National League in all four divisions.

In Group 1 of the Tesco All-Ireland Minor A Championship, holders Kilkenny laid down a marker that they mean business again this year as they overcame Waterford on a 0-13 to 0-5 scoreline.

Claire Doherty, Rachel Brennan, Amy Clifford, and Laoise Nolan were to the fore despite a spirited display from Waterford, who had good performances from Alanah O'Sullivan, Alanah McNulty, and Elmeir O'Neill.

Kilkenny travel to Clare this week for their second game, where a win will put them through to the latter stages. Waterford will take on Clare in the last game in the group on February 27.

In Group 2, Cork battled hard and came away from Galway with the points on offer as they closed out a tough contest with Fiona Twohig unerring from frees, Orlaith Mullins, Orlaith Cahalane, and Leah Hallihan all contributing to their 0-8 to 0-6 victory over a Galway side who had Catherine Hanley, Olwen Rabbittie, Orla Mullins, and Corcoran battling very hard.

The win was a hugely important one for Cork as it puts them in a good position as they take on Dublin tomorrow. Dublin will play Galway in Dublin next weekend, and the result of tomorrow's game will determine if they will be battling for the top or runners-up spot.

There are four teams in Group 3, and all were in action last weekend.

Tipperary had Grace Moloney, Aoife Dwyer, Anna Fahie, Cora Heffernan, and Lisa O'Connor in top form. Limerick's Ciara Riordan and Laura Frawley did their best, but Tipperary led by 10 points at the interval as they got their campaign off to the perfect start.

The hard work in Wexford is paying off as they recorded a 3-11 to 2-4 win over Antrim, two goals from Aoibheann Mernagh and one from Karen Tomkins helping



Cork's Orlaith Cahalane is surrounded by Galway defenders.

Picture: Hany Marzouk

them on their way, while Caoimhe Byrne and Sarah Doyle were also on target.

The Littlewoods National League commenced on Saturday last and there were four games in Division 2.

In Group 1, Cork lost out to Wexford in Castle Road, 0-14 to 0-9, and Meath hosted Derry and in a close encounter recorded a 3-8 to 3-5 victory.

In Group 2, another strong statement from Waterford meant they had 10 points to spare over Westmeath, finishing 0-14 to 0-4.

Waterford, who played senior championship and Division 1 league in 2021, were relegated by Dublin, and are a very strong unit at the lower level.

They will be one of the teams to watch out for this year. Players of the calibre of Beth Carton, Roisin Kirwan, Lorraine Bray, Brianne O'Regan, and Iona Heffernan are hugely experienced.

Indeed, when they met Cork in last season's championship just eight points separated the sides.

It is worth noting also that they had championship wins over Down and Dublin last year.

In the other Group 2 clash, Kilkenny celebrated an emphatic 3-8 to 0-7 win over Tipperary.

In Group 3, Antrim made the long journey to Kerry where the home sides acknowledged Antrim's All-Ireland win in 2021 as they provided a guard of honour onto the field before the game in John Mitchell's grounds Tralee.

In what were terrible playing conditions, Antrim proved far too strong for the home side, running out comprehensive winners in the end with Meadhbh Laverly, Roisin McCormick, and Caoimhe Wright impressing.

Aine Magill and Siobhan McKillop were on target with goals.

The other game in Group 3 was postponed as Laois were unable to travel to meet Galway.

In Division 1, Tipperary and Kilkenny got their campaigns off to good starts. In Group 1, Tipperary totally overpowered Down on a 3-16 to 0-3 scoreline, while Kilkenny were too strong for Limerick, where it finished 1-18 to 1-10.

This weekend third-level camogie takes centre stage as the Ashbourne and Purcell Cups and the Meagher Shield finals take place in WIT on Saturday and Sunday.

The semi-finals were only down for decision in midweek, but UCC were considered one of the leading contenders in the Ashbourne Cup.



Ciara O'Connor, UCC, is presented with the Player of the Meagher Cup competition by Camogie Association president Hilda Breslin, with chairperson of the CCOA Michelle Molloy.

UCC camogie bag cup title

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

UCC	1-9
UCD	0-8

A HUGE boost for camogie in UCC as they captured the Meagher Cup for the first time in their history after they defeated UCD in a nail-biting contest in WIT.

The final featuring UCC's second team was part of what was a busy Ashbourne weekend of games.

With their first team crashing out of the Ashbourne Cup at semi-final stage on Wednesday last in a game that went to extra-time against DCU the spotlight was firmly on the second team and they didn't let the College down.

With the competition split over two days the Meagher Cup final took centre-stage on Saturday and followers weren't disappointed as the sides served up a brilliant joust that went right down to the wire.

In the end, with UCC hanging onto a one-point lead, a goal from Emma Cooney on 60 minutes gave them breathing space to close this out.

Conditions were tough as one has come to expect in winter colleges camogie and underfoot it was sticky, despite the good weather lately, so the players had to battle for every ball.

A crosswind made it more difficult and it slightly favoured UCC in the opening half. However, UCD who made the better start with two points inside the opening five minutes from Saoirse O'Brien and Rachel Burke.

UCC settled into the game and putting pressure on the UCD defence drew frees and with Kate O'Shea on target with two they were on level terms inside 10 minutes.

UCD edged back in front with a Louise O'Shea free and with UCD applying a lot of pressure on the UCC defence they won a penalty but a superb save from Sarah Ahern denied Jessica Maxwell and boosted by this, UCC began to gain control.

Emma Cooney pointed to tie the sides



UCC captain Sarah Ahern is presented with the Meagher Cup by Camogie Association president Hilda Breslin with chairperson of the CCOA Michelle Molloy.

up again but digging deep the College gained the upper hand and added three points to their tally, two from the accuracy of Kate O'Shea from frees, and one from Emma Cooney. They opened up a 0-6 to 0-3 lead. Significant against the breeze.

UCD finished the half stronger with points from Sinead Lanigan and Louise O'Shea and at the half-time whistle UCC held a narrow 0-6 to 0-5 lead.

On the resumption, UCC had their lead back to three points inside three minutes of the throw in with two quick fire points from substitute Julie Brennan, again UCD responded with a Sarah Fenlon point.

With both defences holding firm under enormous pressure we had to wait eleven minutes for the next score as solid defending held forwards on both sides at bay and a vital save from Sarah Ahern ensured UCC didn't fall into arrears as she denied Louise O'Shea with a point-blank save.

Kate O'Shea and Jessica Maxwell exchanged points as UCC held their advantage and again Sarah Ahern kept a clean sheet as she denied Rachel Burke reacting fast off her line in one on one situation at

the expense of a 45 which UCD duly converted to narrow the deficit to a point.

As the pressure mounted, UCC found an extra gear battling hard to hold possession and get the ball away from the danger zone.

With time almost up, Emma Cooney finished to the net for a goal that gave UCC breathing space and in the two minutes added time they defended strongly to take the title with Ciara O'Connor named Player of the Competition following a superb display.

Scores for UCC: K O'Shea 0-5 (0-4 f), E Cooney 1-2, J Brennan 0-2.

UCD: L O'Shea 0-2 (0-1 f), J Maxwell 0-2, S O'Brien, R Burke, S Lanigan, S Fenlon 0-1 each.

UCC: S Ahern; R Millett, R Parker, A Kirwin; E Olden, M Butler, C O'Connor; K O'Shea, N Olden; J Daly, N O'Regan, E Phelan; L Cambridge E Cooney, E Regan.

Subs: J Brennan for L Cambridge (21), S Tobin for N Olden (50), J O'Keefe for E Phelan (50).

UCD: C Jones; F Esmond, A Tagney, E Cody; O Cronin, E Herlihy, S O'Brien; C Collins, S O'Sullivan; S Lanigan, L O'Shea, J Maxwell; R Burke, S Fellow, C Redmond.

Subs: G O'Halloran for E Herlihy (inj 12), M Hicks for S O'Sullivan (43).

Referee: Justin Heffernan (Wexford).

Jacob: Time is right to merge associations

Therese O'Callaghan

Ursula Jacob was shocked to hear Dublin camogie player Aisling Maher didn't know the venue for this week's league opener with Galway four days before the game. The All-Ireland winning Wexford captain maintains the time is right for the merger between the GAA, Ladies Football and camogie to take place.

"I read Aisling's interview and to be honest I was fairly shocked by it. We are in 2022 and it is hard to believe four days out from a league game, they still don't know the venue. That is very, very disappointing. You are trying to

promote the game, you are trying to encourage people to travel to the game and as of yet they still don't know where it is.

"I would be strongly hoping and encouraging that merger between the GAA, Camogie and LGFA happens sooner rather than later because there is nothing but positives to take from it. There is always greater strength in unity and it sends a positive message as well in terms of equality and fairness. I think it will have huge benefits across the board for camogie and ladies football players.

"At the moment, what is going on with camogie and ladies football teams trying to

access pitches and better facilities, is not happening. Fixtures is another conundrum that keeps cropping up time and time again. The people that are losing out are the players because they are being put in the position to decide is it camogie or ladies football whereas if there was an overall coordination of fixtures that would make it a little bit easier.

"I would hope and stress that the situation with the Dublin/Galway game doesn't happen again. It shouldn't happen. Things are progressing. The standard of camogie across the board at both club and county level is going through the roof. How

can you promote a game if you still don't know where the games are actually taking place?"

The Oulart-the-Ballagh star — they are preparing to defend their All-Ireland club title against Scarriff Ogonnelloe in Sunday's semi-final — says the merger would be a beneficial move.

"Maybe there is a reluctance there, a fear that camogie or ladies football will get lost underneath the overall GAA umbrella. I can see only a positive. If there are more camogie and ladies football games being played alongside hurling and football, that attracts more people to those games. What we are trying to

get is more people to see the standard, and not just on the bigger stage of All-Ireland final day.

"I would just hope that all the powers that be will come together and that merger will happen. It should have happened a long time ago. I would have been a strong advocate for this to happen years ago when I was playing at senior inter-county level. I hope it will happen this year if possible.

"I do feel it is tough on players, their main focus should be on training, playing, and preparation. You don't want to come across like you are constantly cribbing. Now that I'm retired from the

inter-county scene, I can reflect on it.

"Aisling Maher is clearly frustrated. We are looking for the standards to be raised across the board. We are looking for equality and fairness and the only way that will happen is if everyone comes underneath the one umbrella.

"Players are at the heart of it, without the players the game wouldn't exist. I would hate to see girls discouraged from playing because they feel this inequality is going to exist. I know the level of commitment that goes into club, let alone inter-county. It is like we are repeating ourselves every single year and it is getting tiring."

Scariff need to learn from Slaughtneil loss, says Daly

Camogie

Therese O'Callaghan

Losing narrowly to Slaughtneil in the All-Ireland club senior camogie semi-final in January 2020 was disappointing for Scariff Ogonnelloe, but full-back Susan Daly says they hope to have learned from the experience. That was their first foray into the All-Ireland series and the three-in-a-row champions prevailed. On Sunday, they go again. This time, they meet the champions once more — Oulart-the-Ballagh. The east Clare side are chasing history, as no team from the Banner

has contested the final.

"Everyone is behind us in Clare, so it is fantastic to have that support," the IT Carlow student says. "It would be fantastic to get to the final but we are concentrating on the game on Sunday first."

"We were beaten in 2019/2020 championship, in the All-Ireland semi-final. It was our first time so we didn't know what to expect. Slaughtneil hit us hard and at pace. Now that we have that bit more experience, we know what it is like."

"Oulart are very physical and experienced so we know what they are like. We have done our homework."

Susan, Rachel and Lynda

Daly are triplets and will line out alongside their younger sister Jennifer. The triplets will celebrate their 21st birthday on April 3, while a day earlier Jennifer will be 19.

The Clare side have worked hard on putting themselves into a winning position, Daly says. In their county final win over Truagh/Clonlara and in the Munster final against Drom-Inch, they left it late.

"We have to do the simple things right. If something goes wrong, you got to focus on the next ball. Keep your head up and keep going. We never win matches easy, we always leave it until the last few minutes to score a goal at the end."



Sarsfields' Olivia McAllen is a new member of the Cork senior squad.

Winning silverware is important says new Cork coach

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

SUNDAY: Littlewoods National League Division 1 Round 1: Cork v Clare, Cusack Park, 2pm.

CORK take to competitive action this Sunday for the first time since losing last September's thrilling All-Ireland final. The league commenced on February 5 with two games played to date, Tipperary overcoming Down and Kilkenny beating Limerick.

There are two groups, nine teams split into a five and four. Cork sit in group 2 and have three games — away to Clare, home to Limerick, and home to Kilkenny.

Top from each group meet in the final. It's clear that the key game for Cork is against Kilkenny as they would be expected to account for Clare and Limerick.

Cork have a training panel of 36 with a 23-player league squad announced.

The new players in the squad are Down's Sorcha McCartan, now living in and declaring for Cork.

St Catherine's Aoife Hurley, Sarsfield's Olivia McAllen and Inniscarra's Katie O'Mahony. Expect a number of these players to start with Hannah Looney and Linda Collins absent from last year's panel due to working abroad, Pamela Mackey currently away, and Orla Cronin injured.

The close-in free taking duties will be distributed in Cronin's absence and it's important that Cork have a few options in this area.

It's ironic that Cork's first game is away to Clare, home of new Cork coach Davy Fitzgerald. But that won't bother him in the slightest. He has a job to do and the season has started well with the players having gone through seven or eight weeks of tough fitness training. Certainly Fitzgerald's presence has added momentum to the squad and there is an evident spring in their step.

It's time to put that bounce into action in their league opener and we eagerly await Cork's performance.

Cork weren't too far off All-Ireland glory last September so the question is, will Cork's



Cork senior camogie manager Matthew Twomey: "To win league silverware would be important." Picture: Jim Coughlan

game style change much? Time will tell. For now it's about getting the winter fitness regime completed and skill levels up.

Game plans will come later and it'll start with what manager Matthew Twomey and Davy see in front of them on Sunday.

Twomey has made it clear from the outset that winning the league is Cork's first priority and he is looking forward to his first outing as manager of Cork's first team.

"Look, I'm really looking forward to it, it's a huge honour for me, training has gone very well and we're just looking forward to getting our season underway."

"It's a short, more compact season, with the All-Ireland final on August 6/7 and our focus is on winning every game and reaching that final."

"It's the same with the league. It's 2013 since Cork last won it, with the last two year's competitions not completed, so for us, to win league silverware would be important."

"We have a panel of 36, which we will have to reduce soon and we are carrying a league panel of 23, which had to be named."

"We'll be giving players an opportunity while at the same time putting out as strong a team as we can in every game."

"Players will need to put their hand up when given the opportunity. There's nothing like competition to set you on the road."

Scanlan revelling in Scariff Ogonnelloe 'fairytale'

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Former Clare camogie stalwart Mairead Scanlan knows Scariff Ogonnelloe are in august company when they face AIB All-Ireland Senior Club champions Oulart-The Ballagh in this year's semi-final in Clonmel tomorrow.

The first semi-final between Sarsfields and Slaughtneil takes place at Kingspan Breffin Park at 2pm today, with both games streamed live by the Camogie Association.

While the other three semi-finalists have won the last five titles, the Banner representatives were playing in a jun-

ior final five years ago, losing by a point to Kildare side Johnstownbridge in Birr. Coming as it did, three years after the defeat to Myshall of Carlow in another decider, it was a bitter pill to swallow.

But far from causing a disintegration of the team, it heralded a new dawn of achievement and when Scanlan plundered a goal in the fourth minute of injury time to snatch a one-point victory over Tipperary kingpins Drom & Inch in Mallow four weeks ago, a second Munster senior title in three seasons had been garnered in the most dramatic of fashions.

"It's pure fairytale stuff really," is how Scanlan de-

scribes it. "When I was 17 or 18, we won junior in Clare for the first time with Scariff. We went up to intermediate and stayed up there but we would have been struggling for numbers so that's when we joined Ogonnelloe. So we joined 2009, 2010 but we became a club officially in 2012 and won intermediate. Got to the All-Ireland junior final through that in 2013."

"Then we'd a couple of years and we were relegated from senior and we have got up there now to senior again since 2016 and just stayed up there. We have been in semis since we got up, finally breaking through in 2019 to win the county title."

The relegation actually helped breathe new impetus to the progression, providing a gentler introduction to adult fare for some fresh blood, as well as the psychological boost of winning, rather than struggling.

Scanlan remains a key cog, providing a player of the match performance in the recent Munster decider.

Physically, she feels good, crediting ice baths, foam rolling, and having to keep up to speed with the youngsters for her enduring fitness.

The improvements in the support services in camogie through her career have been astonishing, and she says the standard of play is at an

all-time high. "The game is huge now. If you're not fit and strong it's hard to showcase your skills because you are going to be pushed off the ball by someone who is naturally stronger."

"Everyone is doing the same work now. If you're not you will be found out for it. It's definitely making it much more competitive."

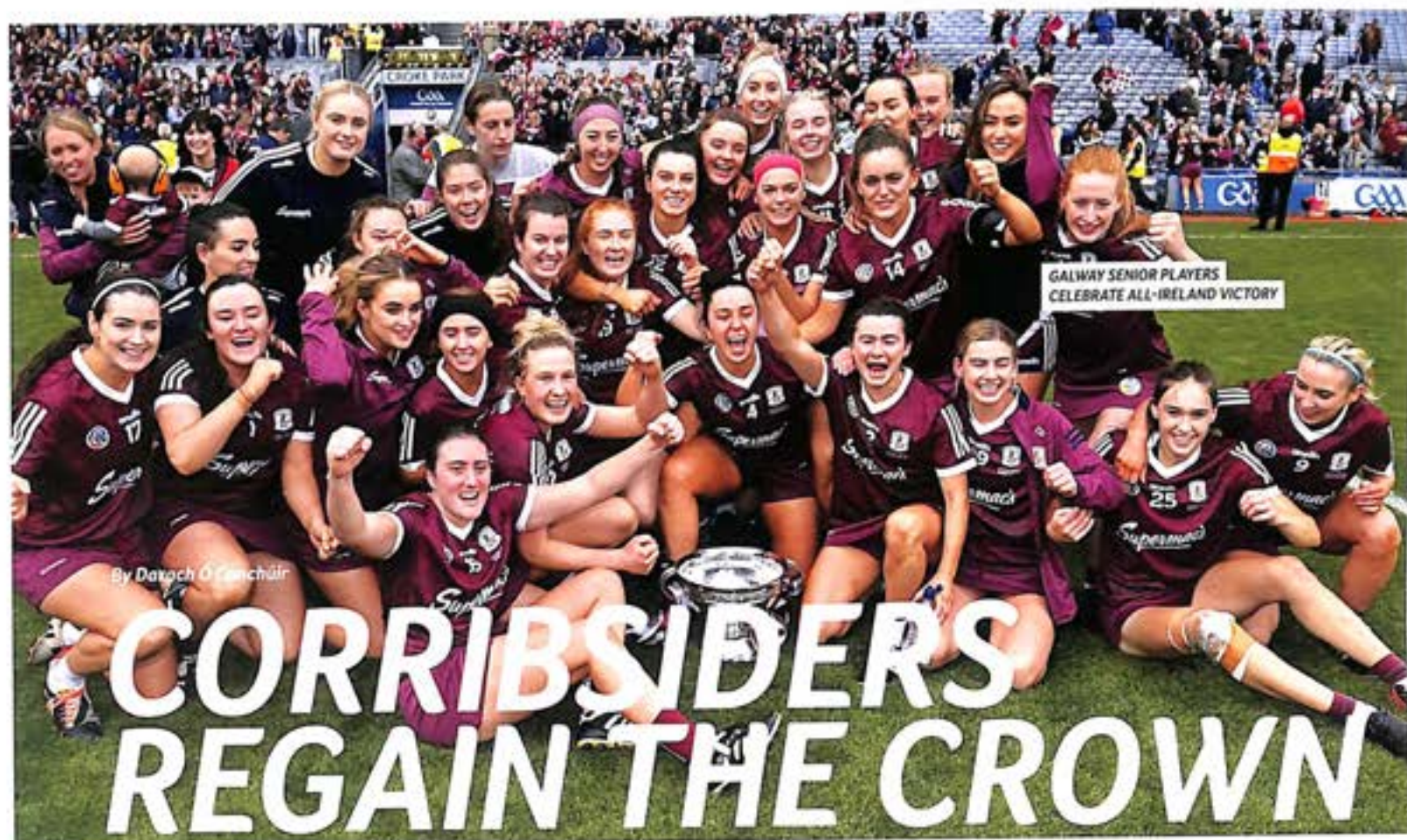
"It's better to watch because you have everyone training at a really high level. Skill shines through then when everyone is at the same level of fitness and strength."

Scanlan understands the challenge of attempting to slay the Oulart-The Ballagh giant but having gotten to within a

goal of Slaughtneil, when the Derry side were pursuing a fourth consecutive All-Ireland Championship two seasons ago, Scariff Ogonnelloe are infused with belief.

"I remember when we lost against Slaughtneil in 2019. I was sitting in the dressing room and I was miserable. I was like: 'I don't think I'll get this chance again.' On a personal level, to get the chance again is motivating. I feel so lucky to be back again and so soon. You just have to take these chances and really enjoy them."

"We are just so lucky and privileged to go off and play in an All-Ireland semi-final with your club."



GALWAY SENIOR PLAYERS CELEBRATE ALL-IRELAND VICTORY

By Dáithí Ó Fáinche

CORRIBSIDERS REGAIN THE CROWN

Galway returned to the top of the pile in 2021, getting the best of Cork in a thrilling All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park by 1-15 to 1-12.

Cathal Murray's crew flew out of the traps early on, registering the first five points with Siobhán McGrath and Carrie Dolan, who was returning from a serious knee injury, hitting a brace each.

With Ashling Thompson and the magnificent Hannah Looney asserting control around the middle, Cork clawed themselves back into the fray and though Aoife Donohue was among those excelling for Galway, it was the Rebels who seemed to be timing their run to perfection when Katrina Mackey goaled in the 49th minute. The 2019 champions were unperturbed however, and had the margin reduced to one by the time Ailish O'Reilly set up

McGrath for a goal just seven minutes after Mackey's rasping strike that pushed the Tribeswomen two clear.

Cork did bring it back to the minimum via the stick of Orla Cronin but Orlaith McGrath drove over two brilliant points to cement a fourth title for the westerners. Earlier in the year, Galway had lost the League final to Kilkenny by 1-18 to 1-15, having been the holders from 2019, with Covid-19 putting paid to the 2020 campaign.

Denise Gaule was in inspired form as the Noresiders grasped their fourth title from five league seasons and fifth in seven. They lost their grip on the O'Duffy Cup in the All-Ireland semi-final however, a late point from skipper Linda Collins snatching victory for Cork by 0-15 to 1-11. Galway were pushed all the way in their semi-final

by Tipperary, who were unable to avail of even one of a number of goal opportunities in the 1-13 to 0-12 defeat.

At intermediate level, Antrim demonstrated their readiness for stepping up to the top tier as the tandem of Róisín McCormick and Maeve Kelly delivered at HQ to propel Antrim to a 2-21 to 2-13 All-Ireland final triumph over Kilkenny's second string.

The deadly duo clocked up a 1-14 between them and with Catrine Dobbin providing 1-2, it amounted to a class of firepower that the Cats had no answer to.

Meanwhile, seven points from Chloe Cashe and a terribly unlucky own goal by Nicola Woods ensured that Wexford claimed All-Ireland Premier Junior honours over Armagh by 1-14 to 1-11.



ANTRIM PLAYERS CELEBRATE AFTER THEIR SIDE'S VICTORY IN THE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



WEXFORD PLAYERS CELEBRATE AFTER THEIR SIDE'S VICTORY IN THE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

September 12, Croke Park

GALWAY 1-15 CORK 1-12

Galway: Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, Sarah Dervan, Dervla Higgins, Siobhán Gardiner, Emma Helebert, Caitriona Cormican, Carrie Dolan (1-6), Niamh Kilkenny (0-2), Catherine Finnerty, Sarah Spellman, Aoife Donohue (0-1), Siobhán McGrath (1-2), Orlaith McGrath (0-2), Ailish O'Reilly (0-2).
Subs: Niamh Hanniffy, Rebecca Hennelly, AnnMarie Starr, Isobel Sheehan.

Cork: Amy Lee, Pamela Mackey, Libby Coppinger, Maebh Cahalane, Saoirse McCarthy, Laura Treacy, Laura Hayes, Hannah Looney (0-2), Aishling Thompson (0-1), Chloe Sigerson (0-1), Fiona Keating, Ciara O'Sullivan, Katrina Mackey (1-1), Amy O'Connor (0-1), Orla Cronin (0-6).
Subs: Linda Collins, Cliona Healy.
Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny)

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

September 12, Croke Park

ANTRIM 2-21 KILKENNY 2-13

Antrim: Catrina Graham, Chloe Drain, Niamh Donnelly, Maria Lynn, Colleen Patterson, Caoimhe Conlon, Maeve Connolly, Lucia McNaughton (0-1), Nicole O'Neill (0-3), Maeve Kelly (1-5), Amy Boyle, Áine Magill (0-1), Roisín McCormick (0-9), Christine Laverty, Catrine Dobbins (1-2).
Subs: Anna Connolly, Katie McAleese, Shauna Devlin, Laoise McKenna, Katie McKillop.

Kilkenny: Sineád Farrell, Niamh Leahy, Roisín Phelan, Ciara Murphy, Sarah Crowley (1-0), Leann Fennelly, Tiffanie Fitzgerald, Laura Hegarty, Ciara Phelan, Eva Hynes (0-3), Sarah Walsh (0-2), Ciara O'Keeffe (0-1), Sophie O'Dwyer (1-6), Hannah Scott, Danielle Quigley (0-1).
Subs: Jennifer Leahy, Therese Donnelly, Sinéad O'Keeffe, Caoimhe Dowling, Roisín O'Keeffe.
Referee: Conor Quinlan (Galway)

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

September 12, Croke Park

WEXFORD 1-14 ARMAGH 1-11

Wexford: Lara O'Shea, Clodagh Jackman, Aisling Halligan, Sinéad Furlong, Aoife Dunne, Aideen Brennan (0-1), Ciara Donohoe, Roisín Cooney, Chloe Cashe (0-7), Megan Cullen, Ciara Banville (0-2), Ailis Neville (0-1), Lisa Firman (0-1), Emma Codd (0-1), Emma Tompkins. **Subs:** Muireann Fitzpatrick (0-1), Katie Smyth, Kate Devereux, Sarah Figgis. (Own goal)

Armagh: Ciarraí Devlin, Aislinn Harvey, Nicola Woods, Stephanie Curry, Caella Casey, Grainne McWilliams, Gemma McCann, Shelly McArdle, Leanne Donnelly, Bernie Murray, Ciara Donnelly (0-10), Ciara Hill (0-1), Orlagh Murray, Colette McSorley, Eimear Smyth (1-0). **Subs:** Eimear Hayes, Katie Convie, Sinéad Kiernan, Orlagh Curry.
Referee: Kevin O'Brien (Limerick)



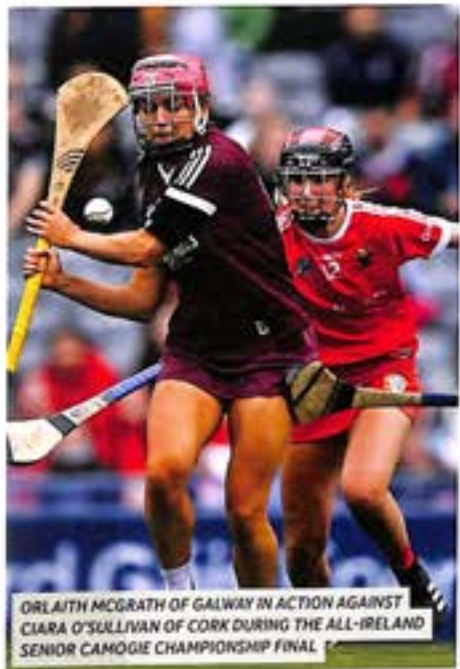
AOIFE DONOGHUE OF GALWAY AND HANNAH LOONEY OF CORK DURING THE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



CATRINE DOBBINS OF ANTRIM IN ACTION AGAINST NIAMH LEAHY OF KILKENNY DURING THE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



LEANNE DONNELLY OF ARMAGH IN ACTION AGAINST ROISÍN COONEY OF WEXFORD DURING THE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



ORLAITH MCGRATH OF GALWAY IN ACTION AGAINST CIARA O'SULLIVAN OF CORK DURING THE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



MAEVE KELLY OF ANTRIM IN ACTION AGAINST TIFFANIE FITZGERALD OF KILKENNY DURING THE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



EMMA TOMPKINS OF WEXFORD IN ACTION AGAINST KATIE CONVIE OF ARMAGH DURING THE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



AODIFE DONOGHUE OF GALWAY AND HANNAH LOONEY OF CORK DURING THE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



CATRINE DOBBINS OF ANTRIM IN ACTION AGAINST NIAMH LEAMY OF KILKENNY DURING THE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



LEANNE DONNELLY OF ARMAGH IN ACTION AGAINST ROSIN COONEY OF WEXFORD DURING THE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



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MAEVE KELLY OF ANTRIM IN ACTION AGAINST TIFFANIE FITZGERALD OF KILKENNY DURING THE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



EMMA TOMPKINS OF WEXFORD IN ACTION AGAINST KATIE CONVIE OF ARMAGH DURING THE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



The Cork intermediate camogie panel before their game against Wexford in Castle Road.

Rebels are looking to get back on track on away trip to Kildare

TODAY
Littlewoods Division 2
National League;
Cork v Kildare;
Manguard Plus GAA Centre
of Excellence, Hawkfield, Co
Kildare, 2pm.

IT'S the second game of the Littlewoods Division 2 National League for Cork when they hit the road to Kildare for a 2pm throw in this afternoon.

It's a first game for the home side who had a bye in round one and for Cork having lost out in their opening game to Wexford they will be hoping to go one better and come home with the points on offer.

With games to come at home to Derry and away to Meath a win today is vital for Cork. Meath already have two points in the bag with a win over Derry and as we saw in last season campaign every single score in every game is vital irrespective of the result as it could come down to scoring averages for qualification if things are tied come the completion of the group games.

There are big changes in Kildare this year with manager GT Troy having stepped aside and they now have a high profile figure heading up their management with two-time All-Star hurler Joe Quaid having been appointed Kildare intermediate manager at the start of the season.

No stranger to the county Quaid has previously managed the Kildare hurling team and it was under his watch that they took the Christy Ring Cup title in 2018. He also served as boss of the Westmeath hurlers and again here he had success as they gained league promotion in his time there.

Well versed in management roles, the Limerick All-Star hurler was in charge of a number of underage sides in his native county and he is no stranger to camogie as also enjoying success with Limerick camogie teams as well. Accompanying him as head coach is another man with plenty of camogie experience Mike Wall who has managed and coached Kilkenny minor and intermediate teams to All-Ireland success, and enjoyed a stint in charge of Offaly's camogie side.

His most recent involvement saw him lead the Kilkenny minor team to an All-Ireland victory in 2021 when they overcame Cork, they are joined on the management team by Breda Wall and Niall Herbert and there is no doubt that they will bring a very pro-

CAMOGIE
Mary Newman

fessional approach to the set up as they set out with the aim of making it to the later stages of the league before embarking on their championship journey.

Last season, the sides met in the opening round of the Intermediate championship where Cork had a 1-14 to 0-7 victory, it was a tough championship for the Lily Whites in a group where they failed to get a victory losing as well to Kilkenny and Antrim they found themselves in a relegation quarter final battle where they battled hard and overcame a strong Tipperary sides with a goal to spare to ensure their championship status for 2022 remained intact. Players who will be expected to drive the Kildare challenge are Ciara Egan, Leah Sutton, Deirbhile Byrne, Emma Kieilty and Emer Reilly all experienced campaigners.

It was a disappointing start for new Cork Intermediate manager Trevor Allen and his back room team as they lost their opening game to a strong Wexford side. Five points separated the sides at the finish 0-14 to 0-9 and with just four of Cork's nine points coming from play Allen will be looking for a better return today. To Cork's credit, it was a very strong Wexford 15 and when one considers it was the counties first choice side it was always going to be a tough ask from Cork's second squad.

The management have been working with a big panel of players in an effort to get the balance right and it is expected that they will continue to give players every opportunity to stake a claim on a starting place as they endeavour to get the balance right. There were good displays last day out from several players and the inclusion of former senior players such as Lauren Homan, Joanne Casey and Leanne O'Sullivan has brought valuable experience to a young panel who are finding their feet.

New management always bring different ideas to those who went before them and it takes a while for players to settle into a system.

Cork will be hoping to settle and get three wins out of their remaining three games and be in with a chance of making it to the latter stages of the league where more competitive games would no doubt help as they look ahead to championship later in the season.



New Cork camogie coach Davy Fitzgerald has settled in well with the Cork squad.

Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Raise the bar for camogie



WELL, a lot happened during the off season, didn't it?

The seniors have a new management team, under manager Matthew Twomey, with Davy Fitzgerald as head coach.

I knew players would be jumping off the ground having Davy as coach, but I wondered how the Cork public would react. Overall, very positive is how I read it.

The fitness side of Cork's training to date has been gruelling — and the players are loving it.

It was incredibly important to raise the bar higher for Cork. To regress after how far the side has come in the last decade would have been detrimental, to the seasoned players in particular, and that would have filtered down.

As it is, they head into their opening-round fixture with Clare tomorrow with more than a little bounce in their step.

The Division Two side suffered an opening round defeat to Wexford, a game they could have won, but seemed to go into it expecting to lose as it was 'Wexford's first team'.

It wasn't Wexford's first team, albeit yes, a few seasoned players were on show. In my opinion, you go out to win your first league game — it sets the tempo and mindset of players for the season ahead.

Fair enough if you're beaten by a team with positives to take by which to work on. It wasn't a good Cork performance, and it was a disappointing start for their season.

I can't ever understand why a losing team feels the need to bring on substitutes entering injury time. What do they expect them to do? Cork lost by five points, so what was the point? Give them some time to make a difference at least.

Is it a token gesture? A token gesture is emptying your bench in a final when you won't get caught. But in the opening round of a national league fixture?

The Cork seniors have intermediate



Galway Camogie is to be sponsored by Westerwood Global in a €250,000 deal.

players on their training panel, some of whom won't get senior game time.

It is vital that these players get selected for intermediate games, or at least are considered for selection. Otherwise, they fail to get game time, and Division Two results suffer.

The Cork board has a new sponsor, with details and launch now imminent.

There was a sensational announcement of Galway camogie's new sponsor — Westerwood Global.

That €250,000 is a lot of money and I'm sure the Galway board are thrilled to have that tucked away for the next five years.

Broken down, it's €50,000 per annum split between all inter-county teams.

With the interest in women's sport strongly rising year-on-year, it's also a big win for Westerwood.

The cost of preparing a senior inter-county team now is significant.

Taking in the basics of food after training, S&C, hiring of floodlit pitches, physiotherapists, training and match gear, video analysis, and you're not shy of 50k alone.

It's a huge cost now, and that's why individual fundraising activities still have to go on, despite generous main sponsors. There will be a Cork Camogie Golf Classic held in Douglas Golf Club on July 7 as

the team endeavour to close the gap on funds required.

There is so much good work going on to promote camogie, yet still at a national level we can be so poor.

If you went into the camogie website mid-week, you still couldn't get a venue or time for any league games over the coming weeks. It was Tuesday before Cork were officially notified what day, venue, or time their opener with Clare this weekend was on.

Cork's county board and management had earlier 'heard' it was Cusack Park as someone involved with the stadium informed them. The championship throws in on the weekend of May 28.

As it stands today, February 16, no draws have yet been made. Cork has no idea who is in their group, who their first outing is against, where the venue is and what date/time.

It beggars belief, and shows a complete disregard for counties and players. The games are what it's all about.

It's also detrimental to coverage. The press are looking for information regarding games.

They can't get it, so what will they do? Move on, and fill the space with something else.



THE LAST WORD

By Kieran McCarthy

DRIVING FORCE | Orla Cronin was involved in a Cork score every nine minutes in the 2021 senior camogie championship



Enniskeane star Orla Cronin is a driving force on the Cork senior camogie team. (Photo: James Crombie/INPHO)

CRONIN CAN MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

'Orla is coming into a period now, from 25 years old to 29, where she can lay down a marker and be up there with the very best of them' – Paudie Murray, former Cork manager

showed a new-look, young Cork is well within striking distance of the big prize. The experienced core includes Ashling Thompson, Amy O'Connor, Katrina Mackey, Pamela Mackey, Libby Coppinger, Chloe Sigerson and, of course, Orla Cronin.

She's on the way back from injury right now so her minutes in the Division 1 league campaign – Cork open away to Clare this weekend – will be limited, but Cork need her back for the championship. She's a difference-maker.

Last season Cronin was involved in a Cork score every nine minutes. That's a staggering statistic. She's a scorer, a creator and a provider. 'Cork's quarter-back' was how Paudie Murray previously described her. She was Cork's top scorer (0-6, including four frees) in the 2021 All-Ireland final defeat to Kilkenny and also had more possessions (14) than any other Cork forward that day. The Enniskeane woman was magnificent in Croke Park on that September Sunday, and despite Galway snatching the honours, it could yet be an important bookmark in Cronin's rise to the game's elite.

Her preparation for the showpiece match in the camogie calendar was a player's worst nightmare. Behind the scenes she was struggling with a hamstring injury in the week leading into the final, but the glaring spotlight was fixed on whether she would even line out in the All-Ireland final – and the saga all played out in public.

In the semi-final against Kilkenny Cronin was sent off for a striking offence. A straight red card. She was hit with a three-match ban that ruled her out of the Galway

showdown. The roller-coaster was just taking off. The decision was appealed, but both the Hearings Committee and the Appeals Committee upheld it before, at the eleventh hour and late on the Saturday night before the Sunday final, the Disputes Resolution Authority cleared Cronin to play.

Despite the will-I-play-or-won't-I-play uncertainty, bound to have been emotionally draining, she turned in a big performance against Galway. Mentally, that's a line-in-the-sand moment. She handled the situation brilliantly and didn't let it affect her game. In fact, Cronin was superb. That's an elite-player mentality. That's the evidence, if she needed it, that she has what it takes to deal with the most stressful scenarios and not let it negatively impact her performance.

Her influence on the Cork team, and she has played 82 times in league and championship since her debut in 2015, can be told in her stats – her possessions per game, her high score involvement, her scoring returns (0-20 in the 2021 championship, 0-13 from placed balls) – but her overall influence is much greater. She has matured into a leader for Cork, the creative spark in the attack that pulls the strings and makes the Rebels purr. And there's more to come.

Already a driving force, Cronin can become better and develop into one of the best players in the country – and Cork will reap the rewards of that. She needs an injury-free run to get moving again but given what we learned of her mental strength in last year's All-Ireland final, the Enniskeane woman has what it takes to step it on again. That's good news for Cork and good news, too, for West Cork camogie.

These are good times for camogie in Carbery. Libby Coppinger of St Colum's and Newcestown's Ciara O'Sullivan were starters on the Cork championship team. More role models for young, aspiring local players. Just like Jennifer O'Leary was for Orla Cronin, so will Cronin, Coppinger and O'Sullivan inspire the next generation in Carbery.

'To have a role model that you can really relate to and aspire to be like is important,' former Kilkenny senior camogie star – and current Enniskeane resident – Elaine Aylward previously told *The Southern Star*. 'If you can look at Orla, see her coming to your local school, that's a real tangible aspiration for a young girl. They see someone from their own locality put on the Cork jersey and they watch her on TV – and that's someone that they can really aspire to emulate.' And there's even more to come from Cronin as she pushes toward the next level.

Enniskeane star's All-Ireland camogie final performance after weeks of adversity highlights her mental strength

LISLEVANE legend Jennifer O'Leary has few equals in camogie. Not only is she West Cork's greatest-ever camogie player, but also one of the best to ever play the game.

Eight All-Stars. Four senior All-Irelands. Six Division 1 league titles. Two Celtic Ross Hotel West Cork Sports Star of the Year Awards. Legend is a title that rests easily on her shoulders. O'Leary was a once-off, one of the greats and we won't see her likes again.

The Barryroe superstar put West Cork camogie on the map, was a hero and role model to so many, including the player who now holds the crown of the region's top camogie star.

When O'Leary's Cork story was in its final chapters, Orla Cronin of Enniskeane was setting out on her journey. Their inter-county careers overlapped for a period. The master and the apprentice, as it turns out, but we didn't realise that then. 'I knew she had talent,' O'Leary

wrote in her *Southern Star* column after Cronin's player-of-the-match heroics in Cork's 2017 All-Ireland final against Kilkenny.

The Enniskeane woman was just 21-years-old and already comfortable on the main stage. That's the day Cronin came of age. She scored 0-3 as Cork edged past Kilkenny, 0-10 to 0-9.

These days, and now 25, she is one of the Rebels' most important and influential figures. She's the best centre forward in camogie and ticks all the boxes – but there is more to come because she hasn't reached her ceiling yet. She's still on her journey to the summit, and her best years lie ahead, when her experience and skills should all come together to create the best version of her.

After Cronin won her first All-Star award in 2020 (the first West Cork player since Jennifer O'Leary in 2014 to win a Camogie All-Star), then Cork senior camogie boss Paudie Murray told *The Southern Star*: 'We

will keep pushing Orla because I feel there is more in her. She can go up another level this year (2021) and she is capable of that. Orla is coming into a period now, from 25 years old to 29, where she can lay down a marker and be up there with the very best of them.' Now it's new manager Matthew Twomey's job to get the best out of Cronin because that could hold the key to the Rebels retaking the throne. The county's last senior All-Ireland was in 2019. Since then Galway and Kilkenny have pushed the Rebels down the charts, but last season

Jennifer O'Leary is West Cork's greatest-ever camogie player.





Cork's Lauren Homan takes on Kildare's Maria Doyle in their Littlewoods Ireland Division 2 League tie on Saturday. Picture: Moya Nolan

Cork's experience sees them dominate in their triumph over Kildare

Cork 4-16
Kildare 2-6

CAMOGIE

■ **Mary Newman**

A STRONGER and more experienced Cork came away with their first points in the Littlewoods Division 2 clash with Kildare at Manguard Plus Centre of Excellence on Saturday and ensured they keep their interest alive.

A lively opening 30 minutes saw both sides squander goal chances, twice we had the ball hitting the crossbar at either end whilst Cork and Kildare both had a goal chance within 24 seconds of each other.

Cork led by three points at the break 1-7 to 1-4. Leah Sutton opened the scoring with a pointed Kildare free, Cork responded with two in a row Lauren Homan and Rachel O'Shea finding the range.

Kildare had the game's opening goal when in an excellent move Ciara Egan finished the ball over the line after Grace Carragher's effort fell short.

Cork were lively and finding a lot of room they were winning possession easier. O'Callaghan cut the deficit with a point before O'Shea edged them in front after Roisin Roche failed to gather. Two frees from Joanne Casey ensured Cork punished any indiscretions by the Kildare defence but with Sutton converting one at the other end Kildare stayed in touch to trail by just two.

Both sides had goal chances. Cork had two attempts fall shot with Neville's shot going just inches wide, Kildare attacked from the puck-out with Deirbhile Byrne setting up Sarah Carroll with a golden opportunity but Stefanie Beausang was

equal to the challenge with an excellent save.

Still finding a lot of space, Cork kept pressurising the Kildare rearguard, Casey slotted over two points and with Sutton replying with one Cork led three at the break.

Cork started the second half in tremendous style, five frees from Casey and one from Neville inside 10 minutes of the restart were replied to by a Sutton free.

Cork totally dominated the last quarter with two points from Neville and Rachel Harty, and Neville goals inside three minutes stretching their lead to 14.

Ciara Egan pointed a Kildare free but Cork finished strong with points from Ciara Crowley, Clodagh Finn before a Casey goal saw the Inniscarra sharpshooter finish with 1-9 to her credit.

Cork take on Derry in their next outing.

Scorers for Cork: J Casey 1-9 (0-7 f, 0-1 45), F Neville 2-1, R O'Shea 1-1, C O'Callaghan, L Homan, C Crowley, C Finn, R Harty 0-1 each.

Kildare: C Egan 2-1 (0-1 f), L Sutton 0-4 (0-3 f), S Carroll 0-1.

CORK: S Beausang; G Hannon, N O'Leary, D Carroll, L Doyle, A O'Callaghan, A McInerney; R Harty, M Murphy; J Casey, L Homan, H Ryan; R O'Shea, F Neville (c), C O'Callaghan.

Subs: J O'Leary for L Doyle (45), K Walsh for F Neville (50), A Crowley for D Carroll (50), C Crowley for C O'Callaghan (50), S Hutchinson for R Harty (50), C Finn for R O'Shea (50), L Mannix for M Murphy (54).

KILDARE: R Roche; A Tarrant, N Malcolmson, E Morgan; E Barry, M Doyle, N Hegarty; L Sutton, A Stynes; S Mulligan, S Carroll, G Carragher; D Byrne, C Egan, A Mc Dermott.

Subs: N Jenkins for A Tarrant (28), A Morgan for G Carragher (49), A McGrath for S Mulligan (49).

Referee: Conor Quinlan (Galway).



Cork's Finola Neville fires the sliotar past Kildare's Aoife McDermott at Hawkfield. Picture: Moya Nolan

CAMOGIE

Littlewoods Ireland League: Division 1: Cork 2-6 Clare 0-4, Galway 1-15 Dublin 0-6, Tipperary 4-21 Offaly 0-5; **Division 2:** Wexford 2-20 Derry 1-10, Antrim 1-12 Galway 1-8, Cork 4-16 Kildare 2-6; **Division 3:** Wexford 2-9 Clare 2-6, Antrim 1-9 Dublin 1-7.

All-Ireland Senior Club semi-finals: Oulart-The Ballagh 3-11 Scariff-Ogonelooe 0-2, Sarsfields 2-4 Staughtnall 0-9; **All-Ireland Intermediate Club semi-final:** Portlerry 1-4 Salthill Knocknacarra 0-10; **All-Ireland Junior Club semi-final:** Clannmaurice 0-10 Raharney 1-5.