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# Sandie Fitz the bill

Last year Sandie Fitzgibbon was voted *The Echo Rebel Legend* winner, as Cork's most loved sporting personality of the past 50 years. Andrew Horgan talks to Sandie about her remarkable career.

THE scale of the achievement should not be underestimated.

Standing in the way between her and *The Echo Rebel Legends* glory was none other than Billy Morgan in the last 32, Denis Irwin in the last 16, Robert Heffernan in the quarter-finals, Roy Keane in the semi-finals and then Rena Buckley in the final.

But typical of her sporting career, she overcame the toughest of obstacles to come out victorious in the public vote to decide the best Leeside sportstar of the modern era.

And typical of her personality, she accepted the award with the greatest humility when she finally got her hands on it in *The Echo* office recently, almost a year on from the conclusion of the competition.

"I think it was like a political campaign at some stage with my sisters to be fair, they were ringing everyone to be voting," she laughs. "I did play two sports (camogie and basketball) but I played soccer as well so I had a lot of contacts and I did make a lot of friends."

"I played basketball up the country so as far as I'm aware they were voting as well so I had a lot of support behind me. "It was a great initiative by *The Echo* because we were all missing sport and we were all missing discussions and this was a big discussion point for a number of people throughout the course of the competition."

"It was a huge honour. There was fierce excitement and it did give us something to do for those three weeks and it generated a lot of interest in the city in particular."

"There was a lot of big names in it and the excitement of waking up the next morning to see did I get through... it was something to look forward to."

This latest award will be in good company in the Fitzgibbon home and it will also face some stern competition for a place on the mantelpiece.

That's because during her illustrious career, she played in 13 senior All-Ireland camogie finals with Cork winning six.

At club level, she began playing with Glen Rovers as a nine-year-old and won her first All-Ireland minor medal in 1978 at the age of 14. She would go on to claim 10 Cork senior medals with the Glen including the seven-in-a-row between 1990 and 1996.

Fitzgibbon also has eight Munster Senior Championship medals and just to round off her club career she won four Senior All-Ireland medals in 1988, 1990, 1992, and 1993.

And that's just her camogie career. Sandie was also a basketball star and she more than played her part in the North Presentation School's All-Ireland Cadet title win in 1978.

Then at senior level, she helped Blarney win four National League titles and three National Cups, while she also played with Lee Strand in



Sandie Fitzgibbon, *The Echo Rebel Legends* winner, with the award and a framed front page of *The Echo*.

Picture: Denis Minihane



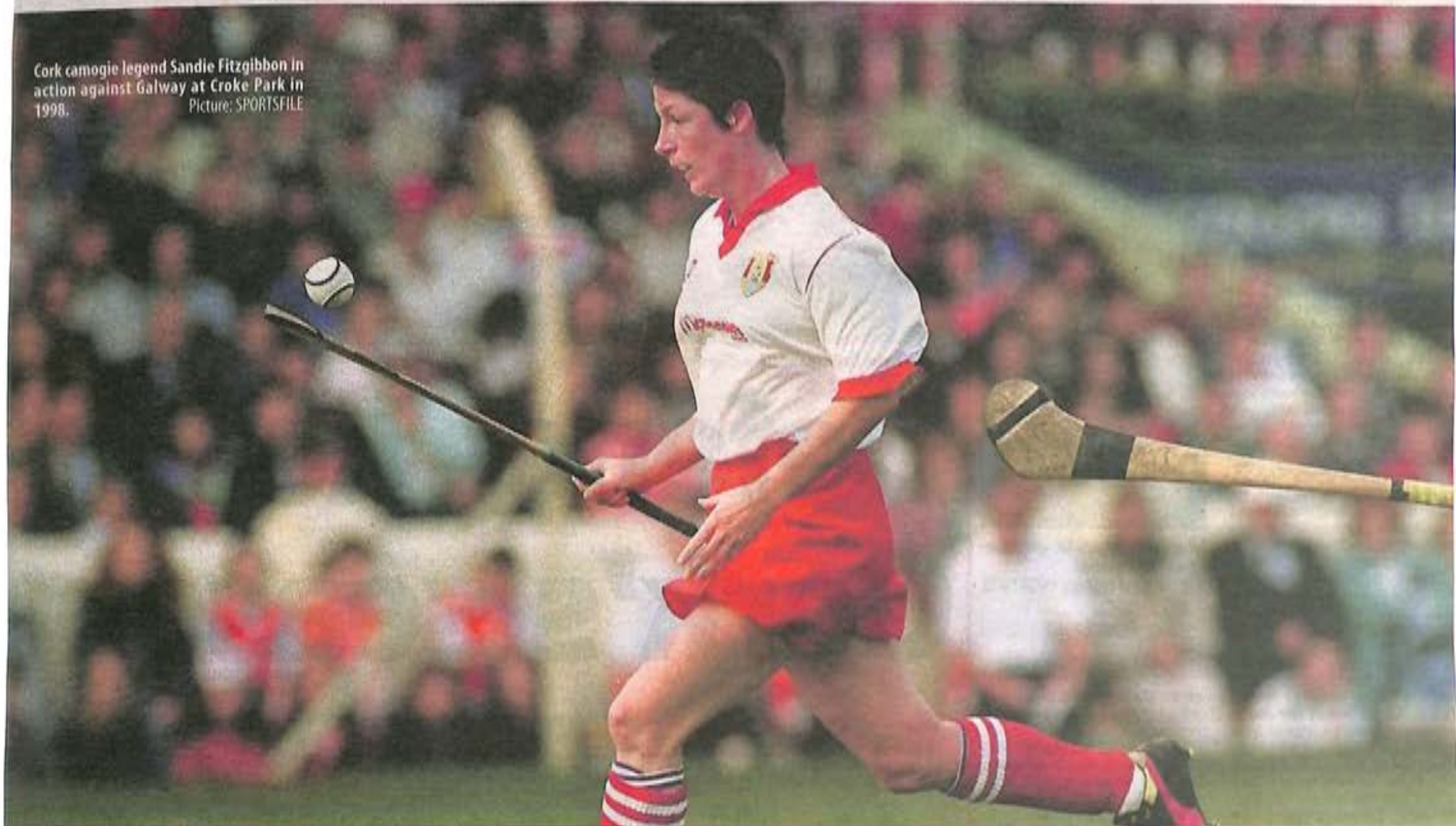
Sandie Fitzgibbon, Marie Costine O'Donovan, Pat Moloney Lenihan and Linda Mellerick, who were all named on the Camogie Team of the Century.

Picture: Brendan Moran/SPORTSFILE



Sandie Fitzgerald in basketball action.

# as a Rebel Legend



Cork camogie legend Sandie Fitzgibbon in action against Galway at Croke Park in 1998. Picture: SPORTSFILE



Sandie Fitzgibbon presented with the *The Echo* Rebel Legends award and a framed front page of *The Echo* by John McHale, sports editor. Picture: Denis Minihane



Sandie Fitzgibbon, *The Echo* Rebel Legends award winner. Picture Denis Minihane

Tralee where she added another national league and cup to her honours list during her three years with the Kerry club.

"I was very lucky in my career that I played with great players," admits Fitzgibbon, modestly. "I enjoyed both of those sports. I actually enjoyed soccer as well. If I could have played the three of them together I would have. I did at one stage but I had to give up the soccer eventually just because it was taking up too much time.

"We had a great team again with Blarney as well. At one stage we won the four main trophies in one year and that year was phenomenal yet that year we could have lost the league because they changed the format. It didn't go down to points anymore, it went down to the top two teams playing each other in a final.

"So even though we were 10 points ahead in the league, we went in and played Tralee and it went to extra

time. So we could've lost the league which would have been a really big shame because we beat every team that time.

"I had great commitment from myself because I loved sport, anything I do I would give full commitment and sports was my life really as such, I loved it.

"I was just lucky really with the teams that I played with, a lot of people had the same mentality as myself - great commitment - and that generates good teams, we were very lucky.

"I was out seven days a week, seven nights. I was lucky in one respect that basketball was in the off-season to the camogie season. There were clashes at the end and the start of each season because we were doing so well in camogie that it did run into the basketball season.

"There were a lot of times when I had to train twice a night as well so it took a lot of commitment but I loved

it so it wasn't too much of a toll.

"When I was growing up I was always playing on the street. I was always very active so that did help me going into my career when it was a lot more intense." But her sporting career did also have its tough moments as she was a member of the Cork side that lost six All-Ireland finals in a row before they finally ended that run in 1992 with Fitzgibbon leading the way as captain.

"It was really hard," she admits. "Every year as a player you always go out with the intention of winning and you always feel the games that you lose you didn't do yourself justice, the team didn't do itself justice.

"So each year you come back and say 'this year we are going to do it, this year we are going to give ourselves justice'.

"But as the years went on we were saying 'are we ever going to do it? Are we ever going to get over the bane of our lives?' At that time Kilkenny had

a brilliant team, a brilliant team. They had big players all over the pitch, especially the main parts of the pitch and when we did eventually beat them - we actually beat them in the semi-final up in Nolan Park - that game was exciting.

"We didn't even know where we were on the pitch, what time of the match it was. The score was so high, there was a high number of goals, a high number of points everyone was saying 'Who's winning? Who's winning? Who's winning?' We didn't even know who was winning.

"At the end, we scored a cracker of a goal and we won. It was just excellent altogether and we went on, of course, to beat Wexford in the final and I was the captain which capped it off, capped it off altogether."

And what made her achievements on the pitch, or on the court, more remarkable was that the conditions behind the scenes were hardly catered to maximize performance.

It's hard to fathom in these modern times when the playing surfaces are pristine and the athletes are generally well taken care of what the likes of Fitzgibbon and her teammates had to tolerate in the not too distant past.

"For camogie, if you went up and played a national league game, we often changed on the side of the road because there were no dressing rooms," says Fitzgibbon. "The county might have got a loan of a pitch off somebody so we would've went there, played the game, then came home without a shower.

"Sometimes I think how did we do that at all? It was just the way it was at the time, it was accepted by everyone, all women in sport were in that position.

"When I initially joined the mi-

nors, which was U16 at the time, we had to buy our own t-shirts. The white t-shirts. We were given the red skirts and the red stockings but we had to buy our own t-shirt.

"I turned up once with a t-shirt that had 'Up Cork' written on it so they wouldn't let me play with it. I had to swap with someone else so I could play."

But arguably the definitive period to show Fitzgibbon's level of commitment and sheer love for the sports she played came in October 1990.

"The first thing that happened is I was playing a National League game in Ballina with Blarney and my friend Rose Mackey drove me up there," she begins. "Then we travelled over the border the next day because we were playing the club semi-final.

"We played there then she drove me to Dublin. I met up with the Irish team and we flew to New York on the Monday and we played six games there.

"We were there for about 10 days. Then I came back and I joined training on the Wednesday with the club and I played the All-Ireland final on the Sunday. It was hectic, hectic altogether."

There is little doubt when hearing her speak about it in *The Echo* offices, that she would do it all again in a heartbeat.

In Cork, we are truly blessed with the level of athletes that this county has produced over the years and this award could have gone to any of the 32 that made the shortlist.

But after numerous rounds and almost 40,000 votes cast, Sandie Fitzgibbon's incredible career was deservedly honoured with an achievement that should not be underestimated.

## Casey fires Rebels to Div 2 win

CORK picked up their first win in Division 2 of the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League after they convincingly defeated Kildare 4-16 to 2-6 on Saturday.

The Rebels had lost to Wexford, 0-14 to 0-9, in their opening game, but bounced back in style here.

Inniscarra's Joanne Casey led the way with 1-9 while Cork captain Fiona Neville, from St Catherine's, weighed in with 2-1, and Carrigaline's Rachel O'Shea added 1-1 as Cork stretched their 1-7 to 1-4 half-time lead into a commanding 16-point winning margin. Cliona O'Callaghan, Lauren Homan, Ciara Crowley, Clodagh Finn and Rachel Harty all scored 0-1 each for Cork.

Flying the West Cork flag in the Cork squad are Enniskeane's Danielle Carroll, Daire O'Brien, Laura Mannix, Sinead Hurley and Tara Sheehan, as well as Aine Crowley from Kilbrittain/Timoleague.

The Courcy Rovers duo of Grainne Hannon and Ashling Moloney both started last weekend, while Ballinascorthy's Claire Kingston is also in the squad.

Next up for Cork, who sit second in Division 2, is a home game against Derry on March 12th.

## Davy Fitz sent off in Cork win



CORK got the result they wanted in their Division 1 opener against Clare last weekend – but one of the big talking points afterwards were the red cards shown to new Cork camogie coach Davy Fitzgerald and Clare joint manager Conor Dolan. A video clip appears to show Fitzgerald and Dolan exchanging words, and both were shown red cards by referee John Dermody five minutes from the end of Cork's 2-6 to 0-4 win. New Cork coach Fitzgerald told *The Clare Echo* he was 'absolutely delighted with the result but a bit disappointed with what happened on the sideline. I don't think that there was any need for it but that's the way it goes.'

Cork's Amy O'Connor hit 1-2 in the win against Clare last weekend.



# Cork conquer Clare and the storm

Rebels off to winning start – but injured Fiona Keating to miss six weeks

CORK	2-6
CLARE	0-4

BY GER MCCARTHY

MATTHEW Twomey's reign as new Cork senior camogie manager began with a victory away to Clare at a storm-ridden Cusack Park last Sunday in the Littlewoods Ireland Division 1 Group B League.

Before reporting on a hard-earned Cork win, the question must be asked about the validity of the game going ahead despite a Status Orange wind warning for Clare that same afternoon.

The elements dictated the outcome in which, at times, the wind was so strong that the sliotar hung in the air. Both teams knuckled down and got on with a game in which the hosts led 0-4 to 0-3 at the break having played with a gale wind at their backs.

Impressively, Cork held Clare scoreless in the second period and added 2-6 to claim their first league points. Cork boss Twomey was delighted with the result but acknowledged that conditions were a concern before throw-in.

'We are delighted with the win but conditions were unbelievable,' the Cork senior manager told *The Southern Star*.

'We stopped in Cratloe on the way to Cusack Park and there was no way we could see

the game being played at that stage. Even pucking around before the game, the girls couldn't reach each other with 30-yard passes. It was insanity.'

'The pitch was in good shape alright but if you asked me before the game should it have gone ahead? From a safety perspective, no way, but when it did get the go ahead we were just delighted to get the result.'

Cork began with a full-back line made up of Meabh Murphy and two dual players who toggled out for the county's footballers the evening before at Croke Park, Libby Coppinger and Meabh Cahalane. Izzy O'Regan, Laura Hayes and Amy O'Connor points kept Cork in touch at the end of a first half in which Chloe Morey (free), Eimear Kelly and two Aine O'Loughlin scores edged Clare a point ahead.

Amy O'Connor (free) and newcomer from county Down, Sorcha McCartan, pushed Cork in front prior to a terrific Katie O'Mahoney effort making it 0-7 to 0-4 early in the second period. Next, McCartan, who has been based in Cork since last year and plays her club camogie with St Finbarr's, marked an eye-catching debut with a converted penalty before Amy O'Connor completed the scoring with a well taken goal.

It finished 2-6 to 0-4 and Matthew Twomey was delighted with both the result and performance as well as Sorcha

McCartan's contribution.

'We were very happy with Sorcha and she is going to be a huge addition to our panel,' Twomey stated. 'She took her penalty very well. Cork had three debutantes today. Sorcha, Katie O'Mahoney and Meabh Murphy as well. The three of them did very, very well. We were very impressed with all three players which was another bonus out of the game.'

One downside to Cork's preparations for their league opener was the loss of Fiona Keating to injury. Ciara O'Sullivan, who played well, replaced Keating after the Courcy Rovers star suffered a broken hand earlier in the week.

'Unfortunately, Fiona broke her hand in training last Thursday night,' the Cork manager explained.

'Fiona will be out for a minimum of six weeks now. She will be a huge loss to us. The Kildare game would have been an ideal one for her as she works so hard. We just have to get on with it and hope she makes a speedy recovery.'

'We are trying to build a panel for the All-Ireland championship and have close to two or three players for each position now.' Cork host Limerick in their next league outing this Saturday, 26th, and finish off their Group 2 campaign with a tantalising clash at home to the side they defeated in last

## ★ THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Sorcha McCartan impressed on her Cork debut but the ever-reliable Amy O'Connor notched 1-2 to ensure Matthew Twomey's reign as new Cork senior camogie manager began with a victory.

**Star moment:** Holding Clare scoreless in the second half was an impressive defensive feat but Sorcha McCartan's coolly-converted penalty put the result beyond doubt.

**Talking point:** The weather. Should the game have even gone ahead considering the orange weather warning in place for county Clare?

**What's next?** Cork are at home to Limerick in the league this Saturday in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, 3pm throw-in.

'Unfortunately, Fiona broke her hand in training last Thursday night' – Matthew Twomey, Cork manager

year's All-Ireland semi-final, Kilkenny, on March 12th.

### Scorers

Cork: Amy O'Connor 1-2; Sorcha McCartan 1-1 (1-0 pen); Laura Hayes, Katie O'Mahoney, Izzy O'Regan 0-1

Clare: Aine O'Loughlin 0-2; Chloe Morey (ff), Eimear Kelly 0-1 each.

**Injured Fiona Keating will miss six weeks with a broken hand.**

Clare: D Murphy; C Kelly, C Hehir, C Grogan; A Ryan, C Morey, A Keane; C Carmody; Scanlan; S Canny, E Kelly, ZY Spillane; R Conway, A O'Loughlin, L McNamara. Sub: R Conway for S Canny. Ref: J Dermody (Westmeath).





Meagher Cup winner Sarah Ahern of UCC.

## Cork players Murphy and Ahern celebrate third-level All Stars

AFTER what were excellent and exciting third-level competitions where the Ashbourne, Purcell, and Meagher Cup competitions reached their conclusion, two players from UCC were named on the third-level All Star team of 2022.

UCC fielded two teams this year and in what was an historic first, the second team took the Meagher Cup.

The naming of the team on Monday was a huge honour for Glen Rovers player Emma Murphy, who took the number 14 jersey after an impressive Ashbourne campaign where her side lost at semi-final level to DCU in a game that went to extra time, and she was the only player from the UCC side to be selected.

The selection of Sarah Ahern in the goalkeeping spot saw the Ballygarvan net-minder — who is the captain of the UCC second team that captured the Meagher Cup — beat off stiff competition for the position after hugely impressive displays as she led her side to honours.

In total, Ashbourne Cup winners DCU had six recipients, three went to defeated finalists UCD, TU Dublin had two (one from their first and one from their second team), and NUIG had one.

The breakdown of county representation saw five for Kilkenny, two for Cork, Dublin, and Tipperary, and one apiece for Waterford, Cavan, Offaly, and Wexford.

### Cork teams continue their league and championship campaigns

With two rounds of the Littlewoods Division 2 league played, Wexford top Group One with full points with victories over Cork and Derry to their credit.

Meath and Cork are joint second with one victory each, but Meath are in a better position, given that they have only played one game where they recorded a 3-8 to 3-5 win over Derry who, with two games played, are yet to get a victory, with the same applying to Kildare who lost out to Cork last weekend in their opening game of the league.

Group Two already has the makings of a cliffhanger.

Waterford and Kilkenny are joint leaders with one game each played and interestingly even at this early stage they are neck-and-neck on scoring differences, both on +10,

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

something which could come into play were they both to finish on level points.

Westmeath and Tipperary trail the group, having lost out in their opening games.

In Group Three, Antrim are already blazing a trail with two impressive victories over Kerry and Galway.

They have already amassed a +51 on scoring average.

Galway are in second place, having received a walkover from Laois.

They played out an exciting contest with Antrim where they lost out 1-12 to 1-8, but not before a battle.

This weekend is a free one for Cork, but in Group One Wexford will be hoping to continue to hold on to their top spot when they host Meath. Derry are at home for their clash against Kildare and both will be looking to get on the table with a win.

In Group Two, Tipperary are at home to Westmeath with both are looking for their first win.

The clash of Waterford and Kilkenny will be a tough battle. It is the game which will probably decide who ultimately tops Group Three.

We should also have a clearer picture and be ready for the quarter- and semi-finals draws in the Tesco All-Ireland Minor Championship after this weekend.

In Group One, Kilkenny are already the top team having two wins from two, defeating Clare and Waterford.

The big battle here is for the second spot as Clare and Waterford meet this weekend. A win for either will ensure they will go into the draw for a quarter-final spot.

In Group Two, Cork have the top spot secured. Having recorded an excellent victory over Galway, they comprehensively overcame Dublin. The battle here is between Galway and Dublin where Galway look likely to take the runners-up spot.

Tipperary are tops in Group Three. They defeated Limerick 1-15 to 0-3 before overcoming Wexford 2-18 to 0-6. Wexford are in joint second, joined by Limerick who had a victory over Antrim.

Tipperary will be expected to overcome Antrim this weekend and stay top of the group and emerge as group winners.



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy and Meabh Murphy putting pressure on Clare's Robyn Conway at Cusack Park last Sunday.

Picture: Eamon War

# Cork should secure points

### CAMOGIE



Linda Mellerick

CORK and Limerick meet in round two of the Littlewoods league campaign in Páirc Uí Chaoimh today, ahead of the men's football clash with Galway.

Despite Cork being determined to put out their strongest team, they fielded without five of last year's All-Ireland starting 15 last weekend, and with the likelihood that it'll be something similar again today, you would still expect them to take the points in the Páirc, 3pm.

Just once across the last 16 years has Limerick advanced beyond the group stages of the championship. 2019 remains the only time Limerick reached the knockout stages since 2005.

Their manager Pat Ryan felt last season that belief is their Achilles heel. "It's belief, it's totally about belief with Limerick camogie," stressed Ryan at the time. "There is a belief issue there, they are well capable of putting it up to anyone when they hurl."

In a major re-shuffle, Limerick named a new-look panel for 2022. A list of 45 players have been announced, which includes an extended number as part of the county development squad. In total 19 clubs are represented. It's a very much new-look Limerick panel. Eight players who saw action during the All-Ireland championship last year are not involved, some familiar names and still very much in their playing years, such as Laura Stack and Karen O'Leary. Former Tipperary manager John Lillis is at the helm this season. Limerick lost their opening league game to Kilkenny, 1-18 to 1-10.

Tipperary have started their league campaign very impressively. They may have been playing weaker opposition in Down and Offaly but on both occasions, they notched up 3-16 and 4-21 and this without the services of Karen Kennedy, Orla O'Dwyer and Caoimhe Burke. I've said it before that if Aishling Moloney gave her first playing choice to camogie,



Cork's Katie O'Mahoney and Clare's Caoimhe Carmody in action.

Picture: Eamon War

Tipperary would be a huge threat to the top three. As it stands, she injured her cruciate ligament last summer and it's unknown if she will line out for Tipperary's camogie team this season.

The 4,000 strong GPA and WGPA membership has appealed for a yes vote behind a motion regarding amalgamation of the GAA, LGFA and Camogie associations at Congress this weekend.

There's been talk about this for the past decade. But this weekend could be the real catalyst for change. I believe there isn't strong appetite in the LGFA for change. The camogie association are more open to it and at this point, in my opinion, they need it. There has been a significant drop in standards of administration in the past two years.

We were without a championship sponsor in 2021 and to date, no sponsor has been announced for the 2022 campaign. With an almost 100% vote for amalgamation from the GPA/WGPA, the players body has moved on the widespread approval with their motion submission and this weekend could be a truly defining moment. This just has to happen. Every season, on multiple occasions we witness crazy clashes and ultimatums being issued to dual players, at both club and

inter-county level. Then, just last weekend, the placing of Slaughtneil of Derry and Sarsfields of Galway to Gorey in Wexford for their All-Ireland semi-final clash as there was no other facility available to the camogie association.

It was perfect timing in one sense to remind people ahead of congress of the mind-boggling and utterly unfair treatment female GAA players endure.

This isn't an easy decision for the LGFA or the camogie association. There is fear in change, and this is a whopper. The camogie association is in existence since 1904 and has done a fantastic job. The LGFA was inaugurated in more recent times, 1974, and their membership has rocketed in recent years.

Both organisations have CEOs, executives and administrators. Where will they sit post amalgamation? Will both associations find themselves playing second fiddle to their male counterparts under the one umbrella? Will they lose their autonomy? To dissolve two massive organisations and bring them under a giant that is the GAA is an enormous ask and task. But it seems to be getting harder to put in on the long finger and avoid it. Almost every player across all codes wants it. There's no longer anywhere to hide.

Treacy is happy that squad got game time

REACTION

Linda Mellerick

ONE of Cork's most experienced camogie players, Laura Treacy, was happy after her side's comprehensive league win over Limerick on Saturday.

"I suppose it's our second day out in the league and there's new girls on that team and everyone's fighting for a place at the moment. I suppose our first-half performance, we started at a really high tempo.

"We got scores on the board very early and we drove on from there. I suppose when new players come on in the second half it gets a little bit disjointed. But I think we held our own today and I guess we're trying to do what we've been practising in training and it's starting to come off but there's a long year left yet."

It's always good to give players on the fringes of the panel a game and see what they're made of and get the opportunity to play in the Páirc as well?

"Absolutely, there's a panel there of 36-37 girls who have been training since around Christmas time and we've all put in a very hard shift so for those girls to get their chance to show what they can do was great. They were great today and there are more players to come onto that panel as well."

How are the team settling into their new management, in particular coach Davy Fitzgerald?

"Davy's great. I guess there's a really good balance there with new faces in alongside old faces. Matthew has been involved before, Teddy (O'Donovan), are Neilser (Anthony O'Neill), they are all still around which is great because they know us."

"And then you've the new voices like Davy, so I think there's a really good balance there."

Davy seems to have brought a new dimension to the side, having watched a few intense training sessions?

"I suppose that's what new management brings. We learned so much from Paudie over the years and that's not gone from our skillset either but sometimes a new voice is nice and brings new ideas to the set up. We were very close last year and hopefully, throughout the season, we'll get over the line."

"There are some new ideas gone into us. Some players are playing with more freedom, like Laura Hayes."

"She has been given a role that she is allowed to go forward with the ball, and we've been seeing that over the past two games, she is making really, really good runs down that line, same with Saoirse McCarthy on the other side."

"So, I suppose a few little new ideas into the whole set up and hopefully we can make it get us over the line at the end of the day."

# Cork run up score against Limerick



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

Cork 5-17  
Limerick 0-6

CORK will have learned little from a one-sided game in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday.

Limerick were very much off the pace as against the wind Cork led 5-8 to 0-3 at half time, Cork's goals coming from Amy O'Connor (2), Soreha McCartan, Izzy O'Regan and Cliona Healy. The highlight of the first half was the performance of Healy whose roaming play, accuracy, and neat passing saw her create confusion for Limerick's defence. Scoring 1-4, she also had a hand in another two of Cork's goals.

Limerick went defensive with a sweeper in the hope to minimise Cork's scoring threat, but you must go out to win a game and Laura Treacy spent a lot of time standing alone and guarding the gates. Ashling Thompson was highly active too, spreading the play well.

Meabh Murphy of Ballinora was handed her second start of the season at right corner-back while Kate Wall made her debut in place of Katrina Mackey.

Cork manager Matthew Twomey stood on the side-line having opted to sit in the stand last Sunday against Clare. Many managers feel they have a better view of the game from a higher seat rather than standing pitch-side and maybe it's something the GAA should consider introducing.

At inter-county level, do players need to receive instructions during 30-odd minutes of play?

Coach Davy Fitzgerald was absent from the pitch after being sent off in Cork's opening league game against Clare in Cusack Park last Sunday. That took the headlines during the week, something Cork didn't want, but to be fair to Davy there were two of them involved, Clare joint-manager Conor Dolan also sent off.



Cork's Cliona Healy is tackled by Limerick's Marian Quaid and Muireann Creamer during the Littlewoods Camogie Division 1 league game at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork lined out with 11 of the team that started against Clare. Clare made Cork battle hard for everything, but Limerick couldn't match Cork in any section, although the conditions were a lot easier to play in this weekend. Cork would prefer good tough games ahead of championship and they'll have got little from this one, even though they did get to run out eight subs in the second half.

Limerick's new manager John Lillis took over from Pat Ryan who was in charge of both senior and junior squads in 2021. The former Tipperary camogie manager was a part of Ryan's set-up in 2021 and has retained a number of that management.

Limerick started without a number of players that lined out last weekend against Kilkenny, losing by eight

points. With the winning outcome never in doubt, Cork introduced five substitutes between the break and the 39th minute and three more on 55 as they maximised the allowed eight. The tempo dropped but Cork still notched up a further nine points.

It was good for many debutants to get a run. It's two wins from two with just one game left to play. The top teams from each group head straight to the final.

The big score could be important for Cork as if they draw with Kilkenny, who beat Clare by a point, in two weeks, scoring difference could have a say and they are well ahead of Kilkenny in that regard.

Scorers for Cork: C Healy 1-8 (0-2 f), A O'Connor 2-2, S McCartan 1-2, I O'Regan 1-0, C Sigerson 0-3

(0-1 f), A Thompson 0-2.

Limerick: M Curtin 0-3, C Lyons 0-2, S O'Brien 0-1.

CORK: A Lee, M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane, L Hayes, L Treacy, S McCarthy, K O'Mahoney, A Thompson, C O'Sullivan, I O'Regan, C Healy, A O'Connor, S McCartan, K Wall.

Subs: C Sigerson for C O'Sullivan, E Murphy for I O'Regan (h-t), O McAllen, A Hurley, M Ring for L Treacy, K O'Mahoney, A O'Connor (39), C Buckley for A Lee, C Dooly for M Cahalane, E Flanagan for K Wall (55).

LIMERICK: C Keating, E Kennedy, M Quaid, S Wolfe, M Creamer, M R Clooney, A Coughlan, O Kelleher, S O'Callaghan, M Curtin, A Scanlon, C Brennan, C Lyons, S O'Brien, C Ryan.

Subs: L O'Carroll for C Keating (h-t), A Neilligan for A Coughlan (42), N Curtin for C Ryan (43), N White for S Wolfe (50), E Doolan for M Curtin (inj), 58.

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Cork coach Davy Fitzgerald (back right) was suspended and up in the stands against Limerick. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork's Amy O'Connor scores her first goal past Limerick goalkeeper Claire Keating. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

John Fogarty



# McCarthy preaches patience on amalgamation plans

**G**AA president Larry McCarthy says patience will be required as the organisation commences the process to amalgamate with the Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie Associations.

As a Gaelic Players Association's motion calling on the GAA to prioritise integration with its sister bodies received almost 90% support at Congress on Saturday, McCarthy revealed work has begun on further aligning the organisations.

Two of the three parties have already consulted with Iggy Ó Muircheartaigh who oversaw the unification of the Golfing Union of Ireland and the Irish Ladies Golf Union to become Golf Ireland last year. The remaining group will speak to him soon.

McCarthy also highlighted the integration forms one of the tenets in the GAA's new five-year strategic plan, "Towards One GAA For All", which will be released in the coming weeks. However, speaking at a post-Congress press conference, he warned the timeline for the completion of integration will be measured in years.

"Corporate entities can come together relatively quickly but you have three different cultural associations coming together. It's going to take time and it's not going to happen as quickly as people will want it to happen."

With integration motions on the Clár of forthcoming LGFA and Camogie Association congresses, the GPA have called for all three organisations to issue a press release declaring their full intentions



Congress delegates at Connacht Air Dome. A motion to prioritise integration of the Camogie Association and LGFA received 90% support. Inpho/Ben Whitley

to work together. GPA chief executive Tom Parsons believes the end goal can be achieved quicker than expected: "What we need immediately is a joint commitment statement and that is something we would like to see in 2022 and that in the respective congresses next year there is a motion that speaks to integration and significant work being done."

"Players want to see significant equality achieved in 12, 18, 24 months so that it is within their careers. Even looking at five or 10 years, too many

playing careers are ended by then. The rate of change we see in the world today in organisations and even the rate of change of something that is so significant in the football structures over a period of four months... I think if this is a priority and there are good people brought around this, it can move very quickly."

During the floor debate, Cork Central Council delegate Tracey Kennedy stressed "it's no longer acceptable to have separate organisations" while highlighting that one only need to look around at the

male-dominated floor of Congress to realise that change has to happen.

Former GAA president Liam O'Neill, who had approached the LGFA about concentrating amalgamation efforts during his presidency in the mid-2010s, spoke on Saturday about the need to forget the past. McCarthy said he had no such experience of difficulty with the LGFA, who were in attendance at Congress in Bekan, while Maria Kinsella, co-chair of the GPA's national executive, said if the female body has con-

cerns about merging, they should reveal them.

"If LGFA are not in favour, they need to come out and say why and be transparent. I think they also need to listen to their membership because from what I am hearing, the grassroots and a lot of people in the LGFA are in favour of it."

"I can relate to a lot of those fears that the LGFA or Camogie Association have. But there are a number of measures that can be built into the constitution, the board diversification that can protect the female voice in

this, that it's not going to be the GAA consuming two female associations, that's not for the betterment of the games, that isn't what this is about."

In his address to Congress, McCarthy said facilities would be a major challenge in the integration process and highlighted the example of Connacht GAA and the development of more cost-effective domes such as the one which hosted Congress.

He confirmed afterwards that he has spoken to Minister of State for Sport Jack Chambers about the matter. "The next round of large infrastructure grants are going to come out, I guess, in October or at least the application process and I said we should consider those in that process. He's a politician and he said 'yes' and that's as far as it's gone. Maybe there will be a dividend from Croke Park this year and we might be able to allocate some of that to those domes."

Meanwhile, the likes of Cork and Galway are set to be the biggest beneficiaries from the GAA's new coaching and games development mechanism. Largely based on player populations (60%), the model will benefit those counties with most registered footballers and hurlers.



Seandún's Niamh O'Leary holds on to the sliotar.

## Niamh O'Leary

NO one gave Seandún a chance of lifting a first Cork County senior camogie title in 2021, but the Brian Dillon's club player was one of the division's leading lights throughout last year's senior campaign.

Niamh has represented Cork at every level and also excelled for UCC in the Ashbourne Cup.

She is a true leader.



Niamh O'Leary with her trophy.

## ON THE MOVE



Galway goal scorer Aoiheann Barry takes on Dublin's Clara Finn during Sunday's All-Ireland minor camogie championship group tie in Abbotstown.

Ruthless Rebels hit limp Limerick for five in blistering first-half display

CORK 5-17  
LIMERICK 0-6

GER MCCARTHY REPORTS

CORK made it two Littlewoods Ireland Division 1 Group 2 League wins a row following a facile victory at home to Limerick at Páirc Uí Chaoimh last Saturday.

It turned into a stroll in the Páirc for a Cork team that dominated proceedings from first minute to last.

Leading by 20 points at half time, Cork comfortably saw out the second period, outscoring their opponents 0-9 to 0-3, whilst playing in second gear with one eye on an upcoming clash with Kilkenny.

That encounter should be a cracker between two teams that served up the game of the year in their 2021 All-Ireland semi-final.

As for last weekend's league clash, questions have to be asked about the validity of playing a team like Limerick in the top division. The visitors gained little if anything from the experience of losing a match they never looked winning, let alone competing in, by 26 points.

'We are very happy with the first half and went in with 5-8 on the scoreboard; that was very impressive,' Cork manager Matthew Twomey told *The Southern Star*.

'Second half, we used six or seven subs, a lot of them were debuts too. That's important too to keep players ticking away and trying to get on to the (starting) team.'

'We could possibly have done with a tougher challenge heading into the Kilkenny game. Limerick were down about six

# STROLL IN THE PÁIRC

Cork's Aisling Thompson watches as she scores a point during the win against Limerick in the league at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

(Photos: Ken Sutton/INPHO)



players though and possibly a bit weaker. Cork can only play what is in front of them, so overall, you'd have to be happy with that performance.'

The hosts got off to the perfect start with newcomer Sorcha McCartan splitting the posts courtesy of a beautiful effort inside the opening minute. Cliona Healy added two points, one from a free, before Cork's forwards demonstrated their undoubted quality with a superbly crafted Amy O'Connor goal after five minutes.

Limerick struggled to contain their opponents although Michelle Curtin found room to get her side on the scoreboard. That was about as good as it got for the visitors, as Cork moved up through the gears and increased their lead. A magnificent Sorcha McCartan goal made it 2-3 to 0-1 before a

rampant Cork added four more points via Aisling Thompson, Amy O'Connor and the excellent Healy (two).

Caoimhe Lyons reduced the deficit with Limerick's second score but Cork heaped further misery on the Shamonsiders with another Thompson point preceding Amy O'Connor's second goal. Izzy O'Regan found the net shortly after and then Cliona Healy raised Cork's fifth green flag just before the break. Michelle Curtin notched Limerick's third point to end a completely one-sided first half with Cork 5-8 to 0-3 ahead. The points safely in the bag, Cork saw out a pedestrian second half - highlighted by Chloe Sigerson coming off the bench to score 0-3 - before running out comfortable 5-17 to 0-6 winners.

Kilkenny will provide a

**'We could possibly have done with a tougher challenge heading into the Kilkenny game'**

- Matthew Twomey, Cork manager

proper test of where Matthew Twomey's side are on March 12th in Cork (venue to be decided). The Cork manager was happy with the movement and scoring of his full-forward line. Amy O'Connor, Sorcha McCartan and Kate Wall were superb, as was half-forward Cliona Healy (1-8) who is enjoying a stellar individual campaign.

'Cliona was outstanding today,' Twomey agreed.

'As for our forwards, we scored five goals and probably left another two or three after us. On our day, we can do that to other teams. We just have to make sure we can do it consistently.'

'Our two midfielders as well, Aisling (Thompson) and Katie (O'Mahoney) were excellent as well. Katie is a ferocious tackler for the size of her and Aisling going forward, is coming into her own.'

'There are one or two knocks but nothing major, thankfully, in terms of injuries. There is a fierce buzz in the squad right now and how long that lasts is up to us, as management.'

'Everyone is looking forward to the Kilkenny game now espe-

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Cliona Healy was Cork's top scorer with 1-8 but, just as impressively, linked up with her forward line during a top-class display.

**Star moment:** All five of Cork's goals were well crafted. Down native Sorcha McCartan took hers superbly and looks a real asset to an already talented Cork forward line.

**Talking point:** Cork could have done with a stiffer challenge heading into their crunch Kilkenny encounter. Questions need to be asked why Limerick are in Division 1.

**What's next?** Cork welcome Kilkenny to Leeside in their final Division 1 Group 2 clash on March 12th. Clare travel to Limerick on the same afternoon.

## DIVISION 1 GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	SD	Pts
Cork	2	2	0	0	44	10	+34	6
Kilkenny	2	2	0	0	32	23	+9	6
Clare	2	0	0	2	14	25	-9	0
Limerick	2	0	0	2	19	53	-34	0

cially that it is here in Cork. It is a case of just driving on now after today's win over Limerick.'

### Scorers

**Cork:** Cliona Healy 1-8 (2f); Amy O'Connor 2-2; Sorcha McCartan 1-2; Izzy O'Regan 1-0; Chloe Sigerson 0-3; Aisling Thompson 0-2. **Limerick:** Michelle Curtin 0-3; Caoimhe Lyons 0-2; Sarah O'Brien 0-1.

**Cork:** Amy Lee (captain); Meabh Murphy; Libby Coppinger; Meabh Cahalane; Laura Hayes; Laura Treacy; Saoirse McCarthy; Katie O'Mahoney; Aisling Thompson; Clara O'Sullivan; Izzy O'Regan; Cliona Healy; Amy O'Connor; Sorcha McCartan; Kate Wall.

**Subs:** Chloe Sigerson for I O'Regan (ht); Emma Murphy for C O'Sullivan

(ht); Olivia McAllen for L Treacy (39); Aoife Hurley for K O'Mahoney (39); Meadh Ring for A O'Connor (39); Cliona Dooley for M Cahalane (55); Caoimhe Buckley for A Lee (55); Emma Flannagan for K Wall (55).

**Limerick:** Claire Keating; Emma Kennedy; Marian Quaid (captain); Stephanie Wolfe; Muireann Creamer; Mairead Ryan Clooney; Aoife Coughlan; Orlaith Kelleher; Sophie O'Callaghan; Michelle Curtin; Aisling Scanlon; Caroline Brennan; Caoimhe Lyons; Sarah O'Brien; Clodhna Ryan.

**Subs:** Leah O'Carroll for C Keating (ht); Aoife Nelligan for A Coughlan (42); Noelle Curtin for C Ryan (43); Nadine White for S Wolfe (50); Erya Doolan for M Curtin (58; inj).

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



Cork's Sorcha McCartan in action against Limerick's Muireann Creamer.





## Picture Diary

**DRIVEN TO SUCCEED:** Cork camogie players Laura Treacy, Amy Lee and Amy O'Connor at Blackrock Castle for the announcement of a three year sponsorship deal with Kearys Motor Group, making it one of the largest sponsorships in the sport. Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treacy

# New challenge but same passion for committed Fitzgerald

Larry Ryan

Davy Fitzgerald famously asked the Wexford County Board for 160 sliotars for his first night training the county's hurlers. And reminded them he'd need the same the second night, and the night after that.

It was sorted, a drop in the oceans poured into preparing men's teams at the top of the game.

One thing Fitzgerald has quickly taken into account as Cork camogie coach is a need to cut his cloth differently to employ similar methods.

"I've been 30 years in top-level hurling, now I'm at top-level camogie, and I'm enjoying it, but it's way different.

"You'd have a big budget to try and mind if you went to a top senior hurling team.

"But your budget is cut to shreds in this. You've to try and do your best, come up with ways of doing things, or

get money for them."

Yesterday's announcement that Kearys will sponsor all Cork's camogie teams for three years will help. A new jersey, in collaboration with O'Neills, has been released. It follows new deals inked by Galway and Tipperary, another indicator the sponsorship sector is spotting value in women's sport.

"I know Cork had a good sponsorship deal with Blackbee but it's just going to help things going forward. In fairness to Kearys, having dealt with them, they're mad for the girls to get more exposure, to help out as much as they can. There is a big gap and this will help bridge it a bit better.

"I've seen how hard the girls train. Their skill levels are incredible. They put so much into it and it's nice to see them getting deals over the table and it's nice to see a bit of recognition out there. I know they appreciate it."

Finances aside, Fitzgerald has seen little need to adapt his approach greatly in the women's game.

"I'm wicked impressed. I've pushed them very hard. I didn't think I'd be able to push them to the same limits, but I've pushed them very close. They haven't backed down. I think the standards in the game are rising the whole time. There's not a major difference.

"A human being is a human being. You try to understand them. Men and women are different, yes, but we have Clodhna Sargent involved with us, we have Marion McCarthy involved. If the girls need to talk to a female, they are there. I try my best to understand the person and Matthew (Twomey) the manager is very good at that."

Fitzgerald's detractors will suggest there has been no change in his approach on the line, sent off in the first



competitive game, along with Clare co-manager Conor Dolan.

"I'm glad you brought it up," he says, "just to clear that up. Myself and Conor Dolan were sitting down the following day and having tea and a bit to eat and a laugh about it. If it was that bad, would we be doing that?"

"If I'm involved and someone says something to me and I react and say something... In the last few years, nine times out of 10 I haven't reacted and I've had a lot of things where I could have reacted.

"But it was a misunderstanding, something I thought

was said, that was personal. But I've been assured it wasn't and it was over and done with and there was nobody killed or no one hit.

"But when I'm involved, it's 'sure look at that lunatic', or whatever. That's fine, if people want to think that I don't care anymore. I just want to be who I am. I am passionate."

Cork will be the sole focus of his hurling passion for this season, at least.

"I've always admired Cork and that's one reason I took the job. I'm delighted they asked me.

"I turned down so many

teams the last six months, it's incredible. I had a lot of clubs in since asking me but I wouldn't do anything else.

"I watched the girls for the last few years and just thought, there are different things we can try with them. And we are trying different stuff. When you're under the radar a small bit you can try different things and the girls are loving it. Well, I wouldn't say they are loving it all the time!

"But they are really good, the amount of effort they put in. They are putting in the same time as the men, no doubt about it. They ask a lot

# Two All-Ireland finals and

*It's been a special period in Ursula Jacob's life,*

**BY DEAN GOODISON**

GETTING MARRIED between appearances in All-Ireland finals wouldn't be an unusual occurrence generally, but when a mere 78 days separate those two national title deciders, throwing nuptials into the mix might finish off weaker-minded people. Ursula Jacob hasn't blinked.

"It all worked out pretty okay," she explained. "Both myself and Stacey Kehoe were keeping each other going because we obviously knew the further along we were going with the games, the closer it was getting to both our weddings."

"I have massive admiration for Stacey and Shelley because I probably would have struggled that little bit more to play an All-Ireland the day after my wedding. To them it didn't seem to faze them at all, their performances really shone through."

"Obviously I had the element of cutting back on numbers which was probably the little bit of stress in advance of my wedding but look, I tried to put things into perspective. At the end of the day I'm getting married and my close family and friends were all there."

"It was a really special time and (I) probably haven't fully reflected on everything yet, but it's definitely going to be a very special time of my life. Both from a camogie point of view and from a personal point of view, December 2021 was magical in many ways really."

That lack of time to dwell on lifetime moments comes down to the fact that another key day is approaching this weekend. The AIB All-Ireland Club Senior camogie championship final is back in Croke Park, as important as it always is for Oulart-The Ballagh.

It takes so much work to get to this point that it's easy to take their achievement for granted. Unlike their opponents Sarsfields, they had to win their province too. And it provided by far the biggest scare for this dream-like run they are a collective part of right now.

"It's funny," Ursula said, "we've all seen the clip back where the Dicksboro player got inside and had the chance to take the shot on Lauren (Sinnott). Credit to Lauren, a massive save from her."

"I remember I was out probably around the '45 at that stage, I was out around centre-forward. I remember watching on, you know when you are watching something and you can't do anything about it, you can't change it?"

"It's not like I could sprint the length of the field, you just had to witness it happen and unfold and thankfully we got that little bit of luck. And Lauren, who is a very brave goalkeeper, she will always stand up to it in fairness to her, thankfully we got through it."

"I think we were always going to be a little nifty in that game. We didn't have a Leinster semi-final going into it, I do think Dicksboro were that bit sharper in the Leinster final."

"Maybe our touch was a little bit off. We worked hard on that in the three weeks prior to the semi-final and I think it did stand to us. Our hurling, despite the conditions, got us through that game last week."

That game was a muck-fest in Clonmel against Scariff/Ogonnelloe that did produce surprisingly good play, given the underfoot conditions and strong wind.

"It was a massive performance," Ursula said. "To be honest, when I got up on Sunday morning and saw the weather, then when we even arrived in Clonmel, I said to myself this is going to be under pressure in terms of the game actually going ahead. Thankfully it did."

"It's a tricky one, when you haven't played a team before like Scariff, you know a lot about them but you have never directly played against them. We knew it was going to be a big battle, I don't think the scoreline reflects how tough the game was."

"Obviously we got some vital scores in the first-half and got that bit of a lead, but we kind of said to ourselves at half-time, we need to push on now."

"And I think probably our second-half

performance was that little bit more impressive."

"Obviously our backs were very solid again. Our midfield, Anais and Stacey, covered a lot of ground and our forwards worked extremely hard, even the girls that came on were pushing for places."

"I think our use of the ball in the second-half when we had to carry it against the wind, I think that was the most stand-out for me because you couldn't just hit the ball up the field and hope for the best, you had to be accurate, intent on where you were hitting it."

It will need to be that good and maybe more when Jacob and Co. face Sarsfields on Sunday. The Galway camogie stronghold are a talented bunch but will be looking to improve on their 25 per cent success rate in All-Ireland finals.

"This is obviously our second time playing them," Jacob said. "It's a bit mad that we never played them before the All-Ireland back in December, and now we are playing them in the space of two months really."

"I expect a huge battle, for it to go right down to the wire, there was very little between the two teams in the last final. You are trying to learn from that game as well."

"We came out on the right side of it in December but we have lots of areas we can work on and improve on."

"We'll be looking to push on from that as well. Even on our performance against Scariff, we'll have to take it up another notch in the final. Sarsfields have so much experience as well, they have lots of girls who have played in Croke Park."

"This is, what, their fifth final in six years, they are well used to the big stage as well as we are. I think it's going to be a massive battle."

"We are all really looking forward to it, we knew there wasn't going to be much between Slaughtneil and Sarsfields so we knew whichever one was going to come out on top, it was going to be a massive game."

"They are going to be gunning for us and looking for that little bit of revenge after

losing the final in December. We are just focusing on ourselves and getting things right on our end."

Despite it being a fourth All-Ireland title on the line, it feels as special as ever for Jacob. She's relishing the opportunity to add another medal to the collection, to burn more classic battles won into the memory banks.

"To me, playing with Oulart-The Ballagh for 22-plus years at this stage, I've said it in advance of the semi-final, I've probably never enjoyed playing with Oulart-The Ballagh as much as in the last couple of years."

"Some people might say it's easy to say because you are winning but I don't know, there's something special about this group of players."

"There's something special about the bond we have with the management team, with even our supporters who are travelling every day."

"It just means so much to our community and parish, who are travelling every day, it does drive you on that bit more. We can only win one more on Sunday, that's the only guarantee."

"We are really, really looking forward to it. It would mean the world to us to win but we have worked so hard to get back here, we are just trying to embrace it all and look forward to it."

"It would be something special, there's no point in saying otherwise. Playing with your club will always be the ultimate pride for me and I'm privileged to play with such a brilliant group of girls."

"It's fair to say, I think it's been a real panel effort, every day there's someone different standing up when we needed it most."

"Whether it was Lauren in the Leinster final, or Anais or Stacey the last day or whoever, there's always someone there ready to back the other player up and I think that has stood to us going forward."

"It's going to be a huge game but it will be extra special if we can do it again on Sunday."



Colin Sunderland, Oulart-The Ballagh's manager, before the semi-final win over Scariff/Ogonnelloe.

## Sunderland

**BY DEAN GOODISON**

"THEY ARE no more motivated than we are, but they are a hurt team coming into it and I think that's going to be a big thing," said Oulart-The Ballagh boss Colin Sunderland ahead of his side's All-Ireland final with Sarsfields.

"They are hurt, they are angry, I'm sure since the 18th of December they have been. Obviously they had to get over Slaughtneil, but I'm sure we have been constantly on their minds since the 18th of December."

"They wouldn't have been happy with themselves about how they performed, and we probably hit them a little bit unexpectedly in that first quarter."

"So, I'm fully expecting them to be ready for us to hit them hard, and we have to be ready for them to hit us twice as hard."

Hard hitting generally isn't an issue for an Oulart-The Ballagh side comfortable standing shoulder-to-shoulder with any team in the land, capable of playing with whatever style of game is necessary to get the result, much like they did in the semi-final.

"In hindsight, maybe there was a case for the match to be called off with the conditions, but I think looking at the other game between Slaughtneil and Sarsfields, we probably got the better of the two regards condition-wise," Sunderland said.

"We're obviously delighted that it went ahead and things worked out the way they

PREVIEW - OULART-THE BALLAGH V SARSFIELDS IN CROKE PARK

# marriage in 78 busy days

but the talented forward takes it all in her stride



Irsuta Jacob scoring Oulart-The Ballagh's first goal in their comprehensive semi-final win over Scariff/Ogonnelloe in Clonmel despite the best efforts of Susan Daly.

## says "pure will to win" will decide final

did and we got a nice comprehensive win but also a tough, physical battle as well which I think will stand to us going into the All-Ireland final, because it was a tough game and we got plenty out of it as well."

While Oulart-The Ballagh moved into the final with lots to spare, it wasn't all straightforward progression, as they had to work hard for their right to meet Sarsfields in Croke Park.

"You would have been concerned enough in the first-half because the game was slow and I think we only had a point on the board after six or seven minutes," Sunderland admitted.

"We kind of all would have said, the type of wind it was, you would want nine or ten points at least."

"We got going and got the goal which helped us kick on and we had a ten-point lead at half-time."

"Still, while we had every belief and confidence in ourselves, it was a strong wind and we were still a little bit on edge."

"We knew we had a lot of work to do but I think the difference between this game and the last couple was they got a short-range free, which over the past couple of games ended up in our net, but it dropped short," he said.

"We won it, worked it well up and got a good goal which gave us the bit of breathing space."

"We knew it was going to take a fair effort from them to come back at us, but the

second-half performance, (we) would have been very happy with it with regard carrying the ball, the use of it and good intelligent hurling as well as the workrate."

With a clean bill of health heading into the decider, arguably the biggest distraction for Oulart-The Ballagh is the fact the game is on in headquarters, but Sunderland and his management team are paying little heed to the venue.

"I suppose it's the old cliché, a pitch is a pitch, that's what we have to concern ourselves with, defend one goal and attack the other," he said.

"It's the same as everything else, obviously there is a little bit more to Croke Park being where it is, it's where everyone dreams of playing."

"Fortunately we have a few girls who have played there on a good few occasions, but there are a good few girls who haven't played there but you know, at the end of the day it's the same, we focus on nothing else only our performance."

"That's all we will be concentrating on. The venue and the sidetracks, that's nothing to do with us, we'll go to the match, turn up and do the same as we always do."

In the lead up to this decider, the Oulart-The Ballagh manager has been drifting back into old tape, analysing the previous All-Ireland final that little bit closer with Sarsfields again the opponent.

"You go back and it's a few weeks ago

since we played Sarsfields but, you know, at the end of the day we won an All-Ireland, it's not like you analyse your performances after an All-Ireland," Colin said.

"But when you do look back on it with this game coming up, we were very good in patches but we still would have went probably 20 minutes without scoring that day."

"As brilliant as everything was in the All-Ireland final, there are definitely areas to improve on."

"Again we would have given away a couple of softish goals and for long periods of that game we didn't score a whole lot."

"I think we had 2-4 on the scoreboard after 15 minutes at the first water break, and what did we finish up with, 4-8, so we only scored another 2-4 in the last 45 minutes."

"So, we have to consistently keep that flag ticking over, that's where we have to improve on from the last day and maybe block up defence a little bit more."

And what will be the difference at the end of this latest showdown between two well-matched rivals?

Sunderland believes it is going to come down to desire, with the side that digs the deepest the likely champion come Sunday evening.

"Pure will to win," he said on the topic. "I think whoever works the hardest."

"I think we are equally very good hurling teams, as in skill-wise, I think whoever is going to work the hardest will come out on top."



Louise Sinnott and Klara Donohue of Sarsfields will renew recent rivalry on Sunday.

# SPORT

HURLERS  
FALL TO  
SHOCK  
DEFEAT

► 114-115



Sarsfields defender Maria Cooney clearing her lines against Sinéad Mellon and Olivia Rafferty of Slaughtneil during the recent All-Ireland club senior camogie semi-final.



# REVENGE TIME

■ Sarsfields will be determined to avoid giving Oulart a headstart this time

JOHN McINTYRE

SOMETIMES the old memory bank can lead you astray. There we were thinking that Sarsfields had been swatted aside by Oulart-the-Ballagh in the long-delayed 2020 All-Ireland Club camogie final last December.

Sure, Hopper McGrath's charges made a disastrous start - trailing by 2-4 to 0-1 at the first water break - but they rallied bravely and were only five points behind at the finish.

Those early goals from Una Lacey, who went to complete a hat-trick, and Shelley Kehoe, would have come as a shock to Sarsfields' system given their

superiority over all rivals on the team's path to that decider at Nowlan Park.

To Sarsfields' credit, they have regrouped and you can bet your life that the mantra leaving their dressing room on Sunday will be . . . to stop Oulart building up an early head of steam.

Sarsfields aren't the only Galway club seeking All-Ireland glory at Croke Park as surprise packets, Salthill/Knocknacarra, will get the action underway when they attempt to prise the intermediate title from Banagher's grasp (2pm).

► Big match previews inside.



Craughwell trio Grace Leen, Clodagh O'Meara and Keisha Coleman, who lined out with the Galway minor camogie side in their win over Dublin.

NATIONAL SENIOR CAMOGIE LEAGUE

# Hennelly hits hat-trick in big league win for Tribeswomen

Galway show no mercy to Down rivals

GALWAY	4-17
DOWN	0-8

SARAH GAUGHRAN  
IN DOWN

ON a bitterly cold and windy day in Liatroim Fontenoy's GAA grounds, Galway made it two wins from two in the National Camogie League after a comfortable victory over the 2021 Division Two champions, Down.

The highlight of the Tribeswomen's triumph was a hat-trick of goals from centre forward Rebecca Hennelly, who also landed three points from play for good measure.

Allish O'Reilly opened the scoring for the visitors with Niamh Kilkenny quickly tacking on a second despite Gal-

way facing the elements. Aimee McAleenan got Down off the mark and Niamh Mallon followed up with a free to leave the teams tied after eight minutes.



**HENNELLY ADDED TWO MORE GOALS, WHILE DONOHUE ALSO FIRED TO THE DOWN NET**

However, Down suffered a setback when Isabella O'Hare was shown a yellow card before Mallon edged them in front when converting her second free. It proved a shortlived

lead as Galway struck for the game's first goal.

Aine Keane flicked the ball onto O'Reilly who took on the Down defence before giving a great hand pass to the in-form Hennelly, who stuck the ball to the back of the Down net. Galway kept the pressure on and Aoife Donohue was soon splitting the posts.

Mallon responded straight away from the puck out for Down, while O'Reilly struck her second point of the day 30 seconds later. Mallon, through a free, and Hennelly exchanged points late in the half to leave Galway three points ahead going into the break.

The All-Ireland champions started the second half brightly with Catherine Finnerty on target before Carrie Dolan took over with a burst of five points, four of which came from frees.



Galway's Rebecca Hennelly who scored 3-3 in their big National League away victory over Down on Saturday.

Mallon replied for Down before Donohue raised another white flag for Galway.

Against tiring opponents, Galway cut loose in the final minutes of the match. Hennelly added two more goals, while Donohue also fired to the Down net. They also registered points from Dolan (free), Hennelly (two), Kilkenny and

Sabina Rabbite before the end.

For Galway, Rebecca Hennelly, who finished with 3-3, Shauna Healy, Emma Helebert, Dervla Higgins, Niamh Kilkenny, Aoife Donohue and Carrie Dolan were among their stand-out performers. The game marked the return from injury of defender Heather

Cooney. Galway now have a two-week break before a home outing against Tipperary on Saturday, March 19.

**Galway:** Sarah Healy, R Hanniffy, Shauna Healy, C Donohue, R Black, Helebert, D Higgins, N Kilkenny (0-3), C Murphy, A Keane, R Hennelly (3-3), A Donohue (1-2), C Dolan (0-6, 0-5 frees), A O'Reilly (0-2), C Finnerty (1). **Subs:** H Cooney for Higgins (56), Rabbite for O'Reilly (59).

ALL-IRELAND MINOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

# Galway minors back on right track

GALWAY	1-17
DUBLIN	1-5

SARAH GAUGHRAN  
IN ABBOTSTOWN

THE Galway minor camogie team are through to the knockout stages of the A Championship after a convincing success over Dublin in Abbotstown on Sunday.

This was a must win game for Galway after their narrow opening round loss to Cork and they showed great determination throughout. They never really let Dublin get into the game and led from start to finish.

Galway started the brightest, scoring four points in the opening 12 minutes through four different players. Catherine Hanley, Olwen Rabbite,

Niamh McInerney and captain Clara Hickey all contributed scores from play in this period.

It took Dublin, who won the toss and opted to play with the wind, 16 minutes before they registered their first score through a free from Leonie Power. Hanley and Sinead Daly subsequently swapped scores through frees to leave Galway 0-5 to 0-3 ahead after 24 minutes.

Dublin's Sadie Codd then received a yellow card as she tried to fend off the explosive run of Hanley, with the Galway player pointing the resulting free. Daly and Hanley exchanged frees before Orla Mullins concluded the scoring for the first half with a point from play to leave Galway five points ahead.

Galway also started the second half in strong fashion. Hanley slotted over a 45m free



Galway's Niamh McInerney on the ball against Dublin.

while McInerney added another point to her tally for the day. However, Dublin kept their chances alive when Aisling Nyham flicked the ball off Laura Freney's hurley and into the back of the net to leave four points between the teams.

Aoibheann Barry responded with a point for Galway in the 35th minute, but Molly Mulryan then picked up a yellow card for a frontal challenge on Clara Finn. It didn't impact the winners as McInerney added two more points to leave her team in the driving seat midway through the second half.

Daly registered Dublin's first score in 12 minutes when she slotted over a free, but Galway went on to seal their win with an Aisling Dillon point before Tara Maher took on the Dublin defence and laid of a beautiful pass to Barry who blasted the ball to the back of the net.

Hanley and Barry also slotted over points in a disastrous few minutes for Dublin. Daly responded with her fourth of the day before Hanley (free) closed the scoring in the 50th minute.

Galway will be delighted to get this win under their belt, particularly as it was a strong team display. Ally Hesnan, Keisha Coleman, Clara Hickey, Aisling Dillon, Niamh McInerney, Molly Mulryan, Catherine Hanley and Aoibheann Barry all performed well. They now have two weeks to regroup ahead of the All-Ireland quarter-final.

**Galway:** L. Freney, H. Kerry, J. Gann, A. Crowe, G. Leen, A. Hesnan, K. Coleman, C. Hickey (0-3, 0-1 free), A. Dillon (0-1), N. McInerney (0-4), O. Rabbite (0-1), M. Mulryan, C. Hanley (0-5, 0-4 frees, 0-1 45), O. Mullins (0-1), A. Barry (1-2). **Subs:** M. Gannon for Rabbite (26), A. Fahy for Mullins (42), T. Maher for Leen (51), A. Carr for K. Coleman (56), H. Torpey for Barry (48).



# NUMBER ONE

Sarsfields goalkeeper Laura Glynn celebrates with Siobhán McGrath after their All-Ireland Club senior camogie win over Slaughtneil of Derry in Gorey last month.

## Fearless Glynn relishes the challenge of being the Sarsfields goalkeeper

EANNA O'REILLY

IT'S certainly safe to say that Laura Glynn likes to keep a busy schedule. Up every morning at 5:30 am to take on a day of work, training, and study, the Sarsfields goalkeeper has no problem with her energy reserves. It's just as well, as she engages in a daily routine which most people would struggle to replicate.

Shortly before the Covid 19 pandemic hit Ireland, the 27-year-old started her own business with the opening of her gym in New Inn. She faced a big challenge in keeping the newly established LG Fitness going during lockdown and the months of uncertainty, but her determination and passion for the project has made the gym a great success.

She is delighted to report that work is "really, really busy", and she wouldn't want it any other way. If the challenge of being a business owner wasn't enough, Glynn decided to return to college to study a master's degree at GMT. She is halfway through her MSc in Ap-

plied Sport and Exercise Nutrition and is thoroughly enjoying the experience.

Glynn is currently on placement working with the Castlegar hurlers in a performance coaching role, combining her academic knowledge with her vast experience of being part of team environments with club and county.

She combines a busy work and college schedule with the demands of being a county camogie player, while also being part of a highly successful Sarsfields side, whose involvement in recent All-Ireland campaigns has resulted in a 12-month season for Glynn and her teammates.

It's an intense schedule, but she points out that working under pressure is something which stands to her in her on field role, where nerves and pressure have to be dealt with on a constant basis.

"If you're going to succeed playing in goals, you have to really love the position. You have to thrive on the responsibility and the pressure. You have to be able to deal with the mental challenges that go with it. If a

goal goes in, you have to put it out of your head and focus on the next ball. You can never switch off, even if the ball is up the other end of the pitch you can never drop your concentration."

"It's something you have to love. I'd do anything to stop the ball crossing the line and that's the way you have to approach it. You can't be too worried about



**IF THAT GAME WENT ON FOR ANOTHER HOUR, WE WERE NEVER GOING TO STOP FIGHTING FOR EACH OTHER**

getting hit either," she laughs. "I'm used to going home with bruises and I've been concussed a few times, but sure that's all part of it. I love it and I honestly wouldn't want to play anywhere else."

One of the most consistent

players on a dominant Sarsfields team, Glynn's shot stopping abilities proved vital as Sarsfields scraped through their semi-final clash with Slaughtneil in Gorey. On a day when the atrocious winter conditions played a huge part, the least desirable of all positions was surely between the posts.

Glynn was called into action in injury time at the end of the second half. With Sarsfields ahead by a point in a low scoring game, Shannon Graham came thundering through on goal for the Derry side. Graham took a dipping shot which was heading for the top corner, only for Glynn to make a diving save and deflect the ball over the bar. A Slaughtneil goal at that stage would have been a fatal blow to Sarsfields, who had their 'keeper to thank for stepping up to the plate at the crucial moment.

"You just have to be switched on at all times. It doesn't matter what stage of the match it is; you have to be fully focused and engaged. When I saw her coming through, I knew she only had one thing in mind. I knew by her stance that she was going for a goal. I suppose I'm used to those

situations at this stage. Thankfully I managed to get a touch on it, and I was just relieved to see it going over."

The prospect of facing Oulart the Ballagh at Croke Park is one which Glynn and her teammates are understandably relishing. With the recent experience of losing at the final stage to the Wexford club, Sarsfields will need little motivation, while Glynn believes they learned a lot from that defeat, which should stand to them this time around.

"It was something we hadn't experienced for a while; we were so used to winning for a long time. It's very fresh in our minds and it's something we certainly don't want to experience again. We've worked really hard in training to make sure we avoid the mistakes we made that day. Looking back on it now, I think if you take the first quarter out of it, it was actually a fairly even game."

"We know how good Oulart are, the quality of players they have is exceptional. But we have a lot of belief in ourselves too. We have huge leaders and massive character in the group. That was evident even the last day

[against Slaughtneil] we just never stopped fighting until the final whistle. If that game went on for another hour, we were never going to stop fighting for each other."

"We're lucky to have the quality of management we have as well. Their dedication is exceptional and we want to go out and win for them and for everyone involved in the club, as much as for ourselves."

"Winning with your club is really special. I'll never forget the feeling after winning the final against Slaughtneil [in 2020]. It was definitely the best moment of my playing career so far. We know that the chances of doing that don't come around often, and you have to make the most of it when you can. But to do it again would be incredible, it's what you dream about from the time you start playing."

One thing Sarsfields can definitely rely on going into Sunday's final is the dependability of their talented goalkeeper, whose steadiness between the posts is something her teammates can take confidence from as they face their biggest challenge yet in Croke Park.

**CAMOGIE LITTLEWOODS IRELAND NATIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 2**

# Fortune favours the Seniors

*Meath posed many problems before Wexford got a grip*

**RONAN FAGAN**

*In Chadwicks Wexford Park*

**WEXFORD 2-10**  
**MEATH 1-7**

A COUPLE of fortuitous second-half goals helped Wexford get out of dodge at Chadwicks Wexford Park on Saturday as they extended their maximum returns from three games in Division 2 of the Littlewoods Ireland National Camogie League.

Purposeful Meath presented the hosts with lots of problems during the first-half as the Royal county assembled a 1-5 to 0-2 interval advantage.

Wexford had played into the strong wind during that opening period. But despite a number of early threats dying in the wind, they failed to adopt a more sensible approach in terms of working the ball instead of continuing to watch several attempts drop short.

The winners were much more convincing after the break. But a curiosity remains as to how they might have built upon their victories over the Cork second-string and Derry had luck not contributed to those crucial goals.

Indeed, Wexford's recovery gained the perfect shot in the arm two minutes into the second-half when Ciara O'Connor's free from 45 metres out flew all the way to the top left corner of the town-end net to shave the difference to 1-5 to 1-2.

Wexford confidently transformed matters by 1-9 to 1-6 before fortune again shone on them amid the gloomy conditions.

A pointing effort from Ciara O'Connor in the 56th minute pinged back into play from the top of the left upright, and full-forward Joanne Dillon fastened onto the sliotar to net despite a couple of strong challenges.



Ciara O'Connor gets in a tangle with Meath's Aoife Minogue after winning possession.



Kate Kirwan trying to break away from Meath's Maeve Clince.

Victory was under Wexford's control thereafter, but they must address the ineptness of their first-half toil. This group is full of pure and honest endeavour, prepared to work their socks off in their continuing evolution under Kevin Tattan since a horrid 2019 when Wexford suffered relegation from Division 1 of the league and only survived the drop from the All-Ireland Senior championship by virtue of relegation final success over Meath.

But Wexford really should have a more clinical edge at this stage, and correcting same is largely down to the players.

They are definitely through to the Division 2 knockouts at this stage, with one group match at home to Kildare to come.

For the second game running, Wexford went with a two-player full-forward line, with Maeve Sinnott nominally named at right

corner-forward but playing as a sweeper.

However, the ever-willing inside pair of Joanne Dillon and Leah Walsh was deprived of sufficient opportunity to make an impact during the first-half owing to the lack of constructive use of the sliotar while Wexford faced the stiff wind.

Meath captain Jane Dolan pointed an ice-breaking free after six minutes, and while Joanne Dillon equalised four minutes later from the left wing, the visitors stretched ahead by 0-3 to 0-1 after 13 minutes through another couple of Dolan frees.

Wexford were unfortunate not to rattle the Meath net in the 17th minute when Kate Kirwan's shot was dealt with like a hot cake by the 'keeper before Leah Walsh had her shot blocked and Dillon was unfortunate to shoot wide.

And home concerns grew on

20 minutes when Meath forced a turnover some 40 metres out towards the uncovered stand side, and pocket-rocket Amy Gaffney surged through to flash to the net (1-3 to 0-1).

Leah Walsh pegged back a 23rd-minute point but as Wexford's wides grew to five, Jane Dolan helped Meath extend clear by 1-5 to 0-2 at the break after posting a free together with a '45 awarded after the Wexford 'keeper overstepped the square on a puck-out.

Wexford were re-energised on the resumption, and that Ciara O'Connor goal all the way from the long-range free forced by the ever-industrious Linda Bolger did no harm whatsoever to their hopes.

It didn't do any harm to Wexford either that Meath lost the leadership of Jane Dolan in the centre of their attack through injury seven minutes into the second-half.

Wexford eventually tied for the

second time after 45 minutes (1-5 apiece) as Ciara O'Connor (free), Joanne Dillon and Leah Walsh bridged the gap.

And, within a flash, Maeve Sinnott had collected from Aoife O'Connor to point Wexford into their first lead, before Ciara O'Connor added a couple (one free).

Despite only claiming two second-half scores, Meath were still lurking menacingly, and impressive number eight Aoife Minogue pegged back a free on 50 minutes to have them within 1-8 to 1-6.

But, after a Leah Walsh point, Wexford made the most of another lucky break for their second goal through Dillon, and Kate Kirwan negated a Minogue free to help them get over the line.

**Wexford:** Aoife Mahon (Bunclody); Anna Hennessy (St. Martin's), Aine Lacey (St. Ibar's/Shelmaller), Louise O'Leary (Rathnure); Amy Cardiff (St. Martin's), Sarah O'Connor

(St. Martin's, capt.), Emma Walsh (Glynn-Barntown); Michelle Martin (Rathnure), Linda Bolger (St. Martin's); Aoife O'Connor (St. Martin's), Kate Kirwan (Bunclody, 0-1), Ciara O'Connor (St. Martin's, 1-3, 1-2 frees); Maeve Sinnott (Bunclody, 0-1), Joanne Dillon (Rathgarogue-Cushinstown, 1-2), Leah Walsh (Rapparees, 0-3). Subs. - Sarah Harding-Kenny (St. Ibar's/Shelmaller) for Hennessy (54), Orla Sinnott (Ferns St. Aidan's) for Martin (57), Chloe Cashe (Glynn-Barntown) for A. O'Connor (59).

**Meath:** Maggie Randie; Sophie Payne, Ellen Burke, Claire Coffey; Tracy King, Maeve Clince, Leah Devine; Aoife Minogue (0-2 frees), Grace Coleman; Emma O'Donnell, Jane Dolan (0-5, 4 frees, 1 '45), Amy Gaffney (1-0); Aine McInerney, Megan Thynne, Aedin Stattery. Subs. - Aine Keogh for O'Connell (HT), Aoife Maguire for Dolan, Inj., (37), Emma Regan for Devine (50).

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

## Wexford Minors edge knockout spot head-to-head

**DEAN GOODISON**

*In Bunclody*

**WEXFORD 3-5**  
**LIMERICK 2-5**

WEXFORD QUALIFIED for the knockout stages of the All-Ireland Minor camogie championship with a closely-fought victory over Limerick in Bunclody on Sunday.

Both sides came into the game knowing their destiny lay in their own hands. It was all down to who performed better on the day, and the Slaneysiders just managed to do enough to advance to the final six.

Big challenges are in the future if Wexford want to go any further, and they will have to significantly improve on what they have shown in the group stages, but the opportunity is ahead of them in two weeks' time.

They dominated the first-half with the wind at their backs and built enough of a lead that they could defend their way into the knockout stages in the

second period. They shared the scores around in attack and that will encourage management as they look for a bit more consistency in their all-round play.

The biggest thing Wexford can do to make a difference between now and their quarter-final clash is work hard on getting the heads up and looking for the correct option.

There is still too much hit-and-hope, too many wasteful turnovers in the middle third of the field, and if it can be remedied the Slaneysiders could shock whoever they draw for the next game.

They have enough firepower, given the right circumstances, to make an impact, and they were able to show it in spurts here.

Initially the scores were level after five minutes, as Sadhbh Buttle got Wexford ahead but the impressive Laura Frawley quickly equalised.

The hosts made their first big impression of the half when Orla Redmond's ball into the goalmouth was batted out by Leah Quinlan and sent back past her with a swift whip of Ciara Butler's hurl.



Sadhbh Buttle evades Ellie Woulfe.

Sarah 'Sal' Doyle, Buttle and Redmond all added points as Wexford went 1-4 to 0-1 ahead at the start of the second quarter.

They pulled further clear in the 19th minute when Butler's ball in was col-

lected by Robyn O'Connor before the Glynn-Barntown clubwoman scooped her shot into the top corner of Limerick's net.

The Munster side broke a 23-minute spell of their own, and a nine-minute game drought, with a Laura Southern point, but Wexford found what was a critical third goal, a pulled finish from close range by Buttle, to take a 3-4 to 0-2 interval lead.

Wexford would go almost 20 minutes themselves in the second-half without scoring as Limerick crept closer.

Aine Conway pulled home in the 35th minute to cut three points off the deficit, and she flicked another effort to the net six minutes later when the hosts fluffed a clearance.

At that stage it was game on (3-5 to 2-2), but Wexford stopped Limerick from scoring for ten minutes and got their only point of the half from a Ciara Butler free.

Southern popped over a minute later but again the Treaty women didn't score for eight minutes.

When they did it came from back-to-

back '45s, the first in the 59th minute, the second from a technical infringement from the resulting puck-out.

Limerick put on some added-time pressure, but Wexford held on to book their spot in the knockout draw.

**Wexford:** Kate Butler; Zoe Tobin-Cosgrave, Martha Kavanagh, Nicola Corrigan; Rebecca Ogilvie, Karen Tomkins (capt.), Róisín Hughes; Aoibhe Mac Sweeney, Cora McGrath; Orla Redmond (0-1), Caoimhe Byrne, Sadhbh Buttle (1-2); Ciara Butler (1-1, 0-1 free), Sarah Doyle (0-1 free), Robyn O'Connor (1-0). Subs. - Sophie O'Leary for Ogilvie (33), Aoibheann Mernagh for Byrne (45), Katie Bowe for Redmond (60).

**Limerick:** Leah Quinlan; Aimee O'Connor, Muireann Leahy, Róisín Corbett; Ella Ryan, Ellie Woulfe, Elaine Frawley; Éile Medigan, Laura Frawley (0-3, 2 '45s); Niamh Brennan, Ciara Riordan, Laura Southern (0-2); Molly Hussey, Aine Conway (2-0), Orla Hickey. Subs. - Aine Ni Tiarnaigh for O'Connor (22), Sophie McDonagh for Frawley (31), Ciara Neenan for Hickey (43), Orla Ryan for Medigan (53), Claire Power for Hussey (56).

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

## CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND SCHOOLS SENIOR 'B' CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



The Kilrush contingent (from left): Karen Tomkins, Eimear Byrne, Emma Tomkins (capt.), Sadhbh Buttle, Aoife Kinsella, Áine Doran, Áine Sharry, Anna Tomkins and Kate Butler.



Emma Tomkins, Coláiste Bhríde captain, receives the trophy from Linda Kenny, Leinster Chairperson.

# Carnew's unbeatable desire

## Kilrush and Craanford players shine in super success

**BRENDAB LAWRENCE**  
In Stradbally

**COLÁISTE BHRÍDE 4-9**  
**COLÁISTE MUIRE (ENNIS) 1-9**

"DESIRE WON out in the end, their heart and desire, their fight, none of them gave up, it was a complete team effort," was how Coláiste Bhríde joint manager Mary Sinnott described the difference between the two teams in the Tesco Schools Senior 'B' camogie championship final between the Carnew students and Coláiste Muire of Ennis in Stradbally on Friday.

Sinnott and fellow joint manager Bob Fitzgerald admitted that the Clare students may well have been more accomplished hurlers over the course of the hour, but it was Coláiste Bhríde's greater hunger and the drive to go one step further than two years ago when they lost out to Cashel in Heywood that separated the sides.

Despite the Ennis team's undeniable potential with the huris, best encapsulated by full-forward Mary Hanrahan who possessed the skills of a wizard at times, it was as if Coláiste Bhríde just made a collective decision that defeat was not to be their lot at the Laois venue.

To a player, they were outstanding.

It was, as Mary Sinnott said, a team performance. There was no outrageous stand-out star on the night.

The sublime Sarah 'Sal' Doyle finished with 1-6 to her credit, the goal a score she had absolutely no right to finish to the back of Grace McMahon's net after six minutes to rein in the Coláiste Muire side who had romped out to a 0-2 to nil lead.

And at key moments in the second-half, the Craanford player split the posts with some beautiful efforts from play and placed balls.

Those opportunities arose because of the dogged and determined work at the other end where the full-back line of Aoife Kinsella, Anna Tomkins and Hannah Redmond were peppered with high ball after high ball as the Clare side went in search of thumping blows throughout the second-half.

Team captain Emma Tomkins grabbed two wicked goals in the opening half to give the Coláiste Bhríde side room to breathe.

Ciara Wafer lofted over a dreamy point in the first-half and booted home the score that finally killed off the Coláiste Muire challenge in the second.

Laci Jane Shannon capped off a huge performance with a fine score at the death, and Sadhbh Buttle opened their account after 60 seconds with a bomb.

But while that might be a quick recap on the scores, this victory was about much more than those high points.

It was about the steadiness and security of Kate Butler in goal, the tenacity and honesty of Máire Deegan, Karen Tomkins and Eimer Mutton in the half-back line, the excellence of Laci Jane Shannon and Róisín Byrne in the middle of the field, boosted in no small way by the tigerish Sadhbh Buttle who was named at corner-forward but who operated out the field in the trenches where she is very much at home.

It was about the ferocious workrate of Shauna O'Shea, the class of Ciara Wafer, and the determination of Saoirse Kenny.

Throw in the energy of Eimear Byrne, Melissa Doran and Alanna Dagg who came on as substitutes, and you have the ingredients for an All-Ireland win that will be cherished by a squad of players who will hopefully go on to have successful and lengthy careers with club and county.

At half-time Coláiste Bhríde led by 3-4 to 0-4 after playing up the hill in the opening period, with 'Sal' Doyle grabbing the opening goal and Emma Tomkins lashing home two more alongside points by Sadhbh Buttle, 'Sal' Doyle (two frees) and Ciara Wafer.

Coláiste Muire looked incredibly dangerous, but they were never allowed

settle into this game. They created plenty of chances and found themselves in very healthy positions, but the hunger and scramble defence of Bob Fitzgerald's and Mary Sinnott's side proved unbeatable.

Coláiste Muire needed a bright start to the second-half, and it looked as though they had engineered it when they outscored Coláiste Bhríde by 1-3 to 0-1, the goal after 13 minutes coming from centre-back and captain Tierna Hegarty who had been moved from her starting position to that of full-forward in the second-half, with Órna Moynihan dropping to mark Ciara Wafer and Emily Costelloe retreating to midfield.

But Coláiste Bhríde were not settling for second place. A storming run from Emma Tomkins saw the ball worked to 'Sal', but her shot was saved out for a '45 which she duly pointed.

The full-forward would drop another free in from distance and there on the end of it would be Ciara Wafer who booted it home.

A 'Sal' free moments later pushed Coláiste Bhríde from four ahead to eight clear after 23 minutes of the second-half.

Hegarty grabbed Coláiste Muire's last score after 25, but Coláiste Bhríde would finish strong with Doyle (free) and the tireless Laci Jane Shannon from play pushing them nine clear and securing the

All-Ireland 'B' title in the process.

The final whistle brought joy and delight as the players and supporters from six proud clubs in Wexford and Wicklow took to the field to celebrate an achievement and a journey that they will never and should never forget.

**Coláiste Bhríde (Carnew):** Kate Butler (Kilrush); Aoife Kinsella (Kilrush); Anna Tomkins (Kilrush); Hannah Redmond (Craanford); Máire Deegan (Carnew Emmets); Karen Tomkins (Kilrush); Eimer Mutton (Knockananna); Laci Jane Shannon (Annacurra, 0-1); Róisín Byrne (Knockananna); Shauna O'Shea (Aughrim); Ciara Wafer (Carnew Emmets, 1-1); Saoirse Kenny (Craanford); Sadhbh Buttle (Kilrush, 0-1); Sarah Doyle (Craanford, 1-6, 0-4 frees, 0-1 '45); Emma Tomkins (Kilrush, capt., 2-0); Subs. - Eimear Byrne (Kilrush) for Kenny (38); Melissa Doran (Craanford) for Wafer (58); Alanna Dagg (Carnew Emmets) for Redmond (58).

**Coláiste Muire (Ennis):** Grace McMahon; Sinéad Hastings; Hannah Doyle; Lauren Cahill; Clíodhna Queally; Tierna Hegarty (1-2); Karlene McGerr; Ellen Casey; Órna Moynihan; Emma Considine; Emily Costelloe (0-6, 4 frees, 1 '45); Muireann Daffy (0-1); Emma Quinn; Mary Hanrahan; Emma O'Loughlin; Subs. - Elisha Rynne for Quinn (40); Caoimhe Ryan for Hastings (53); Leanne Healy for McGerr (55).

**Referee:** Brian Kearney (Kildare).



The Craanford contingent (from left): Sarah Doyle, Brid Doyle, Melissa Doran, Saoirse Kenny and Hannah Redmond.



Hannah Redmond of Craanford and her family with the spoils of success after Coláiste Bhríde's incredible campaign ended on the highest note imaginable.





Clara Morrison, Cork races through the Dublin defence.

## Cork minors to face Waterford in quarter-finals

WITH the round-robin stages of the Tesco All-Ireland Minor Championship concluded last weekend the picture is now clearer as the camogie association gear up for the quarter and semi-finals.

As expected, Kilkenny topped the group with two wins out of two over Clare and Waterford ensuring they go safely through. The last game of the group decided second place as Waterford secured their place with an impressive 4-13 to 3-7 win over Clare who now exit the championship.

In group two, Cork took top spot with excellent victories over Galway and Dublin. Galway overcame Dublin on Sunday to secure the runners-up spot but they had to battle before securing a 1-17 to 1-5 win.

Tipperary top group three with wins over Limerick, Wexford, and Antrim ensuring their place at the top of the table.

It was a battle to the finish between Wexford and Limerick for the runners-up spot and it was Wexford who made it through with a goal to spare in a 3-5 to 2-5.

Wexford led 3-4 to 0-2 at the interval with goals from Sadhbh Butler, Ciara Butler, and Robyn O'Connor vital to their cause and they had to withstand a superb Limerick fightback before finally securing victory.

The draws were made for the quarter-finals and once again it's Cork who go to a quarter-final with the three runners-up.

Cork will meet Waterford on March 12 in Cork with Galway playing Wexford in the second quarter-final. Kilkenny and Tipperary advance to meet the quarter-finals winners these will take place on March 20.

Cork manager Jerry Wallace was happy enough for his side to have been drawn in a quarter-final.

"It's another game for us and we take it one game at a time. Hopefully we will come out on the right sides of the result and advance to the last four."

**Division 2 League updated**  
In the Littlewoods Division

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

2 League Cork had a fixture-free weekend, but there were a lot of results that ensured changes to the state of the league tables in all three groups.

In group one Wexford continue to be the pacesetters after their third victory, 2-10 to 1-7 win over Meath with Joanne Dillon, Leah Walsh, Maeve Sinnott, Kate Kirwan, and Ciara O'Connor in top form.

Meath are joint second with Cork — both having won and lost a game, but Cork are on plus 11 with Meath on minus three.

Derry got their first points when they overcame Kildare 2-8 to 0-6.

The next rounds are scheduled for March 12 and 14, as expected, Cork overcome Derry and Meath account for Kildare it would come down to the last day and the meeting between Cork and Meath.

In group two Waterford continue on their winning way as they overcame Kilkenny 0-14 to 0-4 to stay top of the group with two wins out of two.

Kilkenny remain second thanks to their first-round victory over Tipperary as we had a draw between Westmeath and Tipperary where it finished 1-9 to 0-12 with both having lost their opening games; the result means both are now on one point each.

In group three last season's All-Ireland intermediate champions Antrim had a tougher second-round game where they were tested to the limit by Galway before they had a four-point win 1-12 to 1-8.

Antrim are on top with Galway in second place and we would at this stage expect both to be the ones who will make it through.

### Purcell Shield

Just one outstanding game from the Purcell competition which took place last week, in the Purcell Shield semi-final MTU travelled to Dublin and defeated DCU to book a place in the final.



Amy O'Connor, Amy Lee, and Laura Treacy at Blackrock Castle to welcome Kearys Motor Group's sponsorship deal. Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treac

# New camogie sponsor deal



### CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

KEARYS announced its sponsorship of Cork Camogie on Wednesday in a three-year deal.

Cork wore the Kearys jersey in their second-round tie against Limerick last Saturday followed by the launch on Tuesday and a press release on Wednesday.

The sponsorship will support all teams. It is two wonderful Cork brands coming together, and is very welcomed by the Cork board.

With Cork leading the way in All-Ireland senior honours (28) and nine titles won in the past 20 seasons, they're always in the final four vying for glory.

It's 2013 since the seniors won the national league title, but this year they have made their feelings known about wanting to win it, their final group game with Kilkenny in effect being the semi-final, with top in each of the two groups heading into the final on the weekend of April 2. Both sides are on six points with two wins from two, with Cork strongly ahead on scoring difference (+25).

Kilkenny are the most successful team in the league in the past decade, but the champions survived a huge scare, needing a point right at the death from Kelly Ann Doyle to snatch a 1-8 to 0-10 victory over Clare at Cusack Park. They've had their retirements over the past couple of seasons with Collette Dormer the latest to hang up her boots.

Tipperary and Galway could end up in a similar scenario — both are on six points with an extra game to play in their group, with Tipperary +14 on scoring difference.

So either Kilkenny inflict a greater-than-14-point win over Offaly than Tipperary do over Dublin or the meeting of the top two on March 19 will be a must-win game for Kilkenny, as a draw won't do them.

Offaly, Down, Clare, and Limerick are without any points after two games.



Laura Treacy launches Kearys three-year sponsorship deal with Cork Camogie. Picture: INPHO

Clare have nothing tangible to show for their two ties, but after making Cork work hard enough for their victory and then following that up with an excellent display against Kilkenny, are they coming good?

Denise Gaule had an early penalty brilliantly saved by Doireann Murphy, and Caoimhe Carmody pointed at the other end to give Clare the lead. Katie Nolan and Eimear Kelly, and then Katie Power and Lorna McMahon, swapped scores, but a goal from Miriam Walsh in the 27th minute was to prove the critical score as it ensured the Cats never fell behind again.

Gaule and Laura Norris followed up with points, and though Aoife O'Loughlin replied, it was 1-4 to 0-4 at half time. It was nip-and-tuck for much of the second half, during which Gaule drove over from a second penalty, not long after Murphy had made another brilliant save, this time from Katie Nolan. Carmody hit a brace of points for the hosts, and when McMahon and Kelly raised further white flags, it was a one-point game.

With just over a minute of normal time remaining, McMahon equalised from a free she had won herself, but the experience of Kilkenny was shown as there was still time for Doyle to venture forward and bag the winner.

Surprisingly All-Ireland champions Galway were put to the pin of their collar by Down before opening up in the second half to record a 4-17 to 0-8 win. Niamh Mallon was to the fore as they went in at the change of ends trailing by just 1-5 to 0-5.

Galway opened up after the resumption, a return of 2-5 in the final few minutes, giving the final score a harsh look from the Down perspective. Rebecca Henneley finished with a hat-trick of goals for the winners, with Aoife Donohue grabbing her second major of the competition.

Dublin built on a decent opener against Galway by outgunning a young Offaly team that must do without the St Rynagh's contingent at present, by 1-12 to 0-2.

Aisling Maher hit five points in the first half, which allied with a goal and a point from Aisling O'Neill earned a 1-6 to 0-1 interval lead over Offaly, whose score was provided by Sarah Harding from a free.

Kerrie Finnegan came into the fray in place of Maher at the interval, but it made little difference in terms of the Dubs' marksmanship from placed balls, as O'Neill inherited the duties and split the posts twice.

The same player slotted a couple of more scores from play to bring her tally to 1-5 as the Blues inevitably pulled clear.

# 'I never thought I'd be back at Croke at 36'

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

**U**RSULA JACOB is one of the all-time greats of camogie, a four-time All-Ireland winner with Wexford and in pursuit of a fourth AIB All-Ireland senior club title with Oulart-The Ballagh as they clash with Galway side Sarsfields at Croke Park today (4pm - Live RTE 2).

That knowledge and experience, allied with an ability to articulate, has made her a fulcrum of RTE's team of Gaelic Games pundits.

She knows what it is to compete in the white heat of battle with it all on the line, her playing career coming after being reared around genderless hurling, as the daughter of Wexford great Mick Jacob, and sister of Helena, Rory and Michael, Wexford players all.

It shows. 'I'm so used to talking about GAA whether it's camogie or hurling when I was at home. My parents spoke to me and my sister the exact same as they spoke to my two brothers about hurling or camogie. It was never really viewed much different. When I was asked by RTE to first go on the camogie panel when I'd retired I jumped at the chance. Then the opportunity came about working on the hurling side of things.

'At the start, you're kind of saying, "Oh my God, I've watched The Sunday Game all my life, and I'm now sitting alongside an Anthony Daly or Donal Óg Cusack or Jackie Tyrrell", and these are players that I've admired and respected. And I suppose sometimes you'd have felt intimidated going into an environment. Once you get into the room and you're chatting with them, you forget you're on the telly with these heroes. You're just having a chat with someone in your local pitch or on the street or whatever. They respect my opinion.

'I think Donal Óg Cusack can talk about camogie as much as I can talk about hurling. I think we need to get over the kind of gender thing. Obviously, you'll always have people who won't be happy about it but as long as I feel that I'm doing a good job, I just get on with it.'

A thick skin is necessary. Check. So is a balanced approach to peaks and troughs. Check. Oh, and being able to juggle a multitude of balls. Check. She has combined the playing and punditry with her job as a staff officer with Tusla. Throwing in a wedding between All-Irelands



VINTAGE SKILL: Oulart-The Ballagh's Ursula Jacob (left) in action against Slaughtneil

## CAMOGIE FIXTURES

### TODAY

**ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL**  
Oulart-The Ballagh v Sarsfields, Croke Park 4pm, RTE2

**ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL**  
Salthill Knocknacarra v St Rynagh's, Croke Park 2pm, RTE2

might have broken a lesser woman, but then Stacey Kehoe was married the day before the December decider against Sarsfields and was player of the match. So you couldn't complain, not that it's in her nature.

'Every week I'm just running around... I'm pretty good at the whole multitasking and at managing a workload. The last five, six months have been just manic but it's been really positive and enjoyable. I've probably never enjoyed my camogie as much as the last couple of years, and that's a probably a strange thing to say considering it was such a disruptive couple of years in one way, but I think playing camogie, it gave all of us a

distraction. I just think the older you do get, you only have one guarantee: that you're playing a final on Sunday. You can't look past that so you're kind of fully embracing and enjoying the moment.'

As a camogie player, Jacob has always been pure class. She was the freetaker who could be relied upon to remain cool under the most suffocating of pressure. But she was dynamite from play too. Still is, as testified by her rocket to the top corner for the goal in the semi-final defeat of Scariff Ogonnelloe.

And when big-time plays were needed, she delivered. In the 2011 All-Ireland final, when she was captain, Jacob rifled 1-2 in the final

ten minutes to secure victory for Wexford when they had been treading water against Galway. The goal was sensational, an aerial catch, a couple of steps to make space and a rifled shot to the net.

Who will ever forget the reaction of co-commentator Cyril Farrell 12 months later after her incredible goal eight minutes from the end of normal time, which cemented the three-in-a-row?

'That's un-REAL,' bellowed the Galway man and he was spot on. It was one of the great goals scored at Croke Park, as Jacob propelled the slotar off the sod into the opposite corner, beyond Cork legend Aoife Murray, from just to the right of

the square while running away from goal.

Jacob followed up with two quick points - one from tight to the sideline - and a two-point game was dead and buried. She finished the day as player of the match, with 2-7 of the Yellowbellies' 3-13.

Think Carey, think Cantona, think Jordan. Think Jacob.

'I look back fondly on those experiences in Croke Park because we had a special group of girls. And I've been lucky enough to achieve it with the club as well.

'I've kind of warriored along with the likes of Mary and Una (Leacy), Karen Atkinson and Ciara Storey, and Shelly and Stacey Kehoe, and you're just in each other's pockets.

'But you do look back more now and definitely the goal (in 2012) is a standout for me. It was a great strike and it helped us win.'

Jacob knows that it is more than she could ever have dreamed of to be striding out onto Croke Park one more time, for the club, with an All-Ireland on the line.

'It's ten years since we've been in our first final where we played Drom & Inch. If someone had said to me back in 2012 that we'd be back again in a final and the core of the team's still there ten years later, I would've been saying there's no way I'd be there still at 36 years of age back in Croke Park.

'There is a real sense of community in Oulart and The Ballagh and all of Wexford. And I'm thrilled especially to see the older people in the community getting so much from it and going to matches and talking about the matches. Maybe it's coming out of Covid and all that but I think that is what makes the club championship that bit more special, and I take so much pride in the red and black of Oulart-The Ballagh being represented in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day.

'If you can't enjoy that and be looking forward to being a part of that, I don't know what to say.'

Rendering Ursula Jacob speechless? Almost as rare as her being held scoreless. Once more unto the breach, with her friends.

## 18 GAA

### Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

When the captain of the Ireland women's hockey team was little, she did not dream of World Cups and Olympic Games.

Instead, growing up on the family farm between Coleraine and Portstewart, her life bent to the rhythms of hurling and camogie, mixing it with the boys right up to 16. It was family and friends. It was Eoghan Rua.

In time, Katie Mullan's ability with another stick pulled her away and she has led her country to phenomenal success, earned a huge profile and became a role model not just for young girls but anyone with big dreams. And done it all with that broad, beaming smile that lightens up the day.

The 27-year-old has led her team to a World Cup final, to an Olympic Games and is now in the middle of preparations for this year's World Cup in the Netherlands and Spain in July. Those aren't the only preparations taking place, however.

Mullan is now just two caps shy of a double century for Ireland, having made her debut in August 2012 against Wales as an 18-year-old. She had garnered a second AIB All-Ireland intermediate club camogie title with Eoghan Rua the previous March but the focus on hockey reduced her to a

## Hockey hero Mullan her part in Eoghan

## thrilled to play Rua's journey

substitute's role on both occasions, though that didn't stop her scoring the winning goal in the 2011 semi-final.

The bonds were never severed. So when she needed them, they were there and she invariably repaid that with a reprise of the nose for goal that has characterised her entire camogie career.

When her world was rocked by being dropped from the national squad for the European Championships in 2013, she was a key part of the team that secured the Ulster senior title - scoring 2-1 in the final - and they gave All-Ireland champions Milford the fright of their lives before the Cork side completed a two-in-a-row at Croke Park. The following season she was named player of the match after scoring 1-4 in the county final to see off a Slaughtneil side building towards history as All-Ireland senior three-in-a-row champions.

In an interview with Séamas McAleenan in the *Irish News* this time last year, Mullan said that camogie had saved her at this time, had massaged her bruised ego and

rebuilt her confidence.

This time around, it's different. She needed a break after the rewarding but tiring Olympic cycle, and the World Cup qualifier that followed Tokyo. And so, having attended the county final, conversations took place. Ireland's head coach, Sean Dancer was amenable.

It was an early Christmas present for Eoghan Rua manager, Brendan McLernan and Mullan has been crucial in helping the team reach today's junior A final against Clannmaurice of Kerry at the O'Raghallaighs grounds in Drogheda (12.30pm - live-stream Camogie Association YouTube), earning a place at corner-forward in the *Gaelic Life* club team of the year.

'The Olympics is a four-year cycle and for us it was a five-year cycle with the delay so it was very intense,' explains Mullan. 'A lot of the team took time away and a break. For me, to pick up my hurl and play camogie with my close friends that I grew up with was a really good way for me to find that freshness and renew that energy towards the

busy hockey calendar this year. It's been fantastic.

'I watched the girls play in the county final in September, and just really got an itch to be back playing camogie. So that was when the wee seed was planted, and it's been quite a good year and quite a good run. It's in the last month that it's sort of really clashed for me, but with an understanding coach, with it being an All-Ireland, he's been very supportive in that.

'These are girls I have been in constant contact with and been learning from over the last ten years, when I haven't even been playing.

**Katie Mullan: Camogie journey with Eoghan Rua has been 'fantastic'.**

So to be back in a changing room with them is fantastic.'

She has noted not just the increasing physical contact of camogie but the endurance as well, with the days of being stuck in one position

consigned to the past. And the change in rule relating to dropping the hurley has

caused her some problems.

Meanwhile she is combining part-time work with AXI 3D in Belfast as a medic visualisation engineer with the two-to-three-day week hockey camps - she travelled to France the day after the Ulster final.

Some might view the camogie as an unnecessary complication but that is to miss the point. This stint is probably concluding at just about the right time, with major hockey internationals later this month against GB and the Netherlands.

And when it comes to value and importance, there's not big difference between the environment of one of the best hockey teams in the world and a junior camogie squad. 'It's what it means to us in this moment and that's an awful lot, especially off the back of the struggles of the last two, three years. 'It's been hard for clubs to stay connected and we found the last couple of months, and the little journey we've been able to take the club on is fantastic, and I'm just delighted to be a small part of that.'



# 'If you could bottle that feeling, you'd never have a bad day again'

**Ruthless Rynagh's secure two in a row**

**AIB All-Ireland Club Camogie intermediate final**  
**St Rynagh's (Offaly) 5-14**  
**Salthill-Knocknacarra (Galway) 2-6**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
 Croke Park

Two goals from Siobhán Flannery and a second consecutive player-of-the-match return by Kate Kenny in All-Irelands were among the many highlights as St Rynagh's made it back-to-back AIB All-Ireland Intermediate Club Camogie titles at Croke Park yesterday. It always looked like a stiff task for Salthill-Knocknacarra against the hot favourites, with their joint captain Orla Callanan missing out due to a cruciate knee ligament injury. It got even more difficult when Flannery snuck in behind the Galway city side's defensive cover in the fifth minute to goal after good work from Linda Sullivan. When Emma Madden received her marching orders for a second yellow card offence, there was no way back for the Galway side. Further goals from Kenny, Mairead Daly, and Katie O'Connell sealed their win, the title, and promotion to senior ranks next season.

**Scorers for St Rynagh's:** K Kenny 1-9(0-1s); S Flannery 2-0; M Daly, K O'Connell 1-0 each; E Corcoran, G Dolan, R Egan, L Sullivan, S Hanamy 0-1 each

**Scorers for Salthill-Knocknacarra:** S McGinley 1-1; L Kelly 0-3(2fs); A Griffin 1-0; A Kelly, E Hayes 0-1 each

**ST RYNAGH'S:** E Gilligan, S Moran, E Sullivan, M Doorley, E Corcoran, G Dolan, K O'Connell, H Dolan, R Egan, L Sullivan, S Hanamy, M Daly, L Mannion, K Kenny, S Flannery

**Subs:** L Flannery for S Flannery (45); C O'Connell for Doorley (48); A O'Regan for Sullivan (48); A McLoughlin for H Dolan (52); R Daly for O'Connell (52)

**SALTHILL-KNOCKNACARRA:** V Flanagan, S Donnellan, E Madden, F Kelly, A Joyce, A Keane, C Murray, S Divily, L Kelly, C Keane, A Griffin, J O'Flaherty, A Kelly, S McGinley, E Hayes

**Subs:** I Morrison for O'Flaherty (39); M Murray for Joyce (48); F O'Sullivan for Donnellan (52); H Hannon for A Kelly (59)



**AIB All-Ireland Senior Club Camogie Championship final**  
**Sarsfields (Galway) ..... 3-12**  
**Oulart-The Ballagh (Wexford) ..... 4-5**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**  
 Croke Park

After collecting the Bill and Agnes Carroll Cup, skipper Niamh McGrath referenced the maelstrom of emotions the Sarsfields players had experienced in the past 10 weeks.

From losing their AIB All-Ireland Senior Club Camogie Championship to Oulart-The Ballagh and then come through a titanic extra-time battle with old rivals Slaughterneil in the following season's semi-final in the midst of a storm, they were back getting one over on their Wexford rivals at Croke Park to reassert themselves as the premier club side in the land by a 3-12 to 4-5 scoreline.

Reflecting on it on the pitch afterwards, it was the harsh lessons they had been taught by Oulart-The Ballagh that were at the forefront of her mind, however. And it was evident from the opening exchanges, that everyone had taken them on board.

"We really were shown up big time in December," said McGrath in a bracingly honest assessment of that game. "They absolutely hurled us off the pitch. We really put our shoulder to the wheel after that. I don't think we've ever trained at such an intensity. We just put our standards up so much. They made us look at ourselves, so it's great and the inside forward line were fantastic that way, tackling like dogs." McGrath shared the occasion with her three sisters Orlaith, Clodagh, and Siobhan. Siobhan is one of the real leaders of this team, despite



Sarsfields' Cora Kenny, Shannon Corcoran, Rachel Murray, Tara Kenny, Siobhán McGrath, Orlaith McGrath, Maria Cooney, Joanne Daly, and Clodagh McGrath celebrate their AIB All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club Championship final victory in Croke Park. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportshile

being the youngest of the quartet, supplementing a scoring return of 1-7 with phenomenal industry, forcing a slew of turnovers and covering most blades of the pitch.

"It was workrate that won it for us," insisted Siobhán. "We didn't match their workrate last December and we had to do that today. A good start is something we really targeted coming into it. Oulart-The Ballagh, every single game they've played, they've got unbelievable starts. We knew if we were to have any chance today, we couldn't let them get a good start. We needed to get the good start ourselves." Siobhán may be short in stature but she is a real powerhouse. Always a threat with the ball, she was a nuisance without on this day, turning over Aideen Brennan three times inside a minute and leaving the full-back crumpled over after a particularly heavy tackle in those opening, frantic exchanges.

This was a different Sarsfields.

The nominal full-forward had a goal in the third minute, into the same Davin Stand end she scored the crucial major to give Galway their All-Ireland last September.

"There must be a magnet down there or something 'cos I don't score many goals the other side! I found myself in a bit of space and when you're one-on-one there, you have to make sure in games like this." Every time Sarsfields looked like pulling away, Oulart-The Ballagh hit back, Shelly Kehoe goaling in the 15th minute and then Una Leacy grabbing her first after Tara and Cora Kenny had netted. That left it 3-6 to 2-4 at half-time.

But Siobhán McGrath just turned the screw with some sensational points from play and frees in the second half, while all around her, women in green stood tall, not least the likes of Maria Cooney, Tara Kenny, Laura Ward,

Sarah Spellman, Niamh McGrath, and Orlaith McGrath.

And yet, Anais Curran and Leacy raised green flags to ensure some doubt right down to the wire. But a fourth title would not be theirs. Sarsfields deserved this, hard though Oulart-The Ballagh resisted.

"When you have Una Leacy and Ursula Jacob there, they're special players," said Niamh McGrath. "They'll get a goal out of nothing and anytime it went in, your heart would be in your mouth but credit to our backs in the second half. I thought Maria, Laura, and Tara — every one of them were super."

"Well we've been in five finals and we've lost three so we said we can't lose another one. That's not a good return. One out of five. It's a special bunch. We really have grown up together since U10. It's unreal. We are such a small place so to do this is unbelievable. We've a big few weeks ahead now!" It

is fitting perhaps, that the last word should go to Siobhán.

"The feeling when the whistle went, if you could bottle it, you'd never have a bad day again."

**Scorers for Sarsfields:** S McGrath (1-7, 4fs); C Kenny (1-1); T Kenny (1-0); O McGrath (0-2); N McGrath, K Donohue (0-1 each)

**Scorers for Oulart-the-Ballagh:** U Leacy (2-0, 1g f); U Jacob (0-3, 2fs, 1 4s); Shelly Kehoe, A Curran (1-0 each); Stacey Kehoe (0-2)

**SARSFIELDS:** L Glynn, R Kelly, L Ward, K Gallagher, M Cooney, T Kenny, J Daly, S Spellman, N McGrath, K Donohue, C McGrath, O McGrath, S Corcoran, S McGrath, C Kenny

**Subs:** R Murray for Corcoran (50), C Cahalan for C McGrath (60+1)

**OULART-THE BALLAGH:** Lauren Sinnott, M O'Dowd, A Brennan, K Roche, A Dunne, C Storey, M Leacy, Stacey Kehoe, A Curran, K Gallagher, Shelly Kehoe, Louise Sinnott, L Nolan, U Leacy, U Jacob

**Subs:** Siobhán Sinnott for Nolan (47), Shauna Sinnott for Louise Sinnott (47)

**Referee:** Ray Kelly (Kildare)



**WATCH YOUR BACK:** Sarsfields' Orlaith McGrath looks on after taking a shot, as an Oulart-The Ballagh hurley flies past her during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Club Championship final at Croke Park. See report on P19.

## CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Senior Club final: Sarsfields 3-12 Oulart The Ballagh 4-5; Intermediate final: St Rynagh's (Offaly) 5-14 Salthill-Knocknacarra (Galway) 2-6; Junior final: Eoghan Rua (Derry) 1-11 Clonmaurice (Kerry) 1-10; Junior B final: Derrylaughan 1-6 Knockanna 1-12.



Lauren Homan, Cork (St Vincents) attacks at pace before hitting a fine point from play in the first half against Wexford. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Cork welcome Derry to Castle Road for crucial league encounter

**TODAY**  
Littlewoods Division 2 National League: Cork v Derry, Castle Road, 3pm

DERRY are in Castle Road today for a meeting with Cork in what is a crucial game for both teams in the Littlewoods Division 2 National League.

They each have three points, but with Derry having played a game more the pressure is on the northerners if they want to make it to the later stages.

They lost by a goal to Meath in a tight, opening game but lost to Wexford by 13 points.

They got off the mark against Kildare 2-8 to 0-6, but it must be remembered that they were without several players due to Slaughtneil and Eoghan Rua's involvement in the All-Ireland club senior and junior championships.

Last weekend Eoghan Rua's were crowned junior club champions and the win is a huge boost for camogie in the county.

Derry will be hoping to welcome back a few players, including Eoghan Rua's Jolene Brady and Slaughtneil's Louise Dougan.

They have a new manager in Martin Coulter and though Derry were minus their Slaughtneil and Eoghan Rua players, the manager has used the games to introduce new faces to the inter-county scene and despite being depleted for their clash with Meath they were right in the game to the finish.

They will look to the experienced Grainne McNicholl, Niamh McQuillan, captain Shannon O'Doherty, and Maria Rafferty to put pressure on Cork and secure the points they need to stay in contention in what is their last game in the group series.

Cork bounced back from losing to a strong Wexford sides by five points to record a good win over Kildare, 4-16 to 2-6.

They will be determined to make it back-to-back wins.

With no game since February 19 they have continued preparations and last they weekend played against the Cork minor team. Lauren Callanan and Kaitlin Hickey, both of whom missed the opening league games through injury, continue to make progress towards a full return and they are huge assets to the side.

There is a doubt over Laur-

### CAMOGIE

■ Marty Newman

on Homan who picked up an injury lining out with MUT in their Purcell Shield final victory mid-week.

Meath are in joint second with Cork and they face Kildare today. If results go in favour of Cork and Meath it will all come down to the last day and the meeting between Cork and Meath.

But first Cork must overcome Derry this afternoon.

**TOMORROW**  
Tesco All-Ireland Minor Championship quarter-final: Cork v Waterford, Castle Road, 2pm

It's an all-Munster clash as Cork and Waterford battle for a place in the All-Ireland minor semi-final in Castle Road.

Kilkenny topped group one with wins over Clare and Waterford and it's the last game of the group decided second place with Waterford securing their place in the concluding stages with an impressive 4-13 to 3-7 win over Clare.

In group two, Cork took top spot with excellent victories over Galway and Dublin; Galway went on to defeat Dublin to secure the runners-up spot.

When the draws were made for the concluding stages Cork went into the quarter-final with the three runners-up; Kilkenny and Tipperary advanced to the semi-finals.

Cork had to work hard for their first-round win over a strong Galway side and it is a game that will no doubt have stood to Jerry's Wallace's charges.

In a low-scoring 0-8 to 0-6 game played in tough weather conditions, it was nip and tuck all through and with nine minutes on the stopwatch the sides were level, but Cork dug deep and battled to find a winner.

Dublin didn't provided the expected challenge in the second game and Cork were well in control all through.

Waterford will be determined to make it to the last four and the huge work going into the game in the county is paying dividends. They are now participating in the higher grade of minor and are more than capable of doing so.

Cork can expect a huge challenge.



Cork's Kate Wall is surrounded by Limerick's Mairead Ryan Clooney, Sophie O'Callaghan, and Stephanie Wolfe during their National League game. Picture: INPHO/Ken Suttor

# Splitting venues for Cork games a crying shame



### CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

CORK'S top two teams play in their respective divisions today in the Littlewoods National League.

The seniors play Kilkenny in Páirc Uí Chaoimh at 2pm and the intermediates play Derry in Castle road at 3pm. It's a crying shame that both games weren't played in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. It does cost the camogie board a hefty sum of money to play in our local stadium. The cost of stewards and security has to be covered, but it's a bitter pill to swallow all the same in my opinion.

It's disappointing for many supporters who would have liked to see both games. It just isn't right to have our two top teams playing 20 minutes away from each other at more or less the same time. Those really determined might make the second half of the intermediate game. It splits everybody though, even the volunteers.

Cork's manager Matthew Twomey is hoping that the space in the Páirc will see his side beat Kilkenny.

"I don't think Kilkenny have been setting the world on fire in the league so far, but I suppose with a new management team, our players are going to respond as it's a blank canvas and every single one of them is fighting for a place, whereas when a management team has been there a while, they've more of a comfort zone.

"But I think that when it comes to Cork, Kilkenny will go to another level. I think the Páirc will suit us with the open space but we have to utilise it. You just don't



Cork manager Matthew Twomey against Limerick during the Littlewoods camogie division 1 league game at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

know how it will go with Kilkenny. It would be great get to a league final to endorse the work that the girls have put in already."

It's hard to comprehend the fact that we are just over two months away from championship and no draws have been made yet. It's actually a disgraceful situation and shows a complete lack of regard for teams and their management.

How can a team plan when they don't know who they are playing or where they are playing? It could be a trip up to north for either the senior or intermediate side and that in itself takes planning.

Twomey finds that the situation is really hampering their progress.

"You can't even psychologically sort yourself out for the championship when

it's not even drawn yet. We don't know who we're playing and that opening couple of fixtures can determine who we are selecting for our final league games.

"It's shocking. Even trying to get pitches. We've no idea if we're home or away and so can't act on that. Everyone knows how difficult it is to get pitches, such is the demand, and we'll be left now with an incredibly short notice period by which to sort that."

Derry will have their Slaughtneil and St Eoghan players back and they should prove a handful for Cork's second side.

Tipperary are at home to Dublin with a win expected to leaving them top of group 1 with nine points, group 1 having an extra game. Galway play Offaly but not until March 27. Again, a win is expected there for the All-Ireland champions.

While Cork will hopefully advance to the league final today it will be March 19 before they know who their opponents will be as Tipperary and Galway will do battle that day to determine who advances. As it stands Galway will need a win, a draw will do Tipp.

Sarsfields winning the All-Ireland club title at the expense of Oulart The Ballagh last weekend will certainly add to the county's confidence.

The McGrath sisters, Niamh, Orlaith, Clodagh and Siobhan, all bar Clodagh members of the Galway senior panel that defeated Cork last September, won their second title in three years. They turned around their defeat 10 weeks ago to the same opposition in the delayed 2020 All-Ireland final to take the 2021 title with the youngest of sisters, Siobhan, scoring 1-7.

It was Sarsfield's fifth final and second victory, so it was a sweet one. Siobhan McGrath summed it up after the game.

"The feeling when the whistle went if you could bottle it, you'd never have a bad day again."



Cork's Izzy O'Regan shoots past Limerick goalkeeper Claire Keating at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Must-win Cats travel to Cork to face Rebels in what should be a cracker

**SATURDAY**  
Littlewoods National League Division 1: Cork v Kilkenny, Páirc Uí Chaoimh, 2pm.  
**CAMOGIE**  
Linda Mellerick

KILKENNY travel to Páirc Uí Chaoimh this Saturday in what in effect is the league semi-final to face Cork.

It's a must-win game for the visitors with Cork significantly ahead on scoring difference after two games with both sides on six points.

A draw would do Cork. Kilkenny may travel without their coach Tommy Shefflin, brother of Paul, who passed away unexpectedly last week.

All in Cork camogie extend their heartfelt condolences to Paul's wife and children, Tommy and the Shefflin and McCarthy families.

A Cork and Kilkenny game always whets the appetite, the last outing between the pair resulting in a 0-15 to 1-11 win for Cork in last year's All Ireland semi-final.

Cork's Orla Cronin and Pamela Mackey are unavailable for selection. Linda Collins and Hannah Looney are absent from last year's side, it's unknown at this point if Looney will play some part in the championship while Fiona Keating has had to sit out the league due to a broken hand.

Chloe Sigerson hasn't made the starting line-out to date but impressed with three points when introduced against Limerick. All of the above has provided openings for players like Meabh Murphy, Katie O'Mahoney, Sorcha McCartan, Kate Wall, and others. They'll need to take their chance on making an impact with championship throwing in the last weekend of May.

Despite several debutants showing in the league for Cork they will still head into this game as favourites, Kilkenny not really impressing in their wins over Limerick (1-18 to 1-10) and Clare 1-8 to 0-10. Cork beat the same opposition - Limerick (5-17 to 0-6), and Clare (2-6 to 0-4) during a storm.

Cork manager Matthew Twomey has given nine new players a run during both games. Were they fully tested? No, but it's a start. Some impressed, some not so.

The highlight of their performance over Limerick was Cliona Healy's roaming play and contribution of 1-8 in addition to setting up two goals.

Coach Davy Fitzgerald seems to be really pressing the running, moving, roaming game for his players.

The League has been good to Kilkenny, who have been in the last five finals, and six of the last seven. What's more, they've won five of those and are defending their crown this year.

Stalwart Denise Gaule wants that winning trend to continue.

"I think every team is the same whether they want to admit it or not. You want to win every match, every competition that you're in."

Kilkenny have won two All-Irelands in Gaule's time but there have been six final losses since 2009. Two of those were by a point to Cork and the Rebels also edged them again by the minimum in last year's semi-final.

Yet the Cats keep coming back and delivered Gaule's second title in 2020 when the spectre of falling short in four consecutive deciders loomed. That spoke volumes about their character. Another one-pointer last year had people wondering if there would be a mass exodus. It wasn't the case, the decision of manager Brian Dowling and his backroom staff of Tommy Shefflin, Pat O'Neill, Philly Larkin, and Ray Challinor to stay on gave a clear vote of confidence.



Cliona Healy is tackled by Limerick's Emma Kennedy. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



BATTLE: Cork's Amy O'Connor (left) holds off Grace Walsh

# Sigerson holds her nerve to level as Cork book final slot

CORK are headed for the Littlewoods Ireland Division 1 Camogie league final after Chloe Sigerson's 55-metre free in the fourth minute of stoppage time made it 1-8 each and gave the Rebels the draw they needed against Kilkenny at Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

Kilkenny picked off the opening score through Miriam Walsh after 14 seconds and with Katie Power also on the mark, they surged 0-4 to 0-1 ahead in the opening quarter.

However, Cork responded with a fine point from Aisling Thompson to leave them just 0-5 to 0-4 in arrears at the break.

Four minutes into the second half the Rebels were in front for the first time thanks to a Katrina Mackey goal.

But Kilkenny responded and when Mary O'Connell was dragged to the ground inside the square in the 52nd minute, Denise Gaule converted the resulting penalty to put her side 1-7 to 1-6 in front.

The sides traded points, Gaule bringing her tally to 1-3 for the afternoon with what looked like the winning score until Mackey was deemed to have been fouled by Claire Phelan with the last attack of the game, and Chloe Sigerson stepped up to send her team through to the league final with a clinical dead ball finish to make it 1-8 apiece.

Either Tipperary or All-Ireland champions Galway will be Cork's opposition in the final after a powerful first quarter gave Tipperary enough cushion to withstand a strong second half-showing from Dublin at the Ragg.

It finished 1-12 to 1-8 in favour of the home side, with Dublin scoring first through a wonderful Kerrie Finnegan point before Cait Devane, Grace O'Brien and Claire Hogan struck back with some

By Kevin Egan

excellent points.

Casey Hennessy netted the game's opening goal after 14 minutes to make it 1-4 to 0-1.

Dublin raised a green flag themselves through Kerrie Finnegan and were just 1-9 to 1-5 down at half-time. Scores dried up for both sides on the restart and the Dubs were unable to make up the ground to salvage the tie.

At the other end of the table, Down had a heroic effort to come from two points behind at the interval to pick up a 2-11 to 3-6 win over Offaly.

In what was effectively a relegation semi-final given the results elsewhere, 2-4 from Niamh Mallon was

the vital contribution for the Mourne County, while Offaly will hope that their fortunes can improve when they welcome back their All-Ireland winning St Rynagh's contingent for the demotion decider against Limerick.

It looked for all the world as if it would be Clare who would be condemned to finish bottom of their group and fight it out with the Faithful County when Limerick led 0-11 to 1-5 in the final quarter at the Gaelic Grounds. However a point from Zi Yan Spillane in the 55th minute kickstarted a run of five scores in a row for the Banner girls, who picked up their first win over the season on a 1-10 to 0-11 scoreline.

Aine O'Loughlin found the net for Clare in the first half but Limerick used the wind well and were 0-9 to 1-2 up at the break.

A low-scoring third quarter suggested that Clare weren't going to be in a position to reel in their neighbours, but Spillane's score was followed up by points from Claire Grogan, Eimear Kelly and Chloe Morey to snatch the victory.

**1-3**  
Kilkenny's Denise Gaule scored 1-3, including a converted penalty, in her side's defeat to Cork

# Progress in Fermoy with adult side back

**CAMOGIE**  
John Bohane

FERMOY fielded an adult team in a camogie game recently for the first time in the modern era.

History was made when the Fermoy junior camogie team played Bride Rovers in a challenge game which marked the first time in several years, they had fielded an adult team.

Their coach JJ Wall said fielding an adult team shows the progress the club is making.

"It is the first time we have fielded an adult team in a long number of years. It is very satisfying and shows the progress camogie is making in the club. It was great to get a good workout against Bride Rovers. We learned a bit more about our players and it showed us the areas we need to improve in," he said.

The Fermoy camogie team will be competing in the Junior C grade this season. Their coach said the team is generally made up of minor players.

"Most of the players are minor players, but we have a few older players who played previously and who want to come back playing camogie. We will train hard, and the games will be very beneficial for the players. It will be a great experience for them playing in the adult grade.

"It will be tough in our first year, but we will aim to be as competitive as possible. They are training hard, and they are enjoying it so far."

JJ, who also coaches the minors, said there is great cooperation between the various teams in Fermoy GAA Club.

"It is all one club in Fermoy. The camogie and ladies football is all part of the one GAA club. We have full access to all the facilities which is great.

"There is great will and cooperation between all the teams and the coaches. We are all aiming for the same cause, to develop players and bring success to the club."

Fermoy is now fielding teams in camogie from U8 up to the junior grade. JJ is pleased with the strong numbers playing camogie.

"The club started off small a few years ago with a U14 team the first group to be established. We are now fielding teams all the way up from underage level to junior level which is very encouraging. There are good numbers in those teams from U8 up. The U6 and U7 teams have a GAA nursery which involves both boys and girls playing a combination of football, camogie, and hurling," he added.

The camogie coach is very enthusiastic about the progress the club is making.

"There is great work going on behind the scenes in the club. There are great committee members driving the club on and a good number of coaches helping to develop the players."



Cork's Rachel O'Shea, blasts in a goal in wet and windy conditions against Derry in their league game. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Cork beat Derry to stay in contention for league 2 qualification

Cork 1-10  
Derry 1-8

### CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

CORK maintained their hopes of qualification for the latter stages of the Littlewoods Division 2 National League when they overcame Derry in difficult conditions in Castle Road on Saturday.

The result ensures they stay level with Meath in joint second place following Meath's victory over Kildare this weekend.

With Wexford leading and likely to grab top spot, it ensures an interesting finish to the group with Cork travelling to Meath on Saturday.

It'll be winner takes all for the runner-up spot, but if the game is a draw it will go to scoring differences, and Cork are in a good position on a plus-13 with Meath on minus-five.

Conditions were tough with heavy rain and wind making life difficult for both sides and Cork led by a point at the break having made a great start with Joanne Casey and Hayley Ryan on target with points before Aine McAllister led the Derry response with two points and one each from Shannon O'Connor and Dara McGuckin edging them in front.

Their lead was short-lived as Ryan fired over two points from play and with Rachel O'Shea hitting a superb goal Cork went four points clear.

Derry finished the half strong with three frees

from McAllister ensuring they had all to play for in the second half.

Two Casey frees settled Cork back into the second half but again Derry hit a purple patch.

Gráinne McNicholl had the sides level with a goal, but digging deep, back came Cork and three points without reply from Casey and Finola Neville (2) gave them breathing space.

Again, Derry fashioned a reply and McAllister and Aoife Shaw had the minimum between the sides with two points in quick succession.

Battling hard to draw level, Derry couldn't breach the Cork defence and a Casey free ensured the points were secured after a tough battle in difficult conditions.

Scorers for Cork: J Casey 0-5 (0-4 f), R Ryan 0-3, R O'Shea 1-0, F Neville 0-2.  
Derry: A McAllister 0-6 (0-4 f), G McNicholl 1-1, A Shaw 0-1.

CORK: S Beausang; N O'Leary, K Falvey, D Carroll, L O'Sullivan, A O'Callaghan, A Moloney; R Hartly, J O'Leary; J Casey, M Murphy, S Hutchinson; R O'Shea, F Neville (c), H Ryan.

Subs: L Callanan for D Carroll (44), C Finn for M Murphy (49), L Doyle for L O'Sullivan (57), M Barrett for F Neville (59).

DERRY: E Mullen; R Kirkpatrick, R Cassidy, C Ni Mhanian; R Bradley, D O'Kane; A McAllister, A Shaw, A Ni Chasaid; S O'Connor, G McNicholl, D McGuckin.

Subs: M Kerr for C Ni Mhanian (1-4), A Cassidy for D O'Kane (46), K Burke for D McGuckin (46), M Raftery for S O'Connor (52).

Referee: Kevin O'Brien.



Cork players line up in the wind and rain against Kilkenny during the Littlewoods Camogie National League semi-final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Chloe's late score seals Cork's place in league decider

### CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cork 1-8  
Kilkenny 1-8

IN horrific weather conditions at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork and Kilkenny battled against the wind and driving rain for a place in the Littlewoods Division 1 League final.

A late Chloe Sigerson free secured their position in the decider by virtue of better scoring difference, but Cork must wait another week to find out who their opponents will be on April 9-10 as there is another round to go in Group 1.

It was a game that went down to the wire but failed to excite except in the closing stages when Kilkenny looked to have done enough to win before the long-range effort from Sigerson.

Kilkenny had the elements in their favour in the opening half and led by a point in a low-scoring 30 minutes and they went into the dressing rooms 0-5 to 0-4 in front.

It was surprising that Kilkenny choose to drop a player into defence in the first half given the elements and it gave Cork the advantage of having Laura Treacy free at the back. She dealt efficiently with everything that came her way as the Cork defence held their line under pressure.

Miriam Walsh had an early Kilkenny point to settle her side, Denise Gaule pointed a free to extend their lead and it was nine minutes in before Cliona Healy had Cork on the scoreboard with a pointed free.

Kilkenny lost centre-back Kellyann Doyle to an injury after nine minutes and they had to re-jig their defence with sub Laure Murphy slotting in.



Ashling Thompson clears from Kilkenny's Michelle Teehan. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Kilkenny went two clear with Katie Power and Walsh pointing and as the rain teemed down.

Cork created a goal chance on 16 minutes when Sorcha McCartan beat her marker and off-loaded to Cliona Healy but she was denied by Aoife Norris with a superb save at the expense of a 45.

Ashling Thompson, who did trojan work all through, pointed from play, Claire Phelan replied, and with Healy pointing a free Cork trailed by a point at the interval.

Cork exploded into life on the restart, Amy O'Connor, surrounded by Kilkenny defenders, gave a superb over the top pass to the in-running Katrina Mackey who flicked the ball past Aoife Norris to give Cork the lead for the first time in the contest.

Pressurising the Kilkenny defence Cork extended their lead.

Healy and Thompson, who continued to impress, struck from play to open up a four-point gap. Cork should have taken control, but Kilkenny upped their game with points from Gaule and substitute Katie Nolan.

The Cats were now on top; the introduction of Nolan helped enormously and she was instrumental in setting up Walsh to win a penalty with a perfect pass. Gaule blasted to the net and Kilkenny were back in front with eight minutes remaining.

Cork, having not scored since the sixth minute of the second half, were struggling but won a 45 which Sigerson converted to level again.

Twice they were almost punished for sloppy defending which saw Kilkenny turn them over and on the second occasion win a free which Gaule sent over the bar with 61 minutes on the stadium clock.

Cork attacked on the puck-out but Kilkenny cleared their lines. As the rain bucketed down, the visitors coughed up a free.

Sigerson stepped up and from a distance slotted it between the posts to give Cork a draw and a place in the final.

Scorers for Cork: C Healy 0-4 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), K Mackey 1-0, A Thompson 0-2, C Sigerson 0-2 (0-1 45, 0-1 f).

Kilkenny: D Gaule 1-3 (1-0 pen, 0-2 f), M Walsh 0-2, K Power, K Nolan (f), C Phelan (f) 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane; L Hayes, L Treacy, S McCarthy, K O'Mahony, A Thompson; K Mackey, I O'Regan, C Healy; C Sigerson, S McCartan, A O'Connor.

Subs: M Ring for I O'Regan (66), C O'Sullivan for K O'Mahony (56).

KILKENNY: A Norris; S Crowley, T Fitzgerald, G Walsh; C Phelan, K Doyle, M Teehan; D Gaule, J Malone; N Deely, A Doyle, M Walsh; S Fitzgerald, K Power, M Barnbrink.

Subs: L Murphy for K Doyle (112), K Nolan for K Power (44), M O'Connor for S Crowley (47), A Prendergast for M Barnbrink (53), L Norris for G Walsh (11) 58.

Referee: John McDonagh (Galway).



Full-forward and captain Finola Neville chases possession against Derry. Picture: Larry Cummins

**Littlewoods Ireland  
Camogie League Div 1**

Cork	1-8
Kilkenny	1-8

**Therese O'Callaghan**  
Páirc Uí Chaoimh

Now that Cork have qualified for the Littlewoods Ireland Division 1 camogie league final, manager Matthew Twomey says they want to bridge the nine-year gap since they last won.

This Group 2 match ended in stalemate between these great rivals at a wind and rain-lashed Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday. However, a draw was enough for Cork to emerge to meet Galway or Tipperary early next month.

Chloe Sigerson was the hero, her long range free in the 64th minute producing the equaliser.

"At the start of the year, we hoped we could blood players and still be competitive. Nine girls made their debut. We are aware it is March, and we want to be around in August. But we are in the final and

# Cork boss Twomey targets title

when you get there you want to push on."

The conditions tested the resolve of both counties. Kilkenny had the elements in the first half and edged it 0-5 to 0-4.

When Katrina Mackey netted soon after the restart, and Cliona Healy and Ashling Thompson added points, the hosts went four up. However Kilkenny responded through a Denise Gaule penalty, switching the momentum back their way.

"It was a typical Cork/Kilkenny game, a dogfight. When we got the goal, we should have pushed on and that is disappointing. We left them back in and you don't do that against Kilkenny. We were lucky Chloe got a monster free at the end. Sometimes we took the wrong option and the basic errors were disappointing. We won the majority of dirty ball, so I don't want to be too critical. We have a few injuries - Pamela Mackey was here

today, Fiona Keating is about two weeks away, Julia White and Oral Cronin are not too far away but I don't think they will be ready for the final."

Brian Dowling was disappointed Kilkenny would not be defending their crown but the manager was, nonetheless, delighted with the performance.

"The conditions were horrendous. Fair play to both teams, I thought they served up a great game. It is nice to win trophies but the league was about finding new talent and giving girls like Niamh Deely and Steffi Fitzgerald proper game time. Overall it has been positive, we are unbeaten, and we have found a few new girls."

Meanwhile Tipperary maintained their bid to emerge from their group but were pushed all the way by Dublin before recording a 1-12 to 1-8 triumph at The Ragg and maintain their unbeaten record.

Mary Ryan, Aoife McGrath and Cáit Devane made their first starts of the competition and Devane's six points, allied to an early Casey Hennessy goal were the key scoring contributions. When Kerrie Finnegan goaled for Dublin however, the visitors were buoyed and it was nip and tuck all the way from there to the final whistle. Elsewhere, Down and Clare recorded their first triumphs of the campaign to ease relegation worries, while increasing those of Offaly and Limerick respectively. Down could call on their Portaferry contingent and it was significant, as Niamh Mallon scored 2-4 in the 2-11 to 3-6 victory over Offaly at Liatroim Fontenoys.

Despite Áine O'Loughlin's first-half goal, Clare looked like losing the Shannonside derby with Limerick when trailing by 0-11 to 1-5 at the three-quarter mark thanks to

the shooting of Caoimhe Costelloe at TUS Gaelic Grounds but they hit the last five scores from Zi Yan Spillane, Claire Grogan, Elmeear Kelly and Chloe Morey (two) to snatch a vital win.

**Scorers for Cork:** C Healy (0-4, 0-2 frees, 0-1 45), K Mackey (1-0), C Sigerson (0-1 free, 0-1 45) and A Thompson (0-2 each).

**Scorers for Kilkenny:** D Gaule (1-3, 1-0 pen, 0-3 frees), M Walsh (0-2), C Phelan (free), K Power and K Nolan (free) (0-1 each).

**CORK:** A Lee (Capt); M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane; L Hayes, L Treacy, S McCarthy; K O'Mahony, A Thompson; C Sigerson, I O'Regan, C Healy; A O'Connor, S McCartan, K Mackey.

**Subs:** C O'Sullivan for K O'Mahony (60), M Ring for I O'Regan (60).

**KILKENNY:** A Norris; S Crowley, T Fitzgerald, G Walsh; M Teehan, K A Doyle (Capt), C Phelan; S Fitzgerald, M Bambrick; N Deely, J Malone, A Doyle; D Gaule, M Walsh, K Power.

**Subs:** L Murphy for K A Doyle (13 inj), K Nolan for K Power (44), M O'Connell for S Crowley (47), A Prendergast for M Bambrick (53), L Norris for G Walsh (58 inj).

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

## Cahalane's late, late score sends Cork into minor semis

Cork	0-10	CAMOGIE
Waterford	0-9	Mary Newman

EXTRA-TIME was needed to separate Cork and Waterford in a close Tesco All-Ireland Minor Championship quarter-final in Castle Road.

A free from Orlaith Cahalane three minutes into injury-time at the end of extra-time finally separated the sides.

Joy for Cork but heartbreak for a determined Waterford side who battled so hard through a contest in which the sides were level on seven occasions.

Under-foot conditions were heavy after a lot of rain 24 hours previously and it showed as the sides had to work extra hard to gain control of the sliotar.

Little divided then over the hour and it was level 0-3 each at the interval, Alanna O'Sullivan, Laoise Forrest, and Molly Comerford on target for Waterford with Cahalane and Ciara Morrison getting Cork's scores.

Elmeear O'Neill edged Waterford into the lead on the resumption, but three points in a row from Cahalane frees put Cork two clear.

Both defences were under huge pressure but held out; Waterford goalkeeper Katelyn Gardiner was superb, plucking several attempts for points out of the air as Cork applied the pressure. Comerford narrowed the gap with a point; Leah Hallihane replied as Cork stayed two in front, but digging deep, Waterford won a free and Laoise Forrest converted to leave one point in it.

Showing huge character, Waterford battled on and a superb long-range effort from

Elmeear O'Neill sailed between the post to bring the game to extra-time.

Orlaith Mullins edged Cork in front once again, but Waterford replied and Cork were left off the hook when Emma Fitzgerald beat two Cork defenders only to see her shot skin the posts and go wide.

Down the pitch came Cork and a point from Hallihane put them one clear at half-time in extra-time.

With both sides visibly tired it was tough going.

Alanna O'Sullivan had the sides on level for the seventh time and as the clock ticked towards 20 minutes the game continued.

Cork won a close-in free with three minutes of added time in extra-time played. Cahalane converted and Cork were one in front.

Waterford did have a chance to attack but Cork cleared under pressure to the sound of the full-time whistle.

**Scorers for Cork:** O Cahalane: 0-6 (4), O Mullins 0-2, L Hallihane, C Morrison 0-1 each.

**Waterford:** E O'Neill, M Comerford 0-2 each, L Forrest 0-2 (1), A O'Sullivan 0-2 (1), E Fitzgerald 0-1.

**CORK:** J Connaughton; G O'Neill, A Barrett, T Elliott; C Walsh, A Healy, A Cashman; E Duignan, M Condon; O Mullins (c); F Twohig, O Cahalane; E Crowley, A Fahy, C Morrison.

**Subs:** L Hallihane for E Crowley (14), E Sheehan for C Walsh (14), C Murphy for A Fahy (44), G O'Mahony for F Twohig (44), M Martin for C Murphy (14-15).

**WATERFORD:** K Gardiner; F Murphy, L Forrest, J Kirvin; M Sheridan, A Hartley, B Bowdren; E Boylan, E O'Neill; R O'Brien, M Comerford; M Buck, A McNulty, A O'Sullivan.

**Subs:** E Fitzgerald for R O'Brien (43), C Sherlock for M Comerford (70), A Murphy for J Kirvin (70).

**Referee:** Kevin O'Brien (Limerick).



Douglas' Chelsea Noonan is tackled by Courcy Rovers' Elaine O'Reilly. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

**Daly** (Cork and Yougal): On March 9, 2022; peacefully, in the presence of her fond friend Charlotte at Marymount University Hospital and Hospice; MARY-JO (nee Ryan), Inniscarra Road, Fairhill (former Camogie player). Sadly missed by her forever friend Charlotte, Mary-Jo's sons, daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchild, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, extended family and friends. Resting at her home on today (Friday) from 2pm-6pm with Rosary at 5.45pm. Requiem Mass on tomorrow (Saturday) at 10am in the North Cathedral. Cremation afterwards at the Island Crematorium, Ringaskiddy. Condolences may be added at [www.RIP.ie](http://www.RIP.ie) or at [www.oconnorfuneralcork.ie](http://www.oconnorfuneralcork.ie). Requiescat in pace

## Hennelly helps Galway edge Tipp by nailing disputed free

A POINTED free by Rebecca Hennelly in the eighth minute of injury time gave Galway a 1-11 to 0-13 triumph over heroic and heartbroken Tipperary in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League in Ballinasloe.

The free was a hotly-contested one by the Tipp management after Claire Hogan was adjudged to have charged into Sarah Dervan but referee John Dermody stuck to his guns and Hennelly hit the crucial score that gives Galway a place in the final against Cork on April 9.

It was dreadfully hard on the Tipp outfit who had pushed the All-Ireland champions all the way in last year's championship semi-final, having previously done the same in the penultimate stages of the League against Kilkenny.

Two years ago, they produced a fantastic backs-to-the-wall effort to beat Galway and book a place in the League decider, only for Covid-19 to lead to the competition's cancellation.

Had they prevailed on this occasion, it would have been one for the annals as they played 55 of the 70 or so minutes with 14 players, 38 of them into a very strong wind, after having Casey

### CAMOGIE By Daragh Ó Conchúir

Hennelly sent off following an altercation with Aoife Donohue. Like the definitive free, it was a call that did not meet with the approval of the Premier contingent. Hennelly had already scored two points by that juncture and was a huge loss, while Cáit Devane (below) had to be relocated further out the field giving Galway more cover defensively.

With so much at stake between the group's two unbeaten sides, it was no surprise to see the players tearing into one another with such relish. Tipp moved five clear thanks to scores from Hennelly, Devane, Caoimhe Maher and Róisín Howard, exciting prospects Sabina Rabbite and the excellent Áine Keane finding the target for Galway.

Tipperary  
**MOVED:** Tipp's Cáit Devane

had led by 0-9 to 0-4 at half-time but that did not look enough given the strong wind and their numerical disadvantage.

Keane was among those on the mark as Galway reduced the margin to three after nine minutes of second-half action but Tipperary redoubled their efforts and after a quite astounding score from Clodagh McIntyre moved five in front.

But it was the 47th introduction of the Sarsfields siblings Orlaith and Siobhán McGrath that turned the game on its head.

Two minutes later Orlaith supplied her younger sister for a goal. Orlaith then pointed almost straight after and the sides were level, 0-12 to 1-9.

Devane drilled over her seventh point of the day from a free to restore Tipp's slight advantage but Hennelly brought the sides level once more.

Both teams had opportunities to win it but when Dermody signalled for a free after Hogan, in possession, collided with Dervan, Hennelly delivered the goods for the Maroons.



Cork's Tara Elliot blocks down this shot by Waterford's Alannah O'Sullivan. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



# REBELS ADVANCE TO LEAGUE DECIDER

Cork's Amy O'Connor puts Kilkenny's Miriam Bambrick under pressure during their Division 1 clash at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

(Photos: Jim Coughlan - INPHO)



Late Chloe Sigerson free earns Cork the draw they need to book Division 1 league final place

CORK 1-8  
KILKENNY 1-8

## GER MCCARTHY REPORTS

CORK needed an injury-time Chloe Sigerson free to qualify for this year's Littlewoods Ireland National Camogie League Division 1 final following last Saturday's draw with Kilkenny at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Matthew Twomey's side needed to avoid defeat to qualify for this year's league decider and succeeded by securing a last-gasp draw amid awful weather conditions.

Kilkenny were also within a victory of reaching the league final and contributed to an absorbing match. A heavy Páirc Uí Chaoimh pitch, constant rain and gale wind only added to the drama with Cork acquiring the point they needed to reach the league final thanks to a better scoring difference than Kilkenny.

'We worked on a specific game plan all week but the

weather conditions, water on the pitch - I know it was the same for both teams - turned it into a dogfight,' Cork manager Matthew Twomey told *The Southern Star*.

'It was a bit of a free fest as well but so bad was the weather that you couldn't strike the ball properly. I was very pleased with Chloe Sigerson's late free. Her composure was brilliant.'

'We are into a league final having set out at the start of the campaign to blood as many players as possible and get to that final.'

'We are after doing that, probably harder than we thought (it would be), but we are happy with the outcome.'

Last Saturday's

Division 1 Group 2 league game turned into a battle of attrition because of the elements. But when questions were asked by a

**Cork midfielder Aisling Thompson was the star of the show against Kilkenny.**

fellow All-Ireland contender, Cork came up with the answers. Cork's defence played well for the third game in a row while Aisling Thompson was superb in midfield. A tight, hard-hitting clash between two old rivals ended in a draw and left everyone present hoping for another match-up later on in the year.

Chloe Sigerson was a late replacement for Newcestown's Clara O'Sullivan on the Cork starting line-up while Kilkenny brought in Michelle Teehan, Aoife Doyle and Miriam Bambrick ahead of throw-in.

Miriam Walsh put the visitors ahead inside the first minute and Denise Gaule doubled her side's lead from a free immediately after. Cork struggled playing into the teeth of a strong wind and driving rain until Cliona Healy converted a free to halve the deficit after eight minutes.

Kate Power and Walsh scores made it 0-4 to 0-1 but Kilkenny needed goalkeeper Aoife Norris to produce a stunning save to deny Cliona Healy a goal at the 15-minute mark.

Cork settled and another Healy free plus a well-taken Aisling Thompson effort made it a one-point game once again with ten minutes to half time. Scores remained hard to come

by as Healy and Claire Phelan exchanged frees to leave Kilkenny 0-5 to 0-4 ahead at the interval.

Mercifully, the rain temporarily abated at the beginning of a second period in which Cork grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck. Katrina Mackey raced clear and flicked the ball over the line ahead of an out-rushing Aoife Norris for a crucial Cork goal.

Cliona Healy added a point from the ensuing puck-out and Aisling Thompson's second score of the afternoon made it 1-6 to 0-5 in the 36th minute. Denise Gaule's converted free was a badly-needed Kilkenny score before an enthralling contest took another twist with nine minutes to go.

Kilkenny sub Mary O'Connell was fouled en-route to goal and Denise Gaule dispatched the resulting penalty to the bottom corner. Cork responded with Chloe Sigerson landing a 45 - Cork's first score in nearly 20 minutes - to level it up.

A dramatic finale saw Kilkenny earn a last-minute free in front of Cork's goal which Gaule duly converted. There was still time for Chloe Sigerson, four minutes into injury-time, to reply from a free and earn Cork a draw and national league final appearance.

## ★ THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Aisling Thompson was a colossus in midfield throughout a tough afternoon for Cork. Thompson scored 0-2 and was excellent all the way through.

**Star moment:** Katrina Mackey's second-half goal turned the tide in Cork's favour. The Douglas forward finished her chance superbly.

**Talking point:** The weather. Incessant rain and a gale wind made life extremely difficult.

**What's next?** Kilkenny's league campaign is over despite not losing a group game. Cork await their opponents in the decider which will be decided next weekend.

## DIVISION 1 GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Cork	3	2	1	0	55	21	+34	7
Kilkenny	3	2	1	0	43	34	+9	7
Clare	3	1	0	2	27	34	-7	3
Limerick	3	0	0	3	30	66	-36	0

'There were some young girls who performed brilliantly out there today, like Meabh Murphy marking Denise Gaule for most of the match and I thought she did remarkably well on her,' Matthew Twomey added.

### Scorers

**Cork:** C Healy 0-4 (2f, 145); K Mackey 1-0; C Sigerson (1f, 145), A Thompson 0-2 each.

**Kilkenny:** D Gaule 1-3 (1-0 pen, 3f); M Walsh 0-2; C Phelan (1f), K Power, K Nolan (1f) 0-1 each.

**Cork:** A Lee; M Murphy, L

Coppinger, M Cahalane; L Hayes, L Treacy, S McCarthy; K O'Mahoney, A Thompson; C Sigerson, I O'Regan, C Healy; A O'Connor, S McCartan, K Mackey.

**Subs:** C O'Sullivan for K O'Mahoney (61), M Ring for I O'Regan (61).

**Kilkenny:** A Norris; S Crowley, T Fitzgerald, G Walsh; C Phelan, K Doyle, M Teehan; D Gaule, J Malone; N Deely, A Doyle, M Walsh; S Fitzgerald, K Power, M Bambrick.

**Subs:** L Murphy for K Doyle (12, inj), K Nolan for K Power (44), M O'Connell for S Crowley (47), A Prendergast for M Bambrick (53), L Norris for G Walsh (59, inj).





Muddy conditions for Cork players against Waterford during the Tesco All-Ireland Minor quarter-final at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Plenty of top class camogie action on inter-county front

ANOTHER busy weekend of inter-county games with three Cork teams in action within 24 hours.

Unfortunately, there's a clash of fixtures again, with the Tesco All-Ireland minor semi-final taking place in Thomastown at 2pm on Sunday while the Munster U16 championship goes ahead in Castle Road at 2pm. It is tough to get games played at times to suit everybody, but it's a huge pity both games are on the same day so far apart.

**TODAY: Littlewoods Division 2 League: Meath v Cork, Páirc Tailteann, 3pm**

The Division 2 team head to Páirc Tailteann this afternoon for the last game in their group against Meath.

As we predicted a few weeks ago it has all come down to the last game to decide who will take the runners-up spot and a quarter-final place. In the event of a draw it will come down to scoring differences and currently Cork are in a good position with an eight-point advantage over Meath.

Last season Meath lost to Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final. They are a well-balanced, established side with a lot of experience.

They got their league campaign back on track with a win over Kildare last week following a disappointing 2-10 to 1-7 loss to Wexford. Just like Cork had to battle hard for victory over Derry, by a point. Aoife Minogue, Grace Coleman, the experienced Kristina Troy, Amy Gaffney, Megan Thynne, and Sinéad Hackett continue to be to the fore for them.

In appalling weather conditions last Saturday Cork stood up and were counted as they overcame the challenge posed by Derry, having to dig deep. Two points separated the sides at the finish with a Rachel O'Shea goal proving vital.

Manager Trevor Coleman has been giving players an opportunity to stake a claim for championship and with a play-off spot within touching distance he will not be slow in emptying his bench.

**TOMORROW**  
Tesco All-Ireland minor semi-final: Cork v Tipperary, Thomastown, 2pm

Yes, you have read right, the venue is in Kilkenny for the all-Munster clash in the Tesco All-Ireland semi-final.

### CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

It seems no venue could be secured in the whole of Munster and as a result, the counties were given the choice of tossing or playing in Kilkenny. We are constantly hearing about integration and being all under the one umbrella but I wonder will there be any more shelter under that umbrella if the GAA, camogie, and ladies football combine?

It is a sad situation to think there was no pitch in the province of Munster willing to host such a prestigious game. But hats off to Thomastown for hosting.

Cork are bidding to reach the final for the second year in a row and having received one heck of a fright against Waterford last weekend they will certainly be on red alert.

Conditions were tough after torrential rain on Saturday left under foot conditions heavy, but both sides battled through 60 minutes before going to extra-time where it took an Orlaith Cahalane free three minutes into added time in extra-time to finally decide it.

Tipperary, having topped Group 3 were one of the two sides to go directly to the semi-final. They overcame Limerick, Wexford, and Antrim already.

Kate Ralph, Celine Guinan, Orla O'Brien, and Jennifer Heffernan have all impressed to date while midfielder Orla O'Brien has been strong all through, with keeper Molly O'Dwyer commanding a strong defence that includes Ella O'Dwyer, Niamh Franks, and Meabh Ryan.

Nothing beats a hard match and Cork certainly got that last Sunday from Waterford, but Jerry Wallace will be looking for a better return from his attack.

Only four of their 10 points against Waterford were from play and he knows this will not be enough to get through to another final.

**TOMORROW: Munster U16 Championship: Cork v Waterford, Castle Road, 2pm**

The Munster U16 championship gets under way tomorrow when holders Cork entertain Waterford in Castle Road in what they hope will be a winning start to their provincial campaign.



Cork's Laura Tracey breaks from Kilkenny's Niamh Deeley and Katie Power at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Pictures: Eddie O'Hare

# Psychological win for Cork



Linda Mellerick

DESPITE reaching the league final, which was the overriding goal of Matthew Twomey and his management team last weekend, I think the psychological win over Kilkenny in the Littlewoods national league semi-final goes way beyond that.

For a team with several newcomers, a win over a Kilkenny side that an experienced Cork team narrowly beat by a point in last year's All-Ireland semi-final, this win will boost their self-belief considerably.

You could argue that Kilkenny manager Brian Dowling will equally take a number of positives from his side's win, most notably the fact that after Cork went four up, they responded to take the lead entering additional time before Chloe Sigerson scored the decisive leveller with a free from about 50 yards.

Kelly Ann Doyle was a loss for the visitors, going off injured in the 12th minute, and there was concern around the injury to Grace Walsh on 58. Davina Tobin, Maggie Farrell, and Colette Dormer were absent from Kilkenny's lineup compared with last year's semi-final, with Mary O'Connell introduced entering the final quarter.

O'Connell is a player that regularly impresses, and she won the penalty that Denise Gáile converted to give Kilkenny a one-point lead, until Sigerson sealed it for Cork, who went through to the final on scoring difference. It's not the first time Kilkenny has been on the receiving end of bitter losses to Cork by the minimal and, when games are that tight entering the closing minutes, doubt creeps in.

Either Tipperary or All-Ireland champions Galway will be Cork's opposition in the final after a powerful first quarter gave Tipperary enough cushion to withstand a strong second-half showing from Dublin at the Ragg.

It finished 1-12 to 1-8 in favour of the



Cork manager Mathew Twomey and selector Davy Fitzgerald on the sideline.

home side, with Dublin scoring first through a Kerrie Finnegan point before Cáit Devane, Grace O'Brien, and Claire Hogan struck back with some excellent points.

An incisive run from Clodagh McEntyre opened the door for Casey Hennessy to crash in the game's opening goal after 14 minutes to make it 1-4 to 0-1, but Dublin responded with three of the next four points, all from the stick of Aisling Maher.

O'Brien and Caoimhe McCarthy restored Tipperary's six-point lead, but Finnegan's goal dragged Dublin back into the game after 22 minutes.

It was 1-9 to 1-5 at half time but the scores dried up after the interval, with no flag raised until Devane fired over a free in the 47th minute. Dublin found some form in the last 10 minutes with a well-taken point from Jody Couch and two more frees from Maher, but they left it too late to salvage a win.

At the other end of the table, Down had a valiant effort to come from two points behind at the interval to pick up a 2-11 to 3-6 win over Offaly.

In what was effectively a relegation semi-final given the results that have already happened in the group, 2-4 from Niamh Mallon was the vital contribution

for the Mourne county, while Offaly will hope their fortunes can improve when they welcome back their All-Ireland winning St Rynagh's contingent for the relegation decider against Limerick.

It looked as if it would be Clare who would be condemned to finish bottom of their group and fight it out with Offaly when Limerick took an 0-11 to 1-5 advantage into the final quarter of their game with Clare at the TUS Gaelic Grounds, but a point from Zi Yan Spillane in the 55th minute kick-started a run of five scores in a row for the Banner girls, who picked up their first win over the season by 1-10 to 0-11.

Aine O'Loughlin found the net for Clare in the first half but Limerick used the wind well and were 0-9 to 1-2 up at the break, with Caoimhe Costello carrying the bulk of their scoring load.

A low-scoring third quarter suggested that Clare weren't going to be able to reel in their neighbours, but Spillane's score was followed up by points from Claire Grogan, Eimear Kelly, and Chloe Morey to snatch the victory.

Cork's minors play for another All-Ireland final spot tomorrow against Tipperary and we wish Gerry Wallace and all involved the very best of luck.

## Hennelly hits late winner for Galway

A pointed free by Rebecca Hennelly in the eighth minute of injury-time gave Galway a 1-11 to 0-13 triumph over Tipperary in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League in Ballinasloe.

The free was a hotly-contested one by the Tipp management after Claire Hogan was adjudged to have charged into Sarah Dervan but referee John Dermody stuck to his guns and Hennelly held her nerve from outside the 45 and close to the sideline to hit the crucial score that gives Galway a place in the final against Cork on April 9.

Tipp had Casey Hennessy, who had already scored two points, dismissed at the beginning of the second quarter. And though they led by 0-9 to 0-4 at half-time, it did not seem sufficient given that numerical disadvantage and the strong wind they would be playing into after the resumption.

In the end however, Cathal Murray had to send for the big guns and within two minutes of their 47th minute introduction, Orlaith McGrath set up sister Siobhán for a goal and then shot an equalising point. Cait Devane slotted her seventh point of the day from a free to restore Tipp's advantage but Hennelly levelled from inside her own half and then when John Dermody judged that Claire Hogan had charged into Sarah Dervan, the sweet-striking ciotóg made little of the pressure to complete the smash-and-grab job. Mullaney was incensed by the decision against Hogan and could not comprehend Hennessy's sending off either.

"I'm not happy at all. Why would I be? Down to 14, two people pulling on the ball and one of ours gets sent off. I know it's hard (for refs) but some of the decisions were incredulous. Two people going for the ball (at the end) and a free goes against us. Are you joking me?"

"Now I know Galway people could say the same thing but if you're going to call a free call them all the time or don't call them at all. And don't be deciding a match by giving a soft free like that. I'm proud of our players. I was nearly in tears there and they're in tears. They couldn't work harder or do any more. This is not fair."

Sunday was a red-letter occasion as Dublin played their first senior camogie game at Croke Park since 2011 and a fortuitous second-half goal from Aisling O'Neill set the seal on a 1-13 to 0-6 victory over Down.

The Mournewomen were reliant on Niamh Mallon for scores, while Dublin could call on the likes of Aisling Maher, Nicola Gannon and O'Neill.

Keane was among those on the mark as Galway reduced the margin to three after nine minutes of second-half action but Tipp redoubled their efforts and after a quite astounding score from Clodagh McIntyre, moved five in front. Hanniffy reduced that by one, and it was time for the McGraths' introduction. It was pure drama to the end, when Galway emerged victorious.

## Incensed Mullaney proud of Tipp effort

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Bill Mullaney promised Tipperary would bounce back after his side fell to a 1-11 to 0-13 defeat to Galway in Ballinasloe on Saturday, the All-Ireland champions only hitting the front when Rebecca Hennelly pointed a pressure free in the eighth minute of injury time to send her team into the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 final against Cork on April 9.

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## Late Healy point puts Cork into minor final

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cork 1-7  
Tipperary 0-9

IN a nail-biting Tesco All-Ireland minor semi-final, where the sides were level on five occasions, a superb point on 60 minutes from Aoife Healy secured the win for Cork.

The reward for Jerry Wallace's side is an All-Ireland final showdown with Galway.

Tipperary, aided by the wind in the opening half settled early and two points without reply from Anna Fahy and Orla O'Brien gave them an early lead before Cork scored through Orlaith Mullins. Fahy levelled but Kate Ralph edged Tipp back into the lead at the end of the opening quarter.

Orlaith Cahalane put Cork back in front with what turned out to be a crucial goal. Despite Tipperary enjoying lot of possession, they failed to make it count.

Celine Guinan had the lead down to a point, converting a free from a difficult angle, and with the sides evenly matched the battle for control continued.

Happier

Two points without reply from Fahy and Guinan edged Tipperary in front and at the break, just a point separated the sides, 0-6 to 1-2. Cork were the happier as Tipperary had wasted a number of chances.

Cork made a determined start to the second half with a pointed Cahalane free and one from play from Clara Morrison edging them back into the lead. Continuing to stay on their heels, Tipp responded with a Guinan free to tie the sides up for the fourth time.

Both defences held firm under pressure. Cahalane pointed a 45 to swing the game back in Cork's favour but once again Tipperary hit back, through Aoife Dwyer from play and a Guinan free.

Cork were equal to the challenge and they tied it up again with a Cahalane free.

Battling furiously Cork edged back in front with a superb effort from Healy sailing between the posts on 60 minutes and it was enough to see them through to a final meeting with Galway, who defeated Kilkenny 0-14 to 2-3 in the other semi-final.

Scorers for Cork: O Cahalane 1-3 (0-2), O-1 (45), C Morrison, A Fahy, O Mullins, A Healy 0-1 each.

Tipperary: C Guinan 0-4 (1, A Fahy 0-2, A Dwyer, O O'Brien, K Ralph 0-1 each.

CORK: J Connaughton; G O'Neill, A Barrett, T Elliott; A Cashman, A Healy, E Dughran; E Sheehan, M Condon; L Hallahan, C Morrison, O Cahalane, G O'Mahony, O Mullins, A Fahy.

Subs: M de Burca for G O'Neill (1-1), N Nash for O Mullins (52), M Martin for A Fahy (52).

TIPPERARY: K Meehan; L Fahie, N Franks, S Heffernan; L Ryan, A Linehan, E Horgan; K Ferncombe, O O'Brien; A Dwyer, G Moloney, N Costigan; K Ralph, C Guinan, A Fahie.

Subs: L O'Connor for C Guinan (58), E O'Dwyer for K Ferncombe (61).



Lauren Callanan bursts out against Meath in Cork's Littlewoods National League Division 2 win at Páirc Tailteann. Picture: Gerry Shanahan

## Cork see off Meath in style to seal place in quarter-finals

Meath 0-7  
Cork 2-12

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

CORK travelled to Páirc Tailteann for a crunch decider to see who would advance to the Division 2 Littlewoods League quarter-finals.

With Wexford topping Group 1 on nine points and favourites going into battle with Kildare you had to assume they were safely through, and it was going to be either Cork or Meath that advanced with them. Both sides entered Saturday's game with six points, but Cork had a scoring difference of +8 so a draw would have sufficed; Meath needed a win.

Cork made no mistake. The wind was strong on an otherwise sunny day with the expansive pitch a joy for the Division 2 sides to compete on. It's made for fast play into open space and Cork took full advantage.

Cork faced into the wind in the opening half. Joanne Casey settled her side with a well-converted free in the opening minute. Aoife Minogue pointed from the restart but after that it was Cork who were in control for the next 13 minutes. Casey finished a great Cork move low and hard to the net, Clodagh Finn pointed either side of two Casey frees and it was 1-4 to 0-1 on 16 minutes.

Meath won the second quarter 0-4 to 0-2, but Cork would have been happy with their 1-6 to 0-5 advantage at the break. It was a good opening period for Cork even with some wayward distribution at times during the second quarter and losing three long puck-outs when the better option would have been to go short while holding the

upper hand in numbers at the back.

Cork moved the ball well and showed a strong work-rate, overturning Meath on several occasions, forcing errors and frees. Siobhán Hutchinson, Casey, and Rachel O'Shea did well in that regard with Finola Neville dropping back, winning good ball and distributing well.

Two classy points from Rachel Harty and Casey started the second half well and there was no way back for Meath when O'Shea struck a well-taken goal on 39 minutes.

Defensively, Cork were strong and composed. Lauren Callanan dominated the middle third, their forwards worked hard and found space to take some lovely scores, and overall a very good team display saw them through.

Credit to referee Barry Nea who contributed to a fast free-flowing game.

Scorers for Meath: A Minogue 0-4 (0-2), O-1 (45), S Hackett (1), A Maguire, A Gaffney 0-1 each.

Cork: J Casey 1-6 (0-5), R O'Shea 1-1, H Ryan 0-2, C Finn, R Harty, M Barrett 0-1 each.

MEATH: M Randal; S Payne, E Burke, S Leonard; T King, M Clinch, L Devine; A Minogue, G Coleman; A Slattery, A Maguire, A Gaffney; A McNeary, C Coffey, S Hackett.

Subs: S Kealy for A Maguire (43), E Regan for G Coleman (43), N Daly for A McNeary (50), E O'Connell for A Slattery (57), C O'Riordan for C Coffey (57).

CORK: S Ahern; N O'Leary, K Fahy, A Crowley; A Moloney, A O'Callaghan, J O'Leary; R Harty, L Callanan; J Casey, C Finn, S Hutchinson; R O'Shea, F Neville, H Ryan.

Subs: L O'Sullivan for A Moloney (40), M Murphy for H Ryan (45), M Barrett for S Hutchinson (52), C Crowley for R O'Shea (57), L Mannix for J Casey (60), M Buckley for R Harty (60), C O'Leary for F Neville (61).

Referee: Barry Nea (Westmeath).



Aine Crowley in action against Meath in Cork's Littlewoods National League Division 2 win at Páirc Tailteann. Picture: Gerry Shanahan

# Cahalane fires Cork into All-Ireland final

## Strong West Cork interest in county minor camogie team

BY GER MCCARTHY

CORK camogie experienced a profitable weekend with the county's minors reaching an All-Ireland final and their U16s getting off the mark in Munster.

A week on from edging Waterford by a point after extra-time, Cork minors produced a similarly battling display to see off Tipperary 1-7 to 0-9 in Thomastown to qualify for the 2022 Tesco Minor All-Ireland Camogie final.

Manager Jerry Wallace and a talented squad that includes West Cork representatives Caoimhe Murphy (Kilbree), Emily O'Donovan (Kilbree), Ellen Murphy (Timoleague/Kilbrittain), Fiona Twohig (Valley Rovers) and Millie Condon (Ballinascorthy) will face Galway in the All-Ireland minor decider on Saturday evening (5pm) at Semple Stadium, Thurles.

Another player with plenty of West Cork and Castlehaven connections, Orlaith Cahalane (St Finbarr's), played a vital role in Cork's semi-final win over



Cork minor camogie star Orlaith Cahalane, winner of the Cork City & County All Star Youth Awards, sponsored by John Buckley Sports, alongside her parents Niall and Ailish and sister Grainne at the Maldron Hotel in Cork. Orlaith scored 1-3 in Cork's semi-final win over Tipperary last weekend.

(Photo: Siobhán Russell)

Tipperary. The emerging star scored 1-3 of her side's winning total and will be an important player in this weekend's All-Ireland final.

'I know the girls and everyone involved with the Cork minor team is proud because that semi-final win over Tipperary was one of those fabulous moments in sport and for Cork camogie,' Cork minor manager Jerry Wallace told *The Southern Star*.

'Orlaith's (Cahalane) goal arrived at a very important juncture in the game for us. We have been contesting the elements this year including the underfoot conditions and the Tipperary game was exactly the same.'

'In fairness to Orlaith, as she proved against Waterford and earlier in the campaign, she got a great goal and at an important moment in the game when our backs were against the wall.'

'Looking ahead to this week-

end's All-Ireland final, I just hope our girls can be the best that they can be and that we can bring a title back to Cork.'

Donie Daly's Cork U16s proved too strong for Waterford in the opening round of the Munster Camogie U16 championship at Castle Road last weekend. A comprehensive 1-19 to 0-3 win over the Déise means Cork are in the driving seat in their provincial championship

group despite facing a lengthy wait until their next competitive outing.

Clonakilty's Amy McCarthy was amongst Cork's scorers on a day the winners were in control from start to finish. Using eight substitutes, the Cork manager got a good look at the majority of his panel who started their season in the best possible manner.

Unfortunately and strangely, Cork must wait another five weeks before their next match. A new backdoor system rather than the usual straight Munster camogie championship knock-out format means Waterford must next play Limerick and the winners will face Cork in the provincial semi-finals on April 24th. From a West Cork point of view, having Amy McCarthy and Newcestown's Alice Buckley involved with this year's Cork U16s represents a welcome boost for promoting camogie in the rural region.

'We know Amy McCarthy from being on last year's panel and she is a great player,' Cork U16 manager Donie Daly told *The Southern Star* earlier this year.

'Amy's club, Clonakilty camogie, is very strong right now. We know all about Amy from her competing at premier level, her speed and athleticism.'

'Newcestown's Alice Buckley represented Cork at U14 and was on last year's U15 panel as well. She is a strong, coura-

geous player. Alice will bring a lot of skill and physicality to her game and for Cork this year. I believe that those two girls, Amy and Alice, could be huge players for the Cork U16s in 2022.'

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Clonakilty's JJ Deasy leads his Cork LGFA U14 inter-county footballers into battle away to Kerry this weekend. The Rebellets registered an excellent 2-18 to 2-3 Munster LGFA U14 championship opening round win over Tipperary in Cloughduv last month.

Cork's scores came courtesy of Mourneabbey's Laura Walsh 1-13 (8f), Glanmire's Aoife Treacy (1-0), Ballincollig's Sarah O'Connor (0-2), Bandon's Evelyn McCarthy, Kinsale's Lily Collins and Mourneabbey's Lauren Finnegan (0-1 each).

A Munster U14 final berth already sealed, this young Cork team has been busily training since their last outing and played numerous challenge matches including a game against Mayo.

'We have to prepare as best we can for facing Kerry,' manager JJ Deasy said.

'This is still a step into the unknown for a lot of us. All the girls are new to this. We don't have any previous years (experience) to go on either because of Covid. It is a case of learning as we go and preparing the team as best we can, to get them in the right frame of mind.'

# O'Flynn: Gender equality must be top of the GAA agenda

Michael Moynihan

Former Camogie Association president Joan O'Flynn says gender equality within Gaelic games is the wider issue behind recent discussions about integration of the Gaelic games organisations — the GAA, the Camogie Association, and the LGFA.

'It's a case of "what's your goal?"' says O'Flynn.

'If the goal is gender equality in Gaelic games, if that's commonly shared and people can articulate what that means in everyday language — everyone understands that that's not going to happen just because you say it.'

'That comes down to organisational values, decision-making processes within organisations, the culture in those organisations... a lot of today's female Gaelic games players are working in en-

vironments in which gender equality is a norm.

'So your day job is in an environment where there's a commitment to gender equality, but then you go up to a pitch and may have a different experience.'

'This generation is ahead in terms of knowing what they want, to experience games in a gender-equal way, so it's up to the associations — all of the Gaelic games associations — to make that happen.'

'I'm not privy to what's precisely going on behind the scenes, so I'm not about to criticise particular organisations, but this is an issue which isn't intractable, or something nobody knows about, because it's happening in other areas of modern life as well. This is just the Gaelic games version.'

O'Flynn points out that discussions about equality in

sport take place in a wider context also, one which links sport and public policy.

'Take the citizens' assembly model — there was a citizens' assembly on gender equality which published a report last year suggesting public funding for culture, arts, sports and media organisations should be contingent on published plans for gender equality within those organisations, and addressing issues around quotas and governing bodies.'

'The Government has its own sports action plan which says that governing bodies need to publish equality action plans and to achieve 40 per cent representation of each gender on their boards by the end of 2023.'

'And in the last couple of weeks the European Commission published a report, Towards More Gender Equality

in Sport, which says much the same thing.'

'There's a momentum, then, in public policy around making gender equality more centrally connected to public policy, and that's the kind of momentum that any sports governing body will have to take account of over the coming period, because everyone is talking about those kinds of frameworks for the next decade.'

Hence O'Flynn's interest in equality compared to integration: 'In terms of Gaelic games, a point worth making is that while a lot of the language has been around mergers and integration and so on, maybe the debate has now moved on and it needs to be more about equality now.'

'The recent GPA motion picked up on that issue, ladies football had a motion on that and camogie will have a mo-



Joan O'Flynn: A clear pathway towards gender equality needed.

tion on that issue at its Congress next month.

'Gender equality means addressing certain things — is everyone on the same page and is there a common vision for it, how would the rules governing an organisation be different if that organisation is working towards more gender equality?'

'I don't think anyone expects gender equality to happen overnight but what

would help is to have a clear pathway towards that, a clear approach. And changes which reflect the integration of gender equality into the values of an organisation and the culture of an organisation.'

'How does that conversation happen across Gaelic games, with the current imbalances that there are? There have been plenty of efforts around collaboration and cooperation — that's clearly the case at club level, there are double-headers and so on at inter-county level, all those things, but it's still segregated administration of sports, and Gaelic games is a bit of an outlier now in that regard.'

'For instance, golf just went through a process to move itself towards greater integration, and gender equality was at the heart of that. You don't want to wait another 40 or 50 years for it to happen.'

# Cronin praises Clon camogie as club celebrates success in style

Cork All-Star Orla Cronin was the special guest for Clon's big celebrations

BY MARTIN WALSH

HAILING the growing success of Clonakilty Camogie Club, Cork camogie star and special guest Orla Cronin was hugely impressed with the level of talent within the club as she presented some 70 medals to club members to mark their success over the past three seasons in several grades.

'It's a really talented bunch of girls that the club has here,' Camogie All-Star Cronin said. 'The amount of medals shows what talent is about here as well. Camogie is up and coming in West Cork and has been for a good ten years. I think Jenny (Jennifer O'Leary) has been the standout player to come out of West Cork.'

On the new Cork camogie set-up, which has seen Matthew Twomey take over as manager, Enniskeane star Cronin is excited about the possibilities this season.

'Matthew (Twomey) has been involved over the years and last year he was there full time as a selector, we know him pretty well and while it's always nice to have change, it's always nice to have some carry over as well. It's a real positive that Matthew has stayed on,' Cronin said.

Naturally, comments on new coach Davy Fitzgerald were



Members of the Clonakilty camogie team that won the Carbery minor championship in 2019; from left, Erica Harrington, Ella O'Donoghue and Ava Barry.



Clonakilty Camogie Club's Sara O'Sullivan (left) receives her medals from Cork camogie star Orla Cronin.

equally diplomatic.

'It's like Ireland's Fittest Family in training! We definitely had a tough few weeks (in training), I think that has carried over to the first few games that we have played. The way we are playing is very physical and very passionate, it's been a good start. Paudie (Murray) was really good over the years but any times there is change,

it is also good too,' Cronin said.

The bond that exists within camogie, and in particular with players from West Cork, also drew special comment as she told the attendance.

'They will be your friends for life and that is no different to school teams, college teams and adult teams. You are training, day-in day-out with these girls, you are kind of living in



Players that represented Clonakilty Camogie Club on Cork development panels pictured at the Clonakilty Camogie Club's victory celebrations at the Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa. Front from left, Sinead Crowley, Lauren Eady, special guest Orla Cronin and Clara Barrett. Standing from left, Alannah O'Brien, Amy McCarthy, Kate Nolan, Clara White, Danica Geaney, Niamh Kennedy and Aoife Whelton. (Photos: Martin Walsh)

**'We are celebrating the achievements of our girls across a broad spectrum of ages'** – Mary Harrington, chairperson

each other's pockets, and you have great banter outside of training as well,' she said.

The celebrations at the Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa encompassed three years of success for the Clonakilty Camogie Club. At the outset, club chairperson Mary Harrington welcomed everyone on what was an uniquely special occasion and stated that the last few years have been very successful for the club, witnessed by the silverware on display.



Enjoying Clonakilty Camogie Club's victory celebrations were, from left, Amy McCarthy, Aoife Ni Mhathúna, Caoimhe McEvoy and Alannah Oldham.

'We are celebrating the achievements of our girls across a broad spectrum of ages

from U14 to minor at Carbery county and All-Ireland level, Harrington explained.



Alannah O'Brien, Ella O'Donoghue, Lucy McCarthy, Amy Harrington, Clara White, Caoimhe McEvoy, Vicky Wycherley, Orlaith Deasy, Erica Harrington, Ava Barry and Anna Meade enjoying the celebrations at the Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa.

# Meath fall short in semi-final bid

**CAMOGIE** Cork prove too strong for brave Royal challenge

Cork  
Meath

2-12  
0-7

## FERGALLYNCH

THERE will be no National Camogie League Div 2 as their hopes of qualifying from their group ended by a dominant Cork side at Pairc Tailteann on Saturday.

With Wexford already assured of their place in the last four, this clash in Navan was a straight shoot-out to determine who would advance to the last four.

A draw would have done Cork because of their superior scoring difference, but they hit the ground running and never trailed as Meath struggled to find any fluency and managed just three scores from play.

The margin of the defeat could have been less as Meath went for goals from their last few attacks, but such was Cork's resolve those chances were few and far between and the hosts never looked like claiming the spoils.

Little went right for Meath in near perfect conditions. There was a significant wind that blew in the hosts favour in the opening half, but they still trailed by five points at the break as Cork's sweeter first touch and superior stickwork saw them dominate.

Meath did work hard and never relented in their efforts. Their fitness looked sharp and there was plenty of endeavour, but they lacked a cutting edge and experience which left them exposed.

Cork opened the scoring after 40 seconds with Joanne Casey landing a cracking free into the wind from a difficult angle.

Meath responded from the puck out with a great point from their best player Aoife Minogue, but that was as good as it got for Brendan

Skehan's side.

It took Cork another six minutes before they added to their opening score and when it came it was from Meath's failure to clear their lines properly which allowed Casey burst through the heart of the defence and fire to the net.

Casey added two more frees either side of a score for Clodagh Finn as Cork stretched their lead to 1-4 to 0-1 after 15 minutes.

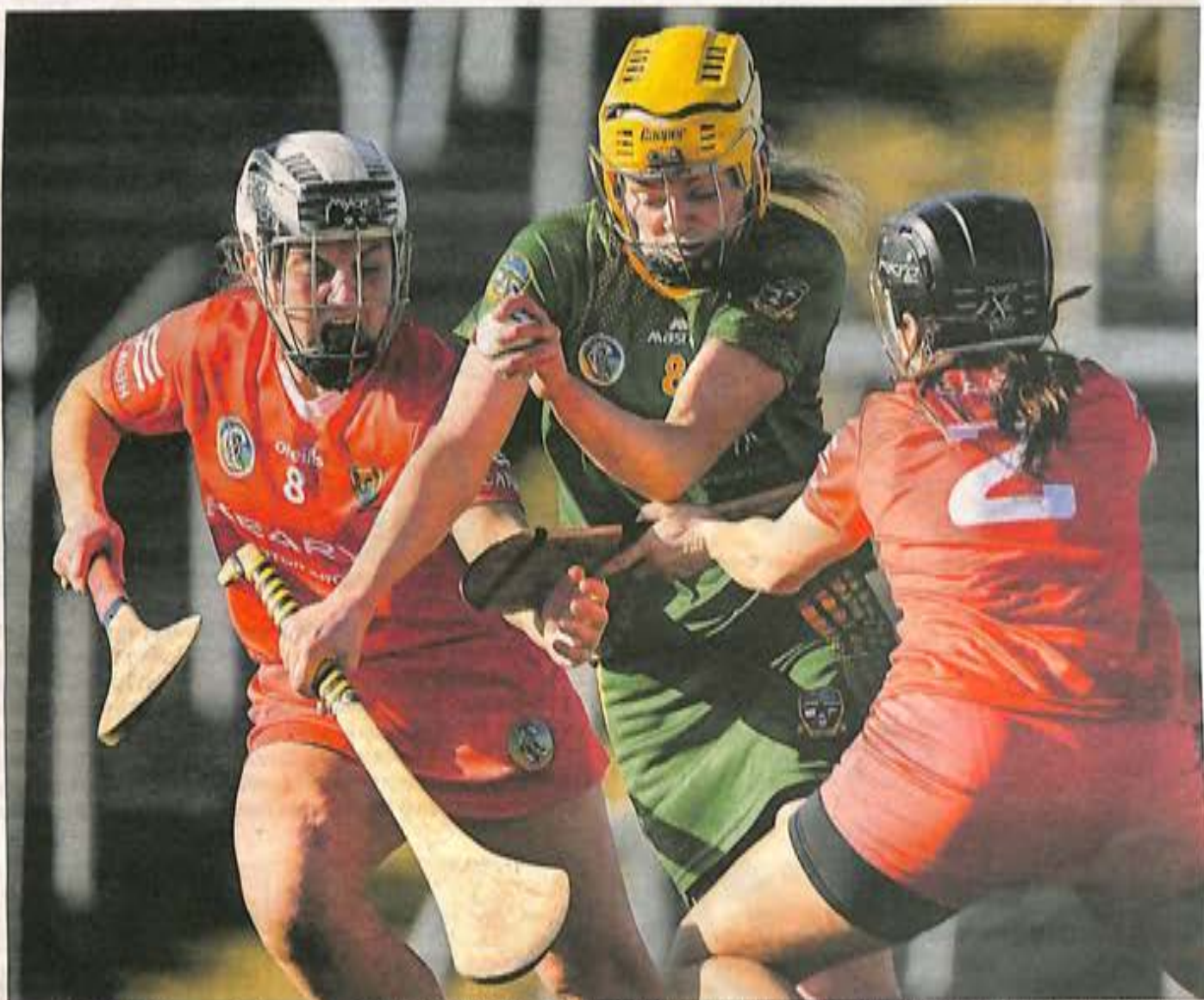
Minogue settled Meath with her second free, Meath first score in 15 minutes and five minutes later Aoife Maguire converted after the Royals had turned over a Cork puck out.

Two points from Hayley Ryan sandwiched a converted free from Sinead Hackett after Minogue was fouled before Minogue added another free two minutes before the break to close the gap to 0-5 to 1-6 at the interval.

It took Cork two minutes to stretch their lead in the second-half when Rachel Harty pointed and by the 40th minute they put the issue beyond doubt with Casey adding two more points (one from a free) before another defensive mix-up allowed Rachel O'Shea bag a simple goal for a 2-9 to 0-5 lead.

Both sides emptied their bench in the final quarter as Meath went in search of a goal which might have given them a glimmer of hope. One such attempt was deflected for a '45' which Minogue lofted over and with nine minutes remaining Amy Gaffney made it 0-7 to 2-9 with Meath's closing score.

Try as they might Meath couldn't muster a goal as Cork hit them on the counter three times with Casey (free), O'Shea and Moira Barrett adding to their tally to ensure the visitors advanced to the last four while Meath must turn their attentions to the Leinster Championship.



Meath's Aoife Minogue finds a way past Niamh O'Leary and Rachel Harty during Saturday's National Camogie League Div 2 clash with Cork at Pairc Tailteann. PHOTO: GERRY SHANAHAN-WWW.QUIRKE.IE



Meath's Amy Gaffney launches an attack against Cork on Saturday.

## SCORERS

**Cork** - Joanne Casey 1-6 five frees; Rachel O'Shea 1-1; Hayley Ryan 0-2; Clodagh Finn 0-1; Rachel Harty 0-1; Moira Barrett 0-1.

**Meath** - Aoife Minogue 0-4 two frees, one '45'; Aoife Maguire 0-1; Sinead Hackett 0-1 free; Amy Gaffney 0-1.

## TEAMS

**Cork** - Sarah Ahern; Niamh O'Leary, Kelly Falvey, Aine Crowley; Ashling Moloney, Aoife O'Callaghan, Lauren Callanan; Rachel Harty, Jill O'Leary; Joanne Casey, Clodagh Finn, Siobhan Hutchinson; Rachel O'Shea, Finola Neville, Hayley Ryan. **Subs** - Leeanne O'Sullivan for Moloney 40 mins, Michelle

Murphy for Ryan 45m, Moira Barrett for Hutchinson 52m, Clara Crowley for O'Shea 57m, Michella Buckley for Casey, Laura Mannix for Harty both 59m, Cliona O'Leary for Neville 60m.

**Meath** - Maggie Randall; Sophia Payne, Ellen Burke, Sonia Leonard; Tracy King, Maeve Clince, Leah Devine; Aoife Minogue, Grace Coleman; Aedin Slattery, Aoife Maguire, Amy Gaffney; Aine McNerney, Claire Coffey, Sinead Hackett. **Subs** - Susan Kealy for Maguire, Emma Regan for Coleman both 43 mins, Niamh Daly for McNerney 50m, Emma O'Connell for Slattery, Clodhna O'Riordan for Coffey both 57m. **Referee** - Barry Nea (Westmeath).



Sophia Payne claims possession for Meath during Saturday's National Camogie League Div 2 clash with Cork.

## NATIONAL CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIV 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	SD	Pts
Wexford	4	4	0	0	6-62	2-35	+39	12
Cork	4	3	0	1	7-47	3-35	+24	9
Meath	4	2	0	2	4-36	7-33	-6	6
Derry	4	1	0	3	7-31	6-44	-10	3
Kildare	4	0	0	4	2-27	8-56	-47	0

## RESULTS

**Round one** - Meath 3-8, Derry 3-5.  
**Round two** - Wexford 2-10, Meath 1-7.  
**Round three** - Meath 0-14, Kildare 0-6.  
**Round four** - Cork 2-12, Meath 0-7.



Cork's Ellen Crowley is tackled by Waterford's Kelsie Obanya.

## Cork are looking for a very big performance as they battle Galway

**TODAY: Tesco All-Ireland Minor final: Cork v Galway, Semple Stadium, 5pm.**

IN what is a repeat of their opening game in group two, Cork and Galway will battle it out this evening for the Tesco All Ireland minor championship title.

Cork are back in the final having lost out to Kilkenny in last year's decider and they will be hoping that this time out they will get it right. Cork took the title in 2018 and retained it in 2019 but there was disappointment in 2020 when, despite the championship being at its concluding stages, the Camogie Association decided not to finish it when Covid restrictions eased.

Galway last contested the minor final in 2017 when they were crowned champions and they come into this final having knocked out holders Kilkenny in a semi-final, despite going down to 14 players for the last 10 minutes. They were hit with two early goals but settled and ran out 0-14 to 2-3 winners.

Cork once again had to dig deep to get over the line as they edged out Tipperary in a low-scoring semi: 1-7 to 0-9. Level on five occasions it took a superb last-second point from defender Aoife Healy to secure victory.

A week previously Cork were again pinned to their collars as they struggled to shake off a determined Waterford in a quarter-final clash where again they had just a point to spare. They have shown huge determination and spirit all through this campaign but Jerry Wallace will be looking for a better return from his forward division.

No doubt they will again need to bring huge determination to the fore in a final where they will meet a Galway side determined to reverse the result of their previous meeting.

With no U16 championship in 2020, there was no clear favourite before a sliotar was pucked.

Last season at minor level Galway lost out to eventual winners Kilkenny in a nail-biting semi-final with two points the margin in the end.

Manager Aaron Fox and his selectors have put in a big effort this year to reach the decider. They will provide strong opposition and as we saw in the last game between the sides, there is little be-

**CAMOGIE**  
**Mary Newman**

tween them, in a dour 0-8 to 0-6 contest. Cork just about got over the line but the appalling weather conditions were an issue on a pitch that cut up quickly.

Hopefully now pitches have dried up and with the final in the magnificent setting of Semple Stadium we will see a free-flowing contest between two sides that have learned a lot from their last encounter.

We can expect it to once again go right down to the wire as they battle to be crowned champions.

**TODAY: Littlewoods Division 2 quarter-final: Cork v Galway, Moneygall, 2pm.**  
We're at the knockout stages of the Littlewoods Division 2 National League.

A youthful Galway emerged from Group 2 as runners-up to 2021 All-Ireland Intermediate champions Antrim, a team they pushed to the limits in their opening league game. Galway introduced six players from their 2021 minor panel while Caoimhe Reidy made her debut with Laura Loughnane returning to the panel.

They overcame Kerry in their second game but with Laois failing to field, Galway just had two league games in their section.

Laura Loughnane, Sinead Coleman, Katie Gilchrist, Jennifer Hughes, Chloe Farragher, Tegan Canning and the hugely experienced Tara Rutledge backbone their side and they will relish an opportunity to take on a Cork panel that made excellent progress against Kildare, Derry and Meath.

The only game Cork lost out in was to a very strong Wexford in their opening game. They are an honest team with huge work-rate and their determination in forcing frees and errors from the opposition has seen them come out on top in situations that looked lost.

Joanne Casey and Rachel O'Shea are enjoying excellent campaigns, Lauren Callanan has made a return to the side after picking up a pre season injury while captain Finola Neville, Sarah Ahern, Niamh O'Leary and Clodagh Finn are all featuring well as Cork continue the hunt for a place in the final.



Cork minor player Ciara Morrison is fouled by defender Clodhna Ni Bhuchalla, Dublin.

Picture: Larry Cummins

# Tipp unlucky to miss out on final clash with Cork

**CAMOGIE**  
**Linda Mellerick**

THE 2021 All-Stars took place last night, after this column went to print, so by the time this paper hits the shops we'll know how many statuettes we're brought back to Leeside.

It's Cork and Galway in the Littlewoods Division 1 league final, a repeat of last year's All-Ireland final. Tipperary can feel really hard done by that it's not them facing their Munster rivals following their one-point controversial defeat to Galway last weekend.

Having hit two points during the first quarter, Casey Hennessy was dismissed at the beginning of the second after getting into an altercation with Galway's Aoife Donohue. Hennessy had legally and brilliantly dispossessed her.

In frustration Donohue swung back on Hennessy who retaliated. Only Hennessy saw the line which was an injustice. Though Tipp led by 0-9 to 0-4 at half-time, it didn't seem enough given their numerical disadvantage and the strong wind that they would be playing into after the resumption.

To add to their woes the sides were level in the eighth minute of injury-time when a free was awarded to Galway outside Tipp's 45 close to the sideline when Claire Hogan was deemed to have charged into Sarah Dervan. In my opinion they couldn't avoid each other and, on another day, the free could have gone the other way. It shouldn't have been a free for either side.

A throw-in would have resolved it. Rebecca Hennelly slotted the ball over the



Wexford defender Sarah Harding Kenny tries to keep possession from Katie Walsh in a Division 2 league game.

Picture: Larry Cummins

bar and with it, Galway advanced to the final. A draw would have seen Tipp through, but Galway needed a win, and it was heart-breaking for the Munster side who don't seem to catch a break when trying to win silverware. They reached the league final in 2020 but it was cancelled due to Covid.

It was the 47th minute introduction by Cathal Murray of All-Ireland champions Sarsfields' siblings Orlaith and Siobhán McGrath that turned the game on its head.

Two minutes later Orlaith McGrath went on a trademark run that drew the cover to supply her younger sister for a goal finish. Orlaith took delivery from Donohue to point almost straight after and the sides were level, 0-12 to 1-9.

Devane drilled over her seventh point of the day from a free to restore Tipp's slight advantage as Julieanne Bourke, Mary Ryan and Aoife McGrath defended resolutely. But Hennelly repeated Devane's first-half skill of finding the target from

within her own half to bring the sides level once more.

Both sides had opportunities to get their noses in front, but when referee John Dermody signalled for that injury-time free, Hennelly delivered the goods for the Maroons.

Tipperary were crestfallen and all the talk after the game was that they will seriously challenge for championship honours this year. But it's not as simple as that. They continue to be just that small step behind. Titles brings confidence and they've fallen short again.

It's hard to believe that Dublin marked their first senior appearance at Croke Park in 11 years when concluding their league division 1 campaign with a 1-13 to 0-6 victory over Down.

We've two important games down for decision today with Cork's Division 2 side in action in the quarter-final of the league against Galway in Moneygall, County Tipperary at 2pm. There'll be a spin to Semple Stadium after that for the All-Ireland minor final between the same two sides at 5pm. Galway were in the All-Ireland intermediate final in 2019, losing by two points to Westmeath.

They're always strong at this level, so it'll be interesting to see what players they have available to them and who has moved into the senior squad.

What a record Jerry Wallace has with Cork's minor squads since he took charge in 2018. They won back-to-back titles in 2018/2019. 2020 was cancelled so Cork chased three in a row in 2021 but were beaten by Kilkenny.

They're back in a fourth final in a row. Their last two games against Waterford and Tipp were won by just a point after real battles. This team knows how to dig out a win and if its close today here's hoping they'll do the same.

We wish them the very best of luck.

## 2021 Camogie All-Stars Awards: Champions Galway lead with eight awards

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All-Ireland Senior champions Galway dominate the 2021 Camogie All-Stars team, with eight players taking home an All-Stars award, and Aoife Donohue winning the Camogie Association/GPA Senior Players' Player of the Year award.

It concludes a wonderful 2021 campaign from the Connacht County who also had manager Cathal Murray win the Manager of the Year award during the refixed All-Stars Awards banquet in the Osprey Hotel, Naas on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, presented by Killian Whelan.

The remaining All-Stars Awards went to Cork and Kilkenny respectively, with the Rebels earning three All-Stars Awards, and Kilkenny taking home four awards.

The champions are represented through goalkeeper Sarah Healy, defenders Shauna Healy and Sarah Dervan, midfielder Niamh Kilkenny and forwards Aoife Donohue, Siobhan Mc Grath, Orlaith Mc Grath and Ailish O'Reilly.

Championship semi-finalists and National League winners Kilkenny are represented in defence through Davina Tobin and Meighan Farrell while Denise Gaule and Katie Nolan feature in the forwards.

Clonmel and Clonmel Shamrocks are represented through Laura Hayes and Laura Treacy in defence and Hannah Looney claiming a midfield accolade.

Antrim's Maeve Kelly claimed the Camogie Association/GPA Intermediate Players' Player of the Year Award after a stunning run of performances throughout her side's championship winning campaign.

Wexford midfielder Chloe Cashe is the winner of the 2021 Camogie Association/GPA Junior Players' Player of the Year after dominating the Junior Championship, finishing with 0-07 in the final for the All-Ireland winners.

Intermediate champions Antrim feature six players on the 2021 Soaring Stars team, with runners-up Kilkenny earning four Soaring Stars awards.

All-Ireland Junior champions Wexford have claimed three Soaring Stars Awards, with Galway and Armagh completing the list of winners with one accolade each.

The Intermediate champions are featured through goalkeeper Catriona Graham, defender Chloe Drain, midfielder Nicole O'Neill and forwards Maeve Kelly, Roisin McCormick and Caitrin Dobbins.

Kilkenny are represented through defenders Niamh Leahy, Roisin Phelan, Sarah Crowley and Leann Fennelly. Semi-finalists Galway are featured through forward Ava Lynskey.

The Junior champions see defender Aideen Brennan, midfielder Chloe Cashe and forward Ciara Banville claim Soaring Stars awards, while Armagh's Ciara Donnelly claims an award for the All-Ireland Junior championship finalists.

**Camogie Association/GPA Senior Players' Player of the Year:** Aoife Donohue (Galway)

**Camogie Association/GPA Intermediate Players' Player of the Year:** Maeve Kelly (Antrim)

**Camogie Association/GPA Junior Players' Player of the Year:** Chloe Cashe (Wexford)

**Manager of the Year:** Cathal Murray (Galway)

### 2021 All-Stars Team

**Goalkeeper:** Sarah Healy (Galway)

**Corner-Back:** Shauna Healy (Galway)

**Full-Back:** Sarah Dervan (Galway)

**Corner-Back:** Davina Tobin (Kilkenny)

**Half-Back:** Megan Farrell (Kilkenny)

**Centre-Back:** Laura Treacy (Cork)

**Half-Back:** Laura Hayes (Cork)

**Midfield:** Niamh Kilkenny (Galway)

**Midfield:** Hannah Looney (Cork)

**Half-Forward:** Aoife Donohue (Galway)

**Centre-Forward:** Katie Nolan (Kilkenny)

**Half-Forward:** Denise Gaule (Kilkenny)

**Corner-Forward:** Siobhan McGrath (Galway)

**Full-Forward:** Orlaith McGrath (Galway)

**Corner-Forward:** Ailish O'Reilly (Galway)

### 2022 Soaring Stars Team:

**Goalkeeper:** Catriona Graham (Antrim)

**Corner-Back:** Chloe Drain (Antrim)

**Full-Back:** Roisin Phelan (Kilkenny)

**Corner-Back:** Niamh Leahy (Kilkenny)

**Half-Back:** Sarah Crowley (Kilkenny)

**Centre-Back:** Leann Fennelly (Kilkenny)

**Half-Back:** Aideen Brennan (Wexford)

**Midfield:** Chloe Cashe (Wexford)

**Midfield:** Nicole O'Neill (Antrim)

**Half-Forward:** Maeve Kelly (Antrim)

**Centre-Half Forward:** Ciara Banville (Wexford)

**Half-Forward:** Ava Lynskey (Galway)

**Corner-Forward:** Roisin McCormick (Antrim)

**Full-Forward:** Ciara Donnelly (Armagh)

**Corner-Forward:** Caitrin Dobbins (Antrim)

## Three Cork players make the All-Stars

CAMOGIE

■ Eamonn Murphy

THREE Cork camogie players were included in the All-Stars team: Laura Treacy, Laura Hayes, and Hannah Looney, who also won a football All-Star for 2021.

Understandably, All-Ireland champions Galway dominated the line-up with eight players while Aoife Donohue is the Camogie Association/GPA Senior Players' Player of the Year. Kilkenny took the other four spots in the starting 15.

It concludes a wonderful 2021 campaign from the Connacht County who also had manager Cathal Murray win the Manager of the Year award during the re-fixed All-Stars Awards banquet in the Osprey Hotel, Naas on Friday.

The champions are represented through goalkeeper Sarah Healy, defenders Shauna Healy and Sarah Dervan, midfielder Niamh Kilkenny and forwards Aoife Donohue, Siobhan McGrath, Orlaith McGrath and Ailish O'Reilly.

### Defence

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Intermediate champions Antrim feature six players on the 2021 Soaring Stars team, with runners-up Kilkenny earning four Soaring Stars awards.

**2021 All-Stars Team:** Sarah Healy (Galway); Shauna Healy (Galway), Sarah Dervan (Galway), Davina Tobin (Kilkenny); Meghan Farrell (Kilkenny), Laura Treacy (Cork), Laura Hayes (Cork); Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Hannah Looney (Cork), Aoife Donohue (Galway), Katie Nolan (Kilkenny), Denise Gaule (Kilkenny); Siobhan McGrath (Galway), Orlaith McGrath (Galway), Ailish O'Reilly (Galway).

**Camogie Association/GPA Senior Players' Player of the Year:** Aoife Donohue (Galway).

**Camogie Association/GPA Intermediate Players' Player of the Year:** Maeve Kelly (Antrim).

**Camogie Association/GPA Junior Players' Player of the Year:** Chloe Cashe (Wexford).

**Manager of the Year:** Cathal Murray (Galway).

# Cork minors hold their nerve in final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 2-11  
Galway 2-7

A SUPERB effort from Cork saw them capture the county's third Tesco All-Ireland minor championship in the past five years at Semple Stadium.

Galway provided stern opposition but as they have done all through this campaign as Cork stood tall and weathered a late second-half rally to run out winners.

Galway played with the aid of the stiff wind in the opening half where both sides were guilty of wayward shooting as they dominated the opening quarter and led 0-3 to 0-1. Catherine Hanley had them on the scoreboard with a 45 and Alanna Fahy added their second on 10 minutes.

Cork applied pressure but found it hard to break down a hard-working Galway rearguard where Keisha Coleman and Ally Hesnan were prominent.

As Cork launched attacks the Galway defence dropped back and crowded them out. It was 16 minutes before the Rebels split the posts: Orlaith Cahalane converting a 45.

Leah Hallihane drew an excellent save from Laura Freaney at the expense of a 45. Up stepped Cahalane and her dropping shot ended up in the net after the sun looked to have blinded the Galway keeper.

Boosted by the goal Cork took control and with Orlaith Mullins and Millie Condon winning a lot of possession and delivering quality ball into Fiona Twohig, she hit two points without reply to give Cork a 1-3 to 0-3 interval lead.

Cork tore into the second half, starting with a terrific Ciara Morrison goal. Galway attacked from the puck-out and misses a glorious goal chance before Olwen Rabbittie pointed from play.

The sides swapped scores before Galway grabbed a vital goal of their own, Catherine Hanley finishing to the net after dispossessing the Cork keeper.

The Rebels replied with three points in a row to go seven points clear but again Galway found a response with a Megan Gannon goal. Now Cork were under pressure but their defence was magnificent as they hooked, blocked and got the ball out of the danger zone.



Cork manager Jerry Wallace speaks to his players before the All-Ireland minor camogie win.

Picture: INPHO/Tommy Grealy

With five minutes remaining Galway hit two points in a row to cut the Cork lead to two.

Again Cork had to find that extra gear but they did with their defence led superbly by Aoife Healy, who was named as Player of the Match.

At the other end, they grabbed vital points from Morrison, Cahalane and Eimear Duigan to seal the victory.

**Scorers for Cork:** O Cahalane 1-4 (1-2 45, 0-1 6), C Morrison 1-2, F Twohig 0-3, A Fahy, E Duigan, 0-1 each.

**Galway:** C Hanley 1-1, M Gannon 1-0, O Rabbittie 0-2, C Hanley (45), N McInerney, A Fahy, A Barry 0-1 each.

**CORK:** J Connaughton; M De Burca, M Barrett, T Elliot; E Sheehan, A Healy, E Duigan; O Cahalane, A Cashman; C Morrison, M Condon, A Fahy; L Hallihane, O Mullins (c), F Twohig.

**Subs:** E Crowley for A Fahy (56), C Walsh for L Hallihane (56).

**GALWAY:** L Freaney, H Kenny, J Glynn, A Crowe; R Kelly, A Hesnan, K Coleman; M Gannon, C Hickey (c); N McInerney, O Rabbittie, A Dillon; C Hanley, A Fahy, A Barry.

**Subs:** T Maher for H Kenny (40), M Mulyan for A Fahy (45), O Mullins for A Dillon (49).

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



Cork's Clara Morrison battles Keisha Coleman, Hayley Kenny and Ally Hesnan of Galway.

Picture: INPHO/Tommy Grealy

## Hutchinson goal builds on Cork's good defensive work

Cork 1-13  
Galway 0-10

AN excellent defensive display by Cork in the first half laid the foundation for their victory in Moneygall on Saturday, leading them into the Division 2 league semi-final next weekend.

On a pitch, the quality of which left a lot to be desired, Cork faced the wind and a steep incline.

Galway looked strong in the opening minutes with Laura Kelly, Katie Gilchrist (2) and Laura Loughnane hitting four points around Finola Neville's one for Cork. They attacked with the breeze at their backs but brilliant defensive work by Cork's back six, their full line in particular, denied Galway getting a grip on as two Joanne Casey frees, and a Michelle Murphy point had Cork level on 14 minutes.

Cork's goal after 27 minutes was brilliantly worked. A pinpoint puck-out by Sarah Ahern to

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Niamh O'Leary started an array of passes which ended with Siobhan Hutchinson rounding her marker and hitting the net. That gave Cork a 1-5 to 0-5 advantage and they led from there.

Michelle Murphy was having a fine game around the middle as Cork took a 1-7 to 0-6 advantage in at the break. Two Casey frees started the second half well for Cork. They led by double scores with 20 minutes of normal time remaining, 1-11 to 0-7.

Cork's scoring from play dried up, Hutchinson the only player to score from play in that second half, the Rebels finishing with six wides. Galway upped their tempo, striking three points on the trot.

It was going to take a goal however to pull away and win the game. They tried hard for it, but Cork's

full-back line repeatedly pushed them back, an outstanding interception from Kelly Falvey, in particular, denying them.

Cork got back in control and two Casey frees sealed the deal with Cork deservedly advancing, their semi-final opponents as yet unknown.

**Scorers for Cork:** J Casey 0-8 f, S Hutchinson 1-1, M Murphy 0-3, F Neville 0-1.

**Galway:** K Gilchrist 0-4 (0-3 f), L Loughnane, L Kelly 0-3 each.

**CORK:** S Ahern; N O'Leary, K Falvey, D Carroll, J O'Leary, A O'Callaghan, T O'Sullivan, R Harty, L Callanan; J Casey, M Murphy, S Hutchinson; H O'Shea, K Hickey, F Neville.

**Subs:** K Kilcommins for L O'Sullivan (45), H Ryan for F Neville (46), A Moloney for J O'Leary (58), A Crowley for D Carroll (60), C Finn for R Harty (60), C Crowley for R O'Shea (62).

**GALWAY:** F Ryan; C Starr, S Lyons, T Lawrence; K A Porter, K Manning, E Gilmore; J Hughes, T Canning; S Coleman, S Divilly, L Loughnane; T Rutledge, L Kelly, K Gilchrist.

**Subs:** C Kenny for T Rutledge (h-b), E Madden for S Divilly (38), N McPeake for S Coleman (51), A Donnellan for K A Porter (54).



By Daragh Ó Conchúir

CORK held off a valiant second-half rally by Galway to claim their third Tesco All-Ireland minor A camogie title in Thurles yesterday.

The Leesiders started nervously but led at half-time by a goal and extended that advantage to seven points in the second half.

Galway got it back to one but three points in as many minutes, as the game ticked into injury time secured the spoils.

It was a frantic opening, with both teams missing lots of chances.

Catherine Hanley (45) and Alannah Fahy, who was alert to pick up possession, move to her left and clear the black spot from 30m gave Galway the early advantage.

It took Cork 16 minutes to score but it was a super effort by Orla Cahalane from a free tight to the left sideline into the breeze.

Olwen Rabbitte finished well from the puckout after Niamh McInerney showed some good vision to get her into space.

Cork's forwards were threatening when running at their markers, but Leah Hallinan ended another foray with a shot, brilliantly blocked at close range by Laura Freaney.

Disaster struck for Freaney from the resultant 45 however, as she miscontrolled Cahalane's strike that was just dropping under the post, and the slotar crossed the line in the 21st minute.

That appeared to rattle the westerners, and probably gave Cork confidence too as they pushed on to lead at half-time by 1-3 to 0-3.

Fiona Twohig profited from a tremendous delivery by Cahalane, after the midfielder's brilliant catch and run, to whistle a shot over from a tight angle and just before the interval, slotted her second with an outstanding finish after good work by Orlaith Mullins, who had been prominent throughout the half along with Cahalane, Twohig and centre-back Aoife Healy.

Ciara Morrison had a goal two minutes after the resumption to put clear daylight between the sides and it was classic. Morrison finished with aplomb as the move started with a puckout by Jill Connaughton to Avril Cashman.

Twohig won a dirty ball out of a ruck, sent a crossfield delivery to Mullins, who gathered well and having attracted the cover, slipped a hand-pass into the raiding Morrison, who rifled beyond Freaney.

Galway kept pushing and Connaughton had to make a double save from Alannah Fahy and Aoibheann Barry. Rabbitte did split the posts for Galway but Ana Fahy, with a sensational score, and Morrison made it a seven-point game.

Aaron Fox's side needed something and it came from another unfortunate error by otherwise top notch netminders, Connaughton letting the slotar elude her and Hanley kicking to the net.

Yet Twohig slotted her third score with another fantastic effort and Cahalane a free to appear to douse the fire, particularly when Connaughton made a triple save from Hanley, Rabbitte and a miraculous instinctive stop from Barry with an overstretched leg.

Within minutes though, Megan Gannon powered a great shot to the top corner for a goal and points from a Hanley free and from play by McInerney and Barry made it a one-point game with less than three minutes of regulation time left.

Rather than wither, Cork grew and points from Morrison, Cahalane and Eimear Duignan could spark fevered celebrations



DRIVE: Cork's Ciara Morrison takes on Keisha Coleman Hayley Kenny and Ally Hosnan of Galway yesterday

# Cork beat back a Galway siege to claim title

Elsewhere, a first-half goal by Rachel O'Shea, in addition to eight pointed frees from Joanne Casey propelled Cork's intermediates to a 1-13 to 0-10 triumph over their Galway counterparts in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 2 quarter-final held in Moneygall.

The Rebels had to overcome a lightning start by their opponents, who led by 0-4 to 0-1 after just six minutes, with two points (one from

a free) by Katie Gilchrist and one each by Lauras Kelly and Loughnane.

They outscored the Galwegians by 1-6 to 0-2 for the remainder of the half however, O'Shea raising a green flag in the 18th minute.

The lively Hayley Ryan registered three points from play and with Casey converting three placed balls, it was 1-7 to 0-6 at half-time.

Cork began the second half strongly with three more pointed

frees from their Inniscarra sharpshooter and another from O'Shea to extend the Leesiders advantage to seven.

Though Galway had a run of three on the trot themselves, Kelly bringing her tally to three with a pair and Gilchrist notching up her fourth point, it was Casey who had the final say from a couple of frees for Cork to progress to next weekend's semi-finals.

In the Division 2 relegation play-

off, Laois retained their status in the second tier by defeating Tipperary 2-10 to 0-13 at St Rynagh's in Banagher, meaning that the Tipp second string will now play Kildare in a bid to avoid making the drop.

In Division 3, Shanise Fitzsimons hit five goals as Cavan accounted for Dublin by 5-11 to 2-9, setting themselves up nicely for a League final clash with Wexford who beat Down by 5-15 to 0-3.

Philip Brady's upwardly-mobile Breffni side held the upper hand for most of proceedings, thanks to a brace of goals in the opening three minutes of the game from Shanise Fitzsimons.

Dublin did well to haul themselves back into contention, even though Clodagh Keenaghan was in accurate shooting form for Cavan. Points from Aoibhe Dillon, Chloe O'Connor and Niamh Comerford helped the hosts settle and it was 2-6 to 1-5 at the change of ends.

Fitzsimons completed her hat-trick ten minutes into the second half but after a Carys Daly green flag made it tight again entering the closing stages, the gifted Denn destroyer racked up her fourth and fifth goals to give the final score a slightly flattering look for the winning team.

In Division 4, Tyrone ended their campaign on a high, just having too many big guns for Louth in recording a 4-10 to 1-2 success at Derrylaughan.



Carmel Naughton and Glen Dimplex announce five-year sponsorship of Camogie Championships and Camogie Association

## CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Minor A final: Cork 2-11 Galway 2-7; Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues Division 1: Galway 2-21 Offaly 1-8; Div 2 Quarter-Finals: Wexford 1-13 Kilkenny 1-5, Cork 1-13 Galway 0-10; Div 2 Relegation Semi-Final: Laois 2-10 Tipperary 0-13; Division 3: Clare 2-22 Limerick 1-13, Down 0-3 Wexford 5-15, Dublin 2-9 Cavan 5-11, Antrim 1-6 Carlow 0-4; Division 4: Tyrone 4-16 Louth 1-2.



COUNTY  
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 LATEST

**Cork held off a valiant second-half rally by Galway to finish strongly and claim the Tesco All-Ireland minor A camogie title for the third time and first since 2019, by 2-11 to 2-7 at Semple Stadium.**

The Leesiders had started nervously but led at half-time by a goal and extended that advantage to seven points in the second half. Galway got it back to one but three points in as many minutes as the game ticked into injury time secured the spoils.

Cork had just edged out Galway in the group stages so an epic was always on the cards.

It was a frantic opening, with both teams missing lots of chances, Cork being slightly more wasteful from better positions.

Catherine Hanley (45) and Alannah Fahy, who was alert to pick up possession, move to her left and clear the black spot from 30m gave Galway the early advantage.

It took Cork 16 minutes to get off the mark but it was a super effort by Orla Cahalane from a free tight to the left sideline into the breeze.

Olwen Rabbitte finished well from the puckout after Niamh McInerney showed some good vision to get her into space.

Cork's forwards were threatening when running at their markers, though Jerry Wallace would have been frustrated by the lack of end product and Leah Hallinan ended another foray with a shot that was brilliantly blocked at point-blank range by Laura Freaney.

Di Manage consent Freaney from the resultant 45 however, as she mis-controlled Cahalane's strike that was just dropping under the post, and the slotar dropped over the line in the 21<sup>st</sup> minute.

That appeared to rattle the westerners, and probably gave Cork confidence too as they pushed on to lead at half-time by 1-3 to 0-3.

Fiona Twohig profited from a tremendous delivery by Cahalane, after the midfielder's brilliant catch and run, to whistle a shot over from a tight angle and just before the interval, slotted her second with an outstanding finish after good work by Orlaith Mullins, who had been prominent throughout the half along with Cahalane, Twohig and centre-back Aoife Healy.

Ciara Morrison had a goal two minutes after the resumption to put clear daylight between the sides and it was classic. Morrison finished with aplomb as the move started with a puckout by Jill Connaughton to Avril Cashman. Twohig won a dirty ball out of a ruck, sent a crossfield delivery to Mullins, who gathered well and having attracted the cover, slipped a hand-pass into the raiding Morrison, who rifled beyond the exposed Freaney.

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SCORERS FOR GALWAY: C Hanley 1-2(0-1 45, 0-1f); M Gannon 1-0; O Rabbitte 0-2; Alannah Fahy, N McInerney, A Barry 0-1 each

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REFEREE: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny)

## Wexford enjoy whirlwind start with Curran's contribution proving crucial

A WHIRLWIND start and an outstanding contribution by Anais Curran set Wexford's first team up for a 1-13 to 1-5 triumph over Kilkenny's intermediates in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 2 quarter-final at Glynn Bartown.

That completes the line up for the Division 2 semi-finals, with Cork having defeated Galway by 1-13 to 0-10 in Saturday's quarter-final, and Waterford and Antrim awaiting the pair prior to the weekend action. That three of the last four are competing in the All-Ireland senior championship this year - Cork's second string being the odd ones out - is a testament to the rising



Westmeath's Holly Dowdall and Clare Gaffney celebrate after winning the All-Ireland Camogie Minor B Shield Championship Final INIHO/LASZLO GECZO

standards of camogie.

Kilkenny battled hard but were always up against it taking on last year's All-Ireland senior quarter-finalists, who had a goal and two points on the board after three minutes. The goal came from Mag Byrne and her side led by six by the time Asha McHardy got Kilkenny off the mark in the 11th minute.

That sparked the Cats' best period of the game, as Shauna Treacy, Hannah Scott and McHardy raised further white flags and they were just two points behind at the interval, at 1-3 to 0-4.

The break gave Kevin Tattan a chance to talk to his players and initiate a reset, and they upped the tempo after the restart.

Curran was in unstoppable form, from play and frees, while Leah Walsh also helped herself to a flurry of points against the overworked Kilkenny rearguard.

The Cats never stopped fighting and a Scott goal in the 58th minute was reward for their efforts.

Back in Division 1, Galway were already assured of a place in the final and Offaly focusing on a relegation decider but they had to clash to bring the group stages to a conclusion and it was the All-Ireland champions who prevailed against their committed rivals 2-21 to 1-8 in Kilbeacanty.

Newly-minted 2021 manager of the year, Cathal Murray's team had 10 different scorers, with the goals coming from Ciara Murphy and Ailish O'Reilly.

The latter, who was named an All-Star on Friday night, was the game's top scorer with 1-3, 1-2 of which came from play. Mairéad Teehan shot four points from placed balls for Offaly, whose goal was provided by Siobhán Flannery.

Meanwhile, Westmeath defeated Roscommon 1-15 to 3-3 to win the Tesco All-Ireland minor B Shield.

Anya Boyle struck a point after some good interplay to give Westmeath the lead but a minute later Ava Mulry was alert to net a crucial goal for Roscommon after Sifra Finneran's

free was batted out towards danger. Westmeath levelled but were on their heels once more when Finneran picked herself up after being pushed in the back to ram home the resultant penalty at the end of the opening quarter, Sally Bolger having done the spadework.

Westmeath continued to have the majority of possession and chipped away at the deficit once more with two points from Grace Gallagher, bringing her tally to four, and an equaliser just on the short whistle by Aine Newman leaving it 0-6 to 2-0 at the change of ends.

Alanna Cogan put the Lakesiders back in front for the first time since Mulry's early goal but again it didn't last long, when the slotar appeared to bounce cruelly off a defender's heel back into the net, after Bolger's free had been batted out.

The Leinster team shrugged off yet another setback and concentrated on keeping the scoreboard ticking over. Reanna Kennedy brought the teams level for the third time with a fantastic score and this time they were able to kick on.

They were gone two ahead when Finneran finally registered her side's first point, from a free and a goal from super sub Alex Elaurza in 52nd minute, from a powerful ground shot decided the verdict.

# Cork hold off Galway rally to claim All-Ireland title

## Tesco All-Ireland minor A camogie final

Cork	2-11
Galway	2-7

### Daragh Ó Conchúir

Cork held off a vallant second-half rally by Galway to finish strongly and claim the Tesco All-Ireland minor A camogie title for the third time and first since 2019.

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**Subs:** C Walsh for Hallahan (57), E Crowley for Fahy (57)

**GALWAY:** L Freaney, H Kenny, J Glynn, A Crowe, R Kelly, A Heenan, K Coleman, M Gannon, C Hickey, N McInerney, O Rabbite, A Dillon, C Hanley, A Fahy, A Barry.

**Subs:** M Mulry for Fahy (45), O Mullins for Dillon (50)

**Referee:** Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny)

## Camogie Association inks lucrative sponsorship deal

Tony Leen

All-Ireland champions Galway have been paired with Kilkenny and avoided Cork but the headline news from Camogie's 2022 championship draws yesterday was an exciting five-year sponsorship agreement with philanthropist Carmel Naughton and the Glen Dimplex corporation her husband founded in the 1970s.

Naughton played camogie in Monaghan as a young girl and a statement explained that she had now chosen to support the code in a philanthropic capacity, with branding rights associated with the sponsorship resting with joint sponsor Glen Dimplex.

"I have very fond memories of my years playing camogie. To me camogie is ultimately about community, teamwork, and how the energy, drive, and passion of a group of people can deliver such dividends that benefit both local and wider society."

Glen Dimplex is an Irish-headquartered international manufacturing group, which specialises in innovative low-carbon electric heating, and ventilation solutions and is

owned by the Naughton family.

The five-year deal, up to 2027, is a huge boost for the sport and was warmly welcomed by the Camogie Association and camogie county boards, representing almost 600 clubs nationwide.

It was confirmed at yesterday's announcement that the senior championship semi-finals will be held in Croke Park this July.

Glen Dimplex's Rowena McCappin said the company were delighted to be involved with the sponsorship of such a key sport in Ireland and highlighted the connection between Glen Dimplex and the Camogie Association.

"I see a synergy between Glen Dimplex's business and the Camogie Association, given the energy that is exuded on the camogie pitch, and the sport's role in inspiring and sustaining local communities. We're all, as a society, on a journey of sustainability for climate and community."

Hilda Breslin, of the Camogie Association, acknowledged the generous contributions of Naughton and Glen

Dimplex, and the commitment shown through signing a five-year deal. She also welcomed the significance of having an Irish-owned internationally recognised brand associated with the organisation.

The Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Camogie Championships will commence from the weekend of May 21-22 and will culminate in a triple-header All Ireland final at Croke Park on Sunday, August 7. The draws have been completed for the senior, intermediate, and premier junior competitions with groupings and competition structures set out below.

**Glen Dimplex Senior All-Ireland Championship:** 12 teams, 2 groups of 6, top in each group straight into semi-finals, 2nd and 3rd in each group into quarter-finals, bottom in each group into relegation

**Group 1 -** Cork, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Dublin and Clare; **Group 2 -** Galway, Kilkenny, Down, Antrim, Limerick, Offaly;

**Intermediate All-Ireland Championship (structure as above):** **Group 1 -** Westmeath, Galway, Carlow, Laois, Dublin, Kerry; **Group 2 -** Kilkenny, Meath, Derry, Cork, Kildare, Wexford; **Premier Junior (10 teams, 1 group of 6, 1 group of 5, then as above):** **Group 1 -** Armagh, Roscommon, Antrim, Limerick, Down; **Group 2:** Tipperary, Clare, Mayo, Cavan, Waterford.



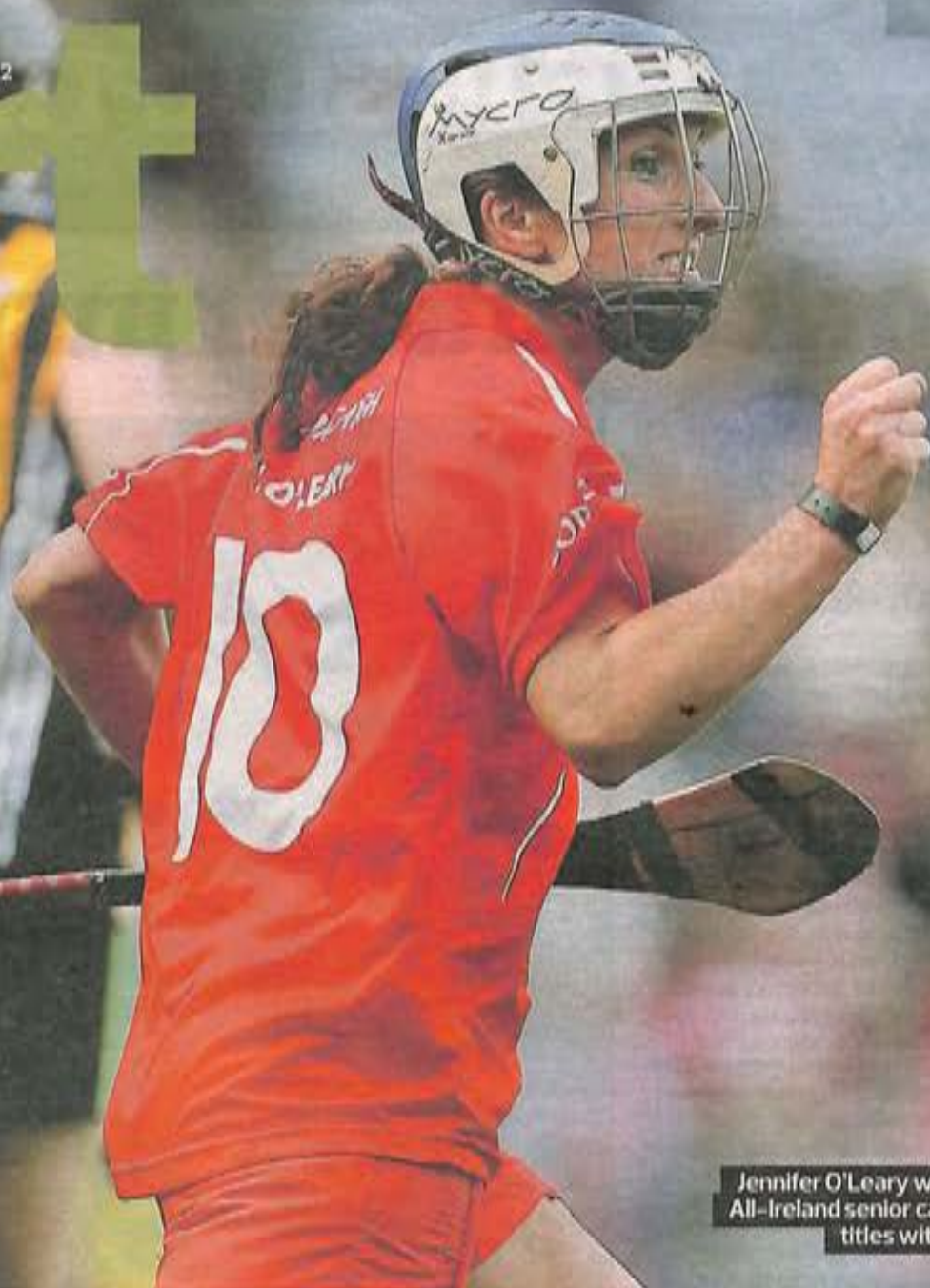
Camogie Association president Hilda Breslin; Rowena McCappin, Glen Dimplex; and Camogie Association Ard Stiúthóir Sínead McNulty at Croke Park to confirm Glen Dimplex as sponsor of the camogie championships and association. Picture: David Fitzgerald/Sportsfile

# STAR Sport

SATURDAY APRIL 2, 2022

## O'LEARY TO PLAY WITH ARMAGH

Cork great Jennifer O'Leary (38) making inter-county comeback



Jennifer O'Leary won four All-Ireland senior camogie titles with Cork.

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

CORK camogie legend Jennifer O'Leary is making a sensational return to inter-county action.

The Barryroe woman (38), who played her last game for Cork in 2014, has linked up with the Armagh camogie pan-

**'I just wanted more of a challenge'**  
- Jennifer O'Leary

el for their upcoming championship campaign. O'Leary is regarded as West

Cork's greatest-ever camogie player and in a stunning career with the Rebels she won four All-Ireland senior titles, eight All-Stars and six national leagues.

The Cork GAA great has lived in Middletown, Armagh, with her husband, Paul Curry,

since 2014 and has lined out with the local club, Middletown.

Never one to shirk a challenge, O'Leary has joined the Armagh camogie panel ahead of their Ulster and All-Ireland junior championship campaigns.

'I am back training with my club this year and I'm also training with Armagh camogie, too,' O'Leary revealed on this week's *Star Sport Podcast*, before explaining why she is returning to the inter-county scene.

'Last year Armagh had a really good management and

team. My two sisters-in-law Orla and Stephanie Curry, were on the squad and they would be telling me how training was going and how they really enjoyed it. Armagh got to the All-Ireland junior final last year.

Continued on page 9

## O'Leary to play with Armagh camogie

Continued from front

'I suppose I had a little bit of fomo (fear of missing out) even though it wouldn't have been possible last year because I was pregnant with Tiernan, but I just had that feeling in the back of my head. My husband, Paul,

was the one who pushed me towards it, telling me why don't I give it a go; nothing ventured, nothing gained.

'I was humming and hawing for a long time, but then I bit the bullet. If I don't try it, I might regret it. If it doesn't work out, at least I gave it a go.

I just wanted more of a challenge.'

O'Leary is currently training with the Armagh panel and is hoping to play her first game for her adopted county at the end of April in the Ulster championship. Armagh will also compete in the 2022

Premier Junior All-Ireland Championship and have been drawn in Group I alongside Roscommon, Antrim, Limerick and Down.

'I'm really enjoying it so far. I haven't played a game with Armagh yet, I had to sort out the transfer even though it's so

long since I played with Cork,' she explained.

'I'm looking forward to the first game at the end of April when we play in the Ulster championship. We'll see how it goes. I'll try to keep myself injury-free and not put pressure on myself.'



Kilbree's Caoimhe Murphy and Emily O'Donovan celebrate Cork's terrific All-Ireland minor A camogie final success last Saturday.



Cork's Anna Geary with RTÉ's Marty Morrissey and Marie Crowe at yesterday's announcement that RTÉ has reached agreement with the Camogie Association on a new multi-year deal running until 2027 which will see a minimum of nine games shown live on RTÉ television each year. Included in the deal, which runs from this year, are the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior, Intermediate, and Premier Junior Championship Finals; the two Senior Championship semi-finals and two Senior Championship quarter-finals; the Littlewoods Ireland National League Finals and the AIB Senior Club Championship Finals. This year the All-Ireland Senior, Intermediate, and Junior finals will be live on RTÉ2 and RTÉ Player in a triple-header from Croke Park on Sunday, August 7. The two Senior semi-finals on July 24 and two quarter-finals will also be live on RTÉ2 and RTÉ Player.

## Cork are drawn in Group 1

MATTHEW

Twomey's Cork have been drawn in Group 1 of the Glen Dimplex Sen-All-Star Laura Treacy.



All-Star Laura Treacy.

Cork have been joined in Group 1 by Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Dublin and Clare, while current champions Galway are in Group 2 along with Kilkenny, Down, Antrim, Limerick and Offaly.

Last year's defeated finalists, the Rebels will be determined to go one step further and their campaign is mapped out now following the championship draw. With the 12 teams divided into two groups of six, the top team from each group will go straight into the semi-finals. The second and third teams from both groups advance to the quarter-finals while the bottom team in Group 1 and Group 2 will battle it out in a relegation play-off.

At the launch of Glen Dimplex's new five-year sponsorship of the camogie championships and Camogie Association, it was also announced that the senior championship semi-finals will be held in Croke Park this July. The camogie championships, which throw in at the end of May, will culminate in a triple-header All-Ireland final at Croke Park on Sunday, August 7th.

Ahead of the championship, the Rebels and Galway will meet in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 final on Sunday, April 9th, a repeat of last year's All-Ireland senior final. Three Cork players were also named on the 2021 Camogie All-Stars team as Laura Treacy (centre back), Laura Hayes (half back) and Hannah Looney (midfield) were selected.

Also, the Cork intermediate team has been drawn in Group 2 in the Glen Dimplex Intermediate All-Ireland Championship that follows the same format as the senior championship. Joining Cork in Group 2 are Kilkenny, Meath, Derry, Kildare and Wexford. In Group 1, it's Westmeath, Galway, Carlow, Laois, Dublin and Kerry. The Rebels are also through to the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 2 semi-final after their 1-13 to 0-10 quarter-final triumph over Galway last weekend. A first-half goal by Rachel O'Shea in addition to Joanne Casey inspired Cork's win.

# Time to get in a room and talk out integration, says camogie boss

Eoghan Cormican

Camogie president Hilda Breslin will invite the presidents of the GAA and LGFA to sit at the one table and formally begin integration talks, should the latest integration motion be successfully passed at this weekend's Camogie Congress.

The motion put forward by the Camogie Association's Ard Chomhairle not only calls for an integrated Gaelic games organisation, but gender equity and equitable access to full participation in Gaelic games across all units of the organisation.

The GAA and LGFA have in recent weeks passed motions committing to one single governing body and should Camogie follow suit this weekend, Breslin will then seek to get all three association presidents in the one room to formally begin the integration process.

"We are all going to Congresses and coming up with aspirations, and they are wonderful and it is brilliant that we are talking about this. But the next step must be concrete.

"To me, the next step is the three presidents sitting down together, and that is what I will be calling for, if we get our mandate, that we sit down and put in place a formal mechanism to start this process."

Breslin told the *Irish Examiner*.

"It doesn't matter who puts the invitation out there, but if we get a mandate this weekend, we'll be putting the invitation to the other two bodies."

Breslin said the road to integration has arrived at a point where "a timeframe, a format, and a structure around how we are going to do it" is now required.

"There are no guarantees this will work and there are also no guarantees the three associations will all decide this is what they want. But I think until we get the three associations into the room, we are all just talking at each other and not particularly with each other.

"So we have got to talk together, the three associations, and see if this is where we are going and put a timeframe and a structure around the talks.

"I have never known any integration or merger where everybody is sitting in separate rooms, and it works that way. Eventually, you have all got to get into the one room and talk it out."

Although not wishing to set any pre-conditions ahead of inviting the GAA and LGFA to the table, Breslin said it would make sense to have an independent chairperson overseeing integration talks.



Hilda Breslin: Is hoping to begin integration talks soon.

"We need someone independent of the three associations. We all come with our own hats on and you have got to have somebody that is going to challenge all of us in our thinking and challenge us to say, why can't you do that.

"It will be up to them, in some ways, to make sure we drive it on, put timescales around it, and are committed to it.

"And if we are not committed to it, then they should equally be the ones to call it out and say, well actually they are not committed to it and this isn't going to work."

Breslin was adamant that she does not want this weekend's Camogie Congress to be a rubber-stamping exercise and would much prefer if delegates air whatever concerns they might harbour with re-

gard to joining forces with the GAA and LGFA.

"Obviously, we are looking for the motion to be endorsed, but we very often say why we should do this, nobody ever comes out and says why we shouldn't do this, what are the concerns, what are the fears of people. We kinda leave all that hidden in the background.

"I'd like to hear that from the floor of Congress. I'd like people to be honest and say, what's their concern or what do they fear for camogie. We'd like a robust debate; we don't want a rubber-stamping exercise. This is really what we are looking for: To get a mandate where there are no pre-conditions and we don't go into talks saying, this is a red line for us, and this is a red line for someone else. Instead, we say, if we were to start today, what would we want and how do we get there."

Elsewhere, the Wexford senior camogie panel have written to the Camogie Association's fixtures committee to outline their "shock and disappointment" at the clash of fixtures this Sunday which means dual players Sarah Harding-Kenny and Allis Neville will have to choose between the camogie team's Division 2 League semi-final against Waterford and the footballers' Division 3 final against Roscommon.



ANOTHER REBEL SUCCESS: Cork players celebrate with the cup after beating Galway to win the Minor All-Ireland camogie title. Picture: ©INPHO/Tommy Grealy

### Camogie

There were a couple of great results last Saturday - congrats to the minors on winning a thrilling All-Ireland title, once again showing great resolve to defeat Galway and in the process capture the county's third title at this grade.

Earlier the D2 side qualified for the league semi-final with a good win over Galway (again). They now play Antrim on Sunday, time and venue to be confirmed. The league finals form part of a double-header in Croke Park on Saturday week, with Cork already in the D1 Final v Galway (yet again) it would be nice to see this side join them.

They have improved with every outing defensively they have been excellent with Sarah Ahern, Niamh O'Leary and Kelly Falvey stand out players, while Pinola Neville, Rachel O'Shea and Joanne Casey have the capacity to guide them into the final.

The championship draws were also confirmed. In Senior, Cork are in Group 1 with Tipperary, Waterford, Care, Dublin and Wexford, while in the Intermediate, in Group 2, it's Cork, Kilkenny, Meath, Kildare, Derry, Kildare and Wexford.

In both championships the top team in each group go to semi-final with second and third advancing to the quarter-finals.

The first round games are on the weekend of 21/22 May and based on league form, Cork should make the knock-out phase of both championships.

## Wexford and Antrim reach Division 2 final

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Wexford and Antrim will be readying themselves this week for the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 2 final at Croke Park on Saturday, after coming through their respective semi-finals against Waterford and Cork.

A scoring burst of a goal and five points without reply helped Wexford overcome Waterford at Netwatch Dr Cullen Park, 1-12 to 0-9.

Ciarra O'Connor's 52nd minute goal, allied with seven points from Anais Curran, put paid to Waterford's hopes.

A cagey first half ended at 0-6 apiece, with the teams having been level five times. The goal came after substitute Joanne Dillon's run and well-timed pass and three more points from Curran (free), a glorious effort by Aoife O'Connor, and Mags Byrne sealed the deal, Vicki

Faloner ending a 23-minute drought for Waterford when it was all too late.

Antrim had to survive a phenomenal second-half fight-back from Cork's intermediate outfit in Edenderry to cement their return to the Division 2 decider.

Leading by 13 points at the interval, Elaine Dowds' charges only managed one minor in the second half as the wind strengthened, but despite Joanne Casey shooting 1-7 for the Rebels, they had done enough, 2-11 to 1-12.

Róisín McCormick did the damage, scoring 2-7 in a superlative first-half performance where she pulled out her complete box of tricks.

McCormick's first goal was a thing of beauty. Aine Magill provided the final delivery but McCormick still had a lot to do. The full-forward batted the ball in front of herself and without breaking stride, picked and drilled an unstoppable shot to the roof of the net.



Cork's Katie Walsh wins the ball from Antrim's Lucia McNaughton during the 2021 All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Cork are just one step away from a place in League Division 2 final

**SUNDAY**  
Littlewoods Division 2 National League semi-final: Cork v Antrim, Edenderry, 3pm

IT'S down to the last four in the Littlewoods Division 2 National League as Cork, Antrim, Wexford, and Waterford remain in the hunt for a place in the final.

The announcement mid-week that both the Division 1 and 2 finals are to be played in Croke Park on April 9 is an added incentive for all four semi-finalists to make it to the final. With the Cork senior team already through to the Division 1 decider where they will meet Galway, the hope is that the intermediates can make it a double and a great occasion.

Cork will take on last season's All-Ireland champions Antrim who will ply their trade in the senior grade for championship while Wexford and Waterford will meet in the other semi.

After a disappointing start to their campaign where they lost out to Wexford, Cork settled and recorded victories over Kildare, Derry, Meath, and Galway. They have worked hard and have shown huge determination.

Joanne Casey continues to be hugely important up front and her accuracy from frees is vital. They have strong performers in captain Finola Neville and Siobhan Hutchinson, who has fared well since moving into attack. Her goal last Saturday just before the break helped put Cork into the driving seat against Galway.

The defence as a unit were superb against the Tribe with the full-back trio Niamh O'Leary, Kelly Falvey and Daniele Carroll all to the fore.

Goalkeeper Sarah Ahern is also playing very well this season.

They will be without Lauren Callanan who has been superb in all games since her return to the side from a pre-season injury.

She will be marked absent on Sunday as she is out of the country and she will be a big loss.

Antrim are a well-balanced outfit. Six of their All-Ireland winning team were chosen on the Soaring Stars team at last weekend's All-Stars with Castriona Graham the goalkeeper, Chloe Drain was named at right corner-back, Nicole O'Neill at midfield, Maeve Kelly slotted in at right half-forward, with Roisin

**CAMOGIE**  
Mary Newman

McCormick and Caitrin Dobbin the corner-forwards.

They will be without Intermediate Player of the Year Maeve Kelly who is recovering from knee surgery. Against Cork last year she hit 0-4 from play and her overall contribution helped in no small way as Antrim were crowned All-Ireland champions.

They are under new management after joint-managers Paul McKillen and Jim McKernan bowed out on a high, with McKernan taking over with Armagh.

Elaine Dowd, part of the backroom trio last year, took over the managerial reins and became one of the few ladies in charge of inter-county camogie teams at the top level. She is joined by Shane Elliott, Joe Passmore, and Brian Kearney.

Their path to the semi-final has been impressive. They had a runaway opening-round victory over Kerry but were pushed to the limits by Galway in round two where they had to battle to the finish before running out winners with four points to spare.

Defensively they were well-organised as they held off a strong challenge from a Galway side that took the lead but were pinned back.

The experienced Ulster side didn't panic but it took a vital save from goalkeeper Graham to deny Clara Reidy a certain goal from point-blank range.

They totally overpowered Laois in round three to top group three and book their place in the latter stages where they were one of the two teams who went directly to the semi-final.

In last year's championship, Cork were the only side to defeat Antrim (2-14 to 2-11) when the sides clashed in Castle Road in July.

With both counties finishing level on points Antrim secured the runners-up spot on scoring difference and went on to win the All-Ireland title.

With a new management team this year and some additions to the panel, Cork are revived and determined to make amends and they are hugely determined to join the senior team in Croke Park, just 60 minutes and Antrim stand in their way.



Cork's Clara Morrison with Ava Crowe of Galway in the minor final. Picture: INPHO/Tommy Greal

# Minor success a major boost for camogie in Cork



**CAMOGIE**

Linda Mellerick

IT was a great weekend on the Cork camogie front, winning the All-Ireland minor title for the third time in four years and advancing to the Division 2 senior league semi-final.

Both victories were at the expense of Galway and considering that the Tribe are the number one senior team in the country, it's good to be creating a bit of nervousness west of the island that the Rebels are on their heels with continuous talent coming through.

The minor achievement was tremendous and our congratulations to Jerry Wallace, Michael Boland, and the entire backroom team and panel. This is Cork's third title in four 'playing years', the 2020 competition not completed as Cork went in pursuit of three in a row.

Kilkenny defeated Cork in last year's final, ending the hat-trick dream, but the cup wasn't missing from Leeside for too long when it was presented to Sarsfields' Orlaith Mullins in Semple Stadium.

Cork hadn't won the All-Ireland minor title since the age moved from U16 to U18 in 2006. Enter Jerry Wallace in 2018 and they've reached every final since, winning three from four. That's some record.

I thoroughly enjoyed the game. We witnessed two teams with tremendous hooking, blocking, and work-rate. It took Cork a while to settle, Orlaith Cahalane's 21st-minute goal from a free turning the tide and Cork stayed in front from there.

Without seeing a replay, Galway keeper Laura Freney seemingly brought down Cahalane's free as it looked to be heading for the crossbar or slightly over and the



Cork players and management celebrate after the All-Ireland minor win over Galway. Picture: INPHO/Tommy Greal

ball fell into the net.

It's that split-second decision isn't it? Do you help the ball over the bar or attempt to pull it down?

For someone so young it's a bit much to expect her to instantaneously know what to do. Cahalane was lovely to watch around the middle of the park.

I was also impressed with Mullins whose energy and unselfish play was excellent while Fiona Twohig also excited, a fine strong player who finished with three points. Clara Morrison, Aoife Healy, and Cork's entire full-back line, who were under immense pressure in the fourth quarter as Galway pushed for a goal, were excellent.

The maturity of this team is remarkable. They dug out two one-point wins over Waterford and Tipperary and when Galway scored four points on the trot to narrow the gap to just one point on 56 minutes, they didn't panic, didn't give

away silly frees and replied with three points from Morrison, Cahalane, and Eimear Duignan.

A brilliant performance and win. Enjoy the celebrations!

While I was thrilled that the minor final was deservedly in Semple Stadium, I'm equally glad to see that if the division two side can defeat Antrim this weekend, they'll get to play their league final in Croke Park, a double-header with the senior final between Cork and Galway on April 9.

What an experience for these players personally. And what a valuable experience it will be if Cork reach an All-Ireland intermediate final. To already have the experience of Croke Park's environment, dressing room, hurling hall, pitch, and sound come September would be worth its weight in gold.

It's a huge incentive for the side. They'll face Antrim, the 2021 All-Ireland champions, but they've a strong side with competition for places and are playing well.

Antrim will, incidentally, take part in the senior championship, having been promoted after their championship success. I can't understand the ruling that allows the All-Ireland champions to remain in the intermediate league the following season.

Is it a rule or a county's own decision? You'd imagine if you were playing senior championship then you'd want to play senior league and go in as prepared as you can be.

The announcement of a five-year sponsorship deal with Glen Dimplex is great news for the association after going through 2021 without a championship sponsor.

The money might free up some cash to hire more administrators as standards have fallen in recent times and they are desperately needed. While the groups for the championships have been drafted, no actual games have yet been drawn.

# 'Hard to put into words what winning All-Ireland feels like'



Cork players celebrate after winning the All-Ireland minor A camogie final. (Photos: Tommy Grealy / INPHO)

## West Cork's finest play their roles in county's minor success

### MINOR A CAMOGIE

CORK	2-11
GALWAY	2-7

#### GER MCCARTHY REPORTS

WEST Cork's Fiona Twohig and Millie Condon played leading roles in Cork's third All-Ireland minor A camogie title success – and first since 2019 – at Semple Stadium last Saturday.

Twohig (Valley Rovers) and Condon (Ballinacorney) were part of a talented Cork panel pushed to the limit by Galway before securing a deserved four-point All-Ireland final win.

Caoimhe Murphy and Emily O'Donovan (Kilbree) plus Ellen Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) are the other Carbery All-Ireland winning Cork players involved in this panel.

Add in Orlaith Cahalane's contribution of 1-3 – the daughter of Castlehaven legend Niall Cahalane – and there was plenty for West Cork camogie to be pleased about in Thurles last Saturday evening.

Jerry Wallace's Cork side did it the hard way this year, edging past Waterford after extra-time in the quarter-finals and beating Tipperary in the last four.

'We are absolutely delighted, and the feeling, you can't really put it into words just what winning an All-Ireland feels like,' Twohig told *The Southern Star*.

'So much training and preparation has gone into it. It is unbelievable. In your heart is where you feel it. We just tried to put everything we had into it out there this evening and when it pays off, it pays off. It is unreal.'

Millie Condon paid tribute to a gallant Galway side that came within four points of denying Cork the All-Ireland minor trophy.

'They were on top at the start but then we got at them and went into half-time on the front foot,' Condon commented.

'They had another purple patch during the middle of the second half but we came back into it once again and we won!'

A nervy, low-scoring opening half saw Catherine Hanley (45), Alannah Fahy and Olwen Rabbite points hand a dominant Galway a 0-3 to 0-1 lead after 16 minutes. Cork hit some poor wides in the opening quarter. They had only a converted Orlaith Cahalane free to show for their efforts prior to Leah Hallihan having a goal-bound shot tipped away.

Cahalane lined up the resulting 45 and the St Finbarr's player's effort drifted into the back of the net with the sun in goalkeeper Laura Freeney's eyes. Two marvellous Fiona Twohig points handed Cork a 1-3 to 0-3 interval advantage.

A high-octane second period proved far more entertaining with Cork pressing forward thanks to the excellent Aoife Healy, Orlaith Mullins, Ciara Morrison and Millie Condon's increased efforts. Twohig and Mullins were involved in the build-up to Ciara Morrison's rasping finish to the net two minutes after the restart.

Cork custodian Jill Connaughton had a marvellous game and produced a double save to keep Cork 2-3 to 0-3



Cork's Orlaith Cahalane gets away from Galway's Grace Leen.

'So much training and preparation has gone into it' – Fiona Twohig

ahead. Olwen Rabbite raised a white flag prior to Ana Fahy and Ciara Morrison responding for Cork.

It was Connaughton's turn to be unsighted with the sun in her eyes as Galway's Catherine Hanley capitalised to find the net. Cork refused to panic with Fiona Twohig once again splitting the posts. A pair of Orlaith Cahalane scores (one free) pushed her team 2-8 to 1-4 ahead when Connaughton produced another stunning double-save.

Creditably, the Connacht side's constant attacks were rewarded with a deserved goal when Megan Gannon scorched a smashing effort into the roof of the net.

Within minutes, Galway were only a point behind as Catherine Hanley (free), Niamh

### ★ THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Cork centre-back Aoife Healy didn't put a foot wrong in Semple Stadium. The Aghada player looks like a real prospect.

**Star moment:** There were many but let's give some credit to Cork goalkeeper Jill Connaughton who produced a string of top-class stops during the second half.

**Talking point:** This All-Ireland winning Cork team came through some tough tests against Waterford and Tipperary. Those experiences stood to Jerry Wallace's side against Galway.

McInerney and Aoibheann Barry found their range.

Cork were not ready to relinquish their lead, however, and digging deep, the eventual winners reeled off three unanswered points. Ciara Morrison, Orlaith Cahalane and Eimear Duignan scores sent the Cork supporters into wild celebrations and the final whistle heralded a famous 2-11 to 2-7 victory.

#### Scorers

**Cork:** C Morrison, O Cahalane (2f, 1-0 45) 1-3 each; F Twohig 0-3; Ana Fahy, E Duignan 0-1 each.  
**Galway:** C Hanley 1-2 (1 45; 1f);

M Gannon 1-0; O Rabbite 0-2; Alannah Fahy, N McInerney, A Barry 0-1 each.

**Cork:** J Connaughton; A Barrett, M de Burca, T Elliott; E Sheehan, A Healy, A Cashman; O Cahalane, M Condon; L Hallihan, C Morrison, E Duignan; Ana Fahy, F Twohig, O Mullins.

**Subs:** C Walsh for Hallahan (57), E Crowley for Fahy (57).

**Galway:** L Freeney; H Kenny, J Glynn, A Crowe; R Kelly, A Hesnan, K Coleman; M Gannon, C Hickey; N McInerney, O Rabbite, A Dillon; C Hanley, Alannah Fahy, A Barry.  
**Subs:** M Mulryan for Fahy (45), O Mullins for Dillon (50).

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

# Antrim hang on against Rebels

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Antrim 2-11  
Cork 1-12

ANTRIM had to withstand a tremendous fightback from Cork before securing their place in the Littlewoods Division 2 National League final in Edenderry.

The spirited Rebels, having trailed by 12 points at the break, lost by two and at one stage trimmed the gap to a point in a pulsating second half.

Cork won the toss but opted to play against the strong wind, with Antrim taking full advantage of the elements. Roisin McCormick notched 2-7 of their tally as Antrim led 2-10 to 0-4.

Joanne Casey opened the scoring with a free before McCormick fired over two quick points. Antrim set the pace and soon hit the net.

Casey and Rachel Harty kept Cork in touch but led by McCormick Antrim extended their lead and when she struck for Antrim's second goal on 25 minutes Cork were in deep trouble.

Christine Lavery and Aine Magill kept the scoreboard ticking over too, with Casey responding before the break.

A reshaped Cork set about narrowing the gap and with their defence tightening up considerably they got the upper hand. Helped by the wind, they began to pick off scores through Casey and O'Shea.

Finola Neville struck too and Cork were now the dominant force. With five minutes remaining, a long-range Casey free went all the way to the net.

O'Shea was denied a goal at the expense of a 45 which Casey converted.

With three minutes remaining Antrim registered their first score of the second half through Magill before Casey clipped over another 45.

O'Shea had one from play and as the clock ticked into injury time they had one more chance. Moira Barrett won possession and worked her way in from the wing but opted to shoot when maybe an off-load was the better option. Her effort went wide and on the puck-out referee Gavin Donegan sounded the last whistle.

**Scorers for Antrim:** R McCormick 2-7 (0-1 45 0-1 45), A Magill 0-2, C Wright, C Lavery 0-1 each.

**Cork:** J Casey 1-8 (1-5 f, 0-1 45), R O'Shea 0-3, F Neville 0-1.

**ANTRIM:** C Graham, C Drain, N Donnelly, M Lynn, C Patterson, C Conlon, L McKenna, L McNaughton (c), N O'Neill, S McKillop, A Boyle, A Magill, C Wright, R McCormick, C Lavery.

**Sub:** K McKillop for C Drain (inj 20).

**CORK:** S Beausang, N O'Leary, K Favey, D Carroll, L O'Sullivan, A O'Callaghan, A Moloney, R Harty, J O'Leary, J Casey, M Murphy, S Hutchinson, R O'Shea, F Neville, H Ryan.

**Subs:** K Kitchin for J O'Leary, K Hickey for S Hutchinson (both h-t), M Barrett for H Ryan (38).

**Referee:** Gavin Donegan (Dublin).

## Grandmother-of-10 pulls together sport's most durable deal



An initial five-year headline sponsorship agreement in sport is pretty much unheard of.

Commercial partners usually dip into such large investments tentatively on a two- to three-year cycle, with an option to extend after the initial deal.

So it was with considerable shock that the Camogie Association has found itself as the happy recipient of a golden handcuffs partnership which has locked them in with Glen Dimplex until the 2027 season

<<< Carmel Naughton: Deal is, 'we hope, for the good of camogie, and in a small way the good of the country'.

— a lifetime by commercial contract standards.

The seven-figure deal features one of the newest and most intriguing figures in sports sponsorship — a mother of three, grandmother of 10, and now benefactor to tens of thousands of camogie players.

Carmel Naughton, who is in her "very late 70s", produced a deal which marries a complex hybrid of philanthropic, commercial and branding activations in a unique investment.

The Pitch understands that Naughton invested some of her own wealth, along with an investment by Glen Dimplex, the family firm, which will see all marketing and sponsor-

ship assets returning to the electrical products firm.

Speaking to the *Irish Examiner*, Naughton revealed that the investment follows a life's love of camogie which was nurtured growing up in County Monaghan.

"We certainly don't do (the sponsorship) for thanks but we do it for what we hope is for the good of camogie, and in a small way the good of the country," she told *The Pitch* from her Florida base.

As a player in the 1950s and 1960s, Naughton was forced to endure the sort of conditions, that even by the standards of today's still improving female sporting landscape, are scarcely believable. "We made our own uniforms, which con-

sisted of a short mustard skirt and big thick woolly tights, (much to the disapproval of some)," she recalls.

The deal came together following a conversation between Naughton and GAA commercial director Peter McKenna, "some years back", in which Croke Park facilitated and supported the concept into full-scale activation with the Camogie Association.

Once the finer points of the contract were worked out, the way was set for one of the longest initial headline sponsorships in sport and one which positions the association as one of the most secure in the long-term in Irish sport.

## Antrim looking to secure a return to the big time

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Antrim are getting very accustomed to appearing in camogie finals now.

Seven months after securing a long-awaited return to the senior ranks by winning the All-Ireland intermediate title, they are a game away from a place in the top tier of the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie Leagues.

They face last season's senior championship quarter-fi-

nalists Wexford in tomorrow's Division 2 decider at Croke Park (5.15pm throw-in — live on RTE 2), anxious to make amends for falling to old rivals Down late on in a thrilling finale in 2021.

The Mourne women's consolidation of elite status in both league and championship serves as a confidence booster to Antrim and with a very good age profile, they are well placed to do likewise.

Lucia McNaughton was captain when Antrim got the better of Kilkenny in the All-

Ireland final.

"Everything just went to plan on the day," recalls the NHS physio. "Everything that could have gone well, went well. It's kind of surreal because we were even chatting about it the other day, still going back and watching the match, and looking at the photos, that it actually happened. It still hasn't really sunk in. And now to be able to play again in Croke Park, is just..."

McNaughton struggles for the right words but it's not

that it was a shock. They have worked for this. But to realise a dream is no small thing.

The skipper wants more though, and it is promising that they have maintained the momentum despite joint managers, Paul McKillen and Jim McKernan standing down. Elaine Dowds, who was part of the backroom set-up, has stepped up to the plate and it looks like business as usual.

"Paul and Jim had mentioned to us that they would probably step away after the season. You know, it is a huge

commitment. And we were very happy with the commitment that we had from them over the past two years. It was a very difficult year with Covid and everything. I'm just glad that we were able to finish on a such a high for them."

Wexford are a team they haven't played in recent seasons. Having overcome another side that reached the final six of the senior championship last year in Waterford, and with Antrim now a senior team too, it is a testa-

ment to the rising standards of camogie. She added: "It will be highly competitive but we will just concentrate on ourselves and see what happens."

"Division 2 is so competitive anyway because there obviously is that incentive to go up. But even from last year, this year has been even more competitive. Waterford came down last year and Wexford beat them this year, it just shows you that everything can change very quickly so we have to try grab this while we can."





# CAN CORK END WAIT FOR LEAGUE CROWN?



Cork and Galway will battle for Division 1 league honours at Croke Park this Saturday.

## Rebels face Galway in repeat of 2021 All-Ireland senior final

BY GER MCCARTHY

ATURDAY night's Cork and Galway Littlewoods Camogie National League Division 1 final is a rematch of the 2021 All-Ireland decider.

Cork senior manager Matthew Twomey and his players don't need reminding of the last time they faced their Connacht rivals. A heart-breaking 2021 All-Ireland camogie final loss, 15 to 1-12, ended the Leesiders' hopes of claiming a first senior title since 2018. It was also Paudie Murray's last game in charge.

Since then, Twomey's promotion to the senior manager's role, Davy Fitzgerald's addition to the coaching docket plus the senior panel's renewed hunger has seen Cork qualify for this weekend's national league decider (7pm throw-in) in impressive fashion.

A 2-6 to 0-4 win away to Clare at Cusack Park was followed by a 5-17 to 0-6 hammering of Limerick in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Cork just needed to avoid defeat in their last group outing at home to Kilkenny and achieved



Galway's Emma Helebert and Cork's Laura Hayes pictured at the launch of the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 final at Croke Park. (Photo: Laszlo Geczo/Inpho)

the draw they required.

Galway's path to the league final has been equally impressive. A 1-15 to 0-6 win over Dublin, the 4-17 to 0-8 defeat of Down, a 1-11 to 0-13 success over Tipperary and the 2-21 to 1-8 win at home to Offaly sees the reigning All-Ireland champions in rude health.

It is nine years since Cork last claimed the league trophy, a drought the county's camogie senior manager would like to end at the expense of Galway.

'Galway were the only team that beat us last year - they

beat us twice, in the league semi-final and then the All-Ireland final as well,' Twomey told *The Southern Star*.

'Number one, we want that monkey off of our backs. As well as that, it is a national title and something we haven't won since 2013. It would be great to win it but the result isn't going to define either team's season.

'The other important thing is that there are a few Cork players new to the scene and who will get their first opportunity to play in Croke Park - that will be another test. There is prob-

**'As a manager, I will get to find out a few more things about my players'**  
- Matthew Twomey, Cork manager

ably another bit of added pressure in that it is in Croke Park and the game is being televised live. As a manager, I will get to find out a few more things about my players.'

Cork's last competitive outing was that cracking Division 1 draw at home to Kilkenny in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on March 12th. Saturday night's Croke Park showdown will be Twomey's side's first game in close to a month. In the interim, Cork's senior panel has returned to the training pitch and are eager for another crack off Galway.

'Initially, we took a week off after the Kilkenny game as we knew there would be such a big gap to the league final,' Twomey admitted.

'We have been training full pelt since then though and just looking to improve and work on a few things we noticed against Kilkenny. Everyone has been working extremely hard and that's all you can ask at this stage of the year.

'The Kilkenny game was a big one for us as we were tested to the full. The most pleasing aspect of it was how we looked dead and buried at one stage

but never panicked. The girls stuck to the way we want them to play and came good in the end.'

Away from Saturday's league final, the draw for the newly-sponsored Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie championship has pitted Cork against Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Dublin and Clare in the group stage. No easy games as the cliché goes. Twomey respects each of Cork's opponents in the opening phase of what should be another fascinating championship.

'Cork want to be tested every time we go out on the pitch - and this All-Ireland draw will certainly do that,' the Cork manager explained.

'We want to be challenged tactically as well. Each one of those group games is going to bring a different test. We cannot go out with the same ideas for every game. Each match will pose a different set of chal-

lenges for us.

'I am happy with the draw in that we will have to perform (every game) otherwise we won't qualify for the knockout stages. The top seed will go into the All-Ireland semi-finals and that's what we want to achieve. Every game is going to be difficult, even though we don't know the home and away situation just yet. The quality of each of those teams means it is going to be tough.

'That's what Cork wants. We want the girls tested and to give as many players as we can a run in the championship. This year's All-Ireland championship draw will do that.'

Before all of that, a rematch with their 2021 All-Ireland final conquerors and a chance to lift a first league title since 2013 should bring the best out of an improving Cork.

*This Saturday's league final between Cork and Galway at Croke Park is live on RTE 2.*

## LAST LEAGUE TITLE

Cork's last Division 1 league title success was back in 2013 - and the team contained some household names. Player of the match Orla Cotter inspired the 0-12 to 1-7 win over Wexford at Nowlan Park, while the legendary Rena Buckley was outstanding at centre back. Aoife Murray was in goal that day, Briege Corkery was another who starred and West Cork camogie great Jennifer O'Leary, who has just come out of inter-county retirement to play with Armagh, came off the bench. That 2013 success made it back-to-back league titles for the Rebels, but since then Kilkenny have won the competition four times and Galway twice, while Cork have looked on. Time to end the wait.



Cork's Amy O'Connor under pressure from Kilkenny's Grace Walsh.  
Picture: Inpho/Jim Coughlan

## Old rivals square off in another Croke Park decider

WE are back for another Croke Park clash as Cork and Galway meet in the Littlewoods National league final tomorrow night.

Just over six months after they served up a thrilling All-Ireland final when a late Galway rally saw them edge past Cork, the sides meet at headquarters again.

While we have got the pairing that was predicted, it hasn't all been plain sailing as both sides had to really dig deep and earn their place in the decider.

It took a pointed free by Rebecca Hennelly in the eighth minute of injury-time to give Galway a 1-11 to 0-13 triumph over spirited Tipperary who were devastated to lose in controversial circumstances.

The free was hugely contentious and was disputed by the Tipp management after Claire Hogan was adjudged to have charged into Sarah Dervan.

Hennelly had to hold her nerve to convert from just outside the 45 close to the sideline to nail the score that gave Galway a place in the final.

In that game, Cathal Murray introduced the Sarsfields duo Orlaith and Siobhan McGrath on 47 minutes and it helped turn the game in his side's favour.

Both had been absent due to their All-Ireland Club Championship duties, but when the need was greatest Murray sprung them from the bench.

In last year's final it was Siobhan McGrath who was the thorn in Cork's side as she contributed 1-2 of Galway's tally with her goal with four minutes remaining the difference at the full-time whistle.

Cork have earned their spot the hard way also.

In their semi-final against Kilkenny, played in horrific weather conditions, a late Chloe Sigerson free secured their place in the decider but only by virtue of better scoring difference and after recording victories over Clare and Limerick.

Galway came through undefeated with wins over Dublin, Down, Tipperary, and Offaly.

It hard to believe it has been 2013 since Cork won the league.

Galway won in 2019 and lost to last year's final to Kilkenny, a goal separating the sides at full-time.

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

This year, under new management, Cork have put in a good campaign where they have been minus Pamela Mackey, Hannah Looney, Orla Cronin, Linda Collins, and Fiona Keating from the side who lined out in last year's final.

New manager Matthew Twomey has introduced new faces to the side.

Maebh Murphy has featured in defence with Katie O'Mahony, Izzie O'Regan, Cliona Healy, and Down native Sorcha McCartan, who transferred to St Finbarr's last year, declared for Cork, and is now lining out in attack.

Katriona Mackey, Maebh Cahalane, Laura Hayes, Libby Coppinger, Amy O'Connor Aisling Thompson, and Laura Treacy continue to backbone the side captained by keeper Amy Lee, while Chloe Sigerson's introduction against Kilkenny proved vital as she nailed the vital long range free that secured Cork a place in the final.

Twomey has also introduced and given some game time to younger players, among them Maebh Ring, Isobel Sheehan, Ciara O'Sullivan, Aoife Hurley, Kate Wall, Cliona Dooley, Emma Murphy, Emma Flanagan, and Olivia McAllen.

Julia White has been named amongst the substitutes through the campaign but has yet to feature.

Cork have been working hard and new coach Davey Fitzgerald has slotted in well and he will no doubt relish a meeting against the All-Ireland champions.

Heather Cooney made a return to the Galway defence for their last league game against Offaly having missed last season because of a cruciate injury and she will be a welcome boost to a strong side that will feature Sarah Dervan, Shauna Healy, Ailish O'Reilly, and Niamh Kilkenny.

With the championship due to begin in May both camps will be anxious to set down a marker, having lost out narrowly the last time the sides met. Cork will relish the opportunity for another crack at the All-Ireland champions.



Cork manager Matthew Twomey and Kilkenny manager Brian Dowling shake hands at the end of the game.  
Picture: INPHO/Jim Coughlan

# Cork hope to shake Galway monkey off their backs

**TOMORROW**  
Littlewoods Division 1 League final: Cork v Galway, Croke Park, 7pm

IF the meeting of Cork and Galway in the Littlewoods division 1 league final in Croke Park tomorrow is even 70% as good in quality and drama as last September's All-Ireland final between the two, then we're in for a great hour's entertainment.

What a game that was! Unfortunately Cork came out on the wrong side of a 1-15 to 1-12 result.

We thought we had it when Katrina Mackey billowed the net on 48 minutes to give Cork a three-point lead, but Galway finished in a blaze of glory.

It was a different Galway to previous teams which couldn't see tight games out.

Their mindset had changed. Galway had started to beat Cork in league and championship games in the two years previous.

Despite both side having qualified from their group in the 2020 championship when they met, Galway came out tops by three points.

In their league semi-final meeting in Nowlan Park in June 2021, three months before the championship final, Galway edged Cork again after extra-time, 1-19 to 1-17. Those defeats mattered, those victories mattered, depending on which side of the fence you sit.

Galway will obviously go into this final as favourites. Cork have lost a lot of experience in recent years and, as expected, it's taking time to rebuild. Galway's rebuilding process is only around the corner with some of their key players in their early thirties.

They've lost a few of their extended panel through retirement but their back-



### CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

bone is still intact.

Galway haven't been hitting top form throughout the league but are on a high, with Sarsfields having recently won the All-Ireland senior club title and their players are now back full-time with the squad.

The McGrath sisters, Orlaith and Siobhan, are top class forwards. Despite Galway presently having the upper hand at senior level Cork are on their heels, having defeated them two weeks ago in the division two league and minor All-Ireland final on the same day.

Cork will line out minus Hannah Looney, Pamela Mackey, Orla Cronin, and Linda Collins from last year's championship.

It's hoped that Looney and Cronin will be back for the championship. Fiona Keating hasn't started a league game since breaking a bone in her hand. Sorcha McCartan has joined the panel from Down and is a huge plus, but Cork have fitness tests for McCartan and Katrina Mackey ahead of tomorrow's encounter.

McCartan hasn't trained since the Kilkenny game four weeks ago due to an ankle injury and Mackey pulled her hamstring last week.

Manager Matthew Twomey is hopeful they'll both make it. With the aforementioned absentees and injuries Cork's manager said: "We're down six from last



Kearys Motor Group last month has announced a new three-year sponsorship deal with Cork Camogie, making it one of the largest sponsorships in the sport. Pictured at the announcement is Cork camogie player Amy O'Connor.  
Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treacy

year's starting All-Ireland 15.

"From looking at Galway's team that lined out against Tipperary in their league semi-final they're full on.

"We're up against it because they've been our bogey side over the past couple of seasons.

"But if we get a response from the girls, we'll be happy. A performance is what we're looking for because we did want to blood new players throughout the league and I'd say on Saturday we'll have four, maybe five starting in Croke Park for the first time.

"So that's huge and we're happy with that side of things."

The team will travel by bus due to the late throw-in time, 7pm, and it's live on RTE.

It's a work in progress for Matthew, regardless of tomorrow's result.

"When we started the year we wanted to be competitive in the league and get as many players onto the pitch as we possibly could.

"I think we've given nine players their debut and we're in a final so we're in bonus territory now. I don't think it's going to define our season if we win or lose. If we win, we're not going to get carried away thinking we're going to win the All-Ireland and if we get beaten, we're not going to start crying into our jerseys."

Twomey has been particularly impressed with a few players to date.

"Sorcha McCartan obviously is a huge find. Izzy O'Regan and Maebh Murphy have impressed to be fair to them.

"There are some girls on the panel who are very close to starting, they've come on leaps and bounds. Their fitness levels have gone up and confidence is a huge thing as well."

Camogie League  
Division 1 final

Sarah Ó Conchúir

Cliona Healy's progression to starting role with Cork has been worth the wait.

She was a star of the under-16 ranks, sharing an All-Ireland minor triumph with Laura Hayes and Saoirse McCarthy in 2018 and going on to complete a rare double with Hayes by adding Intermediate honours in Croke Park just a few months later.

All three were fast-tracked to the senior squad by Paudie Murray. Hayes made the most immediate impact and McCarthy established herself on the opposite wing of the defence back line as the Rebels chased last year's All-Ireland minor final.

Healy produced many long cameos in that period but now this season, she looks to have finally cemented her first-team status.

Such was the confidence in boss Matthew Twomey and coach Davy Fitzgerald placed in the Aghabullogue that she was placed on a full-time duty and has delivered in spades.

A third year teaching student in Mary I College, she has been subbing at Coachford College, the camogie nursery she attended herself and had represented in an All-Ireland junior final.

Healy's horizons have expanded of course and now, the focus is on the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 final back at Croke Park on, live on RTE2, Galway, the team that broke their hearts on Jones' Road last

September when three points separated them, bar their way to a first title since 2013.

But she recalls her wide-eyed reaction to making the minor set-up.

"When I was growing up and younger, I would have looked up to Orla Cotter and Marie Cotter and the Mackays (Katrina and Pamela) and Emma O'Connor, Ashling Thompson and people like them. When I got the call-up, I was going in to play with them. It's surreal. You are used to looking at them on TV and now all of a sudden you're inside in the dressing room with them. They were so good to us younger ones. They

would be telling us things and giving us advice. It was just really cool to be inside there with them."

Of course they wouldn't give an inch on the pitch so the battle for a starting berth was hot. It still is, so Healy certainly isn't taking anything for granted, despite her consistently high scoring return and good form in recent months.

"We are working so hard at training. When there is a lot of competition for places, it pushes you and everyone is pushing. I am just so lucky to get the chance to be on the starting 15 for the games that I

have gotten on for."

Healy's pride in Aghabullogue is evident. The north west Cork parish has over-achieved since the dawn of Gaelic games, providing the county with its first All-Ireland hurling title in 1890, when Dan Drew and Pat Buckley were to the fore.

The Healys have been "steeped" in the club over the years.

"It's a long standing tradition in our family. I would have no choice but to play growing up. I was dragged along to all of the matches but I wasn't complaining and I love it.

"The club are so supportive. We have three girls with the seniors. There is myself, Emma (Flanagan) and Méadhbh (Ring) in this year. Aoife Barrett was playing full-back with the Cork minors that won the All-Ireland. Our club would be fierce supportive of the Cork players in football as well, with Ciara McCarthy. Ciara was on the camogie panel and so was Katie McCarthy but she did her cruciate last year. So it's brilliant for a small club. But they are putting in fierce work at the underage so it's going from strength to strength."

But it isn't all about the environment, or indeed DNA from one side. Healy's mother, Eileen starred when Cork won the All-Ireland junior title at Croke Park in 1996 and added a senior medal to her collection two years later.

"Mam played in the backs and Dad played in the forwards. I think Mam won player of the match in the junior but she wouldn't be telling you anything like that. But we are steeped in it."

She is forever thankful to Murray for bringing her through and hails his huge impact on not just Cork but the game of camogie. Now, Twomey and Fitzgerald are in situ.

# 'We couldn't believe that Davy was coming down'



Cork's Cliona Healy in action against Stephanie Woulfe of Limerick during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Round 2 match at Páirc Uí Chaoimh in February. Healy says the heartbreak of last autumn's All-Ireland defeat is in the past. 'I think we took learnings from it. It's a new year now and that is in the past.' Picture: Eóin Noonan/Sportsfile

Twomey is the steady hand on the rudder, having served as a selector with Murray last year. It says a lot for his lack of ego that he was willing to bring someone of Fitzgerald's profile. A stronger message on the primacy of the unit could not be delivered.

Healy admits to a feeling of excitement when hearing that the former Clare, Waterford, and Wexford hurling manager was going to be working with them. "We couldn't believe that he was coming down. It's really good in terms of camogie as a whole to have someone as established like that getting involved. I don't know if a lot of people know it, but he has actually trained a good few camogie teams. He was training Clare. We are delighted with him. He is really good. Obviously, he is a great coach and he has loads of experience. He has won everything that he can as a manager and a player so he is bringing a wealth of knowledge to it. We are learning new things. And he is bringing in different ideas and he is always open to look if we have ideas. We are just delighted to have him down with us and are enjoying it."

It needed a Chloe Sigerson point from a long-distance free to secure a draw with defending champions Kilkenny in the group stages and edge a spot in the final on score difference. It was nice to come through a dogfight but Galway present an even tougher challenge.

"Obviously when you lose an All-Ireland final it's awful. I think we took learnings from it. It's a new year now and that is in the past. We are just concentrating on ourselves and working hard. We don't get to play in Croke Park too often. Cork haven't won a league title in a good few years so it would be great to do it."

## As a brand, camogie is buzzing, but still scope for improvement

timeline for integration considerably when compared to the previous report 'Towards 2034', although GAA president Larry McCarthy did sound a few characteristic notes of caution in terms of the time frame.

As a brand, camogie is buzzing, and like all advocates for

the sport, I'm counting on this Saturday's league final between Cork and Galway in Croke Park (RTE2 from 7pm) to bring us the same kind of freewheeling entertainment and championship teeing-up as the league hurling decider did last weekend.

My money's on Cork. New manager Matthew Twomey, assisted by motivator-in-chief Davy Fitz, has brought an injection of freshness and hunger to this experienced group. Looking for their first bit of silverware since 2018 and their first league title in almost a decade, they'll savour the opportunity to strike back at Galway after their defeat in last year's cracking All-Ireland final.

Over the past 10 years in particular, the box office appeal of camogie has gone through the roof. This is due to a multitude of factors: increased coverage, broadcasting and streaming of games has enabled spectators to become more invested; rule changes have helped the flow of games; and increased focus in areas like S&C has given players the tools to be the best versions of themselves.

Camogie has one main optics problem compared to hurling: a small pool of potential winners. The recent camogie All-Stars illustrated this. While six counties were represented in the nominations, the usual triumvirate of Cork/Galway/Kilkenny accounted for all the winners. And while the likes of Waterford, Wexford, and Dublin are steadily growing in influence, only Tipperary has caused any palpitations to the top three in recent memory.

Tipp have had an unhappy

run in the league the last number of years, performing exceptionally well only for games to slip out of their grasp in the dying moments. They qualified for the league final in 2020, only for that fixture to be cancelled due to Covid; they led eventual champions Kilkenny for much of the semi-final last year, only to lose by a late goal. Some adjectives that I'm sure Tipperary players would gladly never see again in headlines related to their performances include heroic, gallant, brave, heartbroken, and crestfallen.

As a Tipp fan, I watched the final minutes of their league semi-final against Galway with white knuckles. Tipp led for much of the game, but Galway hung in there steadily, a Siobhán McGrath goal in the second half bringing them back within touching distance. Three minutes from time, the unerring long-range freetaking of Rebecca Henneley levelled things up. Then,

seven minutes into injury time, Tipp's Claire Hogan gathered the ball near the half-way line. Seconds later, Sarah Dervan stepped into her path; both players went to ground. The ref immediately called a free for Galway which Henneley calmly converted the seal the win.

Charging: another vestigial rule in the camogie playbook, one of the last differentials from hurling and one which, I'm sure, many players would be happy to see the back of. To be clear, Dervan did the right thing, what you would want any back to do, but Hogan — being pursued by two Galway women and having just taken possession — did not have time to avoid her. That's the crux of the rule: the onus is on the person in possession to avoid a collision, and so if a collision occurs, the person in possession is in the wrong. But this is hurling after all — things happen within seconds, and oftentimes the person with half an eye on the ball is least equipped to alter their path. Sometimes a collision is just a collision: no one's fault, and not the basis on which a semi-final should be decided. More motivation for Tipp come championship, and — hopefully — yet another rule change for camogie to contemplate.



Eimear Ryan

CAMOGIE has been surfing a wave of good news over the last month. The positive press releases keep coming: a lucrative new seven-figure championship sponsorship deal from Carmel Naughton and Glen Dimplex, worth €250,000 per year for the next five years; a new agreement with RTE, guaranteeing broadcast of at least nine live camogie matches per year until 2027; and an innovative new championship arrangement whereby all of this year's Munster hurling fixtures will have camogie matches as curtain-raisers. Provincial championships have always taken a bit of a backseat in camogie, with its open-draw All-Ireland system, so it will be interesting to see if this new format raises the stakes.

What's more, plans for integration with the GAA — long supported by camogie president Hilda Breslin — seem to be moving along nicely. Last weekend, 97% of camogie congress voted in favour of integration, and the GAA's new five-year strategic plan sets "producing a shared vision of One Association with a roadmap to make it happen" as a priority. This accelerates the

# Galway anxious to confirm status as top team in land

Defender Gardiner ruled out with ankle injury for final meeting with Cork

EMANNA O'REILLY

THE Galway senior camogie team head to Croke Park on Saturday for the Littlewoods National League Division One final against old rivals Cork (7pm).

The Tribeswomen are appearing in their third league final in four seasons and their sixth final in all competitions since 2018. A fourth trophy in three years would represent a level of achievement not matched by any other county in camogie in recent seasons.

It's a testament to the levels of excellence maintained by Sarah Dervan and her teammates since 2018, as Galway have established themselves as the dominant force in senior camogie. This culminated recently in the magnificent achievement of winning a record eight All Stars.

Saturday's league final represents an opportunity for Galway to consolidate their position, with a more silverware on the line. This match will be Galway's 13th appearance in the league final, having won the title on five previous occasions. If Galway are to win their sixth title this weekend, they must overcome the most successful county in the history of the competition.

Cork lead the roll of honours list for league titles with 16 triumphs. Historically, the Rebels and the Tribeswomen have clashed in five league finals, with Cork winning three (1996, 1998 & 2001) to Galway's two (2005 & 2015). The 2005 final saw Galway defeat the Rebels by 1-6 to 0-6, on a day when Veronica Curtain scored the winning goal. Galway were captained on that occasion by Therese Maher, while camogie legend Sharon Glynn was senior team manager.

In 2015, captained by Niamh Kilkenny and under the management of Tony Ward, the Tribeswomen defeated Cork by 2-15 to 2-12. Niamh McGrath and Molly Dunne were the goal scorers in Semple Stadium as Galway won their fourth league title.

Despite being the most successful county in the national league's history, Cork have failed to win the competition since 2013. Under the new management of Matthew Twomey, and with Clare's

Davy Fitzgerald on board as coach, the Rebels will be hungry to end their league drought on Saturday.

Cork picked up impressive wins over Clare and Limerick in their group campaign before a draw with Kilkenny was enough for them to qualify for the league final. A late free from Chloe Sigerson saw the Rebels snatch a draw, on a day when Cliona Healy top scored for Twomey's charges. Cork are without the services of All Star midfielder Hannah Looney, as the Killeagh player is based in the US this year.

Nevertheless, the Rebels always present a formidable challenge, and Galway manager Cathal Murray was expecting nothing less than a very difficult test for his side on Saturday.



**“THEY WERE VERY IMPRESSIVE AGAINST LIMERICK IN PARTICULAR. WE KNOW WE’LL HAVE TO BE ON OUR GAME ON THE DAY”**

“We’re expecting a huge challenge against Cork, we know they will be a big step up for us. They are going very well this year; they were very impressive against Limerick in particular. We know we’ll have to be on our game on the day.”

“But we’re really looking forward to it, a final in Croke Park is always great to be involved in and we’ll be hoping to bring our best performance. Anytime you get to a league final you want to win it and that’s all well be focussing on going into it [on Saturday],” said the Galway manager.

Ardrahan defender Siobhán Gardiner is unavailable due to an ankle injury. Otherwise, Galway have a clean bill of health going into the decider. The Tribeswomen have been in impressive form so far this season, racking up a combined scoring total of 8-64 in four matches.

Top of the scoring chart for Galway so far is Rebecca Hennelly (3-10) who has been a revelation at centre forward



Galway's Emma Helebert and Cork's Laura Hayes attending the launch of Saturday's National Camogie League Final at Croke Park

this year. Ailish O'Reilly (1-12, 0-4 frees) and Carrie Dolan (0-14, 0-12 frees) have also been hitting the target, while Niamh Kilkenny, Áine Keane, Catherine Finnerty, Sabina Rabbittie and 2021 Player of the Year Aoife Donohue are all in fine scoring form.

The return of the Sarsfields contingent in recent weeks, following their All-Ireland success in early March, has strengthened the Galway panel substantially. The McGrath sisters, Orlaith and Siobhán, made their presence felt in Galway's group victories over Tipperary and Offaly. Galway's success on Saturday will be significantly influenced by the supply of ball they can generate for the full forward line, who have match winning potential.

The Galway defence is as strong as ever, having conceded only one goal in four matches and an average of nine points per game. The

management face a difficult task in selecting six defenders, given the quality and form of the players at their disposal. They will, however, face their biggest test so far this year in the shape of the Cork forwards.

Chloe Sigerson, Amy O'Connor, Cliona Healy, and Katrina Mackey provide a major scoring threat for the Rebels. As ever, Ashling Thompson provides a strong presence in midfield, while Libby Copping and recent All Star winners Laura Hayes and Laura Treacy provide defensive solidity. Cork are captained by goalkeeper Amy Lee from the Na Piarasigh club.

All things considered; a cracking contest is in store at Croke Park on Saturday evening. If Galway can maintain their sharpness and produce a top-quality performance, they are likely to claim the National League title for the sixth time.



Galway team manager Cathal Murray.



Caoimhe O'Shea, Chloe O'Connor, Kacie O'Driscoll, Orla Murphy, Una Sheehy and Cliona McCarthy Duffy at Carrigaline camogie camp.

## Youngsters given a chance to be coached by inter-county players

CORK Camogie recently announced that they will hold Easter Camogie Camps on Saturday April 23rd at 12 venues through the city and county. The Cork Senior, Intermediate, Minor and Under 16s players and inter-county managers will also participate in coaching at the camps.

These will be once off camps and it is an opportunity for the county to promote their Cork players and raise their profiles in the county.

Young camogie players are always hugely enthusiastic about playing the game but very often they don't know the inter-county players so this is a fantastic opportunity for them to meet all.

The aim is to have 12 pitches going on the day in the morning and 12 pitches going in the afternoon.

There will be a limited number of attendees at each session and venue and the board will be opening registration online for the camps in the coming week and details will be advertised on social media and through the clubs.

The maximum attendees will be 100 children per session on a pitch and the age group being catered for is 8 to 15.

The cost per child will be €25 and booking will be on a first come basis.

Parents will be able to log in and book a child's place for each session and all details will be sent via the clubs with passwords for booking.

The venues for the camps are as follows:

In the Avondhu division, the camp will be in Mallow where there will be two pitches, with morning camp from 10am to 12.30pm and an afternoon session from 1.30pm to 4pm.

In Carbery, there are two venues, St Colm's Keakil will host a morning session from 10am to 12.30pm and an afternoon camp 1.30pm to 4pm.

Bandon have two sessions, one on their bottom pitch 2 from 1.30pm to 4pm and a second session on Top Pitch 1 from 1.30pm to 5pm.

The Carrigdhoun camps go ahead in Brinney where the Alley Rovers club have two pitches, with both camps in the afternoon on Pitch 1 from 1pm to 3.30pm and on Pitch 2 it will be from 1.30pm to 4pm.

In East Cork, there will be two venues. Castlemartyr will host two groups, one in the morning from 10am to 12.40pm with the afternoon

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

session from 1.30pm to 4pm.

St Catherine's will also host two groups with a morning session starting at 11am, finishing at 1.30pm and an afternoon session 2.30pm to 5pm.

In the Muskerry division, there will also be two venues with Ballincollig and Eire Og hosting.

The first session will take place in Ballincollig from 10am to 12.30pm with an afternoon session 1.30pm to 4pm.

Eire Og will host an afternoon camp starting at 1.30pm to 4pm.

In the Seandun division there are two venues, with one at the Cork Camogie grounds in Castle Road where the first camp gets under way at 10am to 12.30pm and the afternoon camp from 1.30pm to 4pm.

The Cork senior captain Amy Lee's club Na Plarsaigh will host two camps, the first in the morning 10am to 12.30pm and the afternoon camp from 1.30pm to 4pm.

Announcing the camps, Camogie board chairperson Mairead Donovan expressed the board's delight at the venture:

"We are really delighted to be holding and organising camogie camps and there is lots of excitement this year at Cork Camogie headquarters about our Easter camps which will be running in participating clubs in all divisions in Cork.

"Our under age players are our pride and joy and the ones we must look after.

"This is great promotion for Cork Camogie with our outstanding Cork player, our county players and mentors are looking forward to the day and we are hoping that the sun will shine so we are reminding everyone to keep an eye out for the link which will be on our social media pages and on all the clubs platforms as well.

"This will also be an important fundraiser for Cork Camogie after very little chance over the last couple of years to fund raise so all support for the camps is appreciated.

"Stars and coaches from all of our county teams will attend so I am sure all our under players are already looking forward to it."

It promises to be an exciting day for the young camogie players from all corners of the county.



Galway's Emma Helebert and Cork's Laura Hayes ahead of the Ireland Camogie League finals which take centre stage this weekend with Croke Park Stadium playing host to the Division 1 and 2 finals on Saturday, April 9. Pictured: Laszlo Geczo

# All eyes on amalgamation



### CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

IT'S disappointing that a week after the Camogie Congress took place there is still nothing on their website to advise us what motions were raised, passed, or defeated.

One motion we do know was included is the continued work towards the integration of the Camogie Association, the GAA and Ladies' Gaelic Football Association. It was overwhelmingly backed by 97% of delegates on Saturday in the Rochestown Park Hotel. This means the three bodies have separately given formal support towards forming one single governing body in Gaelic games.

A motion to the same effect proposed by the Gaelic Players' Association received the support of 89.8% of delegates at February's annual GAA congress in Mayo.

Similarly, 67 of the 75 delegates at the Ladies' Gaelic Football Association's Congress backed the amalgamation.

Amalgamation seems to be on the cards, but it's going to be a slow process, with piecemeal integration over a number of years. That's to be expected as three massive organisations try to become one.

How the initial integrated systems work will determine the smooth or difficult transition of the larger process.

From a player's perspective, an all-inclusive fixture list leading to a division between the ladies' football and camogie calendars is a key priority as is the availability of pitches and facilities.

Despite the best of intentions on all parts this is an area which is going to be difficult to manage. There just aren't enough pitches in any county to cope with the demand. Cork teams in all codes struggle every week for facilities.

Clubs with floodlights are pulling in the money and could probably sell double the pitch time if they had it and their pitches held up. But the will is there from all the members of all three organisations so let's see where the journey takes us.

On the back of their eight All-Stars and



Cork's Laura Hayes.

Picture: Laszlo Geczo

Sarsfields' recent All-Ireland senior club title win Galway will be full of confidence before their division 1 league final tonight against Cork.

What a shame it's not a double header after Cork's division 2 side were defeated by Antrim by two points last weekend.

Trailing by 12 points at half time, 2-10 to 0-4 the gap was too much of an ask for them to come back from despite battling brilliantly, only losing by two in the end.

Antrim were awarded a very dubious free which they converted after Cork had narrowed the gap. It gave the 2021 All-Ireland intermediate champions a four-point cushion again. Cork brought it back to two and with their last attack of the day should have gone for goal, with two players free on the edge of the square, but the point was taken and with it their league aspirations were gone.

You can't leave a player rack up 2-7 in 30 minutes and not do something desperate to stop it. Aishling Moloney dropped back a little, but it needed more. I felt sorry for Kelly Falvey, who is a good full back.

She looked exposed but Róisín McCormick would have done the same to any of the defenders she stood beside.

It was flagged. She had a storming game in last September's All-Ireland final. She

needed to be double marked, particularly at this level. She would be a starter in any division 1 side. It's a pity as a day in Croke Park for these players would have been worth its weight in gold. But they need to put it behind them now, learn from the game, where they looked at sixes and sevens in the opening period, and drive on for the championship.

Cork and Galway are unbeaten run heading into tonight's final. Throw-in is at 7pm with the game live on RTE.

In the division 2 final, also live on RTE, Antrim will take on Wexford in the curtainraiser.

Wexford comfortably topped Group 1 with four wins from four, while Antrim finished top of their group with three wins from three.

On Sunday, the Division 3 and 4 finals take place in Kinnegad GAA.

In the Division 3 final, Cavan play Wexford. Both are unbeaten in this year's league campaign, with three wins from three.

In the Division 4 final Wicklow will take on Mayo after both teams progressed to the campaign to secure qualification.

Mayo secured a 100% win record, while Wicklow fell to defeat against this weekend's opponents in the earlier rounds.



Cork camogie captain welcomes to move towards integration within the GAA sports. Picture: Sam Barnes/Sportsfile

## Integration of GAA codes is a long-term project says Lee

CAMOGIE

■ Eoghan Cormican

CORK camogie captain Amy Lee doesn't expect "much change" on the integration front across the remainder of her career but believes the next generation of players will benefit from the push to achieve one single Gaelic games governing body. Although the GAA, LGFA, and Camogie Association passed motions at their respective Congresses in recent weeks committing to amalgamation, GAA president Larry McCarthy has warned that a long road lies ahead before full integration becomes a working reality. Cork goalkeeper Lee knows that

integration will ensure greater and more equal access to playing facilities for female players but does not believe that she will still be lining out when such equality is achieved. "I always say, we have to forget about ourselves sometimes. There won't be much change between now and when I retire, there probably will be some, but there won't be much," Lee believes.

"You've to remember the eight and nine-year-olds that are coming up now, you want to set something in for them to come into and hopefully it will be better for all of them.

"I'm a big supporter of [integration]. I just think it would run a small bit smoother and we'd have access to more facilities. Obviously, most facilities are GAA owned and I understand why a male team would take preference.

"But if [amalgamation] would help in terms of facilities, training, and money. And it would develop the game massively."

That this year's Leinster ladies football final will be played as the curtain-raiser to the men's provincial football decider and the six cross-code double-headers recently announced by Munster GAA speaks to increased cooperation between the three associations, but Lee, who will skipper her county in this evening's Division 1 League final against Galway, said there are more basic improvements to be made than staging double-headers.

"I was never too fussed about double-headers.

"I was more fussed about whether we were going to get a hot shower afterwards.

"Because we have gone to matches and the showers weren't working.

"In terms of double-headers, it



Patrick Horgan pictured at the launch of Pro Hurling — Ireland's first hurling e-Academy.

would be nice to see Ladies football and camogie together. "It would also be nice to be before or even after the lads. "It's nice to have a double-header but just being able to play in the main pitches is more



Cliona Healy of Cork in action against Stephanie Woulfe of Limerick during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 clash. Picture: Eoin Noonan/Sportsfile

# Healy pedigree made for final

CLIONA HEALY is among a cohort that has infused the Cork camogie team with fresh momentum ahead of tonight's Littlewoods Ireland Division 1 final at Croke Park against Galway, live on RTE 2 at 7pm.

Healy was a star of the underage ranks, sharing an All-Ireland minor triumph with Laura Hayes and Saoirse McCarthy in 2018 and going on to complete a rare double with the duo by adding intermediate honours in Croke Park just a few months later.

All three were fast-tracked to the senior squad by Paudie Murray. Such was the confidence new boss Matthew Twomey and coach Davy Fitzgerald placed in the Aghabullogue tyro that she was placed on free-taking duty and she has delivered in spades.

A third-year teaching student in Mary I College, she has been doing a bit of subbing at Coachford College, the camogie nursery she attended herself and in whose colours she played in an All-Ireland junior final. She smiles at the enthusiasm she sees now as training is ramping up for this year's schools' competitions.

"When I was growing up and younger, I would have looked up to Orla Cotter and Brieghe Cotter and the Mackeys (Katrina and Pamela) and Gemma O'Connor, Ashling Thompson and people like them. When I got the call-up, I was going in to play with them. It's a bit surreal. You are used to looking at them on TV and now all of a sudden you are inside in the dressing room with them.

"They were so good to us younger ones.



Cork's Cliona Healy with Sarah Crowley of Kilkenny. Picture: INPHO/Jim Coughlan

## CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

They would be telling us things and giving us advice. It was just really cool to be inside there with them. When you are small you looked up to them and then you are playing with them so it's brilliant."

Of course, they wouldn't give an inch on the pitch so the battle for a starting berth was hot. It still is, so Healy certainly isn't taking anything for granted, despite her consistently high-scoring return as well as the general brio with which she is operating.

"We are working so hard at training. When there is a lot of competition for places it pushes you and everyone is pushing. I am just so lucky to get the chance to

be on the starting 15 for the games that I have gotten on for them."

Healy's pride in Aghabullogue is evident. The parish has overachieved since the dawn of Gaelic games, providing the county with its first All-Ireland hurling title in 1890, when Dan Drew and Pat Buckley were to the fore.

The Healys have been "steeped" in the club over the years.

"It's a long-standing tradition in our family. I would have no choice but to play growing up. I was dragged along to all of the matches in the back of the car but I wasn't complaining and I love it.

"The club are so supportive. We have three girls with the seniors. There is myself, Emma (Flanagan) and Méadhbh (Ring) in this year. Aoife Barrett was playing full-back with the Cork minors that won the All-Ireland.

"Our club would be fierce supportive of the Cork players in football as well like with Clara McCarthy. Clara was on the camogie panel and so was Katie McCarthy but she did her cruciate last year. So it's brilliant for a small club. But they are putting in fierce work at the underage so it's going from strength to strength."

But it isn't all about the environment, or indeed DNA from one side. Healy's mother, Eileen starred when Cork won the All-Ireland junior title at Croke Park in 1996 and added a senior medal to her collection two years later.

"Mam played in the backs and dad played in the forwards. I think mam won Player of the Match in the junior but she wouldn't be telling you anything like that. But we are steeped in it."

# Dolan inspires Galway to find resilience to sink Cork

## Blistering start helps Wexford to league glory

**Camogie League Division One final**

**Galway 2-14**  
**Cork 1-13**

**Kevin Egan**  
Croke Park

Not for the first time in this year's Littlewoods Ireland National Camogie League, Galway proved that they have the resilience and character to salvage a result from a difficult situation, when they came from six points down to beat Cork by four points in the Division One final at Croke Park on Saturday night.

1-4 off the bench from Carrie Dolan proved to be the ace which transformed the contest and it's a measure of how difficult Galway are to beat right now that even as Dolan was making a mockery of the decision to drop her from the starting 15, the Tribeswomen were marching towards yet another national trophy.

"We try and pick the team on form, the starting team was who we felt the form players were at the time" explained manager Cathal Murray. "Carrie was exceptional. She really shoved it up to us and that's what we wanted her to do."

Dolan's 1-4, a well-taken goal from Catherine Finnerty and a late insurance point from Sabina Rabbite meant that Galway's bench produced 2-5 in the second half. Meanwhile, Cork's team as a whole added just three points from the 31st minute onwards — a single point from their impressive wing-back Saoirse McCarthy, and two stoppage time frees from Katrina Mackey.

Cork boss Matthew Twomey admitted that "we had no answer to them. It was similar



**TIMELY TACKLE:** Cork's Ashling Thompson attempts to dispossess Galway's Niamh Kilkenny during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 final at Croke Park on Saturday night.  
Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

**Camogie League Division Two final**

**Wexford 3-12**  
**Antrim 0-14**

**Kevin Egan**  
Croke Park

Three goals inside the first 15 minutes of Saturday's Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 2 final left Antrim with too much to do against Wexford at Croke Park.

Goals from Aoife Guiney, Ciara O'Connor, and Leah Walsh had the Leinster side leading 3-6 to 0-6 at half-time. Aine Magill, Slobhán McKillop, and Caoimhe Wright battled to keep Antrim batting to the end.

As Wexford emptied their bench in the latter stages of the game, Róisín McCormick tacked on a number of late points to reduce the gap to seven though scores of real quality from Sarah and Aoife O'Connor ensured it was a comfortable last few minutes for the winners.

**Scorers for Wexford:** A Curran 0-5 (0-2), C O'Connor 1-2 (0-1 45), A Guiney 1-2, L Walsh 1-1, A O'Connor 0-1, S O'Connor 0-1.

**Scorers for Antrim:** R McCormick 0-6 (0-3), A Magill 0-2, C Wright 0-2, S McKillop 0-2, C Dobbin 0-1, N O'Neill 0-1.

**WEXFORD:** A Mahon; M Martin, L O'Leary, S Harding Kenny; A Cardiff, S O'Connor, E Walsh; O Sinnott, C O'Connor; A O'Connor, J Quigley, A Curran; M Sinnott, A Guiney, L Walsh.

**Subs:** J Dillon for Quigley (43), M Byrne for Guiney (45), K Kirwan for L Walsh (49), C Cash for A O'Connor (56), L Dempsey for Sinnott (59), A Hennessy for Harding Kenny (60), A Lacey for Martin (60).

**ANTRIM:** C Graham; C Drain, N Donnelly, M Lynn; C Patterson, C Donlon, L McKenna; L McNaughton, N O'Neill; A Boyle, R McCormick, A Magill; C Wright, S McKillop, C Dobbin.

**Subs:** K McKillop for Donnelly (42)  
**Referee:** Aaron Hogg (Clare)

last year in the All-Ireland final, we went a goal up and they came back at us. Our pace dropped and they excelled".

Twomey, who hopes to welcome Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin back to his panel in the next two to three weeks, said that this year's league was hugely beneficial to his group.

"Ten players made their debut in the league, seven played in Croke Park for the first time in that game," he said. "This was bonus territory and we put ourselves in a great position at the start of the second half.

"It's disappointing that we didn't kick on, but we're learning all the time. We're learning about the players and even about ourselves as a manage-

ment team."

There were certainly plenty of positives for the Rebels, Ashling Thompson, Saoirse McCarthy, and Laura Hayes were excellent in the first half with six points between them before the break while dominating midfield and half-back.

Laura Treacy impressed in defence and Fiona Keating made light of a hand injury to score two excellent points.

Yet it was a different story in the second half. Amy O'Connor rattled the net with the first score after the restart to make it 1-10 to 0-7, but Galway quickly set about chipping away at the lead, and goals from Finnerty and Dolan after 44 and 50 minutes gave them a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

"We've been in sticky situ-

ations at different times over the last couple of years; down in Callan last year, the All-Ireland final against Cork last year and today again, and against Tipperary a few weeks ago in Ballinasloe," said Murray.

"We were really lucky to come out of that, but that's a good sign of a team. But we're not going to get carried away either. The same thing was being said about Kilkenny last year when they won the league after winning the All-Ireland.

"Cork are going to learn a huge amount from that. Kilkenny and Tipperary and all these teams looking in are going to learn a huge amount from that. We're half way through a year but as players and management, we're going

to be judged on how we do in the All-Ireland series."

**Scorers for Galway:** C Dolan (1-4, 36), A O'Reilly (0-5, 29), C Finnerty (1-0), N Kilkenny (0-1), A Keane (0-1), A Donohue (0-1), O McGrath (0-1), S Rabbite (0-1).

**Scorers for Cork:** A Thompson (0-3), S McCarthy (0-3), K Mackey (0-3, 29), A O'Connor (1-0), F Keating (0-2), L Hayes (0-1), C Sigerson (0-1).

**GALWAY:** Sarah Healy; R Hanniffy, S Dervan, Shauna Healy; R Black, E Helebert, D Higgins; A Donohue, N Kilkenny; N Hanniffy, A O'Reilly, A Keane; O McGrath, R Hennelly, S McGrath.

**Subs:** C Finnerty for Keane (38), C Dolan for S McGrath (36), S Rabbite for O'Reilly (59), S Spelman for Hanniffy (60+2), T Kenny for Black (60+2).

**CORK:** A Lee; L Coppinger, L Treacy, M Cahalane; S McCarthy, M Murphy, L Hayes; K O'Mahoney, A Thompson; K Mackey, C Sigerson, I O'Regan; C Healy, F Keating, A O'Connor.

**Subs:** E Murphy for Healy (30), M Ring for Sigerson (62), A Smith for Keating (60+2).

**Referee:** John Dermody (Westmeath)

## Positives aplenty as camogie ready for summer like no other

**Talking points**

**Therese O'Callaghan**

**You never tire of watching these familiar foes**

The Littlewoods Ireland Division 1 camogie league final between rivals Cork and Galway turned out to be another lively spectacle at Croke Park on Saturday evening.

On Sunday, September 12, 2021, at the same venue, Galway claimed a three-point victory on All-Ireland senior final day (1-15 to 1-12); the latest instalment resulted in a four-point winning margin (2-14 to 1-13) for the westerners.

Similar to last year's championship decider, Cork drew first blood, but once more this was a wonderful come-from-behind triumph for Cathal Murray's outfit.

With 10 of his All-Ireland-winning side lining out, Amy O'Connor's goal put it up to the maroon women, it left them six points behind early in the second half. Not long after O'Connor's green flag, the double substitution of Catherine Finnerty and Carrie Dolan changed the game.

Both started last year's All-Ireland final and there was no doubt they were keen to lay down a marker.

Finnerty's goal brought them level. Dolan's major put them in the driving seat and the Clarinbridge star, who is a niece of Galway legend Therese Maher, was crowned player of the match. Some achievement for a second-half sub.

Murray has developed a strong, resilient squad ahead of their O'Duffy Cup defence.

**The bar is raised yet again**

Matthew Twomey's Cork were missing Hannah Looney, Orla Cronin, Ciara O'Sullivan, and Pamela Mackey from last autumn's final and a leg injury to Cliona Healy at the change of ends robbed him of one of his more impressive forwards this spring.

He can take positives, in particular, the displays of Ashling Thompson, Laura Hayes, Saoirse McCarthy, and Laura Treacy around the middle third for long stages. That Galway took control of this area will, however, give him and his backroom team food for thought.

**Are the Slaneysiders on the way back?**

On a night when camogie took centre-stage at GAA headquarters, there were jubilant

Wexford scenes after the Division 2 showdown. A run of barren years have been endured since that magnificent three in a row in 2012. Following this victory over Antrim, there appears to be new life in the purple and gold. They are moving in the right direction and confidence seems high.

Returning to the top tier of the league under East Cork man Kevin Tattan and his management team is a big boost. There is immense credit due to the Russell Rovers hurler, who took on the job three years ago, when they were relegated.

Player of the match Anais Curran, who was outstanding, said they targeted a quick start, which is exactly what they got. Three goals in the first quarter ensured a comfortable victory and when Antrim lost Chloe Drain to a sec-

ond yellow card, the north-erners faced an uphill battle. Wexford are building nicely. Last year Alan Brennan's junior squad won the All-Ireland premier junior title at Jones Road, having already garnered Division 3 silverware.

They are on an upward trend and should improve further by being challenged by the best.

**A general feeling of camogie wellbeing**

Four hours of television coverage on Saturday evening was a huge boost for the sport. Galway captain Sarah Dervan made a point of thanking Croke Park for the wonderful facilities, adding that it is very special to get the chance to play there.

The news that Glen Dimplex and Carmel Naughton are to be joint sponsors of the Camo-

gie Association and championship for the next five years is exciting, while Munster GAA confirmed there will be four hurling/camogie double-headers to look forward to when the senior hurling championship gets under way on Sunday.

Cork, Waterford, Tipperary, Limerick, and Clare will get to play their respective Munster senior camogie championship games in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, the Gaelic Grounds, and Semple Stadium. The Munster camogie final will take place in the Gaelic Grounds ahead of the Limerick-Tipperary match on Sunday, May 8.

Leinster GAA, meanwhile, are planning to host the Leinster senior camogie final as part of a double-header with the Galway/Laois SHC tie at O'Moore Park on Saturday, May 14.

# Cork had no answer

## Galway deal the Rebels a blow at Croke Park

It ain't over 'til it's over.

After a scintillating first half by Cork and a brilliantly executed goal within a minute of the second half, we all felt we were seeing the start of Cork's resurgence against their bogey team of the past two seasons. This was a top-class league final, the top two teams in the country looking to get a psychological advantage over the other as well as taking the first silverware of the season.

Cork could do no wrong in the opening half. They didn't give Galway an inch, in their face every time they had possession.

Cork's tracking back was excellent, dispossessing Galway several times. Amy O'Connor and Ashling Thompson's work on 19 minutes where they ran the length of the pitch to dispossess and win a great free, epitomised Cork's intent.

It's hard to pinpoint positions as Cork's players seem to be given a freedom to play at will and oh how they seem to be enjoying it. Laura Hayes and Saoirse McCarthy were outstanding, named in the wing-back slots but both playing attacking roles, with Galway finding it almost impossible to manage.

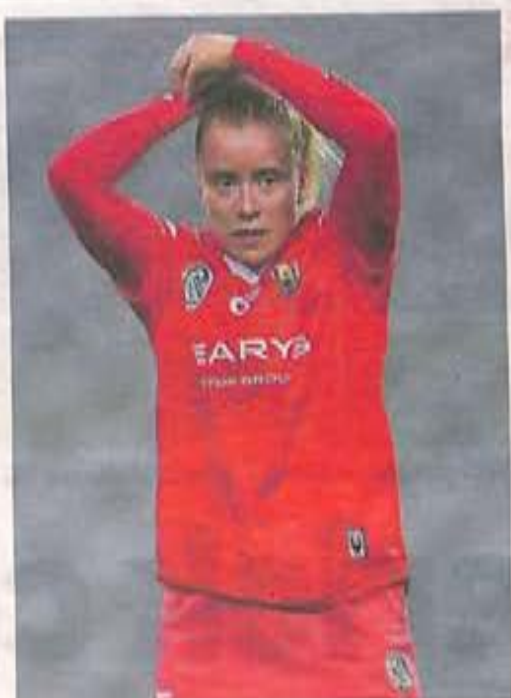
McCarthy played for the most part on the right while Hayes played a more left midfield role, McCarthy's lengthy strides up the flank causing havoc. Cork's roaming game all over the pitch was hard to handle as they showed no fear and took the game to the All-Ireland champions.

Galway were winning a fair share of possession but long diagonal balls into a Cork defence that had numerical advantage were wasted as Laura Treacy, Libby Coppinger and Meabh Cahalane swept up. Three balls fell short into the hands of Amy Lee as Galway's game plan wasn't working for them.

Cork on the other hand were in full flight. The game was played at a great pace. Ashling Thompson's positioning and long-range points, three in that opening half, were inspiring. Hayes and McCarthy (2) scored three between them with Fiona Keating (2), Katrina Mackey and Chloe Sigerson (6) giving Cork a three-point lead. Ailish O'Reilly was the only Galway forward causing problems at that point, with three from play. Cork were pumped running into the tunnel at halftime.

When Laura Hayes, Katrina Mackey and Amy O'Connor combined to score a brilliant goal to give Cork a six-point lead right at the start of that second half, it looked like it would lift the team to greater heights.

Not so. They faded from the game. Work rate dropped, frees conceded, misplaced passes and Galway got back into it. But the key reason Galway turned this game around was their bench. Carrie Dolan, introduced on 38 minutes changed the course of this final. Galway



Laura Treacy of Cork after her side's defeat in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League final.



Match analysis

Linda Mellerick

brought on three substitutes before the game went into additional time. Dolan, Catherine Finnerty and Sabina Rabbittie, daughter of legendary Galway hurler, Joe.

They scored 2-5 between them in twenty-five minutes. Cork's bench however didn't have the same impact. That was always going to be a concern for Cork. The contrast in experience between both benches is telling.

Once Galway's confidence was up their flair came more to the surface. With the game level at 1-11, Ailish O'Reilly won possession again. Despite Carrie Dolan being tightly marked, she trusted that she'd beat Libby Coppinger and gave her the high ball. She didn't disappoint, catching, shaking off Libby and billowing the net and with it Galway took the lead, one they never relinquished.

Cork's half-back line and midfield tired with Galway now winning the majority of possession and defensively they also had the upper hand on Cork's attack. After their goal Cork scored just one further point until Mackey converted a free on sixty minutes.

There were fragments of last September's All Ireland final when Cork scored a brilliant goal and went three up but rather than it driving them on, it spurred Galway, who replied with 1-2.

It's Galway's fifth win on the trot over Cork. They'll take huge belief from this again.

It's a disappointing defeat, there's no doubt about that. Cork however will regroup, focus on that opening half and the so many things that went right.

They have Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin to come back into their panel. Sorcha McCartan was a loss to injury; her presence may have added something in that second half. This was Fiona Keating's first league outing after missing the campaign due to injury.

There were concerns that if Galway went one on one in attack with Cork that they could cause damage. That came to pass with Ailish O'Reilly. Their lethal corner-forward Siobhan McGrath was substituted late on in a rare off day for her. I was surprised to see Chloe Sigerson taken off. In general play, yes maybe she wasn't firing on all cylinders but her long-range free-taking was needed.

Cork were three points down just after Chloe left the pitch and Cork won a free that was out of Mackey's reach but within Chloe's. Galway tapped on the next two and Cork had nothing left in the tank.



Niamh Hanniffy of Galway is tackled by Laura Hayes of Cork.

Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Ashling Thompson and Meabh Murphy in action against Galway's Niamh Kilkeny and Ailish O'Reilly.

Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Cork's Amy O'Connor celebrates scoring her goal at Croke Park.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

## Story of the Game

### STRONG BENCH

CATHAL Murray had trump cards on his bench and he introduced five subs with three playing a key role in this victory.

Carrie Dolan came into the game eight minutes into the second half and she proceeded to have a huge impact. With her first touch

she confidently pointed a free before contributing 1-4 in total her goal in 49 minutes gave Galway a lead they never lost.

Catherine Finnerty also had a huge impact. She sidestepped three Cork defenders and got her side level with a goal.

For good measure sub Sabina Rabbittie had the last

point of the game.

### REF WATCH

Overall it was an easy game to referee, the game flowed well and the players gave it everything they had.

John Dermody issued three yellow cards over the hour but he got all the calls right and we had no contentious issues.



# to Tribe's bench



Cork coach Davy Fitzgerald after the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 final loss to Galway at Croke Park.

Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Galway	2-14
Cork	1-13

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

A HUGE disappointment for Cork and a big boost for Galway as the All-Ireland champions turned a six-point deficit into a four-point victory with a sparkling second-half display to take the Littlewoods National league title in Croke Park on a cold April evening.

Galway's experience showed. They never panicked when Cork raced ahead by six points with a goal in the first minute of the second half. The introduction of impact subs, three getting scores and Carrie Dolan collecting Player of the Match, was also vital for Cathal Murray's side.

A hugely entertaining opening half saw Cork lead by three points at the interval 0-10 to 0-7 after a half where all but two of the total from both sides came from play.

From the throw-in Cork looked sharp. Niamh Kilkenny opened the scoring firing over a Galway point from play after just 26 seconds but Ashling Thompson had the sides on level inside two minutes after good work by Saoirse McCarthy.

As play swung from end to end the

sides swapped points on three occasions and at the end of the first quarter, it was level at 0-5 apiece with Laura Hayes turning defence into attack firing on 15 minutes.

Cork were playing well and matching Galway in all sectors. Up front, Fiona Keating was operating at full-forward and with their corner-forwards leaving plenty of space inside they showed they had plenty of pace with Amy O'Connor and Cliona Healy showing well.

McCarthy and Aoife O'Donoghue swapped points and with Chloe Sigerson taking over the free-taking duties Cork edged back in front and they went three clear with Ashling Thompson and Katriona Mackey hitting two in a row. Ailish O'Reilly's free cut the deficit and with Fiona Keating replying Cork went to the dressing room with a three-point interval lead.

Cork grabbed the game's opening

goal inside a minute of the restart. Winning possession Laura Hayes drove forward and with Katriona Mackey on her shoulder in support she drew the Galway defence and passed to Mackey who fired a superb ball across the square to O'Connor who slotted it to the net.

Amazingly Cork failed to build on the goal and they went until the three-quarter stage before they scores again as Galway tore into the game. Orlaith McGrath and Ailish O'Reilly had points to cut the lead to four before Galway played their trump card introducing Carrie Dolan to the attack.

Dolan announced her arrival with a free while another sub Catherine Finnerty had the sides level after 43 minutes; gathering possession she sidestepped three cork defenders and finished to the net.

Saoirse McCarthy edged Cork back in front but it was short-lived after a Dolan free tied the game for the eighth time.

Galway were now winning all the possession around the middle and they kept the pressure on as they sprayed the ball around well. When Dolan grabbed a dropping ball out of the air on the edge of the square she blasted to

the net to give Galway the lead for the first time in the second half with 11 minutes remaining.

From the puck-out, Emma Murphy's shot for goal went narrowly wide of the upright at the other end.

Dolan continued to cause havoc pointing twice as Galway went five points clear as the game went into the injury time.

Katriona Mackey clipped over two Cork frees but there was no late drama, sub Sabina Rabbittie striking at the other end to make it a four-point gap again.

**Scorers for Galway:** C Dolan 1-4 (0-3 f), A O'Reilly 0-5 (0-2 f), C Finnerty 1-0, N Kilkenny, A Keane, A Donohue, O McGrath, S Rabbittie 0-1 each.

**Cork:** A Thompson, S McCarthy 0-3 each, K Mackey 0-3 (0-2 f), A O'Connor 1-0, F Keating 0-2, L Hayes 0-1, C Sigerson 0-1 f.

**GALWAY:** Sarah Healy; R Hanniffy, S Dervan, Shauna Healy; R Black, E Helebert, D Higgins; A Donohue, N Kilkenny; N Hanniffy, A O'Reilly, A Keane; O McGrath, R Hennelly, S McGrath.

**Subs:** C Finnerty for Keane (38), C Dolan for S McGrath (38), S Rabbittie for O'Reilly (59), S Spellman for Hanniffy (62), T Kenny for Black (62).

**CORK:** A Lee; L Coppinger, L Tracey, M Cahalane; S McCarthy, M Murphy, L Hayes; K O'Mahoney, A Thompson; K Mackey, C Sigerson, I O'Regan; C Healy, F Keating, A O'Connor.

**Subs:** E Murphy for Healy (30), M Ring for Sigerson (52), A Smith for Keating (62).

**Referee:** John Dermody (Westmeath)



Cork manager Matthew Twomey: Disappointing to lose six point lead.

## Loss will stand to young players

REACTION

■ Mary Newman

CORK manager Matthew Twomey was very disappointed to fall short in Saturday's league final after his charges had went six points clear of the All-Ireland champions.

"We are very disappointed to lose out, the game in the second half was ours we went six points up and lost our lead and that is very disappointing."

Matthew said at half time they were happy with where they were, leading by three points and playing well.

"We were three points up at and yes we were pleased, a lot of the stuff we had worked on in training went right for us."

"We got some great scores we got a few points from our half-back line and forwards and Ashling Thompson got three good points from midfield and we were in a good position."

The goal in the first minute of the second half that put Cork six in front should have spurred his side on but surprisingly it was Galway who reacted stronger.

"The goal put us six points clear and yes I suppose we should have built on it but that's why they are All-Ireland champions they responded to it and reels us back in and the disappointing thing is we just didn't kick on."

"We had seven girls out there today playing in Croke Park for the first time and the experience will stand to them."

"Emma Murphy was unlucky her shot for goal went narrowly wide but fair play to her she got herself into a good position and had a go and the experience will stand to her."

"We have to now knuckle down and go back and look at it and we have to just look at ourselves now and get ready for championship."

"Overall it was a good campaign and as we head into championship we are hoping to have a few more players back."

"Orla Cronin and Hannah Looney should be back shortly and they will bring a bit of experience to the panel."

"At the start of the year we set out to be competitive and to introduce new players to the panel and we reached the final so while we are disappointed to lose we are learning all the time."

## League final talking points

**TWO goals:** Physically Galway were stronger than Cork in the second half as Cork's play slowed. Galway won the physical battles for their goals, Carrie Dolan's, in particular, standing out.

Ailish O'Reilly fed her the ball as she stepped in front of Libby Coppinger. She caught it head high, turning into Libby who tried to hold her off but Dolan's physical strength enabled her to brush Libby off and get the strike in.

**Fitness:** A lot of work has been done with Cork's

fitness levels. That showed in the opening half but it'll require further work as they were a pale shadow of that work rate in the second half.

**Galway's bench:** The key talking point from Saturday's league final defeat was the impact Carrie Dolan had off the bench for Galway. She won the Player Of The Match award despite only being introduced in the second half, finishing with 1-5.

In addition, Catherine Finnerty, introduced as a double substitution with Dolan, scored Galway's

first goal after brilliantly sidestepping two Cork defenders. Cork's substitutes, however, didn't make the required impact and in fact another one or two players in that second half needed to be called ashore but Cork didn't have the replacements in those key areas.

It's something they'll need to work on in the coming weeks but with Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin hopefully coming back into the side as well as Sorcha McCartan, it'll give Cork better options.



Galway's Shauna Healy celebrates after her side's victory over Cork  
Picture by Piaras O'Midheach

## Galway's bench press enough to see off Cork

<b>GALWAY</b>	<b>2-14</b>
<b>CORK</b>	<b>1-13</b>

KEVIN EGAN  
CROKE PARK

Cork's hoodoo when it comes to big games against Galway continued at Croke Park when the Tribeswomen came from six points down early in the second half to record a four-point win and retain their Littlewoods Ireland National Camogie League Division 1 title.

The All-Ireland champions have now won five consecutive big league and championship games against Cork in succession, extending back to the 2019 All-Ireland semi-final.

When Amy O'Connor slammed in a close-range goal to crown a superb attacking move at the start of the second half, the Rebels were 1-10 to 0-7 in front. However, the Galway bench, led by Carrie Dolan, was to transform this game. Dolan, Catherine Finnerty and Sarah Spellman all added huge energy and zest while Sabina Rabbittie also landed the insurance point at the end of the contest to confirm the victory.

It was all a far cry from the early stages, when a youthful Cork side hit

the ground running, matching Galway score for score in the opening quarter before kicking on to build a three-point interval lead.

Ashling Thompson fired over three wonderful first-half points, while wing backs Saoirse McCarthy and Laura Hayes were also in sublime form, driving forward and chipping in with another trio of scores. Laura Tracey was notionally lined out at full-back but with Meabh Murphy dropping deep, Tracey picked up a world of ball and put Cork on the front foot time and again.

Galway had good early scores from Niamh Kilkenny and Aine Keane, but really only Ailish O'Reilly offered any consistent attacking threat.

Outstanding work from Laura Hayes and Katrina Mackey set up O'Connor for a simple goal with less than a minute gone after half-time, and it looked as if Cork were set to win their first league title in nine years.

Crucially, Galway replied with the next two points through Orlaith McGrath and O'Reilly, before a joint substitution brought Carrie Dolan and Catherine Finnerty into play.

The duo made an immediate impact, combining to win a free that Dolan converted, and just short of the three-quarter mark, Finnerty took a pass from Niamh Hanniffy and beat two defenders with a single sidestep

before slipping the ball underneath Amy Lee to level the game.

Cork responded well initially as Saoirse McCarthy fired her third point but by now they had lost all control of the middle third. With Dolan immediately operating as the focal point of the attack, Galway soon hit the front. The Clarinbridge player tied the game up with a free, then fielded a good diagonal ball and powered past her marker to register a vital second goal.

Two Dolan frees stretched the gap to five, Katrina Mackey replied with two Cork points in stoppage time, but by now all Galway had to do was protect their goal to preserve their league title.

**Scorers - Galway:** C Dolan 1-4 (0-3f); A O'Reilly 0-5 (2f); C Finnerty 1-0; N Kilkenny, A Keane, A Donohue, O McGrath, S Rabbittie 0-1 each. **Cork:** A Thompson, S McCarthy, K Mackey (2f) 0-3 each; A O'Connor 1-0; F Keating 0-2; L Hayes, C Sigerson (f) 0-1 each. **Galway:** Sarah Healy; R Hanniffy, S Derwin, Shauna Healy; R Black, E Helebert, D Higgins; A Donohue, N Kilkenny; N Hanniffy, A O'Reilly, A Keane; O McGrath, R Henneley, S McGrath. **Subs:** C Finnerty for Keane (38); C Dolan for S McGrath (38); S Rabbittie for O'Reilly (59); S Spellman for Hanniffy (60+2); T Kenny for Black (60+2).

**Cork:** A Lee; L Coppinger, L Tracey, M Cahalane; S McCarthy, M Murphy, L Hayes; K O'Mahoney; A Thompson; K Mackey, C Sigerson, I O'Regan; C Healy, F Keating, A O'Connor. **Subs:** E Murphy for Healy (30); M Ring for Sigerson (52); A Smith for Keating (60+2). **Referee:** J Dermody (Westmeath).

## Goals key for Wexford

<b>WEXFORD</b>	<b>3-12</b>
<b>ANTRIM</b>	<b>0-14</b>

CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIV 2 FINAL

Three goals inside the first 15 minutes of yesterday's Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 2 final left Antrim with too much to do.

Just 16 seconds were on the clock when Aoife Guiney powered past Niamh Donnelly and batted the sliotar past Caitriona Graham. Seven minutes had expired when Anais Curran converted a free, but a wonderful score from Caoimhe Wright showed that Antrim were adjusting to Wexford's defensive structure.

But mistakes were to prove costly to Antrim's chances, and when Chloe Drain was dispossessed, Aoife Guiney and Ciara O'Connor combined to set up O'Connor for a simple goal finish.

Three minutes later, Guiney again turned provider, this time setting up an unmarked Leah Walsh for a handy finish from ten metres out, and Antrim were already nine points adrift.

Antrim's task was made even tougher when Drain was shown a second yellow card for a shoulder challenge in the penalty area, though Caitriona Graham did what she could to mitigate the damage by producing a superb diving save to push O'Connor's penalty around the post. By the break Wexford were 3-6 to 0-6 clear and never looked under any real danger despite an improved display by Antrim.

**Scorers - Wexford:** A Curran 0-5 (2f); C O'Connor (0-1, 45); A Guiney 3-2 each; L Walsh 1-1; A O'Connor, S O'Connor 0-1 each. **Antrim:** R McCormick 0-6 (3f); A Magill, C Wright, S McKillop 0-2 each; C Dobbin, N O'Neill (f) 0-1 each. **Wexford -** A Mahon; M Martin, L O'Leary, S Harding Kenny; A Cardiff, S O'Connor, E Walsh; O Sinnott, C O'Connor; A O'Connor, J Quigley, A Curran; M Sinnott, A Guiney, L Walsh. **Subs:** J Dillon for Quigley (43); M Byrne for Guiney (45); K Kirwan for L Walsh (49); C Cashe for A O'Connor (56); L Dempsey for Sinnott (59); A Hennessy for Harding Kenny (60); A Lacey for Martin (60).

**Antrim -** C Graham; C Drain, N Donnelly, M Lynn; C Patterson, C Donlon, L McKenna; L McNaughton, N O'Neill, A Boyle, R McCormick, A Magill; C Wright, S McKillop, C Dobbin. **Subs:** K McKillop for Donnelly (42). **Referee -** A Hogg (Clare).

Camogie

Division 1 final

Galway 2-14 Cork 1-13

Division 1 relegation final

Offaly 3-10 Limerick 1-13

Division 2 final

Wexford 3-12 Antrim 0-14

Division 2 relegation final

Tipperary 3-10 Kildare 2-7

## Waterford-Cork camogie clash at Páirc postponed

Therese O'Callaghan

Munster camogie PRO Ita Murphy has confirmed Waterford are unable to fulfil their provincial senior camogie championship fixture against Cork on Sunday.

The match was to act as a curtain-raiser to the Munster SHC game between Cork and

Limerick in Páirc Uí Chaoimh with a throw-in time of 2pm.

The contest will now go ahead on Sunday, April 24, but is not expected to form part of a hurling/camogie double-header.

Murphy said: "Unfortunately, Waterford are not in a position to field on Sunday. The original date for this

game was April 24. And assuming they had this weekend off, eight of the Waterford panel are not available. The game will go ahead the following Sunday."

The second of the planned double-headers is to take place on Saturday week involving Limerick and Tipperary at the Gaelic Grounds (5pm), ahead

of the Limerick/Waterford SHC game. A week later, Sunday May 1, the winners between Limerick and Tipperary will face Clare at Sempie Stadium (12 noon), prior to the Cork/Clare SHC match.

The Munster senior camogie final is pencilled in for Sunday, May 8, at 12 noon in the Gaelic Grounds and will

take place before the Limerick/Tipperary SHC.

Because of the postponement of the Cork/Waterford camogie game, Munster camogie has announced the intermediate championship final between Cork and Kerry will now be played next Sunday in Páirc Uí Chaoimh as curtain-raiser to the Cork and Limer-

ick hurlers.

Munster camogie chair Ger Browne said, "Munster camogie are delighted with the exposure which this decision will bring. We look forward to a number of excellent camogie games to whet the appetite in advance of the respective matches in the Munster senior hurling championship."

# The TRIBES WOMAN

As the camogie season gets into full swing, we chat to three-time All-Ireland medallist and All-Star Orlaith McGrath

**How is Galway shaping up ahead of the Littlewoods Ireland National Camogie League?**

It is great to have the games back at this time of year. There are a lot more games in the calendar this year, which is brilliant. As a player, all you want to do is play competitive matches. You learn a lot from big days.

**You have played alongside your sisters Niamh, Siobhán and Clodagh, both with Galway and your club Sarsfields over the years. Do you feel more secure when they're playing alongside you?**

It's all we have known from a young age, especially with our club. Your sisters read you better than other players. They know when you're going for that high or when you're going to make a pass. At home, it makes it easier when your family is on the same schedule as you and when you're doing the same thing.

**Your dad, the famous "Hopper" McGrath led Sarsfields to All-Ireland Senior Club Camogie title in 2019. Was sport a huge part of your household growing up?**

We all got into GAA and camogie from a young age and my dad has been a really influential figure, from playing U/6 right up to senior level. We're very fortunate to have him in our club.

**Is it hard to separate your dad from being your coach?**

It's so important to separate home life from playing sports

– one person is your father and the other is your coach. If you don't separate the two, that's probably where you would begin to find it difficult. I don't take anything personally and you have to remember that anything he says as coach is for the betterment of the team.

**What do you do away from sport?**

I'm a P.E. and Irish teacher in Kinvara. I've a big interest in sports science and that's an area I would like to learn more about when I stop playing camogie. I love learning about how the body works and the different ways you can improve your performance in the game.

**Does that line of work suit your sporting life, knowing exactly when you're off and having extended holidays?**

Exactly! We're very fortunate to have great hours in teaching and the profession gives you a better opportunity to look after yourself and prepare yourself better for training. We're at an advantage compared to other professions. I'm on my feet most of the time and I'm not stuck at a desk for eight hours, that certainly helps.

**With your understanding and knowledge of sports science, are you more careful about what you put into your body?**

There is a lot more information out there for everyone these days. I know I need to keep myself well informed and fit, even with my job. I would be conscious about what I eat and drink.



**We're seeing a lot more camogie games on television – big sponsorship deals and the majority of games being played in GAA county grounds. Are you reaping the benefits of this increased exposure?**

Ever since the WGPA (Women's Gaelic Players' Association) has become aligned with the GPA (Gaelic Players' Association), they have done trojan work to raise the profile of the game. We're really lucky to have that representation. Littlewoods are doing great work in promoting the team and more and more people are attending games.

**Travelling to training, buying gear and sticking to nutrition and diet plans costs a lot of money. Do you get any reimbursement?**

That's improving year on year for female players. Last year, it was announced by Minister

Jack Chambers that female inter-county players would be getting the same grants as their male counterparts, and that's coming down the line this year. That's a huge positive for us.

**Galway, Kilkenny and Cork are the only teams to have competed in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie final since Wexford won in 2012. What other counties could make a final this year?**

There are five or six that are competing to win. We have had fierce battles with Kilkenny and Cork as well as Tipperary and Waterford over the years.

**Interview by Mikie O'Loughlin**

■ Littlewoods Ireland is 100% committed to camogie. Their Style Meets Substance campaign is back again to launch the 2022 National Camogie League.



Cork's Laura Tracey and Siobhán McGrath of Galway during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 Final in Croke Park last weekend. Cork lost 1-13 to 2-14. PHOTO:INPHO/LORRAINE O'SULLIVAN



Caoimhe Murphy scored the winning goal for Cork's minors against Tipperary.

Kilbree's Caoimhe Murphy played full forward, and scored the winning goal in the dying moments of extra time, as the Cork minor camogie team defeated Tipperary in the first round of the Munster championship on Friday night. Cork have now qualified for the Munster semi-final to be played on April 30th.

Congratulations to Millie and the Cork minors in their victory over Tipperary in the Munster minor A championship last weekend as the match went to extra time. The fulltime score after extra time was Cork 2-07 Tipperary 0-10.



### 'Orla back in the next two weeks'

CORK boss Matthew Twomey is hoping Orla Cronin's (pictured) imminent return will help bolster his side's All-Ireland senior camogie championship aspirations.



Fiona Keating was a welcome addition to the Cork full-forward line in last Saturday night's league decider at Croke Park. The Courcey Rovers forward had not featured in the league since breaking her hand in February but there was disappointing news for the player Keating replaced, Down native Sorcha McCartan.

Also, while Enniskeane's Orla Cronin has not been involved in this year's league campaign, the All-Star forward is not far away from making a comeback.

'We are hoping Orla will be back within the next two weeks,' Cork manager Matthew Twomey informed *The Southern Star*.

'Hannah Looney is expected back within the next two to three weeks as well. Unfortunately, Sorcha McCartan got an MRI during the week and she has a hairline crack in her leg. We only found that out yesterday (day before the league final).'

The news on McCartan's injury is a blow as the forward had featured prominently during Cork's previous three league games. On a more positive note, Looney and Cronin's imminent return is grounds for optimism heading into the championship.

## Cork will certainly be in the senior camogie championship conversation this summer

BY GER MCCARTHY

SO, is the glass half full or half empty at the conclusion of new Cork senior camogie manager Matthew Twomey's maiden National League Division 1 campaign?

There is no doubting that Saturday night's capitulation to Galway was a disappointing result. The Tribeswomen have won their last five competitive games against the Rebels, including the 2021 All-Ireland final.

Cork led 0-10 to 0-7 at half time and deserved every bit of that lead in Croke Park. Hungry, tenacious and driven forward by excellent Ashling Thompson and Saoirse McCarthy displays, Cork tore into the All-Ireland champions, who struggled to mount a response. Add to that an Amy O'Connor goal to open up a six-point lead and it is all the more perplexing that Cork couldn't see out the final two quarters.

True, Galway needed the impetus of substitute Carrie Dolan (who finished with 1-4) to turn the tide in their favour. But the truth is that Cathal Murray's side capitalised on Cork's mistakes and increased lethargy to storm to victory.

Was it a case of Cork tiring or Galway having a stronger bench that led to the Connacht side's win? The answer is a bit of both and the match statistics (courtesy of @gaa\_statsman) back up those theories.

Cork lost despite having a better scoring average, 70 percent (14 out of 20 shots) compared to Galway's 61 percent (16 out of 26). But a more telling statistic is that Cork only managed three points, two of those were frees, in the entire second half following O'Connor's 31st minute goal. In con-

### Cork are contenders for this year's All-Ireland ... but they are still in the chasing pack

trast, Galway amassed 2-7, and 2-5 of that came from players introduced off the bench.

The stat that leaps out the most from Saturday's league final, however, refers to turnovers. Galway grabbed possession off of Cork on 36 occasions compared to their opponent's 29. Those turnovers were crucial in the second half when Galway got on top and put pressure on the Cork puck out.

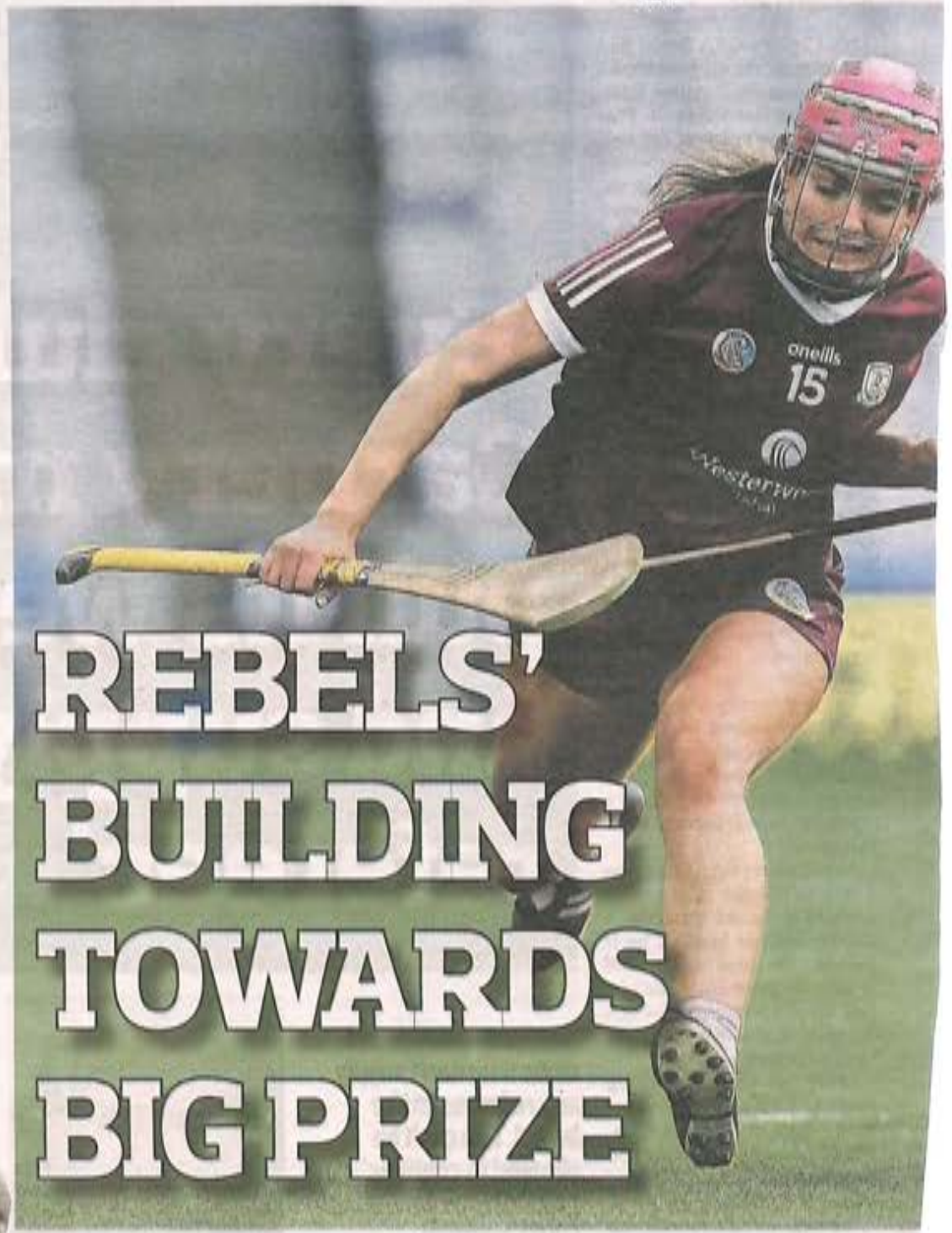
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Looking back over Cork's entire league campaign, their path to this year's Division 1 final showcased some of the 2022 panel's strongest traits.

Shaking off the cobwebs of their opening win in Clare, Cork obliterated Limerick in cut-throat fashion before facing Kilkenny in monsoon conditions at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Gaining the draw they required to reach this year's league decider, Cork were pushed to the limit by a Kilkenny side desperate to avenge their 2021 All-Ireland semi-final defeat.

That was the day new manager

Cork manager Matthew Twomey.



# REBELS' BUILDING TOWARDS BIG PRIZE

Matthew Twomey found out about his senior panel's character and ability to perform under pressure. The Kilkenny match was a league fixture played at championship intensity. When questions

were asked, Cork provided the answers against a fellow All-Ireland contender, albeit failing to register a win.

As with his new Cork LGFA senior manager counterpart Shane Ronayne, Mathew Twomey has been without seasoned campaigners, like Pame-

la Mackey and Hannah Looney, throughout this year's league. Orla Cronin and Fiona Keating have been two additional injured absentees resulting in an unfamiliar Cork line-up.

Ten new players made their senior debuts during the league and seven of those played a sen-

## Twomey disappointed as Cork let six-point

GALWAY	2-14
CORK	1-13

### GER MCCARTHY REPORTS

CORK'S wait for the Littlewoods Camogie National League Division 1 title goes on after their latest Croke Park heartache last Saturday night.

In a rerun of last year's All-Ireland final, it was Galway who, again, headed home with the silverware while Cork travelled home empty-handed, and still without a league crown since 2013. The Rebels produced an excellent first-

half performance to lead at the break. Amy O'Connor's goal extended that advantage to six points immediately after the restart. Unfortunately, that was as good as it got for Cork.

Substitutes Carrie Dolan (1-4) and Catherine Finnerty (1-0) turned the game in Galway's favour, combining for 2-4 during a dominant closing 20-minute spell. A resilient Cork managed to reduce the deficit to three but Galway fired over a late score and deservedly added the Division 1 title to their 2021 All-Ireland senior success.

'I am very proud of my players as ten of them have made

their senior debuts since the start of the league,' Cork senior manager Matthew Twomey told *The Southern Star*.

'Today was bonus territory. We put ourselves in a great position at the start of the second half. The disappointing thing is that we didn't kick on from there. We conceded a lot from our own puck-outs which was also disappointing. Overall, we are happy with the league campaign but it is just disappointing to lose another final.'

A free-flowing opening half produced 17 points and some scintillating individual scores. Ashling Thompson was one of

Cork's best players on the night and replied to a Niamh Kilkenny opener. The teams were level six times during the first 30 minutes with the impressive Saoirse McCarthy firing over a brace and Thompson ending the half with 0-3.

Laura Hayes (0-2), Chloe Sigerson (free) and Katrina Mackey found their range to hand Cork a 0-10 to 0-7 interval lead. Aine Keane, Rebecca Hennelly, Ailish O'Reilly and Aoife Donohue were on target for a Galway side struggling to find any rhythm.

Cork's work rate didn't drop at the start of the second half



Cork's Laura Treacy challenge Galway's Siobhan McGrath during the Division 1 final. (Photo: Lorraine O'Sullivan/INPHO)

when Amy O'Connor finished off a flowing move with a well-placed finish to the back of the net. Inexplicably, 1-10 to 0-7 ahead, Cork would only

add a further three points at the All-Ireland champions underlined their quality and the depth of their substitutes bench.



## LITTLEWOODS IRELAND CAMOGIE LEAGUE FINAL Cork v Galway



Cork's Meabh Murphy closes in on Galway's Orlaith McGrath during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 final. (Photos: Lorraine O'Sullivan/INPHO)



Cork's Amy O'Connor celebrates scoring a goal in the final against Galway.

ior match in Croke Park for the first time this past weekend. There is plenty for Cork camogie to be positive about. Amy Lee, Ashling Thompson, Cliona Healy, Meadhb Cabalane and Saoirse McCarthy have played well in the early months of the year and look set to play impor-

tant roles in Cork's season. This panel will also be strengthened by the return of some of the aforementioned absentees.

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The Cork senior panel returned to training earlier than usual following their 2021

All-Ireland final loss to Galway. Twomey's promotion to the senior manager role was well received, as was Davy Fitzgerald's arrival by a panel of players desperate to atone for failing to land an All-Ireland title the previous year.

The foundations laid down by

previous manager Paudie Murray have given Twomey plenty of raw material to work with.

Cork have played well in patches so far this year despite failing to overcome Kilkenny or Galway. Those two, along with Cork and Tipperary, are the quartet expected to challenge for the O'Duffy Cup.

It was interesting to hear Twomey namecheck Waterford, Wexford, Dublin and Clare as dangerous opponents (along with Tipp) in Cork's All-Ireland qualification group during his after match press conference on Saturday night. The Cork manager's belief is that there are no easy games in that group and that he will need his strongest available 30 players to be certain of claiming an All-Ireland quarter-final let alone a semi-final berth.

Cork are contenders for this year's All-Ireland, no question, but they are still in the chasing pack, behind Galway, following

the conclusion of the league.

Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin's return would immediately upgrade Twomey's midfield and attacking options. Ashling Thompson has been in magnificent form and her partnership with Looney would make Cork a much more dangerous proposition around the middle of the pitch.

Orla Cronin has unfinished business from 2021 which saw the talented forward only make the All-Ireland team at the eleventh hour following an

appeal against a red card. Not that Cronin needs any extra motivation, but one of the best forwards in the country will be as desperate as any of the Cork panel to go one better in the All-Ireland championship.

Twomey's new-look panel has shown flashes of brilliance in the past few months and enough quality in the draw with Kilkenny and defeat to Galway to suggest they have a realistic shot at winning an All-Ireland. That's all you can ask for at this time of the year.

### NEXT UP: CHAMPIONSHIP

The draw for the 2022 Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior championship sees Cork facing Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Dublin and Clare in the opening group phase. Group 2 comprises Galway, Kilkenny, Down, Antrim, Limerick and Offaly. Each county plays one another once with the top ranked side in each group progressing to an All-Ireland semi-final. Second and third-placed teams in each group will contest this year's All-Ireland quarter-finals while the bottom-placed counties face a relegation play-off. The championship throws in on the weekend of May 21st/22nd, with the All-Ireland final at Croke Park on Sunday, August 7th.

# lead slip against All-Ireland champs Galway

'That's why they are All-Ireland champions,' Twomey said.

'They came at us immediately after our goal and we had no answer, which is unfortunate. It was similar to last year's All-Ireland final when we went a goal up and they came back at us. Our pace dropped a bit after the goal and they excelled before scoring two vital goals.'

Orlaith McGrath and Ailish O'Reilly (free) efforts reduced the deficit to 1-10 to 0-9 early in the second half. That's when Galway manager Cathal Murray played his trump cards. The introduction of Carrie Dolan and Catherine Finnerty coin-

ceded with a Galway resurgence that Cork simply couldn't contain. Dolan landed a free prior to Finnerty shrugging off three Cork defenders before finding the net to level matters for a seventh time after 43 minutes.

Saoirse McCarthy split the posts in response but a revitalised Galway continued to pour forward. Dolan landed another free before walloping home to make it 2-11 to 1-11 with over ten minutes to go. Cork saw an Emma Murphy goal-bound shot miss the target by inches but Galway remained in the ascendancy with Dolan landing two scores in quick succession.

Katrina Mackey converted two placed sliotars at the beginning of seven minutes of injury-time but the writing was already on the wall for a Cork team out-muscled all over the pitch.

A goal in it, another Galway substitute, Sabina Rabbitte, put the result beyond doubt with her side's final score.

'Obviously, we would like to be heading into the All-Ireland championship off the back of a national league final win but we have to be happy as our panel is getting stronger,' Twomey concluded. 'There were seven of our girls playing out in Croke Park for the first time tonight.'

#### Scorers

**Galway:** C Dolan 1-4 (3f); A O'Reilly 0-5 (2f); C Finnerty 1-0; N Kilkenny, A Keane, A Donohue, O McGrath, S Rabbitte 0-1 each.

**Cork:** A Thompson, S McCarthy, K Mackey (2f) 0-3 each; A O'Connor 1-0; F Keating 0-2; L Hayes, C Sigerson (1f) 0-1 each.

**Galway:** Sarah Healy; R Hanniffy, S Dervan, Shauna Healy; R Black, E Helebert, D Higgins; A Donohue, N Kilkenny; N Hanniffy, A O'Reilly, A Keane; O McGrath, R Hennelly, S McGrath. **Subs:** C Finnerty for Keane (38), C Dolan for S McGrath (38), S Rabbitte for O'Reilly (59), S Spellman for Hanniffy (60+2), T Kenny for Black (60+2).

**Cork:** A Lee; L Coppinger, L Tracey, M Cahalane; S McCarthy, M Murphy, L Hayes; K O'Mahoney, A Thompson; K Mackey, C Sigerson, I O'Regan; C Healy, F Keating, A

O'Connor.

**Subs:** E Murphy for Healy (30), M Ring for Sigerson (52), A Smith for Keating (60+2).

**Referee:** John Dermody



### THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Galway's Carrie Dolan made her mark once introduced as a second-half substitute and scored a match-winning 1-4.

**Star moment:** Amy O'Connor's goal early in the second half was beautifully crafted but substitutes Carrie Dolan and Catherine Finnerty's green flags cemented Galway's victory.

**Talking point:** Galway have now defeated Cork in five consecutive senior league or championship games stretching back to 2019. Are Cork any closer to ending that drought?

**What's next?** Both Cork and Galway begin preparations for the group stages of the upcoming 2022 All-Ireland senior championship.

# A LEAGUE APART



Storming second half display sees Galway regain National League title

The Galway camogie squad celebrating their National League Final victory over Cork at Croke Park on Saturday evening. Back row, left to right: Siobhán McGrath, Sarah Spellman, Siobhán Gardiner, Sabina Rabbittie, Ciara Murphy, Áine Keane, Niamh Hanniffy, Emma Helebert, Róisín Black, Sarah Healy, Ciara Donohue, Heather Cooney, Dervla Higgins, Lisa Casserly, Maria Cooney, Rebecca Hennelly, Fiona Ryan, Katie Anna Porter and Katie Gilchrist. Front row: Ava Lynskey, Carrie Dolan, Catherine Finnerty, Niamh Kilkenny, Shauna Healy, Ailish O'Reilly, Aoife Donohue, Sara Dervan (captain), Rachael Hanniffy, Tara Kenny, Orlaith McGrath, Tegan Canning and Niamh McPeake.

GALWAY	2-14
CORK	1-13

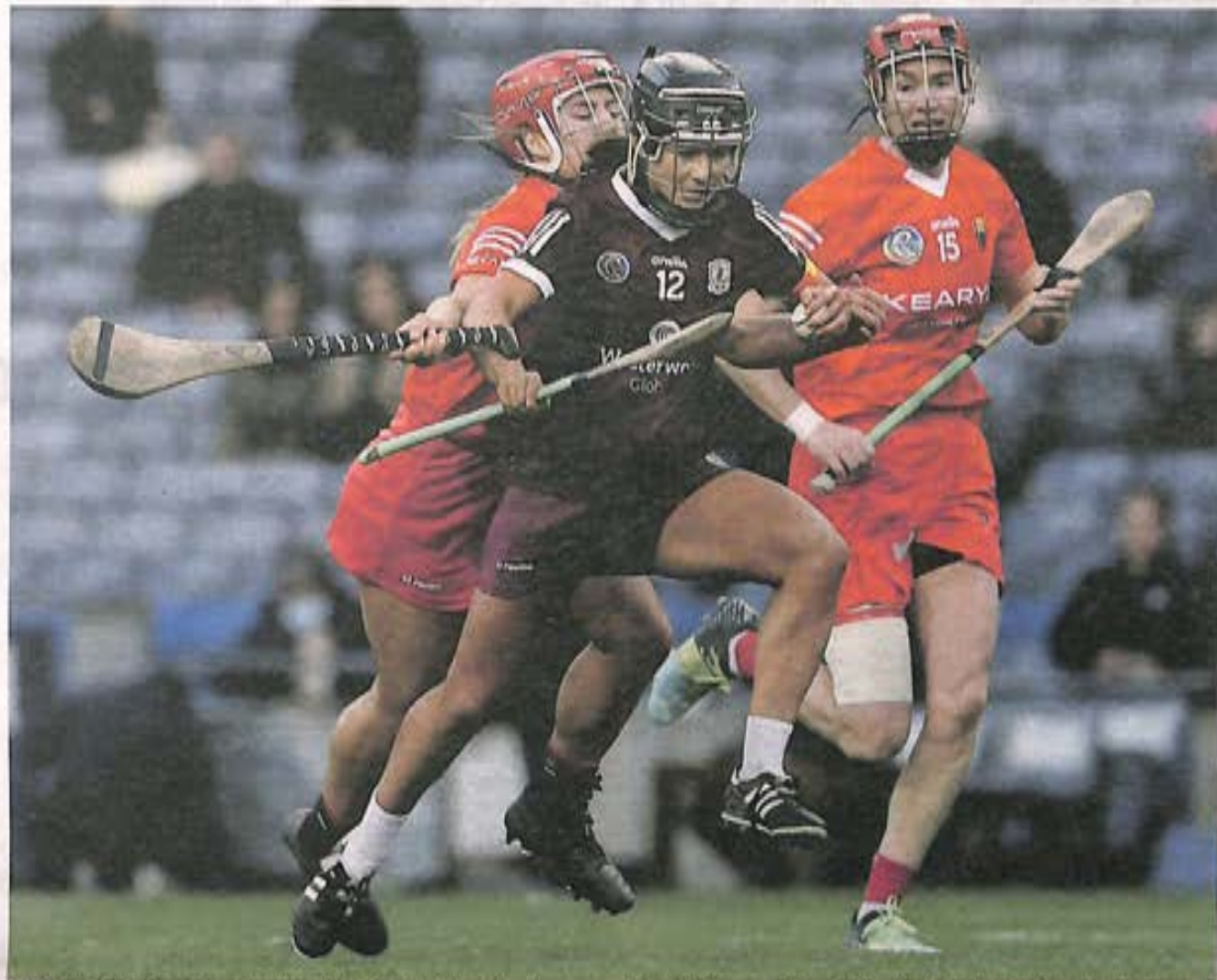
## EANNA O'REILLY AT CROKE PARK

A STEELY second half comeback saw Galway claim their sixth National League title with a four-point win over Cork on Saturday evening at Croke Park.

After playing second fiddle to the Rebels during the first half, the concession of a goal shortly after the resumption saw the Tribeswomen fall into a very tight corner, with a six-point deficit to chase.

When Amy O'Connor raised a green flag in the 32nd minute, it looked as though a determined Cork side would push on and put the contest to bed. However, with their backs to the wall, Galway came out fighting and took over during the next 15 minutes. The impact of Carrie Dolan and Catherine Finnerty after their introduction was vital in sparking Galway into life. The pair netted the crucial goals which turned the game in the second half.

Another huge factor was the impact and leadership shown by Galway's veterans in the crucial third quarter period. As they have done so many times



Galway's Aoife Donohue is chased by Cork's Libby Coppinger and Amy O'Connor during Saturday's National Camogie League Final at Croke Park.

on the biggest stage, the likes of Sarah Dervan, Shauna Healy, Niamh Kilkenny, Aoife Donohue, and Ailish O'Reilly stood up when the team was most in need and delivered great performances.

While these experienced players laid down the marker, Galway's comeback was equally driven by a dominant half back line, while others such as Niamh Hanniffy, Rebecca Hennelly and Orlaith McGrath had a major second half impact.

The result was that Galway scored 1-3 without reply to cancel out Cork's advantage, and though the Rebels briefly took the lead again through Saoirse McCarthy, the Tribeswomen subsequently hit another 1-3 on the bounce to go five points ahead late in normal time. It was another tremendous display of hunger, resolve, and determination from a side which brought home a fourth trophy in three years, to cement their status as the number one team in the country.

Saturday evening's league final saw Galway make the perfect start when Rachael Hanniffy sent Niamh Kilkenny through for a well taken point. Cork replied a minute later with a point from Ashling Thompson, before Ailish O'Reilly got her first score, to put the Tribeswomen 0-2 to 0-1 ahead.

# CAMOGIE QUEENS



**VICTORY JOY:** Members of the Galway camogie squad show their delight after defeating Cork in the National Camogie League Final at Croke Park on Saturday. Back row, left to right: Niamh Hanniffy, Emma Helebert, Catherine Finnerty, Niamh Kilkenny, Rebecca Hennelly, Shauna Healy, Dervia Higgins, Aoife Donohue and Sarah Healy. Front row: Ailish O'Reilly, Aine Keane, Roisin Black, Rachael Hanniffy and Sarah Dervan.



Galway players Sarah Healy and Aoife Donohue celebrate with the National League trophy.



Galway camogie officials, from left: Sarah Gaughran, PRO, Anne Kearney, Secretary, Audrey Carr, Treasurer, and Brian Griffin, Chairperson, with the National Camogie League trophy at Croke Park.



Galway's Niamh Hanniffy is challenged by Meabh Murphy of Cork at Croke Park.



Galway defender Shauna Healy is jubilant after their league final victory over Cork.

Two Cork points from Thompson and Fiona Keating saw the Rebels take the lead for the first time in the seventh minute. Galway equalised when Aine Keane pointed, after a good pass from Orlaith McGrath.

The sides continued to trade scores, with Saoirse McCarthy sending over her first point for Cork, before O'Reilly equalised, after getting onto a line ball from Rebecca Hennelly. The Oranmore/Maree full forward then put Galway back in front, after a good move involving Hennelly and Emma Helebert.



**A NEAT SCORE FROM SABINA RABBITTE WRAPPED UP A GREAT WIN FOR THE ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS**

The second quarter saw Cork establish dominance, with a very effective running and short passing game. Cork were set up with Laura Treacy playing as a sweeper, while Chloe Sigerson was positioned at number six. Some poor use of possession from Galway saw Treacy sweep up regularly before the Rebels worked the ball through the lines and into scoring positions.

Galway also wasted possession by dropping three frees into the hand of Cork keeper Amy Lee. The Rebels outscored Galway by 0-6 to 0-2 in the second quarter, with scores coming from wing backs Laura Hayes and Saoirse McCarthy, along with Sigerson (free), Thompson, Keating, and the lively Katrina Mackey.

Galway's scores during this period came from Aoife Donohue, after a good turn over by Niamh Hanniffy, and O'Reilly,

after a foul on Donohue. It left the score at 0-10 to 0-7 in favour of the Rebels at half time.

The opening minutes of the second half saw Cork open up the Galway defence, with a move involving McCarthy and Mackey, who broke inside the full back line before finding Amy O'Connor on the edge of the square, and the St. Vincent's player made no mistake in finishing past Sarah Healy.

It looked as though Cork were about to click into top gear, but remarkably, they failed to score again over the next 15 minutes. Galway refused to let them pull away and imposed themselves on the contest. Kilkenny set up Orlaith McGrath for a neat point, before the hard-working Donohue drew a foul, which O'Reilly converted.

At this stage, Dolan and Finnerty had been introduced, and their impact was instant. Dolan drew a foul before pointing the free herself to leave a goal between the teams. Three minutes later, a great move involving Kilkenny, Hennelly and Niamh Hanniffy sent Finnerty through on goal, before she finished coolly past Lee to the Cork net.

Galway had cancelled out Cork's six-point lead to level the contest at Croke Park. The excellent McCarthy soon sent over her third point of the evening, but this would be the last time Cork went ahead on the scoreboard. Galway had the momentum and hit another 1-3 to take control of the final.

Donohue, who had a huge second half alongside Kilkenny, drew another foul which Dolan converted to equalise. A minute later, O'Reilly delivered an excellent ball into Dolan, who beat Libby Coppinger in the air before firing past Lee to the net.

Galway dodged a bullet shortly after when Cork's Emma Murphy broke through on goal, before shooting narrowly out-



Galway half forward Aine Keane aims for the Cork posts as Saoirse McCarthy closes in during Saturday's National Camogie League Final at Croke Park. PHOTO: DON SOULES.

side the post and wide. Dolan was on fire at the other end, and she added two points (one free) to give Galway a decisive five-point lead late on.

Galway's half back line produced a terrific second half display, with Rachael Hanniffy, Emma Helebert and particularly Róisín Black having a tremendous game on the right wing. Shauna Healy, successfully tied up the dangerous O'Connor in the second half,

which was also a crucial factor.

Mackey was the one Cork forward who caused Galway problems throughout, and she pointed two late frees, before a neat score from Sabina Rabbittie wrapped up a great win for the All-Ireland champions. On the night, Cathal Murray's side were severely tested by a strong Cork outfit but passed the test with flying colours.

It certainly bodes well for the upcoming championship cam-

paign, which Galway will go into as hot favourites. While traditionally, such a mantle may not have suited the Tribeswomen, this team gives a strong impression of embracing the expectations placed on them and having the ambition to constantly push for more success.

**Galway:** Sarah Healy; Shauna Healy, S. Dervan, D. Higgins; R. Black, E. Helebert, R. Hanniffy; A. Donohue (0-1), N. Kilkenny (0-1); N. Hanniffy, R.

Hennelly, A. Keane (0-1); G. McGrath (0-1), A. O'Reilly (0-5, 0-2 frees), S. McGrath, Suba; C. Finnerty (1-0) for Keane (30), C. Dolan (1-4, 0-3 frees) for S. McGrath (39), S. Rabbittie (0-1) for O'Reilly (59), S. Spellman for N. Hanniffy (62), T. Kenny for Black (62). **Cork:** A. Lee; M. Cahalane, L. Coppinger, M. Murphy; S. McCarthy (0-3), L. Treacy, L. Hayes (0-1), K. O'Mahoney, A. Thompson (0-3); C. Healy, C. Sigerson (0-1 free), I. O'Regan; K. Mackey (0-3, 0-2 frees), F. Keating (0-2), A. O'Connor (1-0). Subs: E. Murphy for Healy (31), M. Ring for Sigerson (52), A. Smith for Keating (62). **Referee:** John Dermody (Westmeath).

**TEAM BOSS MURRAY DELIGHTED WITH GALWAY'S RESPONSE TO EARLY SECOND-HALF CRISIS**

**EANNA O'REILLY**

GALWAY camogie team manager Cathal Murray was very proud of his players after they delivered the county's sixth league title at Croke Park on Saturday evening.

After finding themselves six points behind against an eager Cork side, the Galway boss was delighted with the response of his team, who impressively fought their way out of a tight corner.

"It was all driven by the players out there. We always talk about when we concede a goal or a big score, that we need to get the next couple of points. We went up the field and got two points within a

couple of minutes and that made a massive difference.

"It brings it back to four straight away. Look, the girls have huge character. That's when you want to see it when you're under pressure in a game."

"Carrie (Dolan) and Catherine (Finnerty) both came on and made a massive difference. I think the players that were on the field as well, they stood up and they started to be counted.

We worked way, way harder and we used the ball an awful lot better and ran at Cork a bit more which we weren't doing in the first half."

Murray alluded to the half time team talk, which em-

phasised an increase in urgency, made all the more important by the concession of a goal shortly after the resumption.

"At half-time we talked about getting a good start. We talked about upping our work-rate and using the ball better, but that all goes out the window when you concede an early goal to be honest with you.

"We can't do much about that on the sideline, that has to come from the players and in fairness, they really stood up. I felt in the second half when we used the ball and got it into the spaces where we could run at Cork, we really caused them trouble."

The win sets Galway up for



Galway team manager Cathal Murray.

a championship campaign in which all eyes will be on them as league and All-Ireland champions. Murray was keeping his feet firmly on the ground with the championship in mind.

"Listen, we're not going to get carried away either. Cork are going to learn a huge amount from today. Kilkenny and Tipperary are going to learn a huge amount from watching us today.

"We're halfway through a year but as players and management, we're going to be judged on how we do in the championship. At the end of the day, Cork will take losing the league if they're going to win the All-Ireland at the end of the year," he concluded.



# Cork's great experience tells down the

## Munster Intermediate Camogie Championship

Cork	1-15
Kerry	2-8

**Therese O'Callaghan**  
Páirc Uí Chaoimh

A strong finish saw Cork crowned Munster intermediate camogie champions at Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

an entertaining game played as a curtain-raiser to the Munster SHC tie between Cork and Limerick.

Kerry can hold their heads high and were highly competitive. They only lost out in the final quarter when Cork's greater experience told and outscored them eight points to one, to eventually win by four.

Kerry, with the wind behind them, got the ideal start when full-forward Jackie Horgan

was fouled and Patrice Diggin sent the resultant penalty to the top left hand corner. Diggin and Horgan (2) added points to put the visitors into a 1-3 to nil lead.

It took Cork until the 16th minute to open their account, with three Joanne Casey frees helping them to settle. Ian Brick's Kerry extended their advantage through the accuracy of Horgan and Diggin.

As the Kingdom introduced

Danielle O'Leary — the star of Kerry's Division 2 ladies football league victory last weekend — Cork closed out the half with Rachel Harty and Casey points before Casey struck for a timely goal in the 29th minute to leave the sides level 1-5 apiece.

Cork took the lead for the first time two minutes into the second half when Casey pointed. Kerry rifled over the next two scores from Horgan

and Amy O'Sullivan to keep their noses in front. Player-of-the-match Lauren Homan ensured the contest was tied for the third time, 1-7 each.

Kerry, with 12 of their starting 15 coming from the Clannaurice club, gained a foothold once more, with Edel Slattery's 38th-minute goal swinging the momentum back their way. However, Trevor Coleman's side weren't to be outdone and, in front of a large



Cork captain Finola Neville raises the trophy. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



The Cork team celebrate their victory over Kerry in the Munster Intermediate Camogie final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Pictures: Eddie O'Hare

## home stretch

home crowd, they claimed the next eight points — six from play — to see this keenly contested decider out.

**Scorers for Cork:** J Casey (1-8, 0-7 frees), L Homan (0-3), R Harty, R O'Shea, K Hickey, and L O'Sullivan (0-1 each).

**Scorers for Kerry:** P Diggin (1-2, 1-0 pen, 0-1 free), J Horgan (0-4 frees), E Slattery (1-0), A O'Sullivan (0-1).

**CORK:** S Ahern; A Crowley, K Falvey, D Carroll; K Kilcommins, A O'Callaghan, L O'Sullivan; R Harty, L Callanan; J Casey, M Murphy, S Hutchinson; R O'Shea, L

Homan, F Neville (capt).

**Subs:** K Hickey for S Hutchinson (half time), J O'Leary for A Crowley (half time), C Crowley for R O'Shea (57), C Finn for F Neville (57), L Doyle for K Falvey (59).

**KERRY:** E Lawlor; E Ryall, S Murphy, M Costello, A O'Connor, P Diggin, R McCarthy (capt); K Lynch, E O'Donoghue; AM Leen, C Spillane, A Hanafin; A O'Sullivan, J Horgan, E Slattery.

**Subs:** D O'Leary for A Hanafin (25), C Cullen for AM Leen (47), K O'Dwyer for P Diggin (54 inj), S Lawlor for A O'Sullivan (58), J O'Keefe for E Slattery (62).

**Referee:** Aaron Hogg (Clare).



Cork's Aoife O'Callaghan is tackled by Kerry's Caoimhe Spillane during the Munster intermediate camogie final. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Rebels take Munster title

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cork	1-15
Kerry	2-8

IN what could be on the only time Cork and Kerry meet this year in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, the Munster Intermediate Camogie Championship was staged as a warm up for Cork v Limerick in the hurling.

Ultimately, the Rebels lifted the provincial crown but not before a stern test from a very determined Kerry side.

The Kingdom lined out without six of last season's team, including regular goalkeeper Aoife Fitzgerald, who is out with a cruciate injury, although the hosts were minus Niamh O'Leary from their starting 15, after she picked up an injury mid-week.

In an opening 30 minutes where referee Aaron Hogg was over fussy, issuing three yellow cards in a fair contest that didn't warrant them, he awarded a controversial penalty after only three minutes, penalising Cork goalkeeper Sarah Ahern, who came off her line and batted the ball clear as a Kerry forward backed in on top of her.

Patrice Diggin slotted the slotar to the net to give Kerry a great start and she added to her tally pointing a free soon after.

Kerry dominated, winning three frees as Jackie Horgan put them 1-3 to no score ahead at the end of the first quarter.

Cork came more into the game and with Lauren Callanan dominating around the middle and with Joanne Casey slotting over three frees, they had the deficit down to a goal.

Horgan edged Kerry back in front with another free and, with Diggin striking a superb long-range effort between the posts, they went two clear.

Cork, now settling into the game, began to win more possession. Rachel Harty pointed from play followed by Casey, and the Rebels were finding gaps and playing with a lot more confidence.

Defending well, corner-back Danielle



Cork's Aine Crowley is tackled by Kerry's Aisling Hanafin during the Munster final.

Carroll drove forward and her shot for a point was batted clear by Emma Lawlor. However, Casey reacted fastest to finish to the net. It was level at the break.

On the resumption, the sides swapped points twice but again Kerry hit the front, with Edel Slattery finishing over the line in a goal-mouth scramble.

This was a wake-up call for Cork as they hit the next eight scores without reply to open up a 1-15 to 2-7 gap.

Rachel O'Shea, Casey, Leanne O'Sullivan, Kaitlin Hickey, and Lauren Homan were all on target.

Distributing the ball better and finding their players with more confidence, Cork were in control.

At the back, O'Sullivan, Carroll, and Aoife O'Callaghan were on top, while around the middle Callanan and Rachel Harty continued to hold the upper hand.

Kerry added a Sarah Lawlor point to their tally before the full-time whistle but Cork, despite not playing any way near the standard they set usually, had done enough to take the title.

They know they will need a vast improvement if aspirations of an all-Ireland title are to be achieved.

For Kerry, they will be happy with a performance that saw them battle to the finish. With both sides participating in the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship, they will look forward with renewed confidence.

**Scorers for Cork:** J Casey 1-8 (1-7 f), L Homan 0-3, R O'Shea, L O'Sullivan, K Hickey, R Harty 0-1 each.

**Kerry:** P Diggin 1-2 (1-0 pen, 0-2 f), J Horgan 0-4 f, E Slattery 1-0, S Lawlor, A O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

**CORK:** S Ahern; A Crowley, K Falvey, D Carroll; K Kilcommins, A O'Callaghan, L O'Sullivan; R Harty, L Callanan; J Casey, M Murphy, S Hutchinson; R O'Shea, L Homan, F Neville (c).

**Subs:** K Hickey for S Hutchinson (h-t), J O'Leary for A Crowley (h-t), C Crowley for R O'Shea (56), C Finn for F Neville (56), L Doyle for K Falvey (59).

**KERRY:** E Lawlor; E Ryall, S Murphy, M Costello; A O'Connor, P Diggin, R McCarthy (c); K Lynch, E O'Donoghue; AM Leen, C Spillane, A Hanafin; A O'Sullivan, J Horgan, E Slattery.

**Subs:** D O'Leary for A Hanafin (25), C Cullen for AM Leen (47), K O'Dwyer for P Diggin (inj 53), S Lawlor for A O'Sullivan (58), J O'Keefe for E Slattery (62).

**Referee:** Aaron Hogg (Clare)

## Kate, 20, dies after accident in match



Camogie player Kate Moran, 20, who lost her life yesterday following an incident during a senior league game in Co Galway on Monday. Picture: Lorraine O'Sullivan/Inpho

### John Fallon

Bank holiday weekend joy for a GAA club in Galway quickly turned to tragedy when a "bubbly and talented" young camogie player lost her life yesterday following an accident during a match.

Celebrations were just beginning in Athenry after the club's U15 hurling and camogie teams completed a unique double by winning the Féile na nGael county titles when the tragic news emerged of an incident in a senior league game in Ardrahan on Monday.

Kate Moran — whose dad Cathal was a former Galway hurler and a mainstay of the Athenry team which won the All-Ireland club title in 1997, 2000, and 2001 — was seriously injured in an accidental collision in their game against Ardrahan.

Medical crews from three ambulances treated the 20-year-old at the south Co Galway venue before she was rushed to University College Hospital.

Prayers were offered at a special Mass in Athenry yesterday before Kate, a commerce student at NUIG, was later pronounced dead.

The former student at Presentation College in Athenry was an accomplished camogie player who won All-Ireland underage medals with Galway in addition to numerous titles with her club and colleges.

The family runs a successful auctioneering business and is well-regarded throughout mid Co Galway.

Kate was the eldest of four children and is survived by her parents Mary and Cathal, brother Thady, and sisters Leah and Saoirse.

Tributes quickly poured

in from clubs across the county.

"This is a terrible tragedy for her family, our club and our community. We are deeply saddened by these events," said Athenry Camogie Club. "Our sympathy and thoughts are with the Moran family and friends. Kate will be greatly missed by all who knew her."

"She won two All-Irelands at U16 level with Galway, both titles she was incredibly proud of. She was a tremendous role model for our many underage players and a wonderful leader both on and off the field of play. Her bubbly personality will be remembered for eternity."

Galway Camogie also expressed condolences on the death of the young player.

A Garda investigation has been launched into the death.

# Kate's father bids heartfelt farewell to the 'most gorgeous girl' who was a 'shining light'

Rebecca Black, Dominic McGrath, and Cate McCurry

An entire community has been stunned into silence by the tragic death of a young GAA star in Co Galway, her funeral was told yesterday.

Kate Moran, 20, from the village of Monivea, was fatally injured playing for Athenry Camogie Club in a senior league game in Ardrahan on Monday.

A rising star who won two All-Ireland medals for Galway at under-16 level, she died in hospital on Tuesday.

GAA players from Monivea and Athenry lined the route outside the Church of The Sacred Heart, Ryehill, Monivea, yesterday, with many gathered for over an hour before the funeral began.

Galway and Athenry GAA flags flickered in the breeze outside the church as dozens listened to the service.

Parish priest Ronnie Boyle said the community "has been stunned into silence by this inconceivable, terrible, unfortunate accident".

He said the best way to celebrate Kate's life is with words and action, "because that's what Kate was".

Fr Boyle described her as a "beautiful young woman, blessed with so much talent and ability in this life".

"Talent as a camogie player, what a bright future she had," he told mourners.

"An intelligent and ambitious student, a caring daughter, friend and team-mate."

"The more we think about all her qualities, the more we are confounded by the nature of her death."

He described her life as "filled by such promise" and said she had a beautiful, deeply loving family.

Kate's father Cathal said that he and his wife, Mary were "very proud" to be her parents. He described her as their "angel" who was loved by many.

"We hope Kate, our love, that she didn't suffer when this happened to her," Mr Moran told mourners.

"I think it was quick. I was very close to her when it happened. As were all her



Friends and team-mates carry floral tributes at the funeral of Kate Moran, right, yesterday.

Picture: Eamon Ward

playing colleagues on the field that she loved also.

"I won't say much more about that terrible evening.

"Our beautiful Kate, whom we loved so dearly. And Mary and I are so proud to be your parents, Kate, and we love you so much since the day you were born.

"I think you are our angel now, Kate and I think also that you are such a special little girl."

Mr Moran described how he bought a book a number of years ago about how a young woman died aged in her early 20s.

"Whatever it was, I thought of that book in the last few days and little did I know when I bought the book what would happen," he added.

"Kate, she always had so

many things to do.

"She was a busy lady.

"She hadn't time to help us all the time, she had a lot of things to do.

"She had a great spring in her step, always. Particularly lately, in recent times even more so with so much coming together for her and she had so much beauty in her life.

"Kate, she had so many strings to her bow. There wasn't just one thing or one sport.

"She had so many friends from so many circles of life.

"She loved to have the fun. Everything had to be a little bit of fun.

"The thing about Kate we are really proud of is that she always did the right thing, and when we knew she had that principle, we were

happy when she was out."

Kate was due to celebrate her 21st birthday in just two weeks time.

"Mary and herself had planned a four- or five-day break in New York to celebrate and she was saving up it," Mr Moran told mourners.

"But sadly that day didn't come. "We were happy to see her smile and that was enough for us, that's all we wanted. We knew she was OK."

Mr Moran also spoke in regard to Kate's boyfriend, T.J.

"To T.J, Kate's boyfriend, he has been coming over to our house for a couple of years now, and she loved you and she knew you loved her and that you loved each other dearly.

"You have had a horrible time and we are so sorry that

has stopped short. She was always very fond of you."

Cathal also mentioned what a privilege it was for their family to have Kate in their lives.

"Mary and I, and Kate's sisters, Leah and Saoirse, and brother Thady, we are so proud, Kate, and privileged to have you with us always.

"You were such a darling and most gorgeous girl. You are a shining light, you were always smiling and were endearing to everyone and it was very easy to love you.

"You were stunning always and always kept it simple and that was lovely.

"You asked us for very little and you can't do anymore Kate.

"We have to let you go somewhere else, Kate, and we hope you are OK and that

you are at peace and we are always with you.



The remains of Kate Moran leaving the Church of The Sacred Heart Monivea, Co Galway. Picture: Brendan Gleeson



Kate Moran's team-mates leading with the flowers at the funeral. Picture: Brendan Gleeson



Friends and club members at the funeral of Kate Moran in Galway on Friday. Picture: Eamon Ward

# Busy period for clubs as the camogie leagues get underway

THOUGHTS now turn to the various league competitions after the draws for the sections of the adult and minor competitions were made recently.

## SENIOR

Fifteen teams are in the senior league with three sections of five, two teams to qualify from each section for the quarter and semi-finals.

Games are scheduled for every Wednesday with quarter finals on Wednesday May 18, semi finals on Saturday, May 28 and final on Saturday June 11.

**Group A:** holders Glen Rovers are joined by Iniscarra, Killeagh, Cloughduv and Éire Óg.

**Group B:** Douglas, Ballygarvan, Ballincollig, St Catherine's and Newcestown.

**Group C:** will see last year's Intermediate champions Fr O'Neil's promoted and they join Courcey Rovers, Enniskeane, St Finbarr's and Sarsfields.



Tara McCarthy, Glen Rovers, and Orla Beechinor, Éire Óg, battle for the ball in the 2021 Cork Senior Camogie Championship, at Castle Road. Picture: Jim Coughlan

## CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

final Saturday May 28 and final Saturday June 11.

**Group A:** Barryroe, Éire Óg 2, Rockban and Castlemartyr.

**Group B:** Iniscarra 2, Aghada, Millstreet and Blarney.

**Group C:** Erin's Own, Kilbree, Glen Rovers 2 and Bishopstown and in group D, Na Piarsaigh 2, Courcey Rovers 2, Youghal and Banteer are play each other.

## JUNIOR

**Group A:** Midleton, Laochra Óg, Kilworth, St Fanahan's, Bride Rovers and Buttevant.

**Group B:** Castletyons 2, Carrigtwohill, Fermoy, Kinsale and Grenagh.

### LILLIE O SULLIVAN LEAGUE

**Group A:** Valley Rovers, Cloughduv, Douglas, St Finbarr's and Killeagh

**Group B:** Aghabullogue, Blackrock, St Catherine's, Newtownshandrum and Fr O'Neil's go head to head.

### LILY GRANT LEAGUE

Second teams from Junior clubs plus third adult teams from senior clubs are participating here. In one group we have Iniscarra, Tracton, Aghabullogue, Cobh, Sarsfields, Blarney and Sliabh Rua.

### PREMIER MINOR

The Premier Minor league has just eight teams in two groups. **Group A:** Éire Óg, Sarsfields, Clonakilty and Iniscarra. **Group B:** Aghabullogue, Kilbree, Glen Rovers and Aghada.

### MINOR A

The Minor A league has 24 teams in four groups of six.

**Group A:** Castlemartyr, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Courcey Rovers, Cloughduv and Ballinora.

**Group B:** Ballinascairthy, Cobh, Rockban, Blackrock, Valley Rovers and Carrigtwohill.

**Group C:** Enniskeane, Na Piarsaigh, Fr O'Neil's, Sarsfields 2, Midleton and Erin's Own.

**Group D:** Ballincollig, Newcestown, Youghal, Tracton, St Finbarr's and Mallow.

### MINOR B

Four groups, two of six and two of five teams are in the Minor B league.

**Group A:** Blarney, Barryroe, Bishopstown, Millstreet, St Catherine's and Buttevant.

**Group B:** Castletyons, Ballygarvan, Kinsale, Grenagh and Carrigaline.

**Group C:** Douglas, Killeagh, Sliabh Rua, Bandon and Banteer.

**Group D:** Aghabullogue 2, St Fanahan's, Laochra Óg, Milford and Ballinhassig.

### MINOR C

Twelve teams will compete in two groups in the minor C league.

**Group A:** Ballyhea, Kilworth Nemo Rangers, Dungourney and Bride Rovers.

**Group B:** Watergrasshill, St Vincent's, Brian Dillon's, Fermoy and Blackrock 2.

## INTERMEDIATE

Thirteen teams will battle it out for the Intermediate league title and there are three sections two groups of four and one group of five with the quarter finals to be played on Wednesday May 18, semi finals on Saturday May 28 and final on Saturday June 11

**Section A:** Ballyhea, Clonakilty, Carrigaline, Blackrock and Brian Dillon's.

**Section B:** Aghabullogue, Milford, who have dropped down a grade from senior, Newtownshandrum and Watergrasshill.

**Section C:** Charleville joining Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Valley Rovers and Na Piarsaigh.

There will be six junior grade competitions and players of all grades are well catered for with Junior A, B and C, junior thirteen a sides available to them.

There is a junior competition for senior and intermediate clubs who are fielding second adult teams and another junior competition for second teams from junior clubs.

These are competitions for clubs who want to compete on the same level as other clubs with second teams but some clubs chose to compete with their second teams in the A, B, or C league which is their choice.

## JUNIOR A

Twelve teams are in the Junior A league and there are two sections of six teams with two teams to qualify from each section for the semi-finals which will be played on Friday, May 20 with the final on Friday, June 3.

**Group A:** Sliabh Rua, Sarsfields 2, Castletyons, St Vincent's and Cobh and **Group B:** Ballinascairthy, Ballinora, Ballinhassig, Mallow and Tracton.

## JUNIOR B

In the Junior B there are sixteen teams which is an increase from last season's seven.

Kilbree, who won the Junior C championship make the step up as do Glen Rovers second team, who won the second teams championship.

Éire Óg, Na Piarsaigh, Iniscarra and Courcey Rovers have opted for their second teams to also try their luck in junior B as opposed to the second team's competition.

Four group of four with the quarter finals on Saturday, May 14, Semi Final Saturday, May 20 and final Saturday, June 11.

There will also be a league plate for those who don't make it to the league quarter or semi final stage, the quarter finals will be Saturday, May 14, the semi



The victorious Cork captain, Finola Neville, and her team mates celebrate with the cup after the Munster Intermediate Camogie Championship final win over Kerry at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Ray McManus/Sportsfile

# Making top tier is so beneficial

SARAH O'CONNOR captained Wexford to the division 2 title in Croke Park two weeks ago.

It is disappointing that Cork didn't make it there.

I don't think they'd have beaten Wexford on the day, but the experience would have been worth its weight in gold.

That was in effect Wexford's first team, and they will play in the senior championship for 2022.

Defeated league finalists Antrim, likewise.

Speaking with former Wexford player and manager Stella Sinnott after the game she was delighted that for 2023 Wexford will play in the division 1 league and prepare properly for the senior championship.

I understand the promotion/relegation ruling but it really does the senior championship counties no good playing in a lower league division.

Likewise, the division 2 counties are denied league titles, which can be huge for their development.

The senior game needs more than Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, and Tipperary.

With clubs and county teams consistently staying in the lower grades, when some can push up, that won't help.

■ Cork's Intermediate side defeated Kerry in the Munster final in Páirc Uí Chaoimh last Sunday.

But it was a poor display, and they'll need a lot of improvement if they have All-Ireland aspirations.

One thing that is very obvious is their tendency to go for their own scores and not give the ball to the player in a better position.

And when a goal opportunity is on, you must take it.

Tapping the ball over the bar when a player is free to your left or right yards from goal shouldn't be applauded. In championship, particularly the latter stages, these moments are defining.

The mindset of the players must change, and management needs to drive that.

■ The draws have finally been made for the intercounty championships.

Cork's seniors have their first three games three weeks in a row, away to Wexford, Waterford and Dublin and then



## CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

home to Clare and Tipperary. Championship kicks off the weekend of May 21st.

■ The tragedy of the loss of Athenry's Kate Moran while playing a camogie game during the week is heart breaking.

Such a beautiful and talented young woman. Our deepest sympathies to her family, friends, and everyone in the camogie community in Galway.

■ Cork had four new starters in their league final in comparison to the team that lined out for the All-Ireland final last September.

Galway had five so they too have done a lot of rotating throughout the league.

Cork's work rate has improved massively. Their first half was impressive in that regard.

It fell to the wayside in the second half, and you'd expect Davy Fitzgerald to further develop that.

Galway had turned them over too much in the All-Ireland final.

Cork's half back line were particularly good during the opening half, Laura Treacy reading and sweeping and the two wings bursting forward up the flanks.

Chloe Sigerson drops back but with no defined role in that regard I have a concern that leaving their full back line one on one with Galway's full forward line will expose Cork.

Ailish O'Reilly highlighted that, with three points from play inside the first quarter and Carrie Dolan's goal.

You have to give massive credit to Cathal Murray.

The management of Galway's first team was in complete disarray for a few years.

They had four managers in two and a half years before Cathal Murray came in during the end of the league campaign in 2018 and since then has guided a disjointed team to three All-Ireland titles, 2019 to 2021, winning two.

One thing Cork will need to work on is



Victorious Cork captain, Finola Neville, lifts the cup after the Munster Intermediate Camogie Championship final win over Kerry at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Ray McManus/Sportsfile

ensuring Ashling Thompson doesn't drift out of games.

She had three points with possibly four touches of the ball in the opening half but disappeared in the second. Cork need her on show for the full hour.

Galway's goals were well worked, substitute Catherine Finnerty easily finding space and slipping through, and Carrie Dolan's oozed confidence, not just within herself, but by Ailish O'Reilly too who trusted Dolan when she gave her the 50/50 pass.

Cork will need Hannah Looney and Orla Cronin back as they need strength on their bench.

They won't be too unhappy with their performance as for lengthy periods they were doing well and led by six, but Galway's belief and winning habit, coming from behind again, instils huge confidence.

Cork play Waterford tomorrow in the Munster championship semi-final, 3pm in Páirc Uí Rinn. It's a game where they will further develop their game plan and their younger brigade.

# Cork dig deep after sending-off

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**Cork** 2-17  
**Waterford** 3-10

A STRONG second half, despite playing with 14 players for the last 25 minutes, got Cork over the line with four points to spare at Páirc Uí Rinn to book their place in the Munster final.

Cork, showing five changes to the previous starting 15, handed roles to Emma Murphy, Aoife O'Neill, Ciara O'Sullivan, Cliona Dooley, and Fiona Keating while Waterford lined out with a strong selection and showed huge intensity from the start.

Waterford led by a point at the interval despite having enjoyed the majority of possession playing with the aid of the strong wind.

Goals from Mairead O'Brien and Lorraine Bray helped keep them in front as Cork, having made the better start with an Amy O'Connor goal inside the opening two minutes, found themselves trailing by four points at the end of the opening quarter.

Cork gradually came into the game more, and with O'Connor and Chloe Sigerson on target they were just one in arrears at the break.

### Yellow

On the resumption, Niamh Rockett and Emma Murphy swapped points, and then came the sending-off. Laura Treacy conceded a free and referee Mike Ryan flashed a yellow card and then proceeded to approach the Cork player before issuing a second yellow, which he indicated was for persistent verbal interaction.

Rockett converted the free and Waterford went two clear, but it was the last time they would lead as a fired-up Cork tore into the game. O'Connor converted two frees and one from play. Saoirse McCarthy fired over a superb effort, and with Murphy adding her third, Cork went three in front.

Defending superbly, Cork mopped up anything Waterford threw at them. With Aishling Thompson dropping back deep, they contained the threat up front while their work rate all over the pitch was superb.

With Beth Carton and O'Connor swapping points, Cork stayed in front, but in the space of two minutes there was a goal at each end. First Sigerson flicked the ball past Brianna O'Regan, before Sarah Lacey replied for Water-



Cork's Amy O'Connor hammers home her early goal against Waterford during the Munster Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

ford. Battling to hold their lead, Cork dug deep. O'Connor and Carton exchanged frees. O'Connor stretched it to three with a 45, and Murphy had the final say to put Cork four in front by the full-time whistle.

**Scorers for Cork:** A O'Connor 1-10 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), C Sigerson 1-2, E Murphy 0-4, S McCarthy 0-1.  
**Waterford:** B Carton 0-4 (0-2 f), S Lacey 1-1, N Rockett 0-4 (0-3 f), L Bray, M O'Brien 1-0 each, V Falconer 0-1.

**CORK:** A Lee (c); A O'Neill, L Coppinger, M Cahalane, L Hayes, L Treacy, S McCarthy, K O'Mahony, C O'Sullivan; E Murphy, I O'Regan, C Dooley; A O'Connor, F Keating, C Sigerson.

**Subs:** A Thompson for Dooley (h-4), A Hurley for O'Regan (45), K Wall for O'Mahony (58), O McAllen for O'Sullivan (58).

**WATERFORD:** B O'Regan; K Corbett-Barry; I Helfernan, M Power, A Landers, C Carroll, R Walsh; C Griffin, L Bray (c); T Power, B Carton, M O'Brien; S Lacey, V Falconer, N Rockett.

**Subs:** K Lynch for K Corbett-Barry (h-1), C O'Sullivan for T Power (50), A Flynn for M O'Brien (50).

**Referee:** Mike Ryan (Tipperary).



Cork's Laura Tracey is tackled by Waterford's Vicki Falconer at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## 'When the chips were down Cork answered the call'

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

CORK camogie manager Matthew Twomey was pleased with his side's Munster semi-final victory over Waterford and was especially happy that his side stood up and were counted when the need was greatest.

"It was a real test of the character of the side when we went down to 14 players. We really played well. We had players like Amy O'Connor and Emma Murphy who really came into it in the second half and we defended superbly," said Twomey.

He acknowledged his side did not perform up to scratch in the opening half, even if there were a number of changes to the starting 15 from the recent league final loss to Galway.

"We were disappointing in the opening half and struggled to find our feet," he said.

"We gave them loads of room and when you do this with good teams they punish you, but I suppose when the chips were down we answered the call and

you have to be pleased with that. I suppose we have to be happy with that overall."

With a few regulars not starting due to injury, he was satisfied with the way the players introduced to the side competed. They had to cope with being a player down for most of the second half, after Laura Treacy was dismissed for a second yellow card.

"We had Orla Cronin on the bench today and she isn't ready yet but is back in training," he said.

"Cliona Healy and Saoirse McCartan are a few weeks off being ready yet and we are hoping that Hannah Looney will be back but overall the players we introduced today all stepped up and played well and that is what you want."

While his team qualified for a Munster final with

the result at Páirc Uí Rinn, the All-Ireland series is the primary focus.

"We are training hard and from here on now it's all about getting ready for championship," Twomey said. "This was a good hard game and that will stand to us."

Waterford manager Derek Lyons was disappointed to have lost but like Twomey was taking positives from his side's performance.

"We played really well and pushed Cork to the limits," he said. "I think when they went down to 14 players it possibly upset us more than it did Cork."

"Sometimes that happens and you struggle to get to grips with having an extra player."

"We were disappointed that we didn't finish it out but Cork are a good side and showed fighting spirit to run out winners."

"We look forward now to championship, where I'm sure we will have another battle with Cork."



Cork's Laura Tracey is tackled by Waterford's Vicki Falconer during the Munster senior camogie championship semi-final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Cork reach Munster camogie final despite being reduced to 14

## Munster SCC semi-final

Cork	2-17
Waterford	3-10

### TJ Galvin

Cork battled to a win in the Munster camogie semi-final, despite being reduced to 14 players for the last 25 minutes when Laura Tracey was sent off for a second yellow card.

Despite playing with the aid of a stiff wind in the first half, Waterford led by just the bare minimum at the break.

Cork had started the brighter with Amy O'Connor goaling after just two minutes. Waterford replied with goals from Mairead O'Brien and Lorraine Bray to lead by four at the end of the first quarter.

Cork responded and, helped by scores from O'Connor and Chloe Sigerson, trailed by just one point at half time.

Treacy conceded a free and after referee Mike Ryan flashed the initial yellow card, it was soon followed by a sec-



Tipperary's Grace O'Brien passes over Limerick's Orlaith Kelleher in their Munster senior camogie clash at the TUS Gaelic Grounds. Picture: Ryan Byrne/Inpho

ond yellow for what appeared to be something said.

Niamh Rockett pointed the resultant free to put Waterford two up but it was to be the last time they would lead.

O'Connor was sublime from placed balls and, with Aisling

Thompson dropping back as an extra defender, Cork used the strong wind to their advantage.

The sides traded a goal apiece in the space of two minutes. First Sigerson flicked the ball to the net for Cork before

Sarah Lacey replied for Waterford.

O'Connor stretched the lead to three with a 45 to bring her total for the game to 1-10. Edel Murphy knocked over the final point of the game, her fourth, to ensure Cork the victory and a place in the Munster final.

**Scorers for Cork:** A O'Connor 1-10 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), C Sigerson 1-2, E Murphy 0-4, S McCarthy 0-1.

**Scorers for Waterford:** B Carton 0-4 (0-2 f), S Lacey 1-1, N Rockett 0-4 (0-3 f), L Bray, M O'Brien 1-0 each, V Falconer 0-1.

**CORK:** A Lee (c); A O'Neill, L Coppinger, M Cahalane; L Hayes, L Treacy, S McCarthy; K O'Mahony, C O'Sullivan; E Murphy, I O'Regan, C Dooley; A O'Connor, F Keating, C Sigerson.

**Subs:** A Thompson for Dooley (ht), A Hurlley for O'Regan (45), K Wall for O'Mahony (58), O McAllen for O'Sullivan (58).

**WATERFORD:** B O'Regan; K Corbett-Barry; I Heffernan, M Power; A Landers, C Carroll, R Walsh; C Griffin, L Bray (c); T Power, B Carton, M O'Brien; S Lacey, V Falconer, N Rockett.

**Subs:** K Lynch for K Corbett-Barry (ht), C O'Sullivan for T Power (50), A Flynn for M O'Brien (50).

**Referee:** Mike Ryan (Tipperary).



Eire Og Division 1 Cork Féile Na N-Gael camogie winners

# Cork camogie busy with Féile and Easter camps

WELL done to the Cork Camogie board who organised a superb Féile Na N-Gael competition over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

The Féile mantra of "No one is left behind" was once again very plain to be seen as Camogie was played over three fantastic days in every corner of the city and county.

In total there were three divisions and 15 host venues stretching from Newtownshandrum in North Cork down as far as Barryroe and in total 55 teams took part on what can only be described as a superb weekend for Cork camogie.

Given that it was such a busy weekend with the camogie and hurling double header in Páirc uí Chaomh on Sunday the camogie board did a huge job in getting all the group games played on Saturday with clubs out again bright and early on Sunday and Monday mornings to get all the semi finals and finals played.

In the group stages, there were 84 games played and in all venues there was a very high standard of camogie in all three Divisions.

Referees also paid a huge part and the board and clubs were hugely grateful to all the referees who went way above and beyond to ensure all the games were kept moving.

A huge well done also to all the host co-ordinators many of whom had to be on their toes such as the closeness of some of the group stage games.

This year marked the second year when Féile was at under 15 level and certainly the players served up some superb games, a big word of praise has to go to all.

## Division 1

In Division one, the semi-finals were Sarsfields and Aghbullogue and Eire Og and Ballincollig.

Two superb games saw the sides battle it out before and it took extra time to separate Eire Og and Ballincollig before Eire Og emerged as winners to contest the final. It was also close in the second semi final with Sarsfields edging it 1-2 to 0-1 over Aghbullogue.

The final was another close encounter a first half Clara Murphy goal helped Eire Og lead by two points 1-0 to 0-1 at the interval but Sarsfields battled back and at the full time whistle it was level pegging Sarsfields 1-4 Eire Og 2-1 and so on they went again to extra time.

## SOCCER

### Mary Newman

At half time in extra time Eire Og led by two points with Clodagh Fitzgerald having converted two frees.

Both sides battled hard to take the title but Eire Og thanks to solid defending held out to take the title and win the right to represent Cork at National Féile.

Well done to both sides and to the defeated semi finalists who served up tremendous semi finals and final.

## Division 2

In the division 2, semi finals were Newtownshandrum and Glen Rovers played out an exciting game with the Newtownshandrum girls running out winners on a 1-5 to 1-0 score line.

The second semi final was a close affair as St Catherine's held on to record a two point win over St Finbarr's.

Newtownshandrum and St Catherine's gave it everything in the final with the Newtown girls coming out on top to take the title and they go on to represent Cork at national Féile.

## DIVISION 3

The division 3 final took place on Easter Sunday in Castle Road and in a close contest Bishopstown edged out Carrigtwohill in a low scoring game where Bishopstown hit two points to take the division three crown.

The division three competition is a local only Féile so the winners will not be going forward to national stages.

## CORK CAMOGIE EASTER CAMPS

On Saturday last Cork Camogie held hugely successful Easter Camogie coaching camps at 12 venues through the city and county where the Cork Senior, Intermediate, Minor and Under 16's players and inter-county managements did coaching sessions with the young players who attended.

The feedback from all venues was one of immense enjoyment and I dropped into Castle Road on Saturday afternoon and the smiles on the faces told the story as the young participants all reported that they were having a superb day and this was rounded with goodies bag for all the young participants which went down a treat.

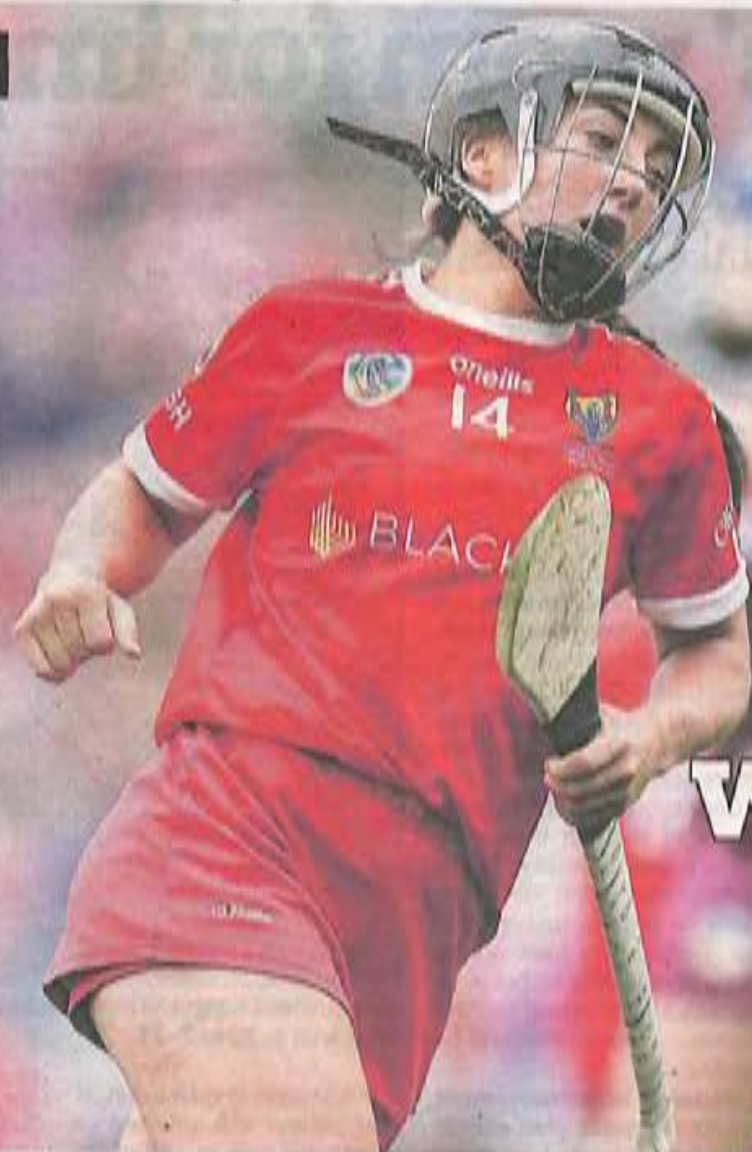
Well done to Cork camogie the coaches and host clubs who made the day a huge success.



Maeve Lynch, senior camogie captain with Tomás Mulcahy and Jennifer O'Donovan, chairperson of Newcestown camogie club.


**MUNSTER SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP** Cork v Waterford

Amy O'Connor scored 1-10 in the win against Waterford.



**'When our backs were to the wall, we stood up'**

## Rebels rally in second half to book place in Munster final

**CORK** 2-17  
**WATERFORD** 3-10

BY MCCARTHY REPORTS

AMY O'Connor racked up 1-10 as Cork overcame Waterford in the Munster senior camogie championship semi-final at Páirc Uí Rinn last Sunday afternoon.

It was far from pretty but Cork did enough to book their place in this year's provincial decider.

Cork boss Matthew Twomey made changes with five alterations to his starting 15. Of the newcomers who started, Emma Murphy shone brightest with 0-4 from her wing-forward position. Meabh Cahalane, Saoirse McCarthy, Chloe Sigerson and Laura Hayes toiled hard for Cork team that struggled for long time before eventually finding their rhythm. Ashling Simpson's half-time introduction brought some much-needed stability to the Cork defence.

The Cork manager admitted his side were far from their best in the opening half but also credited to the imminent return of a host of players from long-term injury as well as Hannah O'Leary, who is back from the A.

Down 2-5 to 1-7 at the break, Cork overcame the loss of centre-back Laura Treacy to a red

**'We were a different team in the second half'**  
— Libby Coppinger

card early in the second period and eked out a 2-17 to 3-10 victory.

'For the second half, our performance was all about courage and character and that's what we are really happy with,' Twomey said.

'The first half, that's a different scenario. We gave away two soft goals which are very unlike us. I thought we looked a bit leggy in the first half and off the pace.'

'We gave them too much space and respect, which you don't do with any senior team or the teams we will be playing later on in the year. After the sending off the team took off on their own. Players like Emma Murphy and Amy O'Connor came flying into it.'

Whatever about Cork's disjointed performance, credit to Waterford for producing such a terrific display. The Déise recovered from an Amy O'Connor goal inside two minutes to draw level 1-2 to 1-2 after Mairead O'Brien scorched an effort into the net. Amid blazing sunshine, and a strong wind that favoured the visitors in the first half, Waterford netted for a second time

after 13 minutes. An unmarked Lorraine Bray raced through and lofted the sliotar over an out-rushing Amy Lee.

Amy O'Connor, Emma Murphy and Chloe Sigerson kept Cork in touch but a dominant Waterford changed ends at full value for their 2-5 to 1-7 lead.

Emma Murphy and Niamh Rockett exchanged scores before Laura Treacy was bizarrely sent off early in the second half. Yellow carded, Treacy was penalised for failing to withdraw ten yards for a free. Then, a second yellow was brandished for apparent backchat resulting in a red card.

Admirably, 14-player Cork produced their best spell during the remaining 25 minutes to run out four-point winners. Amy O'Connor took centre stage, floating over four points along with Saoirse McCarthy and Emma Murphy scores.

Inside a minute, Chloe Sigerson and Sarah Lacey scored goals at opposite ends as a cracking semi-final continued to ebb and flow. Leading 2-14 to 3-9, Cork's Amy O'Connor converted a free and 45 either side of a Beth Carton free before Emma Murphy fired over Cork's final point two minutes into injury-time.

'Waterford are always a tough test and always put it up to us,' St Colum's ace Libby Coppinger admitted.

'They had that extra bit of hunger in the first half but thankfully we woke up after a few words at half time. We were a different team in the second

## ★ THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** Amy O'Connor scored 1-10 and was a constant threat throughout the afternoon.

**Star moment:** Chloe Sigerson's second-half goal handed Cork a lead they would never relinquish.

**Talking point:** Referee Mike Ryan's decision to send off Laura Treacy was as confusing as it was surprising. Treacy received two yellow cards in quick succession without committing a foul. Bizarre.

**What's next?** Cork turn their focus to the Munster senior final.

half. We worked a lot harder and came out on the right side of the result.

'When our backs were to the wall, we really stood up. There were real leaders out there today for us. Amy O'Connor was excellent throughout, Chloe (Sigerson) was great too. You can do all the training you want but nothing beats championship pace.'

Tougher tests lie ahead for Cork in which similar first-half performances, like in Páirc Uí Rinn last Sunday, simply won't do.

### Scorers

**Cork:** Amy O'Connor 1-10 (5f, 145); Chloe Sigerson 1-2; Emma Murphy 0-4; Saoirse McCarthy 0-1.

**Waterford:** Beth Carton 0-4 (3f); Niamh Rockett 0-4 (3f); Sarah Lacey 1-3; Lorraine Bray, Mairead O'Brien 1-0 each; Vicki Falconer 0-1.

**Cork:** Amy Lee (captain); Aoife O'Neil; Libby Coppinger; Meabh Cahalane; Laura Hayes; Laura Tracey; Saoirse McCarthy; Katie O'Mahony; Clara O'Sullivan; Emma

Murphy; Izzy O'Regan; Cliona Dooley; Amy O'Connor; Fiona Keating; Chloe Sigerson.

**Subs:** Ashling Thompson for C Dooley (ht); Aoife Hurley for I O'Regan (45); Kate Wall for K O'Mahony (58); Olivia McAllen for C O'Sullivan (58).

**Waterford:** Brianna O'Regan; Keeley Corbett-Barry; Iona Heffernan; Mairead Power; Aoife Landers; Clodagh Carroll; Rachael Walsh; Clara Griffin; Lorraine Bray (captain); Tara Power; Beth Carton; Mairead O'Brien; Sarah Lacey; Vicki Falconer; Niamh Rockett.

**Subs:** Kate Lynch for K Corbett-Barry (ht); Clara O'Sullivan for T Power (50); Abby Flynn for M O'Brien (50).

**Referee:** Mike Ryan (Tipperary).



**Cork camogie manager**  
**Matthew Twomey.**

# Fr O'Neill's look forward to new camogie challenges

CAMOGIE

John Cashman

FR O'NEILL'S camogie club are back in the big time this year as they return to the top grade of the game on Leaside with plenty of exciting challenges in both the senior league and championship on the horizon.

The east Cork side were crowned county intermediate champions last autumn and began life in the top tier with a narrow 0-11 to 0-9 reversal against St Finbarr's at Aghavine last Sunday.

The aforementioned county win over Aghabullogue saw Fr O'Neill's produce a performance brimful of character at Castle Road in really testing weather conditions.

Now bigger tests await with manager Billy Harrington hoping that his developing side can make an impression at the higher grade.

"We have trained well over the past four weeks, after we gave the squad a break following the loss in the Munster championship earlier this year.

"They all came back in enthusiastic form and are really looking forward to playing at the highest level against the best teams.

"The feedback from the players is all positive. Younger players Grainne Finn and Grainne



Fr O'Neill's players celebrate after defeating Aghabullogue in the SESystems Nano Nagle Cork intermediate championship camogie final at Castle Road.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

O'Neill have come through from the juvenile ranks and this has further strengthened our panel." After the loss against St Finbarr's last, Fr O'Neill's travel to Enniskeane next Wednesday and host Courcy Rovers on Sunday week.

They conclude their group campaign against Sarfield's. At that point the management will have a greater barometer of their senior form, not withstanding the fact that league games can be played when teams may be understrength.

This year O'Neill's will line out without the experienced Kate Harrington who was at full forward last year, but is now residing in Ennis. Keelagh Cullinane, who wore the number 11 jersey is also currently unavailable. On the plus side Kayla O'Riordan is fully fit and back in action and with the influx of the younger players in recent years, the panel is still in a very good place numbers wise.

Significantly, another new face has joined the camp in the shape of former Fr O'Neill's dual star

Ray O'Neill who has also been very involved in the hurling backroom team previously. O'Neill will add a wealth of coaching experience to the fold. Alongside team manager Billy Harrington, Bridget Murphy, Carrie Higgins, and Katie Ahern complete the management team.

Reflecting on the county intermediate win, Harrington says the occasion will always have a special place in the memory bank.

"We got a fantastic reception

back home from the people of the parish. The support the team got from different parts of east Cork was just brilliant.

"On the Sunday after the win, the team were at our local pitch and it was wonderful to see so many people turning up to congratulate them.

"We have seen this before with the great wins by the hurlers, but this time the scenes were the same for the camogie team."

As for Harrington's match day recollections: "We tried to build an advantage and make the

most of the wind early on as the forecast was due to worsen. "The game plan went well, as we got the goals in the first half and made the necessary adjustments that we had in mind during the game.

"In the second half, the team showed remarkable character to dig in defensively as Aghabullogue, who had some really good players, came back at us strongly."

Looking ahead, what are the hopes and ambitions to follow that memorable year of 2021?

"We plan to take every game as it comes and work really hard as we did last year.

"The girls are very positive; I've no doubt that they will compete well this year. I think the team is moving forward at the right time as we had no retirements.

"In our build-up to the latter stages of last year's Cork championship, we played a number of challenge games against senior teams from outside of the county and we acquitted ourselves very well.

"Whilst mindful of the step up in pace, I'd be confident that we can continue that trend here in Cork during the summer ahead. "Another positive about last year was that the players who came up from minor really blended into our set-up and the same is happening in the early weeks this year," Harrington added.

# No separating Tipp and Clare in Munster semi-final

Munster camogie semi-final

Tipperary	1-16
Clare	2-13

Therese O'Callaghan

A cracking Munster senior camogie championship semi-final finished honours even at FBD Semple Stadium yesterday, the game played as part of a double-header before the Clare and Cork SHC tie.

Tied at half-time, 1-8 apiece, the teams were locked five more times — Tipperary requiring a Grace O'Brien point in the third minute of stoppage time to save the day.

Tipperary, with the wind in the first half, started with intent and raced into a 1-5 to 0-3

lead after quarter of an hour. The goal was brilliantly worked by the pacy Clodagh McIntyre to Jenny Grace who provided the finish.

The hosts' advantage increased to six points before Clare found momentum and outscored Tipperary 1-4 to a point — Aine O'Loughlin's goal in the 30th minute was timely and drew the sides

level, 1-8 apiece.

In a hectic finish, Eimear Kelly managed to poke the sliotar over the line and hand the initiative to Clare. O'Brien, however, was equal to the challenge and the sides will have to meet again to see who faces Cork in the final.

The replay will take place next Sunday in the TUS Gaelic Grounds as part of a double

header ahead of the Munster SHC Limerick and Tipperary.

**Scorers for Tipperary:** C Devane (0-6, 0-5 frees), J Grace (1-1), N Walsh, C Hennessey, G O'Brien and C McIntyre (0-2 each), E McGrath (0-1).

**Scorers for Clare:** A O'Loughlin (1-3), E Kelly (1-1), C Morey (frees) and L McNamara (0-1 free) (0-4 each), M Scanton (0-1).

**TIPPERARY:** A Slattery; J Bourke (Joint-Capt), M Ryan, E Loughman; C Maher, C Ryan, A McGrath; G O'Brien (Joint-

Capt), N Treacy; J Grace, R Howard, C Hennessey; C Hogan, C Devane, C McIntyre.

**Subs:** C McCarthy for N Treacy (half-time), N Walsh for C Hogan (46), E McGrath for C Hennessey (53), E Fryday for J Grace (60).

**CLARE:** D Murphy; C Grogan, C Hehir (Joint-Capt), G Kelly; A Keane, C Morey, S Daly; M Scanton, C Carmody; L McNamara, N O'Dea (Joint-Capt), L Daly; E Kelly, A O'Loughlin, Z Spillane.

**Subs:** G Hickey for M Scanton (52). **Referee:** Diarmuid Kirwan (Cork).

# Balance the key for multi-sport star Condon

BY GER MCCARTHY

A second Celtic Ross Hotel, Southern Star and C103 monthly West Cork Sports Youths Award is ample reward for Cork, Ballinascorthy and Clonakilty's Millie Condon.

"Winning an All-Ireland minor with Cork and a senior C ladies football All-Ireland with my school, Sacred Heart, Clonakilty, was brilliant this past year," Condon told *The Southern Star*.

"So, winning another West Cork Sports Star award is very special and I'm delighted to accept it. Yeah, it is a very busy time for me at the moment as I am still involved with the Cork minors.

"For the (minor) football, we also have a semi-final over the May Bank Holiday coming up. The two managers, Joe Carroll (football) and Jerry Wallace (Camogie) are always talking to each other and making sure

**I do what I have to do. I do play a lot of sports but I enjoy playing them**

they manage their dual players, including my own workload. They are very good about things like that and it is a big help to me."

Considering all her dual inter-county commitments, the fact Millie Condon has been able to line out for her secondary school's All-Ireland football winning team, the Clonakilty LGFA seniors and Ballinascorthy camogie, is testament to the minor star's abilities and fitness levels. Condon is also a prominent member of Clonakilty Hockey club.

"So, how does she deal with the inevitable tiredness and how does the young dual-player manage such a heavy workload?"

"I suppose, I relax as much as I possibly can in between any of my training sessions and matches," the Cork minor dual-star said.

"I do what I have to do. I do play a lot of sports but I enjoy playing them.

"The more important thing is, I suppose when it comes to being involved in so many teams, is that Jerry Wallace and my other managers listen to me and the other Cork players as well. After the All-Ireland minor camogie final, Jerry allowed us time to recover before training began ahead of the Munster championship.

"The managers facilitate us whenever we are tired and tone down our training. That makes life easier and allows me to get on with everything else which I'm really grateful for."

Winning an All-Ireland minor camogie title with Cork this past year was a special moment for the Ballinascar-

thy and Clonakilty player. Defeating Galway, following such a tough run to the final, was made all the more special by lifting the trophy at Semple Stadium.

"There was a great bond in the (Cork minor) camogie panel this year and that's because we all wanted the same thing," Condon said.

"We all knew what we wanted and what we had to do to get it. Everyone worked together to get that All-Ireland and there was always a really good buzz in the camp.

"It was the same when we won the schools All-Ireland with Sacred Heart. You were playing alongside the people you grew up with and have known since they were 11 or 12."

**RIGHT: Millie Condon pictured after receiving her Celtic Ross Hotel West Cork Sports Star Award. (Photo: George Maguire)**







Glen Rovers Camogie Club secretary and *The Echo* camogie reporter Mary Newman, left, receiving her 'Volunteer of the Year' award from president of the Camogie Association Hilda Breslin at Croke Park.

MARY Newman's lifetime of service to Cork and Glen Rovers camogie was deservedly recognised at Croke Park.

The vastly experienced administrator, who also covers camogie across every level from underage to senior-intercounty for *The Echo*, was honoured at

## Éamonn Murphy

the Camogie Association Referees, Volunteer and Media Awards.

Mary's mother Nora O'Brien is the president of Glen Rovers and played on the first team from Blackpool to land the senior county in 1950, highlighting

how deep her camogie roots run.

A selector on multiple county and All-Ireland winning teams, Mary served as Cork PRO for a number of years and now holds that position for Glen Rovers hurling club. She's also the Glen camogie secretary.

■ See Page 36 for more.

## Clare set up Munster final clash with Cork

### Munster Camogie SC semi-final replay

**Clare** 1-11  
**Tipperary** 0-10

**Eoin Brennan**

TUS Gaelic Grounds

Clare will contest a first Munster Senior Camogie final in a decade after finally seeing off Tipperary at the second attempt in TUS Gaelic Grounds yesterday afternoon.

Following a compelling seesaw wrestle for supremacy in Thurles seven days previously, this time Clare were full value for a rare derby victory after setting the pace for the majority of the hour.

Indeed, finding themselves trailing by 0-7 to 0-6 at the interval, Tipperary edged into the ascendancy for the only time in the 34th minute following back-to-back points from Nicole Walsh and Jenny Grace.

It only seemed to anger Clare who, led supremely by Niamh O'Dea, responded with a decisive 1-3 blitz in just six minutes capped off by an emphatic Lorna McNamara goal at 1-10 to 0-8.

It was the sides' goalk-keeping heroics that lit up the opening half as Clare's Doireann Murphy smothered a Roisin Howard pull in the opening minute before surpassing it with a penalty save from Cait Devane in the 20th minute.

### CAMOGIE

**Munster Senior Championship semi-final replay:** Clare 1-11 Tipperary 0-10; **Minor A Championship final:** Cork 2-16 Clare 0-6; **Minor A Shield final:** Waterford 1-16 Limerick

It ensured that Clare remained in the driving seat despite seeing a Lorna McNamara injury-time shot repelled by Tipperary goalkeeper Aine Slattery.

Belying her inexperience in a debut season at senior level, McNamara would make amends with a 41st-minute goal to clinch a final showdown with four-in-a-row chasing Cork in Páirc Uí Rinn next Saturday (6pm).

**Scorers for Clare:** L McNamara (1-4, 3f); A O'Loughlin, N O'Dea, Z Spillane (0-2 each); M Scanlon (0-1)

**Scorers for Tipperary:** C Devane (0-4, 3f); R Howard (0-2); C Hogan, N Walsh, J Grace, E McGrath (0-1 each)

**CLARE:** D Murphy; C Grogan, C Hehir, C Kelly; A Keane, C Morey, S Daly; C Carmody, N O'Dea; L Daly, L McNamara, M Scanlon; E Kelly, A O'Loughlin, Z Spillane.

**Subs:** G Hickey for Spillane (62), A Ryan for S. Daly (64), Daly for O'Dea (65)

**TIPPERARY:** A Slattery; J Bourke, M Ryan, C Brennan; C Maher, C Ryan, E Loughman; G O'Brien, N Walsh; R Howard, J Grace, C McIntyre; C Hennessey, C Devane, C Hogan.

**Subs:** A McGrath for Brennan (HT), E McGrath for Grace (38), C McCarthy for C. Ryan (54), E Fryday for O'Brien (48), N Treacy for M. Ryan (55)

**Referee:** Diarmuid Kirwan (Cork).

# U14 and U16 leagues are back

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

**THE gradings for U14 and the U16 leagues were announced recently, with games getting under way last weekend.**

In the U16 league, there will be three rounds of league games, followed by a break for the state exams from May 27, with action resuming on June 26.

Everything is set and ready to go for what is hoped will be another successful season for U14 and U16 players.

Many of the underage players have had a very short season for the last two years due to Covid restrictions and it is to the club's credit that they rowed in and played all their games in such a short time.

This year now they can enjoy a longer, more evenly-spaced season, and hopefully an enjoyable one for all.

### PREMIER U14

Twelve clubs make up the U14 Premier grade.

Aghabullogue, Ballincollig, Douglas, Eire Og, Inniscarra, Sarsfields, Bandon, Sliabh Rua, Ballinhassig, Middleton, St Finbarr's, and Glen Rovers.

There are three sections of four.

Group A is Middleton, Inniscarra, Douglas, and Bandon; Group B is Eire Og, Aghabullogue, Ballincollig, and St Finbarr's; Group C is Sarsfields, Glen Rovers, Ballinhassig, and Sliabh Rua.

### U14A

Sixteen clubs — Ballinora, Ballyhea, Carrigaline, Castlemartyr, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Mallow, Newtownshandrum, Rockban, St Catherine's, Valley Rovers, Blarney, Bishopstown, Clonakilty, Ballygarvan, Newcestown, and Enniskeane — make up four groups in the U14A league, where there are two groups of five and two groups of four.

Group A is a group of four, Bishopstown, Newcestown, Ballinora, and Carrigaline; Group B is the second group of four, Blarney, Clonakilty, Cloughduv, and Ballygarvan.

Group C is a group of four, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Valley Rovers,



Participants at the Cork Camogie Easter Camp in Castle Road, joined by Cork intercounty camogie players.

Rockban, and St Catherine's; Group D is Bishopstown, Newcestown, Ballinora, and Carrigaline.

### U14B

Twenty-four clubs are in the U14B league, with six groups of four teams. Group A is Nemo Rangers, Cobh, Carrigaline 2, and Inniscarra 2; Group B is Watergrasshill, St Colum's, Killcogh, and St Vincent's; Group C is Millford, Na Piarasigh, Banteer, and Castletelyons; Group D is St Fanahan's, Erin's Own, Sarsfields 2, Aghada; Group E is Ballincollig 2, Millstreet, Blackrock, and Youghal; Group F is Courcy Rovers, Kilworth, Tracton, and Fr O'Neill's.

### U14C

Fourteen clubs are graded in the U14C league, and these are divided into three groups — two of five and one of four.

Group A is Dungourney, Kinsale,

Passage West, Bride Rovers, and Carrigtwohill.

Group B is Charleville, Buttevant, Kilbree, Ballinascorthy, and Kildorrey.

Group C is Barryroe, Grenagh, Fermoy, and Brian Dillon's.

### U14B 2

Ten clubs have entered second teams, with Inniscarra and Carrigaline entering three teams, and these are in two groups of five.

Group A is Rockban 2, Sliabh Rua 2, Eire Og 2, Middleton 2, and Douglas 2; Group B is Cobh 2, Inniscarra 3, Carrigaline 2, Aghabullogue 2, and Clonakilty 2.

### U16 PREMIER

Fourteen teams will compete in the Premier U16 league, and these are grouped into three, two of five and one with four.

Winners of Groups A, B, and C go to

semi-finals. A draw will take place and first out will go to final. The other two will play a semi-final, with second team drawn having home advantage.

There is a plate for second-placed teams from Groups A, B, and C.

Group A comprises of Ballinora, Inniscarra, Cloughduv, Sarsfields, and Douglas; Group B contains Enniskeane, Rockban, Glen Rovers, Castlemartyr, and Newcestown; while Group C is set to feature Middleton, Fr O'Neill's, Clonakilty, and Eire Og.

### UNDER 16A

The U16A has 13 teams in three groups — one with five, and two groups of four.

Group A is Newtownshandrum, Ballincollig, Barryroe, Aghabullogue, and Cobh; Group B is Erin's Own, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Na Piarasigh, and Blackrock; Group C is Ballygarvan, Ballinhassig, Laochra Og, and Sarsfields 2.

**O'NEILL** (Cork and Sligo): On May 16, 2022, peacefully, after a long illness, at home in Beechwood Park, Ballinlough, **ELIZABETH (LIL) (née O'Grady)** (former president of the Camogie Association), dearly loved wife of the late John and much loved mother of Jonathan and loving sister of Carmel and the late Maureen and Jo. Sadly missed by her loving son, sister, daughter-in-law Susan, grandson Luca, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. Reposing in the Temple Hill Funeral Home of Jerh. O'Connor Ltd. on tomorrow (Thursday) at 10am followed by Requiem Mass at 11am in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ballinlough, which can be viewed on <https://ballinloughparishcork.ie/live-stream/>. Funeral afterwards to St. Michael's Cemetery. Please leave your personal message for Elizabeth's family on the condolence section below or through [www.jerhoconnorfuneralhomes.ie](http://www.jerhoconnorfuneralhomes.ie). Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, to Marymount Hospice. *May she rest in peace.*

The death has occurred of Elizabeth (Lil) O'Neill (née O'Grady)  
Cork / Sligo



**O'NEILL** (Cork and Sligo): On May 16th 2022, peacefully after a long illness at home in Beechwood Park, Ballinlough, **ELIZABETH (LIL) (née O'Grady)** (former president of the Camogie Association), dearly loved wife of the late John and much loved mother of Jonathan and loving sister of Carmel and the late Maureen and Jo. Sadly missed by her loving son, sister, daughter-in-law Susan, grandson Luca, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

Reposing in the Temple Hill Funeral Home of Jerh. O'Connor Ltd. on Thursday (May 19th) at 10.00am followed by Requiem Mass at 11.00am in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ballinlough which can be viewed on

<https://ballinloughparishcork.ie/live-stream/>

Funeral afterwards to St. Michael's Cemetery.

Please leave your personal message for Elizabeth's family on the condolence section below or through [www.jerhoconnorfuneralhomes.ie](http://www.jerhoconnorfuneralhomes.ie)

Family flowers only please, Donations in lieu to Marymount Hospice.

"May she rest in Peace"



Glen Rovers Camogie Club secretary Mary Newman receiving her Volunteer of the Year award from Hilda Breslin, President of the Camogie Association, at Croke Park.

## Heartbeat of Glen Rovers' Mary named Volunteer of the Year

ONE of Cork's best-known camogie administrators Mary Newman has been honoured at the recent Camogie Association Referees, Volunteer and Media Awards in Croke Park. Close on 200 invited guests attended the event which saw volunteers from all corners of the country recognised for their outstanding contribution to the game.

In Mary Newman's case, it is a love affair with Glen Rovers and Cork camogie that stretches back through the decades. Mary is the heart and soul of her beloved club, having filled a huge variety of roles through the corridors of time.

"To say Mary's life is devoted to the Glen is an understatement," said club chairperson Mary Sheehan. "She is our organiser in chief and her passion, enthusiasm and selflessness is an example to all. Her love of camogie is immense and when Cork needed a PRO she stepped into the county scene and served for 25 years at county level. She has also completed a term as Seandún PRO in recent times."

As a close colleague for a number of years, Mary Sheehan is in a prime position to recognise the unfashionable chores that have to be done behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of any successful club.

"One would have to say that Mary Newman is the epitome of 'first in, last out' volunteerism which together with her organisation skills makes her absolutely indispensable. As club secretary she takes her role to the limit, attending almost every training session of all grades, and is hugely responsible for the resurgence of the club academy."

"Mary's workload was best illustrated in her absence through illness a number of years ago when it took four people to fill her void. She is the absolute heartbeat of our club and I would say quite frankly - Mary Newman is Glen Rovers Camogie Club."

As for the woman herself, camogie was always going to be a way of life from her very early years.

"My mother, Nora O'Brien, who played on the first Glen Rovers team in 1950 to win the county senior title, was Chairperson of the club and she is still involved as President. I don't think we had any other choice as she was involved with the county and club

### CAMOGIE

John Cashman

teams as selector, so I never knew anything else except camogie," admits Mary.

After playing until 1984, a back injury stalled on-field activity and thus the almost inevitable progression came on the horizon.

"We had won three county titles in 1983 at senior, junior and minor so the club was on a real high. I became a selector with the senior team and we enjoyed a remarkable run of success, winning county and All-Ireland titles. I then more or less wandered into the officiating roles and, before I knew it, was directly involved. Then came the county involvement being PRO for over 20 years and also acting secretary for a while."

An eventual step aside from that role saw Mary being scouted by Glen Rovers Hurling Club and she soon took up the PRO role, which she currently holds, parallel to being camogie secretary.

While the term running in the family is commonly used across the sporting spectrum to sum up longevity, Mary Newman and her family can certainly boast a rather rare feat. No less than four generations are currently involved as club members with Glen Rovers camogie club. Mary's mother, niece and grand-nieces are all club members, with her mother now cheering on her great-grandchildren on the playing fields. Her husband Finbarr McCarthy is heavily involved with Glen Rovers and St Nicks, along with being a radio reporter and analyst for 96FM/C103.

Going forward, the old adage that the next game is the most important can be applied to Mary Newman's rapidly filling fixture diary. Wherever it's on, Mary will be there. A busy summer lies ahead balancing being camogie secretary, hurling PRO, camogie selector - and then there is the matter of overseeing the Academy.

As for ambitions for the year?

"I'd love to see us make a big impression again in the camogie county championship. Last year was a bit disappointing losing in round two. The ultimate for every team is to win the county title. A huge effort is being put in under a brilliant set of mentors."

## PICTURE PERFECT! Barryroe celebrate with Libby



Cork dual star Libby Coppinger (centre) pictured with Róisín Ní Bhuachalla (left) and Róisín McCarthy of the Barryroe Camogie team that won the last year's Under 18 Minor C County Championship. (Photos: Martin Walsh)



Libby Coppinger (seventh from left in red) presented members of the Barryroe Camogie Club with their medals for the following competitions: U-18 Minor C County Championship 2021; U-16B Carbery Championship 2019 and U-14B County League 2019. The function took place at the Courtmacsherry Hotel.

**KILMEEN & KILBREE:** Congratulations to Caoimhe Murphy who was part of the Cork minor camogie team that won the Minor A Munster final on Saturday. Cork defeated Clare 2-16 to 0-6 in Cahir. The Cork minors have already won the All-Ireland title. This was a wonderful way to end the minor inter-county season. The Kilbree junior camogie team welcomed Bishopstown to Rossmore on Saturday night. A depleted Kilbree team lost out to a strong Bishopstown side. The U14 camogie team travelled to Buttevant on Sunday to play the home side. After a very exciting contest, Kilbree were most unlucky to lose out. The U12 camogie team had a very busy week. On Tuesday night they played in a blitz involving Clonakilty, Ballinascorthy and Barryroe in Clonakilty.

# From Rebel red to Orchard orange

O'Leary: Cork will achieve this year

CAMOGIE

John Bohane

## CAMOGIE

John Bohane

FORMER Cork camogie star Jennifer O'Leary has come out of inter-county retirement to play with Armagh this season.

O'Leary who won four All-Ireland senior medals with the Rebels and eight All-Star awards initially retired from inter-county camogie after helping Cork win the All-Ireland title in 2014. O'Leary, who now lives in Armagh, is enjoying playing inter-county once again.

"I am really enjoying the training and the challenge playing with the county poses. There is a fantastic panel of players on board, a mixture of young and emerging talent and more experienced players. The training itself is intense but short and snappy. We have a good management team, so I am delighted to come on board this year."

The talented camogie player said she made the decision back in February to come back to play inter-county camogie as she wanted 'another challenge'.

"I was following the progress of the county team last year. Mattie Lennon was their manager and he got people to train hard and it made me think about coming on board. I was pregnant with my son Tiernan last year, so I waited to see how I felt earlier this year before making any decision."

"I wanted another challenge. Playing camogie is a joy and something I really get a kick out of. I love training and improving, so all these things led me to this decision. I am glad I decided to take the plunge in February."

O'Leary made her competitive debut for the Orchard County in recent weeks against Down. The modest star has operated in both the full forward and half-forward line for her newly adopted county.

"I have been training over the past few months with Armagh, but I have not played many games yet. I missed the league campaign as I was waiting for my transfer to come through. I played in the Ulster Intermediate semi-final recently and we won well against Down's second team."

"I played in the full-forward position in the first half and moved out to half-forward in the second. I was happy enough but there are always things to improve on. Hopefully, I will get there with the team."

The 38-year-old who moved to Armagh in 2013 said there is a huge love of camogie in Armagh and the team has targeted reaching Croke Park at the end of the campaign.

"There is a great bunch of girls on the panel, and they are all willing to train hard. We have one focus this year and that is to reach top performance. If we do that, we hope to climb the steps in Croke Park at the end of our season."

"Our aim for the county team is to get to a Junior All-Ireland final and win. Enjoying the process is also one of the most important things for me."

"Ever since I moved here in 2013 there have always been passionate camogie players in every club, trying to improve and drive things on. They are camogie mad in Armagh. I guess that is one of the reasons why I settled so well into a new place, a new home."

"Camogie is strong and improving



Former Cork star Jennifer O'Leary has come out of inter-county retirement to play camogie with Armagh this year.



Cork midfielder Jennifer O'Leary in action in the 2013 championship. Picture: Larry Cummins

all the time. For years there were only two clubs contesting a county championship. Now you have about four or five teams who could pull it out of the bag every year."

The former Barryroe player is now playing her club camogie with Middletown following her move to Armagh back in 2013. She said she felt an instant connection with her new home due to the strong GAA presence in the local community.

"I moved to Armagh in 2013 and married in July 2014. My husband Paul grew up here and his family is only a few kilometres from us. We have two children, Lauren who turned two last December, and Tiernan who is nine months."

"I play camogie with three of Paul's

sisters. It's a lovely place to live as the community is very welcoming and looks out for each other."

"There are strong GAA teams in the community too so instantly I felt a connection to the place. Middletown is a fantastic club to play for."

"We have contested many senior finals over the years. We are currently building again but still have a strong cohort of players."

Her last competitive appearance for Cork was in the 2014 All-Ireland final against Kilkenny. Jennifer played a key role in their six-point win, as she netted one of the goals.

She said the pace of the inter-county game has increased since then.

"I think the inter-county game has got quicker. I feel the game has gone

“There are strong GAA teams in the community too so instantly I felt a connection to the place. Middletown is a fantastic club to play for.”

from strength to strength. When I go to cheer on the Cork senior team now on All-Ireland final day the pace is just phenomenal."

"It's like a professional sport to watch. The time and effort these players put into their camogie training, gym, mindset, and nutrition is admirable."

"I feel the speed and strength of the players have also certainly improved. I know I am no spring chicken anymore and I must be a bit smarter about how and when I train."

"I am keeping up with my teammates at the moment and hopefully, I will bring something to the table to make our team gel and perform even better. I am also learning from others which is always good."

FORMER Cork camogie star Jennifer O'Leary says she is confident the Rebels will reach the heights again this year.

The former Barryroe player who enjoyed a distinguished career with Cork said the players will learn so much following the addition of Davy Fitzgerald to the coaching team. "Davy Fitz will expect excellence from the team and know he will get it," she said.

"He has achieved a lot in his own career and no doubt the players will learn so much from him. Every year the competition grows at the senior camogie grade."

"Kilkenny, Galway, and Tipperary are always there and so are Cork. It will be down to the wire whoever reaches the final, but I am confident Cork will reach the heights again this year."

O'Leary had a decorated senior inter-county career and won four All-Ireland senior titles and garnered record eight All-Star awards.

"Playing with Cork was some of the best times in my life," she said. "I will always remember them fondly. Even now I stop and think of past games and training sessions and new memories come flooding back, which is lovely."

"I recently thought about one of my very first training sessions down in the Mardyke and I remember we broke into a game towards the end of training. I felt a bit of pressure to perform, especially when you had the likes of Mary O'Connor, Linda Mellerick and Fiona O'Driscoll to train and impress. However, I realised quite quickly into the game that they were as excited to play with me as I was with them, and the nerves soon dissipated. I played with many special teams and played down through the years and thankfully we also enjoyed some success."

"I count my lucky stars that I have experienced the highs and lows of senior inter-county camogie wins and losses from 2000 to 2014. They all teach you valuable lessons. I had so much support, guidance, and great training from my club Barryroe. My love of the game started with them as I enjoy camogie so much with great clubmates and great friends."

"They then pointed me in the right direction toward playing minor with Cork and then moving up from there."

O'Leary said she maintains contact with her former colleagues.

"We had fantastic characters. From Brieger Corker who always had a funny story to Rena Buckley who was always so calming when you spoke to her, to Mary O'Connor who wouldn't accept anything but the best from everyone, to Fiona O'Driscoll who was inspirational in her approach to everything she put her mind to."



Clare's Lauren Homan and Niamh O'Dea of Clare. Picture: INPHO/Bryan Keane

# The Rebels will show an improving Clare their due respect

**SATURDAY**  
**Munster Senior Championship final: Cork v Clare, Páirc Uí Rinn, 6pm**

It's a big day for Clare camogie Saturday when they travel to Páirc Uí Rinn to play a Munster senior championship final against Cork, preceded by a minor final against Waterford. It's a position few saw them in the start of the season, but they have progressed significantly under an integration and collective management system. It's not an innovative model. However, in Clare's case at least, an ill-fated initial attempt to field teams at both senior and intermediate in the county's first season in the top tier in 2009, seemed to leave a lasting scar. Those wounds were only tentatively healed when Ann-Marie McGann and Tim McGrath resurrected Clare's second team five years ago and since that departure, there has been a growing pool of adult players proud to play for the Banner.

Playing numbers were an issue in 2009 as was the additional workload on management with Clare in a much healthier position on both fronts this time around, according to joint-manager John Carmody.

"When you think about it, it's two teams so there's a role for everybody," he says of the extended nine-person management team that includes joint-manager Conor Dolan and Ann-Marie McGann.

"With the two squads together it's working really well so far and from my perspective, it is the way forward for Clare Camogie and a perfect link to the minor squads as well.

"If we can produce a group going forward for Clare and add to it year-on-year, then you have 35 to 50 girls that want to play for Clare."

After two years as coach under the stewardship of Ger O'Connell, Dolan has stepped up alongside Clare's 2012 Munster senior camogie winning manager Carmody to become the joint managers.

"The only difference that I can see between Clare and the so-called top three or four is belief. Getting that belief right and creating a never-say-die attitude, not to down tools when the pressure comes on is crucial.

"So, it's just about hammering that home because I have great belief in them but it's no good myself, John and the rest of the management believing in these

**CAMOGIE**

■ **Linda Mellerick**

girls if they don't believe themselves."

Those were the words of Dolan ahead of their league campaign. His words have stood the test of the intervening months.

Without joint-captain Niamh O'Dea for the league to a broken wrist and the Scariff-Ogonnelloe contingent not partaking due to their participation in the All-Ireland club championship, Clare showed a side full of grit, confidence, and desire.

Losing narrowly to Cork after putting up a strong showing was matched with a one-point defeat to Kilkenny before defeating Limerick.

Still, we didn't give Clare much credit, still we believed it would be Tipp and Cork in the Munster final.

When Clare drew with Tipp a fortnight ago in front of their home hurling fans in Thurles, we felt that they had lost their chance.

But this is a different side now. They defeated Tipp in the replay in the Gaelic Grounds, in front of the Tipp hurling fans.

The only disappointing aspect for Clare ahead of Sunday is that this will be their third competitive game in as many weeks.

In addition to that, like Cork, they commence their All-Ireland campaign next week with a home game to Tipp and then, bizarrely, Cork again the week after.

Meaning they'll play six weeks in a row, against tough opposition before they get a week off ahead of their championship game with Dublin.

For a team trying to make progression in the All-Ireland series, it's an horrendous schedule and undoubtedly will take its toll.

Surely the Munster campaign could have been better planned?

Niamh O'Dea is back from injury. She did pick up a knock last weekend but will line out.

Clare's senior squad numbers wise is pretty tight but the work they're putting in is evident in their touch and movement off the ball.

Their half forwards and mid-fielders work hard in tracking back.

Dolan believes there is very little between Clare and the 'so called three or four' and comes to Cork 'giving them respect but not fear.'



Sorcha McCartan with Julianno Malone of Kilkenny, as the Cork star is expected to play some part today as she returns from injury.

# Munster final is not a casual affair for Cork or Clare this evening

THE provincial championships are always a low-key affair in camogie due to its irrelevance to the All-Ireland series.

In effect, its used as further preparation for the All-Ireland championship.

It's more meaningful for some counties than others of course.

For Clare, travelling to Páirc Uí Rinn today for the Munster final, it's a big one.

It's not a casual affair for Cork either. Eight points separated the sides back in February in the league and Clare were without key players due to their club championship involvement.

Both sides hadn't too much hurling behind them at that point and unquestionably we should see a faster, more fluent game in better conditions.

Since their February clash, Cork went on to reach the league final and lost a cracker to Galway after leading by six early in the second half. There wasn't too much disappointment in the Cork camp after that. In fact, there were many positives to take, with five making their Croke Park debut, and a really strong opening half.

Orla Cronin, Hannah Looney, and Sorcha McCartan were also to come back into that side.

Cork have trained extremely hard. No surprise there given the Davy Fitzgerald factor.

They're just back from a training weekend and while the bodies might be suffering, their spirits are high.

I've noticed a buzz in the players performances this year.

A change is always refreshing, and they're being given freedom to play with sensible abandonment.

Will Cork win the All-Ireland title?

Maybe, maybe not. But what's for sure is that Matthew Twomey and Davy will get the maximum out of the panel they have.

And that's all you can ask from any management.

Players are happy once they know that the collective wasn't found wanting in preparation.

Davy's passion rubs off on players, he's proven that with every county he's been involved with.

It's a must in any team. Watching the senior hurlers

**CAMOGIE**

■ **Linda Mellerick**

against Clare, I was stunned by their demeanour, for large parts of the game.

I can't recall a game where I visibly saw such lethargy. There was no light in their eyes. Davy brings a flame.

Games are so condensed now around the middle of the pitch as both half forward lines play deep and drag out their markers.

A sweeper is held back, and defences often have numerical advantage where they start their line play.

Cork play this scenario, leaving the minimum of players inside. Laura Treacy plays the sweeping role brilliantly and offloads intelligently.

The flank speed of Laura Hayes and Saoirse McCarthy then causes havoc and there is plenty space on the wings.

We have seen Hayes, McCarthy and Ashling Thompson score some really good points. It's not just the forwards job to score anymore.

Teams are also going to find it very hard to control Hannah Looney who is coming back into the squad this month after her work spell in New York comes to an end.

In regular contact with Matthew and mirroring Cork's sessions as best she can in the Big Apple, she is chomping at the bit.

We do need a greater scoring threat up front and find ways to create more goal scoring opportunities.

We need additional physical strength.

Pushing Hannah up there might be considered.

Facing the ball is easier and you accelerate faster. Receiving it up front is more difficult, with a turn involved, but playing as a roaming half forward might do the trick.

It's been unfortunate that Sorcha McCartan has been out since March with an ankle injury.

She's missed eight weeks and her sharpness will take a lot of work but she's a threat in at full forward if she gets the right ball.

Good news for Matthew Twomey is that Sorcha has been given the all-clear and expect her and Orla Cronin to make some appearance tonight.

# Cork players 'buying into' Davy methods

**Camogie**

**Therese O'Callaghan**

Defending champions Cork have made three changes from the team that defeated Waterford in the Munster senior camogie championship semi-final for the final against Clare in Páirc Uí Rinn today (6pm).

Meabh Murphy, Ashling Thompson, and Katrina Mackey start instead of Aoife O'Neill, Clara O'Sullivan, and Cliona Dooley.

Cork manager Matthew Twomey is hoping the Rebels will reap the benefits of a recent training camp.

"We were on a training camp last weekend in Lisdoonvarna. We did around four training sessions, a bonding session, and other activities as well. It was brilliant," said Twomey.

"From this week on, we are in championship mode. We have the Munster championship final this weekend and then we are straight into the All-Ireland series against Wexford."

The influence of coach Davy Fitzgerald isn't lost on him either — family loyalties will have to be put to one side for the Fitzgeralds with Davy up against his son Colm, who is a selector with the Clare side.

"When I first met Davy, he committed to one night. He is coming three nights now. He is a believer. He is blown away by the girls, and they are after buying into it too," said Twomey.

"When the players wake up on a Tuesday morning, they are looking forward to going to training. The attendance record is incredible. That says it all."

On the injury front, Sorcha McCartan is back training while Cliona Healy is doing light training. Orla Cronin has returned to the panel for the first time since last year's All-Ireland final loss to Galway.

Meanwhile, Clare joint managers Conor Dolan and John Carmody have named the same team that overcame Tipperary in last weekend's replayed semi-final.

The Banner County, who are appearing in the decider for the first time since 2012, are making great strides and have no shortage of leaders in Clare Hehir, Chloe Morey, Niamh O'Dea, and Aine O'Loughlin.

Another measure of Clare's rise is their meeting with Waterford in the junior final, also at the Boreenmanna Road GAA grounds (4pm).

**CLARE:** D. Murphy, C. Grogan, C. Hehir (J-Capt), C. Kelly, A. Keane, C. Morey, S. Davy, N. O'Dea (J-Capt), C. Carmody, L. Daly, L. McNamara, M. Scanlon, E. Kelly, A. O'Loughlin, Z. Spillane.  
**CORK:** A. Lee (Capt), M. Murphy, L. Coppinger, M. Cahalane, L. Hayes, L. Treacy, S. McCarthy, K. O'Mahony, A. Thompson, I. O'Regan, F. Keating, E. Murphy, A. O'Connor, C. Sigerson, K. Mackey.

## Twomey thrilled with Cork character

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

"TRYING to breathe after it," said Matthew Twomey after an epic Munster senior final in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday. Double extra-time before Cork finally saw off Clare in a pulsating clash.

"It went both ways, every way. Normal time, I thought they made it very hard for us, we couldn't get into our game at all, and we were very lucky to come out with a draw.

"To pull it to a draw we were delighted with them, we went three points up in extra-time and they pulled us back again. They're a savage team, a very well-trained team but you have to be very happy with the character of our lads. They never gave up and it came well for them in the end." For long periods Clare looked very good?

"Yeah, we played them at the start of the league, and they made it very hard for us. We pulled away but there today they were in our face. They knew how to stop our play which was concerning for us in one way but an eye opener for us that we've to rectify.

"This is Clare's third week on the go. To go all the way to the end from them today was incredible in fairness."

There were some big moments from Cork. Chloe Sigerson's and Katrina Mackey's levelling scores were superb.

"Chloe's incredible because she's had a very tough pre-season. She's gone through the wars, but she pulled us out of it when we were dead and buried against Kilkenny and again today. She's a fierce character, nerves of steel and great to have around the place as well.

"Katrina's point was unbelievable. She's always a big game player. As she was running for the ball she was nearly cramping up. A super score. She came off there, she couldn't give anymore. Ashling Thompson the same. They gave everything they had.

"Kate Wall made a big difference when she came on as well. The panels getting bigger. We were short four players, they've to come back in and fight for positions. I thought Meabh Murphy at corner-back was absolutely outstanding. She's only 18-19 years of age. Under that kind of pressure for a young one, so that's a massive plus for us."

Another plus was the return of Orla Cronin. "Orla glides around the field. She's very intelligent and took up positions where we should have given her the ball. It was great to have her back."

The positives outweighed the negatives.

"We got sucked into a game that we didn't want to play and that's something we spoke about avoiding both before the game and at half-time. The positives — we came back a few times from the death. I think we used four or five subs there again today on top of what we're missing so we're gaining huge experience.

The positives far outweigh the negatives."

# Cork need an extra extra effort to win



Cork captain Amy Lee and players celebrate after defeating Clare in the Munster Senior Camogie final at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork	0-24
Clare	1-18
(after double extra time)	

WHAT a game at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday evening; a brilliant Munster senior camogie final featuring great heart from both counties.

A draw at full-time, a draw after extra-time. It went to extra, extra-time of five minutes aside. It was Cork who dug it out of the fire on both occasions, behind by a point before a dramatic 70-yard free by Chloe Sigerson on 64 minutes pushed the game to extra-time.

An equally brilliant Katrina Mackey point forced it a second period of extra-time. Players were out on their feet.

But this was when Cork just had that bit more in their legs, their gruelling winter schedule paying off. The large crowd stood to applaud two great sides at the final whistle.

From the outset Clare took this game to Cork. They showed no fear and incredible belief. Apart from Emma Murphy's goal attempt on 10 minutes which resulted in a converted 45, Cork got very little ball inside.

Amy Lee's puck-outs were reaching



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

Clare's 40, but Cork were getting very little return. Clare's discipline and composure under the dropping ball and working it out was impressive.

A late change saw Olivia McAllen come in in place of Laura Treacy, who picked up a light injury in training. Laura Hayes moved to the centre with McAllen coming in at right half-back.

### Absence

Treacy was missed as her absence prevented Hayes, who was strong in the rear-guard, from making her typical bursts forward.

Cork struck just three points from play in the opening half, Clare not much more with four, but Clare were creating more opportunities and won 10 frees, converting six. To be fair, the free that gave them their 10th point

and a three-point lead at half-time was very harsh on Libby Coppinger for overcarrying.

As soon as the ball was thrown in Murphy went to full-forward, O'Connor and Mackey pulled into the middle on the edge of the D while Sigerson and Fiona Keating pushed out to midfield. Lorna McNamara was influential for Clare alongside Niamh O'Dea who worked tirelessly.

Cork changed things in the second half. Sigerson fell back as a sweeper and Hayes pushed up. It worked well.

Orla Cronin made her appearance, making her presence felt with Cork's first score of the second half and winning good ball. Carmody was industrious for Clare. Hayes and Saoirse McCarthy were brilliant while Amy O'Connor scored five nifty points from play.

An excellent Sigerson free, matched by an equally brilliant point by McNamara had Clare still ahead by two on 40 minutes. Great work by Clare defensively forced Cork back out the field. Clare led by three on 51 minutes.

Two O'Connor points and it was down to one. O'Dea needed treatment;

it took up a couple of minutes. The tension was palpable.

McNamara had a chance to seal it for Clare, but her shot dropped short.

Lee found Sigerson. She won the free and pointed from 70 yards to level it on 64 minutes. We were heading to extra-time. Cork went three ahead, Clare went one up. Mackey levelled it. Further extra-time and Cork won the game at the third time of asking.

**Scorers for Cork:** A O'Connor 0-10 (0-4 f, 0-2 45), S Sigerson 0-7 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), K Mackey 0-4, F Keating, S McCarthy, O Cronin, 0-1 each.

**Clare:** L McNamara 0-9 (0-7 f), N O'Dea 1-0, E Kelly, A O'Loughlin, Z Spillane 0-2 each, C Morey 0-2 f, L Daly 0-1.

**CORK:** A Lee, M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane, O McAllen, L Hayes, S McCarthy, K O'Mahoney, A Thompson, I O'Regan, F Keating, S Murphy, A O'Connor, C Sigerson, K Mackey.

**Subs:** O Cronin for E Murphy (1-1), A Hurley for K O'Mahoney (49), C O'Sullivan for I O'Regan (65), K Wall for A Thompson (79, inj), A Smith for K Mackey (80).

**CLARE:** D Murphy, C Grogan, C Hehir, C Kelly, A Keane, C Morey, S Daly, N O'Dea, C Carmody, L Daly, L McNamara, M Scantlan, E Kelly, A O'Loughlin, Y Spillane.

**Subs:** A Ryan for L Daly (53), G Hickey for M Scantlan (58), A Power for N O'Dea (inj, 63), M Scantlan for Z Spillane (82), N O'Dea for S Daly (80).

**Referee:** Mike Ryan (Limerick).



Cork's Emma Murphy is tackled by Clare's Caoimhe Kelly during the Munster Senior Camogie Championship final at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork's Emma Flannagan wins the ball from Clare's Muireann Scantlan.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Twomey hails Cork character after marathon clash

**Munster Senior Camogie final**

Cork	0-24
Clare	1-18

(After extra, extra-time)

**Therese O'Callaghan**  
Páirc Uí Rinn

Two and a half hours after throw-in at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday evening, Cork captain Amy Lee collected the Morrissey Cup. A first piece of silverware for the Na Piar-saigh skipper and a first for manager Matthew Twomey.

Rarely, if ever, has a Munster senior camogie championship final been so brilliantly contested, and in front of a large and vocal following.

There was no shortage of incentive — Clare native Davy Fitzgerald is coach to Cork, his son Colm a member of the Banner management team.

The defending champions eventually got over the line after an epic battle. Twomey said that character won the game.

"We were dead and buried and we came back. To be fair to Clare, this is their third week in a row and that had to stand to us. All of them put in a fair shift but I thought Meabh Murphy at corner-back — for an 18/19-year-old — she was absolutely excellent in her first big game. We were short four big players so you would have to be happy.



**EXTRA SPECIAL: Cork captain Amy Lee, right, and players celebrate after defeating Clare in the Munster senior camogie championship final at Páirc Uí Rinn.**  
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

They are all on the way back. "It is a short turnaround to get them right for next Saturday (first round of the All-Ireland championship against Wexford)."

The sides were level seven times overall.

Tied 0-12 after normal time and 0-18 after extra-time, Cork outthit Clare six points to a goal in extra, extra-time. Amy O'Connor (0-10), Chloe Sigerson (0-7), and Katrina Mackey

(0-4) the key scorers.

Clare, like Cork, had no shortage of leaders. Lorna McNamara (0-9) was a constant threat, as was Eimear Kelly and Ziyah Spillane. Niamh O'Dea fired their goal.

Their joint-manager John Carmody said: "Two savage teams and they left everything on the field."

"We are thrilled with our girls — obviously disappointed — but we are heading

in the right direction.

"We have huge respect for Cork, we want to compete with the Corks. We performed very well in Thurles (semi-final) and the Gaelic Grounds (replay), our confidence was high."

"We knew we could put it up to Cork. Cork showed the great champions they are. A lesser team would have died."

Cork and Clare meet again in a fortnight in the second

## O'Gorman shines as classy Clare bridge 17-year gap

**Munster Junior Camogie final**

Clare	0-14
Waterford	0-4

Clare were impressive victors in the Munster junior camogie championship final at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday, claiming their first title since 2005. With a splendid array of talent including player of the match Kate O'Gorman, Abby Walsh, Shauna Canny, and Siobhan Lenihan, they were well on their way at the break, 0-9 to 0-2 in front. Canny's tally of seven points was admirable too. Lucy Hogan, Niamh Murphy and Heather Hayes were on target for the losers.

**Scorers for Clare:** S Canny (0-7, 0-5 frees, 0-1 45), S Lenihan (0-3), A Hickey, E Casey, G Carmody and S O'Keefe (0-1 each).

**Scorers for Waterford:** L Hogan (0-2 frees), N Murphy (45) and H Hayes (0-1 each).

**CLARE:** L Solon, C Lally, M Powell, S de hOiste (J-Capt), R Crowe, K O'Gorman (J-Capt), S O'Keefe, R Kelly, A Walsh, E Casey, S Canny, N Mulqueen, A Hickey, O Phelan, S Lenihan.

**Subs:** R Conway for R Kelly (27), G Carmody for A Hickey (41), E Kennedy for R Crowe (49), S Loughane for O Phelan (50), E Conside for M Powell (55-50 bs), A Cooney for S Lenihan (57), R Powell for N Mulqueen (57), A Anderson for S O'Keefe (62).

**WATERFORD:** S Kelly, G Harris, E Curran (Capt), E Mahony, N Murphy, L Sheridan, N Curran, H Ryan, C Farrelly, J Scholtz, A Gallagher, L Hogan, A Mackintosh, V O'Brien, E Walsh.

**Subs:** K O'Donoghue for V O'Brien (26 inj), M O'Regan for A Mackintosh (half-time), O Ni Fhaoilán for E Walsh (half-time), H Hayes for J Scholtz (40), A MacDonald for N Curran (44 inj).

**Referee:** Colm Vaughan (Cork).

**Therese O'Callaghan**

round of the All-Ireland championship. Not to be missed!

**Scorers for Cork:** A O'Connor (0-10, 0-4 frees, 0-1 45), C Sigerson (0-7, 0-4 frees, 0-2 45s), K Mackey (0-4), O Cronin, S McCarthy and F Keating (0-1 each).

**Scorers for Clare:** L McNamara (0-9, 0-8 frees), N O'Dea (1-0), A O'Loughlin, Z Spillane, C Morey (frees) and E Kelly (0-2 each), L Daly (0-1).

**CORK:** A Lee (Capt), M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane, O McAllen, L Hayes, S McCarthy, K O'Mahony, A Thompson, E Murphy, F Keating, I O'Regan, A O'Connor, C Sigerson, K

Mackey. Subs: O Cronin for E Murphy (half-time), A Hurley for K O'Mahony (40), C O'Sullivan for I O'Regan (1 ET), K Wall for A Thompson (20 ET inj), A Smith for K Mackey (30 ET inj).

**CLARE:** D Murphy, C Grogan, C Hehir (J-Capt), C Kelly, A Keane, C Morey, S Daly, N O'Dea (J-Capt), C Carmody, L Daly, L McNamara, M Scanton, E Kelly, A O'Loughlin, Z Spillane. Subs: A Ryan for L Daly (53), G Hickey for M Scanton (50), A Power for N O'Dea (60 inj), K O'Gorman for G Hickey (10 ET), L Daly for C Carmody (15 ET inj), N O'Dea for L Daly (25 ET).

**Referee:** Mike Ryan (Tipperary).

# Looney's return boost for Cork

### Camogie

**Eoghan Cormican**

Last year's camogie player of the year nominee Hannah Looney returns home from New York next week and will fall straight back in with the Cork camogie panel, manager Matthew Twomey has said.

The dual dynamo, who won All-Stars in both codes last year, moved to the US for work purposes shortly after the conclusion of the 2021 inter-county season, but her imminent return strengthens Cork's championship hand as the county bids to end a four-year wait for All-Ireland honours.

The Glen Dimplex All-Ireland camogie championship throws in this weekend, with Cork away to Wexford on Saturday evening (Enniscorthy,

5pm). Their second group game, at home to Clare the following weekend, is likely where Looney will make her first appearance in red since last year's All-Ireland final defeat to Galway, a game where she hit 0-2 from midfield.

Last year's Cork captain Linda Collins, who also emigrated late last year, remains abroad and so will not figure for Cork this summer.

"Since I took the job on, I have been in regular contact with Hannah," said Twomey, who is in his debut season at the helm.

"At the moment now, we are talking almost every day and getting ready for her return. She has been training away over there and we have been sending her over a program for the last couple of months. She's been very diligent, in fairness.



**Hannah Looney: Won All-Stars in both codes last year.**

"A player like her, but more importantly a personality like her, she'd be huge coming back in. She is back next week and will be straight into the mix."

On the injury front, Olivia McAllen, who started at half-back in last Saturday's extra-time Munster final win over Clare, has since injured her

leg and so will sit out the trip to Enniscorthy, as will Cliona Healy, who is still not fully recovered from her hamstring pull on the evening of Cork's League final defeat.

Centre-back Laura Treacy, who missed the provincial decider because of a slight injury, is available for Saturday.

"The ones who were struggling for fitness got a lot of game-time on Saturday (double extra-time was required). We were hoping Orla Cronin would get half an hour. She ended up getting over an hour. That is good."

Cronin's DRA case, which stemmed from the red card she received in last year's All-Ireland semi-final, still has not been brought to a conclusion, although the Enniskeane forward is free to line out in the county's upcoming championship games.



**Sarah Sheppard & Ailish Blake representing Cloughduv Camogie Club in the primary game played at half time during the Waterford vs Cork hurling game last weekend.**



# Cork edge past Clare to claim Munster crown

## Extra, extra time required for Matthew Twomey's side

CORK 0-24

CLARE 1-18

IT took two periods of extra time but Cork are Munster camogie champions once again following their thrilling win against Clare at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday evening.

This was the perfect build up for Matthew Twomey's team who are back in action on Saturday when they take on Wexford in the All-Ireland series.

In a ding-dong battle, which saw huge swings of momentum throughout, it was Clare who looked the likeliest winners until Chloe Sigerson nailed a huge free in added time of normal time to send the game into the additional period and keep the Cork dream alive.

At the end of extra-time it was an excellent Katrina Mackey point that forced the game to the seldom seen extra,



The victorious Cork camogie team that beat Clare in a memorable Munster final

(Photo: Colbert O'Sullivan)

extra time.

The never-say-die attitude on show from Twomey's charges will have pleased the new manager greatly.

Despite starting as underdogs for this game it was the Banner who made the running early and the Rebelettes who found themselves on the back foot.

But a number of tactical changes, including moving

Coursey Rovers forward Fiona Keating into midfield, allowed Cork to finally gain a foothold in the game.

The action was fast and furious throughout and from a West Cork perspective there were strong performances from the aforementioned Keating, the returning Orla Cronin and Libby Coppinger who marshalled the Cork full-back line extremely well.

It took them three attempts to finally get the win but the commitment, persistence and fitness on show from Cork can only bode well for the season ahead.

**Scorers for Cork:** A O'Connor 0-10 (0-4 f, 0-2 45), S Sigerson 0-7 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), K Mackey 0-4, F Keating, S McCarthy, O Cronin, 0-1 each.  
**Clare:** L McNamara 0-9 (0-7

f), N O'Dea 1-0, E Kelly, A O'Loughlin, Z Spillane 0-2 each, C Morey 0-2 f, L Daly 0-1.  
**CORK:** A Lee; M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane; O McAllen, L Hayes, S McCarthy; K O'Mahoney, A Thompson; I O'Regan, F Keating, E Murphy; A O'Connor, C Sigerson, K Mackey.  
**Subs:** O Cronin for E Murphy (h-t), A Hurley for K O'Mahoney (49), C O'Sullivan for I O'Regan

(65), K Wall for A Thompson (79, inj), A Smith for K Mackey (90).  
**CLARE:** D Murphy; C Grogan, C Hehir, C Kelly; A Keane, C Morey, S Daly; N O'Dea, C Carmody; L Daly, L McNamara, M Scanlan; E Kelly, A O'Loughlin, Y Spillane.  
**Subs:** A Ryan for L Daly (53), G Hickey for M Scanlan (58), A Power for N O'Dea (inj, 63), M Scanlan for Z Spillane (82), N O'Dea for S Daly (80).  
**Referee:** Mike Ryan (Limerick).

# Cronin's return a 'bonus' ahead of Wexford clash

BY GER MCCARTHY

NEWLY crowned Munster champions Cork have little time to bask in glow of their success ahead of this weekend's 2022 Glen Dimplex Senior All-Ireland Camogie championship opener away to Wexford.

Matthew Twomey oversaw Cork's memorable double extra-time defeat of Clare in last Saturday evening's Munster final at Páirc Uí Rinn. An instant classic, Cork needed two additional time periods to see off a dogged Clare outfit 0-24 to 1-18.

Amy O'Connor provided the bulk of Cork's scores (0-10) with Chloe Sigerson, Katrina Mackey, Fiona Keating, Saoirse McCarthy and Orla Cronin also contributing. Cronin's welcome return to competitive action allied with Cork's never-say-

**'Orla was buzzing afterwards and a bonus that she came away injury-free from it'**  
- Cork manager Matthew Twomey

die spirit pleased the Rebel's manager at the conclusion of a pulsating contest.

'First and foremost, we were looking for a performance against Clare as we were without five starters,' Twomey told *The Southern Star*.

'It was the girls' character and the way they won the game was huge for us. They are never beaten. Looking back, maybe had we lost the Munster final after losing the National League final (to Galway) maybe that might have put a bit of doubt in people's minds about us.

'As for Orla (Cronin), she is

just an outstanding player. She just glides around the field and is always available for the ball. She is a fantastic player and a great person to have around the place. We were hoping to give her 30 minutes but she ended up getting about 60 in the end. Orla was buzzing afterwards and a bonus that she came away injury-free from it.'

Another provincial title secured; Cork begin their quest to reach a second consecutive All-Ireland senior Camogie final away to Wexford this weekend. Drawn in a difficult qualifying group, Twomey's charges

will also face last weekend's Munster finalists Clare, Dublin, Waterford and Tipperary over the coming weeks.

Wexford should provide stiff opposition having claimed this year's Littlewoods Camogie National League Division 2 title in impressive fashion.

Group wins over Cork (intermediates), Derry, Meath and Kildare preceded an eight-point quarter-final defeat of Kilkenny (intermediates) and six-point win over Waterford in the last four. Wexford's superb 3-12 to 0-14 victory over Antrim in the league final underlined an emerging panel's capabilities. Matthew Twomey and his players are not underestimating

the challenge that Wexford will pose on their home ground.

'We played Wexford in a challenge match at the start of the year and it was as intense as the Clare Munster final game last weekend,' the Cork manager said.

'They (Wexford) were full on, in our faces and didn't give us a minute to breathe. We know exactly what they are going to bring this weekend. Their manager Kevin Tattan is doing a great job down there.

'Going down to Wexford is never easy and **Orla Cronin's return is well-timed.**

we know it is going to be a hostile atmosphere. It is up to our players to match Wexford's performance and match their aggression.

'As part of their recovery after the Clare match, all of the Cork players were straight into the swimming pool or down to the beach. It is a case of recovering from the battle they had in Páirc Uí Rinn before concentrating on what we need to do, work on our tactics, ahead of travelling to Wexford.

'We had only played one game since the National League final against Waterford and you need games to get into the nitty-gritty stuff. Clare gave us an ideal test ahead of this weekend's All-Ireland match and we just need to keep progressing and use it as a springboard for the All-Ireland series.'







Cork captain Amy Lee and players celebrate after defeating Clare in the Munster senior camogie championship final at Páirc Uí Rinn.

## Na Piarsaigh's Amy Lee looks forward to leading Cork in championship

■ Daire Walsh

AS they prepare to get their All-Ireland senior championship campaign underway this weekend, Cork camogie captain Amy Lee has said the Leesiders are attempting to build a level of squad depth to rival that of reigning O'Duffy Cup champions Galway.

Following their final defeat to the same opposition in last year's competition, Cork looked set to gain revenge on the Tribeswomen when leading them by six points early in the second half of their National League showpiece meeting at Croke Park on April 9.

However, Galway's bench power proved decisive on a chilly evening at GAA HQ with substitutes Carrie Dolan, Catherine Finnerty and Sabina Rabbittie registering a combined scoring tally of 2-5.

While Cork didn't get the same impact from their reserves on that occasion, the rotation policy of team manager Matthew Twomey is seeing some new faces emerging from the pack.

"Obviously Galway made a few subs and it really shows their bench is massive.

"Their squad depth is unbelievable.

"We're trying to build the same thing in Cork now.

"We want our bench to be as strong as the 15 players starting," Lee explained at last week's championship launch in the Croke Park Hotel.

"I think we kind of have it this year. A lot of competition for places.

"I don't think we've had the same 15 start for the last four or five games, which is great to see. It's great to get girls experience."

After digging deep to defeat Clare after extra-time in last weekend's Munster championship final, Cork will kickstart their All-Ireland Group One odyssey away to Wexford on Saturday.

This opener precedes a rematch with the Banner County - as well as subsequent encounters with Dublin, Waterford and Tipperary - but Lee's focus for now is firmly on the Slaneysiders.

"The last few years they probably haven't been where they wanted to be at.

"But I think this year, after winning the Division Two league, they have a lot to fight

for. "They'll want to stamp their place in this championship. A big game for us and for them. "We won't be taking anything for granted in that game. They look like they could cause trouble this year."

A senior debutant back in 2015, Lee spent her first five years on the county panel as understudy to the legendary Aoife Murray.

Fast forward to 2022 and she now finds herself taking on a role that was previous filled by the Dunmanway native.

Since an opening round league clash with Clare on February 20, Lee has been leading out Cork as captain and will do so again throughout the All-Ireland series.

As tremendous an achievement as this is for the Na Piarsaigh netminder, she insists it doesn't put her on a higher pedestal than her team-mates.

"I don't think about it much. I think we have leaders all over our pitch.

"Obviously it's a great honour, but I don't think it will be a big deal inside the squad because we have so many leaders and so many people to stand up.

"If I wanted to keep a low profile, there's plenty of girls that will stand up."

It is a subject that she has been asked about at length already this year, but there is no denying the presence of Davy Fitzgerald on Cork's management team in 2022 is capturing the attention of the camogie world at large.

The Clare man's unrelenting desire for success has served him well as both a player and coach in the past, and Lee is delighted he is on board for what promises to be a hectic championship.

"He has a winning mentality and it's great to have that in the team.

"We've gone out to play challenge matches and he doesn't want to lose.

"It's great to have that mentality and Matthew [Twomey] has brought in a few lads as well with him.

"I think the whole outfit we have now at the moment is really good and it's going very well for us," Lee added.



Cork's Emma Murphy is tackled by Clare's Caoimhe Kelly at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Banner test will stand to Cork in their pursuit of All-Ireland success

TOMORROW: Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship: Wexford v Cork, Enniscorthy, 5pm.

ON the back of their enthralling Munster senior championship final win last Saturday, Cork travel to Wexford to take on the home side in the opening round of the Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

While many may have felt prior to last Saturday evening that the outcome of the decider against Clare was a foregone conclusion, they wouldn't have been aware of the massive strides Clare's senior side have made this season. They gave Cork a brilliant battle.

It wasn't that Cork were poor, Clare were very good and the manner in which Cork found the equaliser on two occasions to force extra-time will greatly stand to them. That experience for players like Olivia McAllen, Meabh Murphy, Katie O'Mahoney, Izzy O'Regan, and Emma Murphy was invaluable. Hit with injuries for much of the league campaign, things are now moving in the right direction for Cork. When one considers the availability of Hannah Looney (due home next week), Orla Cronin, Sorcha McCartan, and Cliona Healy in addition to Fiona Keating getting more game-time, Cork will have options. Chloe Sigerson is coming back to form. She is a versatile player, evident again when Cork put her back and pushed Laura Hayes up the field for the second half against Clare.

I've always felt Chloe is best placed in defence. She is a beautiful striker of the ball, and her deliveries are inch-perfect. But how do you break up what is fast becoming one of the best half-back lines in the country. In Hayes, Laura Treacy and Saoirse McCarthy?

Their hurling ability, speed and attacking roles, particularly on the wings with Treacy holding and sweeping, is Cork's launch pad. Looney will more than likely play a midfield/half-forward role when she returns. I have a concern around Cork's failure to find the net in any great volume. They had just two opportunities in 90 minutes last week and failed to take them. One against Kilkenny and Galway in the league doesn't indicate a real consistent threat. Yes, the game has changed but it's been goals that pipped Cork to



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

the All-Ireland and league titles just past.

Cork's defence has settled nicely. Meabh Cahalane in the left corner is brilliantly effective in her interceptions, cut-offs and offloads. Libby Coppinger has become a very reliable and tenacious full-back, young Meabh Murphy is improving all the time and as the game went on against Clare she grew in stature. You won't find a more industrious player than Katie O'Mahoney in midfield and the fight for positions here will be exciting. It's wonderful to see Katie wearing the red jersey. The opportunity presented itself with the appointment of Matthew Twomey as manager.

Her senior baptism at 31 years of age is a massive step up in pace, but it's a process well worth undertaking.

The introduction of Orla Cronin at half-time against Clare, her first inter-county action since last year's All-Ireland final, made a telling impact. She was enthusiastic, her awareness and positioning a constant threat. She's sure to start tomorrow as Twomey endeavours to bring her up to match fitness.

Sorcha McCartan needs to figure at some stage tomorrow. It's only 11 weeks to an All-Ireland final.

Laura Treacy will also more than likely start even though she hasn't fully trained this week with an achilles issue that saw her side-lined for the Munster final.

What of Wexford? Division 2 league champions - a league they were eager to get out of and face the top teams next season. Their last outing was the 0-13 to 0-4 Leinster championship loss to Kilkenny on April 30.

They will be keen to strike a better balance between defence and attack, with a need to commit more players to forward roles in order to get the necessary scores.

Manager Kevin Tattan, from Russell Rovers in Shanagarry, will be keen to build on the side's league success against Antrim. Cork can expect a tough physical challenge but should come out with their first winning points of the campaign.



Cork minor camogie captain Orlaith Mullins is presented with the provincial trophy from Ger Browne, Chairman Munster Council.



Munster chairman Ger Browne presents Cork U16 camogie captain Keeley Goulding with the U16 Munster trophy after Cork defeated Tipperary.

## Minors and U16s show that Cork camogie is in fine fettle for moment

Cork	2-16
Clare	0-6

CAMOGIE	
Mary Newman	

IT was a great weekend on the provincial camogie stage for Cork.

The Rebels retained their Munster Minor title and made it three in a row, whilst the U16s did likewise as they also retained their crown in splendid fashion with the minors defeating Clare and the U16s getting the upper-hand on Tipperary.

The Cork minor team lead from the start with points from Ciara Morrison, Orlaith Mullins, Leah Hallahan and Millie Condon. Clare kept in touch with three Aisling Cooney points and one a piece from Aisling Moloney and Grace Carmody. Cork continued to hold the upper hand and they struck for the opening goal with Ciara Morrison on target to give them a comfortable interval lead of seven points, 1-9 to 0-5 and set the foundations for what was to come in the second half where they were totally on top. From the restart, Cork battled to close the game out as they hit 1-4 without reply.

A second Ciara Morrison goal and points from Fiona Twohig, Orlaith Cahalane and Orlaith Mullins extending their advantage to 2-13 to 0-5 at the end of the third quarter. Ciara Walsh, Fiona Twohig and Edel Sheehan added points to the Cork tally to ensure the three in a row of Munster Minor A titles was completed.

Scorers for Cork: C Morrison 2-2, O Mullins 0-6, F Twohig 0-3, (0-1), L Hallahan, M Condon, O Cahalane, C Walsh, E Sheehan 0-1 each.

Scorers for Clare: A Cooney 0-4, (0-3), A Moloney, G Carmody, 0-1 each. Cork: J Connaughton; M de Burca, A Barrett, T Elliot; A Cashman, A Healy, E Duignan; E Sheehan, M Condon; O Cahalane, C Morrison, O Mullins; L Hallahan, F Twohig, A Fahy.

Subs: C Walsh for A Fahy (26), A O'Sullivan for M de Burca (1/1), T Coleman for E Duignan (37), C Lane for J Connaughton (42), E Cantillon for M Healy (49), C Murphy for F Twohig (59), E Crowley for L Hallahan (58), E Murphy for O Mullins.

(58). Clare: S Cullen; C Quailty, J Nicholas, A Dillon; L Slater, E Murphy, HM Neylon; A Walsh, A Moloney; G Carmody, L Grady, A Cooney; A Anderson, M Harrahan, A Dooley.

Subs: E Fitzgibbon for L Slater (23), E Begley for A Moloney (39), E McInerney for A Dooley (48), L O'Donnell for M Harrahan (53).

Referee: TP Sullivan (Tipperary).

Cork	2-18
Tipperary	3-6

Nine points separated the sides at the full time whistle in Kilmallock as an impressive performance saw Cork U16 team, with first half goals from Louise O'Neill and Grainne Finn crowned champions.

Amy McCarthy, Amy Sheppard, Ava Fitzgerald and Louise O'Neill all pointed as Tipperary responded with points from Emer Dwan and Daniele Ryan putting the Cork defence under pressure. Tipperary cut the deficit with a Ciara O'Hara goal and a point from Danielle Ryan had six points between the sides.

Cork upped the pace with seven points without reply. Kate Fennessy, Amy Sheppard, Lucy O'Connell, Orlaith Cremin, Ava Fitzgerald all on target as Cork led 2-13 to 1-3 at the break.

Cork controlled the second half and ran out easy winners on a scoreline of 2-18 to 3-6.

Scorers for Cork: K Fennessy 0-5, L O'Neill 1-2, A Sheppard 0-4 (0-1), G Finn 1-0, A Fitzgerald, L O'Connell 0-2 each, A McCarthy, O Cremin, A Daly 0-1.

Tipperary: A Bevans 1-1, A O'Kelly, C O'Hara, 1-0 each, E Dwan, D Ryan 0-2 each, S Corcoran 0-1 (45).

Cork: E O'Sullivan; A Nestor, S Hurley, R Roche; A Daly, L Dunlea, O Cremin; A Fitzgerald, A O'Neill; A McCarthy, L O'Neill, A Sheppard; L O'Connell, K Fennessy, G Finn.

Subs: A McAuliffe for A O'Neill, A Mulkenins for L O'Neill, A Buckley for G Finn, E Buckley for L O'Connell.

Tipperary: D Butler; P Quirke, E Dolan, I Graco; L Purcell; S Corcoran; A Fitzgerald; S Maher, D Ryan; C Shelly, H Butler, C Stakelum; E Dwan, C O'Hara, N Kelly.



Cork's Emma Flannagan wins the ball from Clare's Muireann Scanton.

## Split season wonderful for players, even if the season is over too early

WITH the GAA split season mirrored by the camogie association the All-Ireland finals are down for the weekend of August 6th, giving an extra four to five weeks to counties for their club championships.

With this in mind the Cork board has moved from the traditional 'back door' scenario where the most games some clubs had was two, to a group round-robin basis giving each of the twenty teams at least four games.

Four groups of five have been drawn. It's a great idea.

Games will start mid-August. Even if Cork are knocked out of the All-Ireland series at the semi-final stage the start date doesn't need to change.

There is plenty of time in the calendar and people can now book holidays.

Gone (hopefully) are the times when you couldn't plan even a weekend away.

The split season is wonderful for players, despite some quarters unhappy that the inter-county season is over so early. Unquestionably group A is the toughest group containing Inniscarra, Coursey Rovers, Douglas, Glen Rovers and Killeagh.

County champions Seandún are in the 'divisional' group with Imokilly, Carrighoun, Carbery and Avondu.

Will we for once see all five divisions take to the field and complete their fixtures?

With so many dual players it's getting harder for divisional sides to compete.

They're third place priority for such players. You can't not let divisions in but at the same time giving walkovers is unhealthy for the competition.

It's not fair on clubs that want and need the game. Camogie and ladies' football will still be operating under the same calendar during the new season structure.

There could be a solution—maybe a 'every other week' scenario between the sports.

Clubs may still not release their players from training but at least they're available for fixtures.

A further indication of the rise of women's sport is that PwC Ireland, along with the Camogie association, announced during the week that they will become the title sponsor of the Camogie All-Stars for three years to 2024.

In addition, along with the GAA and the GPA, PwC announced their renewal of PwC

### CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

GPA Women's Player of the Month for a further three years.

The women's USA soccer team finally got their just reward for equal pay after years of taking on the establishment and fighting for their future.

Many of the players sacrificed themselves while knowing they wouldn't benefit from their efforts, but future players would, and one has to applaud them in every way for what they have achieved.

Not only did they achieve a deal to pay the U.S. men's national team and the U.S. women's national team equally, which will run through to 2028 and include the "equalization" of World Cup prize money, the organization announced, in February, that the governing body and the women's team agreed a settlement to resolve the longstanding pay dispute, with the federation agreeing to give the women's team \$22 million in back pay.

This really is a massive statement for sports women across the globe.

It follows on from the brilliant work Billie Jean King did for decades for equal pay in tennis, her quote famous, "Everyone thinks women should be thrilled when we get crumbs, and I want women to have the cake, the icing, and the cherry on top too."

And make no mistake but these high profile wins eventually filters down to more localised level.

The AWFL have just announced a 90% increase in salaries for their players. Another massive sign of the shift in women's sport.

The publicity that women's sport is now generating is making it stand on its own two feet.

It really is a fantastic time to be a young girl growing up in Irish sport.

There is still a long way to go but Katie Taylor headlining Madison Square Garden, Leona Maguire, Rachel Blackmore, Kellie Harrington, Cora Staunton and Brid Stack, girls you'd meet in your local supermarket are all achieving more than they possibly ever imagined as children, all on our TV screens, all receiving huge plaudits, all showing that anything is achievable.

# Ryan tunes up to write another new chapter

### Camogie

#### Daragh Ó Conchúir

In April 2017, Nenagh's singing doctor, Mary Ryan launched a CD entitled "The Next Chapter". Another medical professional, Dr Dre had already used "The Next Episode", I guess.

Dr Ryan's namesake, also from Tipperary, would be known for a lot of things but singing, she professes, is not one of them.

It is a rare blank in the column marked 'traits and skills' for the Moneygall Mary Ryan, heading into her own next chapter of a magnus opus career that extends to an 18th season of senior summer camogie for the Premier in this evening's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Champions Group 1 opener against Clare at The Ragg (5pm throw-in, Live on Tipperary Camogie YouTube).

She patiently listens to the questions she has fielded for a few years now, as to what the motivation is for someone who will be 35 at the end of the year to be still doing this, particularly with the demands and commitment required having increased immeasurably since she hit her fourth decade, not to mind from when she was a youngster with a tongue stud and not a care in the world, only to puck ball.

Anyone trying to track Ryan down now will realise very quickly camogie is just one element of her life. A process development engineer with Boston Scientific in Clonmel, Ryan is also a sports, performance, and personal development coach, having just graduated with the latter qualification from her most recent return to third level education last month. That means she works with schools and clubs but also with individuals. This has now been incorporated by her bosses into the workplace too.

So between it all, most hours are covered. It is easy



Mary Ryan: Won her first All-Star two years ago in full-backline.

from the remove of a couch, or the stand, to wonder if someone would want to do other things in life that they might be missing out on or had to put on the back burner due to their commitment to the high performance environment. But that is attempting to put our perspectives on people we don't understand.

"If it was easy everyone would be doing it," smiles Ryan through a laptop screen. "It's just part of my make-up, part of my routine."

Tipp have made giant strides in the past five years and are seeking a signature win to continue that, having gone close against eventual victors Galway and Kilkenny in Championship and two National Leagues the past 18 months. Reaching a national final or winning a major medal is a target, and something they feel capable of now, but it isn't why Ryan is there.

"I don't think you would find many players who would just throw in the towel if you said, 'You are not going to win a medal at the end of the year.' "I do enjoy that process of training, enjoying the challenge of keeping up with the game. The game has changed massively and it is a challenge and you do get a land when a young one comes in and is legging it around the place.

"And then I have been lucky to avoid anything that kept me out long term. It's not easy but it's manageable keeping up with the game, managing

niggles, and as long as the enjoyment outweighs that sort of thing... if it was pulled from me tomorrow, I know I'd miss it so I enjoy it while I can."

It's not as if Ryan is hanging on by her fingernails. She belatedly won a first All-Star two years ago in the full-back line, having also been nominated in the half-back, midfield and half-forward divisions over the years also. She was nominated again at the end of last season, having been named Munster player of the year.

When she was brought into the panel first in 2005, Tipp were reigning All-Ireland champions. She had a big reputation, having played at every underage level for the county and been named on the first Colleges' All-Star team in 2004 alongside the likes of Cork trio Rena Buckley, Briega Corkery and Anna Geary, Wexford's Ursula Jacob and Mary Leacy, and Kilkenny's Jacqui Frisby.

Tipp lost the All-Ireland in her first campaign and Ryan came on as a sub on their last appearance in a decider in 2006. The team's fortunes declined since but Ryan became established as an ever-present bastion. The loss of competitiveness grated initially but she began to develop an alternative view over time, making her an excellent captain along the way as many of her current teammates were blooded over the past decade.

It's about the journey rather than the destination for Ryan. "As you grow older, you have a different perspective on things. Probably value things more or differently in terms of years ago putting so much pressure and focus on winning and success as opposed to really enjoying the whole process and improving your performance. You are playing to enjoy playing. You are not looking to run away from it or escape from it or anything like that. You realise sport is your outlet or the best hobby that you could have."

## Hanniffy's hat-trick heroics key for Galway

Galway got the defence of their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie title off to a stress-free start as they cruised to a 4-11 to 1-7 victory over Limerick at Pearse Stadium.

Niamh Hanniffy sprinted clear to register Galway's first goal in the 11th minute and Carrie Dolan finished brilliantly with a one-handed strike to give the champions a 2-1 to 0-4 lead into the wind. Caoimhe Costelloe's freetaking kept Limerick in touch.

Orlaith Kelleher gave Limerick an early advantage but they had no answer as Hanniffy went through the

gears to complete a hat-trick of goals. Costelloe's goal from a free brought her tally to 1-5 for Limerick.

Injury-time points from Susan Daly and a Chloe Morey free secured a share of the spoils for Clare with Tipperary at the end of a competitive but tight affair at The Ragg (0-10 each).

Antrim marked their return to senior fare with a famous 4-18 to 1-10 victory over Offaly in St Brendan's Park, Birr. Róisín McCormick clocked up 1-8 but she had plenty of support, with Aine Magill grabbing 2-2 and Caitrin Dobbin helping herself to 1-3.

Down 'poked the bear' when Anna Rogan's goal early in the second half moved them within touching distance of Kilkenny at Liatroim.

However, the Cats dominated thereafter with Denise Gaule hitting 0-13 in a free-ridden affair, eased clear to a 1-23 to 1-10 triumph.

Cork defeated Wexford 2-14 to 1-6 at Bellefield with Amy O'Connor's pace and clinical finishing decisive.

Dublin saw off Waterford at Walsh Park (1-11 to 0-12). They led by 1-8 to 0-8 at the change of ends with Aisling Maher notching the vital goal.

**Verdict:** Galway. Down v Kilkenny, Liatroim Fontenoys, 3pm, (E. Cassidy). Kilkenny will make the long trip north a worthwhile one. **Verdict:** Kilkenny. Offaly v Antrim, St Brendan's Park, Birr, 5pm, (B. Naa). A massive game for Offaly if they are to avoid relegation bother. **Verdict:** Offaly.

**Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship Group 1. Waterford v Dublin, Walsh Park, 5pm, (A. Larkin).** A tight encounter expected with the home team edging it. **Verdict:** Waterford. **Wexford v Cork, Bellefield, Enniscorthy, 5pm, (G. Donegan).** An awkward opener for Cork but they can take the points. **Verdict:** Cork. **Tipperary v Clare, The Ragg, 5pm, (J. Heffernan).** Tipp will be out for revenge after the provincial semi-final defeat. **Verdict:** Tipperary. **Group 2. Galway v Limerick, Pearse Stadium, 3.30pm, (A. Hogg).** Galway to open their account with a comfortable victory.

# Hanniffy in the zone as holders Galway off to flyer

## Camogie round-up

### Daragh Ó Conchúir

Galway got the defence of their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie title off to a relatively stress-free start as they cantered to a 4-11 to 1-6 victory over Limerick at Pearse Stadium.

John Lillis selected four debutants for the visitors and the Limerick boss must have been pleased with the way the Shannonsiders competed, in the first half in particular. His counterpart, Cathal Murray will be glad to get the campaign under way as his side look to complete a two in a row for the first time in Galway's history.

Niamh Hanniffy sprinted clear of the cover to register Galway's first goal in the 11th minute and Carrie Dolan finished brilliantly with a one-handed strike just before the interval to give the champions a 2-1 to 0-4 lead into the wind, Caoimhe Costelloe's free-taking keeping Limerick in touch.

Orlaith Kelleher gave Lillis's crew an early advantage but they had no answer as Hanniffy went through the gears to complete a hat-trick of goals, while Ailish O'Reilly finished with four points. Costelloe's goal from a free brought her tally to 1-5 for Limerick.

Injury-time points from Susan Daly and a Chloe Morey free secured a share of the spoils for Clare with Tipperary at the end of a competitive but tight affair at The Ragg. Clare had defeated Tipp after a replay in the Munster Championship and so it was no surprise that the teams knew each other so well, more or less cancelling each other out.

Cait Devane scored three of the five points as Tipp led by 0-5 to 0-3 at half-time, Zi Yan Spillane and Lorna McNamara



Galway's Niamh Hanniffy scores a goal against Limerick at Pearse Stadium. She registered a hat-trick for the Tribe. Picture: Inpho/Bryan Keane

getting on the mark for the visitors.

Clare drew level at the three-quarter mark but two converted frees by Devane edged Tipp two ahead. Eimear Kelly and Eirena Fryday swapped points and it looked like Bill Mullaney's squad would edge a vital win over Conor Dolan and John Carmody's unit but Daly and then the nerveless Morey snatched a draw.

Antrim marked their return to senior fare with a famous 4-18 to 1-10 victory over Offaly in St Brendan's Park, Birr. Róisín McCormick clocked up a

goal and eight points but she had plenty of support, with Aine Magill grabbing 2-2 and Caitrin Dobbin helping herself to 1-3.

There was no hint of what was to come in the first half, with Offaly leading until Magill's first green flag just before the interval. A seventh-minute goal by Mairéad Teehan gave the Faithful the advantage and points from Sarah Harding, Aisling Brennan, and Teehan kept them ahead but Antrim had drawn level when Magill struck on the stroke of half-time.

A couple of points from Tee-

han maintained the hosts' interest but when McCormick billowed the net in the 40th minute, the Saffrons opened up and Offaly had no answer, Dobbin and Magill helping themselves to further goals on a memorable day for Antrim camogie.

The competition's other Ulster representatives Down went down to Kilkenny at Liatroim.

Mary O'Connell's goal, allied to a brace of points ensured that Brian Dowling's visitors led at half-time by 1-11 to 0-8.

Down poked the bear when

Anna Rogan's goal straight after the resumption moved them within touching distance.

The Cats opened up thereafter and with Denise Gaule clocking up 13 points in a free-ridden affair, eased clear to a 1-23 to 1-10 triumph.

Niamh Mallon was the primary scorer for Down and she scored nine points, with five of those coming from play in another brilliant performance.

Paul Donnelly's team battled hard but with Gaule unerring from placed balls and Miriam Walsh among the others to find the target, Kil-

kenny outscored them by six points in the closing quarter.

Cork, who were defeated by Galway in both last year's All-Ireland and this year's National League finals, began their championship programme with a 2-14 to 1-6 success over Wexford at Bellefield.

Amy O'Connor's pace and clinical finishing were decisive, the high-scoring St Vincent's sharpshooter finishing up with 2-4, 2-3 of which came from play.

Izzy O'Regan, Katrina Mackey, and Emma Murphy hit a pair of points each and Chloe Sigerson clocked up four but Wexford showed more than enough to give Kevin Tattan hope that the Division 2 League champions can repeat their All-Ireland quarter-final qualification of last term.

A Joanne Dillon goal early in the second half brought Wexford within five points of Matthew Twomey's outfit, Ciara O'Connor having shot four of her five points at that juncture, Cork had another gear though.

Dublin's improvement under Adrian O'Sullivan continues as they defeated Waterford at Walsh Park by 1-11 to 0-12.

They led by 1-8 to 0-8 at the change of ends, Aisling O'Neill, Jody Couch, and Aisling Maher all multiple scorers, with Maher notching up the vital 25th-minute goal.

Beth Carton and Abby Flynn were Waterford's primary scorers and Carton brought her tally to six when equalising five minutes from the end of normal time, Maher restored the Dubs' advantage from a free and after Clodagh Carroll received her marching orders with a second yellow card three minutes from time, O'Neill split the posts once more.

them into this encounter in confident mood.

They will also take encouragement from their last visit to Páirc Uí Rinn where they really tested Cork and were somewhat unlucky not to win that game.

Clare's style of play that evening was very impressive and the manner in which they worked hard and took some quality scores would indicate that they will have a big say in who emerges from this group and from what I have seen, they will be one of the 3.

Lorna McNamara, Aine O'Loughlin, Zi Yan Spillane, Aoife Keane, Caoimhe Kelly, Claire Hehir and Eimear Kelly are all very good players and will relish another crack at Cork and gain a measure of revenge for their loss in that enthralling Munster Final.

Cork of course will be well aware of the challenge that awaits them and Matthew Twomey acknowledged that after the Munster Final and he was delighted with the win last week.

"It's never easy coming to Wexford but I pleased with how we played we did make a few errors but we will work on them during the week and look forward to the Clare game, which we know will be tough."

Amy O'Connor bagged two vital goals against Wexford while Emma Murphy apart from scoring 0-4 from play had a big part in the creation of other scores, and Chloe Sigerson, Orla Cronin, Catriona Mackey all played well.

Laura Tracey made a return from injury while Laura Hayes, Saoirse McCarthy and Meabh Murphy continued to excel in a solid defence.

That defence is much stronger with Cahalane and Coppinger anchoring it and it remains to be seen if they feature especially if they line out in Kilkenny earlier in the day.

It has the makings of another intriguing encounter but Cork look better equipped and make it two from two in the group.

The Cork intermediate team open their campaign when they travel to Bellefield Enniscorthy on Saturday at 2pm for a meeting with Wexford - how this was not played as a double-header last Saturday is another one of these baffling decisions!

Wexford won the Division 2 league but that team are now playing in the Senior Championship and Cork with players of the calibre of Laurant Calanan, Kelly Palvey, Niamh O'Leary, Leanne O'Sullivan, Joanne Casey, Lauren Homan and Finola Neville in their side should make a winning start to their campaign.

## All-Ireland Camogie Championship

### Cork v Clare on Saturday at Páirc Uí Rinn at 5pm

A fortnight after producing one of the games of the season which lasted over 90 plus minutes, these sides once again go head to head in Round 2 of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship, and if it's half as good as the last meeting, well few will complain.

There were mixed results in their opening games, Cork were comfortable winners over Wexford while Clare played out an exciting draw with Tipperary.

The one factor that might hinder Clare is that this will be their fifth week in a row in competitive action. That might just drain their resources, of course they have lost just once in that period and that will send

# Reflecting with pride

**Plunkett Carter looks back on the highs and lows of the last 50 years of a great sporting institution, St Finbarr's camogie club**

A GOLDEN jubilee is always a proud and distinguished time for any club and the Barrs camogie club can look back with pride and satisfaction on their past 50 years.

During those years they were blessed with a dedicated and passionate group of volunteers, players, coaches, supporters and gifted administrators.

While the present club operates in very different circumstances compared to 1972 when Francis Barry Murphy, John Barry-Murphy, Mary McCarthy, Kitty O'Grady, and others reformed the camogie wing of the illustrious club, the core principles remain the same, namely to offer young girls a healthy and safe environment in which to play.

The history of St Finbarr's Camogie Club can be traced to pre-Cumann Camógaíochta na hÉireann times.

Records exist of a group of girls playing in the Lough area in the latter years of the 1800s. Since then a team representing St Finbarr's has fielded in every decade. Famed hurling families, the Dooleys and Sheehans, combined to launch a camogie club in 1905; Mary Agnes Sheehan, sister of "Rocket" and Katie Dooley (daughter of Tom), formed Clan Eimear based in the Gould Street area.

However, not all were pleased with the prospect of women playing hurling and Fr Fleming of the Lough parish condemned what he termed their unfeminine activities. After a few years activity they disappeared from the scene but were revived as a senior side in the thirties.

In 1957 another short-lived Barrs team, founded by Imelda Leahy and Eily Murphy assisted by Moll Doolan, Alice Meaney, and Fr Good entered the fray.



**Barrs County Senior Camogie Champions 2006. Back: Gerald McCarthy, Caitriona Myers, Niamh McKenzie, Val Hosford, Catherine Barrett, Susan O'Connell, Claire Spelman, Gemma O'Connor, Jenny Duffy, Niamh Cooke, Rachel O'Regan, Viv Harris, Barbara Ann Corcoran, Bill O'Connell, Jerry Murphy. Front: Claire Kirby, Claire Harrington, Rachel Myers, Ber Maher, Orla O'Sullivan, Lynda O'Connell (Capt.), Maria McCarthy, Ellen Clifford, Susan Kennefick, Aoife McCarthy, Mary Collins, Colette O'Mahony, Colette Kirby.**

tered the fray. Trained by Barry Barrett they won the Junior Championship in 1964 but disbanded shortly afterwards.

The present club was reformed in 1972 under the guidance of Frances Barry-Murphy and her late father John Barry-Murphy.

Mary McCarthy and Kitty O'Grady were also of great influence. Like any other club, St Finbarr's experienced their ups and downs on the playing field and contested a number of finals before eventually winning the first junior county title in 1981 defeating Blackrock.

The following year they went on to win the 1982 Cork Intermediate Championship. These victories sparked a golden era for the Barrs when the girls in blue won all before them including three consecutive U16 County Championships which paved the way for a three-in-a row All-Ireland minor titles for Cork.

St Finbarr's contributed 10 players including three captains Colette O'Mahony, Deirdre Christie, and Paula Carey. During this time they also won the 1982 Cork Féile na nGael and numerous other trophies at U14, 16 and 18 as well as another junior title in 1984.

The senior team contested two finals in 1990 and 1992 and, while defeated by Glen Rovers in both games, progress continued.

In 1991 the junior team completed the B Championship and League double and success continued at underage with the winning of the U14 and U16 Championships in 1995.

It was evident that the hard work of the underage mentors was beginning to reap its rewards as young players were showing great promise and hopes were high that the ambition of winning a first senior title was not too far away.

In 1994 the Camogie Board introduced a Senior B Championship in which the Barrs were graded. They contested three Senior B finals in 1995, 97, and 98 without success but eventually made the breakthrough in 2001 when crowned Senior B Champions defeating Milford in the final.

A year later they were back in the county senior final but were narrowly defeated by Cloughduv. The heartbreak of agonising defeats continued, but this bunch of girls were not going to be denied the club's lifelong ambition to win a senior county title which came to fruition on Sunday October 8, 2006 when they restored pride in the blue jersey and brought great honour back to Toghur with a scintillating county final victory over Imokilly.

Barrs players have contributed hugely to Cork's success at inter county level down through the years.

Marie O'Sullivan, Claire Cronin (holder of four senior All-Ireland medals), Colette O'Mahony, Colette Cronin, Brid Kelleher, Jenny Duffy, Lynda O'Connell (now in her 30th season), Orla O'Sullivan, Ellen Clifford, Meabh Cahalane and Gemma O'Connor have all won senior medals with Cork.

In recent years Keeva McCarthy, Eimear Hurley, Aoife O'Neill, Ciara Hurley, Ciara Golden, Ella Wigginton-Barrett, Nicole Olden and Orlaith Cahalane have all been part of successful intermediate, minor and U16 winning teams.

Many girls have made huge sacrifices for the club but nobody has done more to promote the game than Marian McCarthy. She continues to make huge contributions to the Barrs and to camogie in general.

In February 2020 the inspirational Marian received the prestigious President's CLG Award for outstanding contribution to the GAA.

As a player she tasted a junior championship success with the Barrs in 1981 and then victory at intermediate level the following year to send the club up to senior level for the first time in its history. When her playing career ended, Marian turned her attention to administration, mentoring and coaching. She was elected chairperson of the Cork Board in 2002 and held the post for 14

years. For many, her greatest achievement is arguably the development of Cork's camogie grounds and club house at Castle Road, bringing this impressive development through to fruition. It stands as a fitting legacy to her and her colleagues, something for which camogie shall be indebted to them for many years to come.

Cork camogie author Mary Moran complimented Barrs greats Colette O'Mahony and Gemma O'Connor when she wrote, "At the age of 10 Colette followed the family tradition and joined the Barrs. Hours of practice paid off when she won the Cork Féile na nGael Skills title in 1981. The following year she helped Barrs win the Cork Féile. Colette played a major role in the club's hat-trick of U16 Championships between 1982-84."

"She captained Cork to win the All-Ireland in 1983 and for good measure added a second in 1984. On the inter-county front, Colette enjoyed a great innings winning three All-Ireland Senior Championships, three National Leagues and Inter Provincial senior medals.

"Her greatest hour in Cork colours was in 1993 in Nowlan Park where she punished Kilkenny's indiscipline with a remarkable display of free-taking that yielded 3-5."

Her last remaining sporting ambition was fulfilled on a wet morning at



**Barrs first junior team 1972. Back: Mary Walsh, Marian O'Brien, Josephine Hallihan, Eileen Emery, Ann Landry, Marie O'Sullivan, Frances Walsh. Front: Mary Hallihan, Sandra O'Donovan, Frances Barry Murphy, Mary Kennedy, Barbara Glynn.**



**Barrs County Intermediate Champions 1982. Back: V O'Mahony, M Walsh, C O'Leary, M Henchion, M Christie, M O'Brien, J Clarke, M A Horgan, N O'Brien, S Curtin, Majella Walsh. Front: M Crowley, F Broderick, C Hickey, A Collins, M O'Sullivan, D Duffy, L Cosgrave.**

# and real satisfaction



Senior B Double Champions 1991. Back: V Grainger, A O'Donovan, E Kelleher, N O'Sullivan, N Ní Shuibhne, B Collins, R Sharpe, C O'Donovan, D Clarke. Front: R O'Donovan, C O'Leary, C Barry, S O'Donovan, M O'Regan, T Santry, M O'Sullivan.

áire Uí Rinn in 2006 when a Barrs team, willing to die for the jersey, own-faced Imokilly in the county senior final.

Moran wrote: "The Barrs players worked hard and would not accept defeat. An outpouring of emotion by access-starved Barrs supporters greeted the final whistle. By 2-9 to 0-2, the Barrs had claimed the Science cup. In her 21st season competing in the senior championship Colette embraced her county medal."

"From her arrival at Neenan Park as a nine-year-old, Gemma O'Connor was recognised as a special talent," wrote Mary Moran who continued, "her interest in camogie stemmed from her parents Donal and Geraldine, who encouraged and supported her throughout her career. Gifted with great wristwork, technique and speed, Gemma progressed up the ranks. She was always confident under the high ball, catching and delivering being her speciality. Gemma tackled from every position she occupied."

"She won All-Ireland minor medals in 1999 and 2001. She quickly graduated to the Cork senior team and became a regular over the following 19 years. During a glorious senior county career, Gemma collected nine All-Ireland senior medals, 11 All-Star Awards, Camogie Player of the Year in 2005 and

Players' Player of the Year in 2015."

The Barrs Club has always been important to Gemma. She wore their colours with pride and distinction and the elusive county senior medal won in 2006 is a treasured memento in her massive trophy cabinet. Gemma adorned the game and is undoubtedly one of the country's all-time greats.

### Welcoming Barrs

When former Galway camogie player Claire Spelman was sent to Cork to be stationed at Collins Barracks she didn't know what to expect. At Cadet school, Spelman was always told to familiarise yourself with the local area of your barracks and integrate with the community. She started that process by purchasing the *Evening Echo* and getting to grips with the Cork way of life.

One day she received a call inviting her to join St Finbarr's, the caller on the phone was offering her a home to play camogie and she eagerly accepted. It transpired the woman was Gemma's mother, Geraldine O'Connor.

"So joining the Barrs helped submerge me into Cork life and culture," said Claire.

"That phone call from Gemma's mother impacted majorly on my life because I wouldn't have made the friends I have. I've lifelong friends

from the Barrs and thoroughly enjoyed my nine years with them."

There are many areas that merit focus when dissecting the phenomenal growth of women's sports including football and camogie from the continuously improving coaching, the enormous increase in the popularity of the games reflected by the record attendances, the successes of Cork's inter-county teams in all grades from underage to senior, the Barrs contribution to same and the development of star players through the academies.

Yet, the connective tissue that binds each of those areas is grassroots camogie. This is where it all begins, where girls fall in love with the game and where foundations are put in place. New players are always welcome at the club — underage training is Saturday mornings 12-1pm in the club grounds Toghur.

The golden jubilee celebrations commence on Sunday, May 29 with a fun day and a promise of food, music, and great fun. Proceedings commence at 1pm with an underage blitz. There will be fun and games at 2 pm followed by U13 camogie v Eire Og; 2.30 U16 v Ballygarvan, 2.45 U14 v Glen Rovers; 5pm Adult game; 6 pm Music in Bar.

Saturday October, 22 — Reunion of past players, mentors and committee at the club pavilion.



Marian McCarthy, Chairperson Cork Camogie Board, presenting the junior Championship trophy to Barrs Captain Colette O'Mahony.



Future stars ready for their introduction to the Barrs camogie.



Marian McCarthy of St Finbarr's Cork, being presented with the President's Camogie award by Maolmhuire Tynan (AIB), and Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan during the GAA President's Awards ceremony at Croke Park in 2020.



Barrs team which won the Cork Féile in 1982



Junior County Champions 2005. Back: Veronica Russell, Catherine McCarthy, Ellen Crowley, Ciara Sugrue, Susan O'Connell, Aileen Clarke, Dara Banks, Niamh McKenzie, Susan Kennefick, Lisa Towler, Katie Collins, Rachel O'Regan, Pauline Murphy. Front: Megan Moloney, Niamh Cooke, Claire Harrington, Valerie Hosford, Colette O'Mahony (Capt), Orla O'Sullivan, Mary Collins, Deirdre Clarke, Triona Fitzpatrick, Sinead Hallahan.



Cork's Chloe Sigerson takes on Wexford's Linds Bolger. Pictures: Patrick Browne

## Amy O'Connor's two goals help Cork see off Wexford in opener

**Cork** 2-14  
**Wexford** 1-6

**CAMOGIE**  
Linda Mellerick

IT might have been a scrappy encounter in Enniscorthy on Saturday but Cork took their first points of the Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

Facing into a strong wind for the opening 30 minutes Cork still went in eight points to the good at the break and despite Wexford getting the better of the early second-half exchanges the outcome was never in doubt.

Up to the thirtieth minute Wexford would have been happy with keeping the score at seven points to three in favour of favourites Cork but with the Rebels hitting 1-2 in five minutes the halftime picture looked different.

It was a somewhat strange game. Cork again went the straight vertical inside line format with three outside. Wexford did the same, therefore once again the middle third was congested.

The thought process is that the ball is played into space and the vertical lines sprint to the wings.

With defenders as fast as the attackers, it didn't create opportunities.

Both sides kept a player back. Wexford's Linda Bolger started in place of wing-forward Anais Curran but dropped to centre-back with corner-back Maeve Sinnott the spare player. Laura Treacy again tried to be Cork's floater despite Kate Kirwan obviously sent in to tie her down.

With Katie O'Mahoney marking Kirwan and Kirwan chasing Treacy it was at times, amusing.

With Wexford enjoying the strong wind they needed to take every opportunity but eight wides, a few from scoreable frees, was a disappointing return.

The majority of the Wexford team won the recent Division 2 league title. They produced a committed performance but Cork were in control.

The second half started off heavily bunched around Cork's half-forward line and midfield, making it very difficult for them to get accurate passes flowing. It also snuffed out any threat sub Orla Cronin could make.

Cork created a great opening for a second goal on 43 minutes but despite Amy O'Connor's jersey being pulled in the square, wide ball was signalled.

A quick move involving Katrina Mackey, Emma Murphy and Amy O'Connor saw the latter hit her second goal and Cork were on their way to victory.

**Scorers for Cork:** A O'Connor 2-3 (0-1), C Sigerson 0-4 (0-3), E Murphy 0-4, K Mackey 0-2, I O'Regan 0-1.

**Wexford:** C O'Connor 0-5 (0-5), J Dillon 1-0, A Lacey 0-1.

**CORK:** A Lee, M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane, L Hayes, L Treacy, B McCarthy, K O'Mahoney, A Thompson, I O'Regan, F Keating, E Murphy, A O'Connor, C Sigerson, K Mackey.

**Subs:** O Cronin for I O'Regan (inj 31), K Wall for C Sigerson (40), C O'Sullivan for M Murphy (50), A O'Neill for L Treacy (inj 60), S McCartan for A Thompson (63).

**WEXFORD:** A Mahon, S H Kenny, L O'Leary, M Sinnott, A Cardiff, M Martin, E Walsh, S O'Connor, C O'Connor, A O'Connor, K Kirwan, L Bolger, L Walsh, A Guiney, A Lacey.

**Subs:** J Dillon for L Walsh (h-1), A Curran for A Guiney (h-1), J Quigley for K Kirwan (49).

**Referee:** Gavin Donegan (Dublin).



Cork's Orla Cronin tackles Wexford's Michelle Martin and Anais Curran.



Cork's Katrina Mackey and Wexford's Sarah Harding Kenny in action on Saturday evening. Picture: Patrick Browne

## Lessons learned from win over Wexford ahead of Clare clash

**CAMOGIE**

Linda Mellerick

CORK got their All-Ireland campaign off to a winning start away to Wexford, helped by two Amy O'Connor goals.

Rebel manager Matthew Twomey, while acknowledging that at times the game was scrappy, was complimentary of his players.

"It's never easy to come to Wexford and get a win. I was very happy at half time. Our tackling was excellent. We got 1-5 in the first half from turnovers, which was huge. In the second half, Wexford went defensive and we had to match that and that was difficult, but when you come down here, it was always going to be hard.

"It's my first time in nine years that we've come down here and won, so I'm happy with the win obviously - to get the points on the board. There's a lot to work on, we know that. We'll be disappointed with a few things but when we conceded the goal in the second half we came up and got a goal back which is a good sign of a team.

"It got a bit bunched in the second half in and around the middle. We were trying to create space, but it was clustered, and we were under so much pressure on the ball then trying to give a proper pass and some went astray. That's another thing we'll have to look at."

The crowded area nullified the threat of Orla Cronin who likes to roam freely around the half-forward line.

"It did, we needed space. But we got through it, it was a

good test. As I said, there are a few things now for us to go and work on again."

Cork did manage to prise open the game again and pull away, with some strong performances, most noteworthy young Emma Murphy, who has been given a lot of game time lately and it's starting to paid dividends. "I thought Emma was excellent. She got four points but even the one where she got back, I think the player had 20 yards on her and she got back and flicked the ball away from her.

"And the goal that she off-loaded to Amy O'Connor, that was a great goal because we worked it up the whole way from defence, five or six passes and we split them open, so we'd be very happy with that."

Soreha McCartan also made an appearance if only for a few minutes which was pleasing, it's the first step back for her.

"We've three points on the board and any day you come to Wexford and get that, it's a good day. We've Clare next weekend, they drew with Tipperary.

"So once again they've proven they're a strong team. We'll welcome them to Cork. The game will probably move to Sunday as the ladies' footballers have their Munster final on Saturday, so we'll wait and see."

See inside for more.



Cork manager Matthew Twomey and selector Ger Manley.



Cork's Katrina Mackey battling Wexford's Sarah Harding Kenny.

## LGFA fail to take what's best for dual players into consideration

The definition of *Groundhog day* is 'a situation in which a series of unwelcome or tedious events appear to be recurring in exactly the same way.'

It's the term best used to describe the never-ending debacle involving the clash of games between the camogie and ladies football associations. The senior footballers play their Munster final today in Kerry at 12.15pm. Cork camogie play the second round of their All-Ireland championship in Páirc Uí Rinn at 5pm against Clare.

As it stands, at the time of writing, Libby Coppinger will travel with the footballers and Meabh Cahalane will line out against Clare.

I'm going to lay the blame for this at the feet of the LGFA because that's where it belongs. There was an agreement that the camogie association would fix all their games for Saturdays and the LGFA for Sundays. Straightforward enough.

The Munster board of the LGFA then placed their Munster final for today as a curtain raiser to the men's Munster senior football final. No issue with that, but then you should make every effort to accommodate a solution if one is required and the LGFA have refused to do so, despite Cork and Clare offering to move to accommodate the players.

First, Cork and Clare agreed to switch their championship game to tomorrow, Sunday, but the LGFA said no as Clare and Down are playing in the intermediate championship, and they wouldn't consider bringing that game forward to today. So, both Cork and Clare looked at their schedule and said they were willing to cancel the camogie championship game altogether this weekend and move it to either the weekend of June 11 or 25 when they both have free weekends in their schedule and again that wasn't facilitated as they have other games settled for that weekend.

So, despite the fact that it is the Munster branch of the LGFA that made the switch to Saturday here and the camogie counties involved did their utmost to rectify the situation, they were denied at every suggestion. I've said it before; there is an arrogance at administration level within the LGFA at provincial and national level.



**CAMOGIE**

Linda Mellerick

Cork won their opening round against Wexford last Saturday in Bellefield. I have to say that some counties need to do much better when hosting these games. I arrived 40 minutes before the game, and I got the last programme. At that stage there were very few spectators in the ground.

There were no teams announced before the game and no substitutes announced throughout, of which there were a total of eight. So not only were the majority of spectators without a programme to identify players, but they also had no idea who was coming on or off, unless they were extremely familiar with both panels.

That's really not good enough.

The Cork intermediates travel the same road today to the same venue to play the hosts. With this being their opening fixture, why weren't both games played as a double-header last Saturday? It just seems ridiculous.

Galway got the defence of their senior championship title off to a comfortable start as they centered to a 4-11 to 1-7 victory over Limerick at Pearse Stadium.

Niamh Hanniffy sprinted clear to register Galway's first goal in the 11th minute and Carrie Dolan finished brilliantly with a one-handed strike just before the interval to give the champions a 2-1 to 0-4 lead into the wind. Caoimhe Costelloe's free-taking keeping Limerick in touch.

Limerick had no answer as Hanniffy went through the gears to complete a hat-trick of goals, while Ailish O'Reilly finished with four points. Costelloe's goal from a free brought her tally to 1-5 for Limerick.

Injury-time points from Susan Daly and Chloe Morey free secured a share of the spoils for Clare with Tipperary at the end of a competitive affair at The Ragg, 0-10 each. Clare had defeated Tipp after a replay in the Munster championship and so it was no surprise that this game went to the wire again.



The Cork team who defeated Kerry in the Munster Intermediate camogie final at Pairc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

## Opening round of Intermediates sees Cork on the road to Wexford

All-Ireland Intermediate championship: Cork versus Wexford; May 28; Bellefield, Enniscorthy; 2pm.

The opening round of the Intermediate championship has Trevor Coleman's side on the road to Wexford for an opening round clash with the home side. There are two groups of six teams.

Cork are in group two and will take on Kilkenny and Meath at home before traveling to Derry with the last game in the group against Kildare. It is a tough group but Cork will be expected to advance from it as one of the top two.

Group one has Carlow, Dublin, Kerry, Westmeath and Laois. Cork had an excellent league campaign where after a disappointing start where they lost out to a Wexford side now competing in the senior championship.

After their opening round defeat Cork recorded fine wins over Kildare, Derry, Meath and Galway to advance to the quarter final where they overcame a strong Galway side to book a semi-final spot against the Intermediate All-Ireland champions Antrim.

This was a game Cork should have won. Trailing at one stage by 10 points they battled back and almost snatched a late winner and while disappointed not to have got to the final the experience gained will no doubt stand to the side. Joanne Casey has led their attack superbly all season and she will no doubt be a key player again on Saturday.

Her accuracy from frees is vital to Cork, captain Finola Neville is a hard worker who always gives her all and they

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

also have hugely experienced players in Rachel Harty, Leanne O'Sullivan, Rachel O'Shea, Lauren Callanan, Aisling Moloney and Lauren Homan. They will be determined to get their campaign off to a winning start.

Wexford participated in Division three of the National league where they overcame Clare, Limerick and Down to reach the final where they went in as hot favourites but were hugely disappointed to lose out to a Cavan sides who grabbed a late goal to win.

It was a game Wexford were expected to win but they failed to match the intensity of a Cavan sides that stayed with them through a tough hour.

Siobhan Sinnott, Emma Tomkins, Emma Codd, Katie Gallagher, Aileen Brennan, Maria O'Dowd and Lara O'Shea have been very effective for Alan Brennan's side in the league and he will look to make an impression in the Intermediate grade with this side who were crowned Junior All-Ireland champions last September defeating Armagh.

Recent years have been difficult for Wexford but they are battling back. Three years ago their second adult team went down from Intermediate to junior and following on their junior championship success they have got back up. Their first team is back competing in the senior championship and this is another plus.

Cork have prepared well and are ready for whatever Wexford throw at them but we would expect Cork to have too much strength in depth.



Cork's Kathina Mackey tries to get away from and Wexford's Sarah Harding Kenny. Picture: Patrick Brown

# Jury is still out on Cork team's current tactics



### CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

**TOMORROW: Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Championship second round, Cork V Clare, Páirc Uí Rinn, 5pm**

FOR the second time in two weeks Cork and Clare face off in championship action.

This time it's in the second round of the All-Ireland senior championship group series.

If the Munster final is an indicator of what's to come, then Páirc Uí Rinn is the place to be tomorrow evening.

In the intervening week Cork accounted for Wexford and Clare drew with Tipperary in their respective opening rounds.

I'm not so sure if Cork are getting the best out of the format they've chosen to play.

Typically, they vertically line up where you have a full-forward, a player in front of them and then maybe two players out around the 'D' more or less standing side by side leaving the flanks completely clear.

Funnily enough, Wexford took a similar approach and it was strange to watch a completely congested area between both 45s and two vertical lines running off that, with oceans of space on the inside wings.

Teams are obsessed with creating space. But at this stage it's so flagged that it's not giving the expected, or acceptable, return.

What happened to just trying to get that yard on your marker?

That's creating space. That telepathic understanding between players that gives



Cork's Emma Murphy and Wexford's Louise O'Leary battle for the ball. Picture: Patrick Browne

your team-mate that 60/40 advantage, even 55/45 will do it if the player is up to it.

Aaron Gillane did it to goal twice against Tipperary. Alan Connolly did it last weekend, with just that yard of space, and Galway's Carrie Dolan did it against Cork in their recent league final victory over the Rebels.

All three players just needed a yard and they made it work. Go back to the days when you won your patch.

Defenders are as fast as forwards. The sprint out the wing gives both players an opportunity to gain ground if they've been slow off the mark.

As a forward, you've still a lot to do so far out from goal. Cork have speedy forwards, but I don't feel we're capitalising on that. Their speed should be utilised to get that yard ahead, not a dash to the wings.

It's not all about speed either. Dolan got just that fraction of a step-in front of Libby Coppinger in the final and pushed past her to goal.

I'd suggest that we should be getting the ball in first-time nearer to the goal and not out the wings; there's just too much for players still to do.

I remember Eddie Brennan once saying that he never wanted a ball struck to him out the wing, he wanted it as near to goal as possible. Why, he asked, would you want it as far from the goal as possible?

Cork's two wing-backs, Laura Hayes and Saoirse McCarthy, are very impressive coming forward and a big plus for Cork, no doubt about that. Does that however lend to midfield being bypassed?

Ashling Thompson is too good a player to be bypassed. She tends to drift out of games for long periods.

I'm not saying Cork's current style is the reason for that, but it isn't helping. Why not put Thompson up near goal?

Imagine giving her a ball inside. Would that also give Cork the option of hitting a few high balls in?

She'd brush her marker aside, that's without question; Hannah Looney the same.

I think we need to change things up a bit, it's too predictable and it's markable. There's something in the water in Clare. No one gave them a serious thought last February in hurling or camogie.

Both teams are playing out of their skins. Their big performances have been backed up with even bigger performances.

Cork will be without full-back Coppinger as she lines out with the footballers in the Munster final against Kerry.

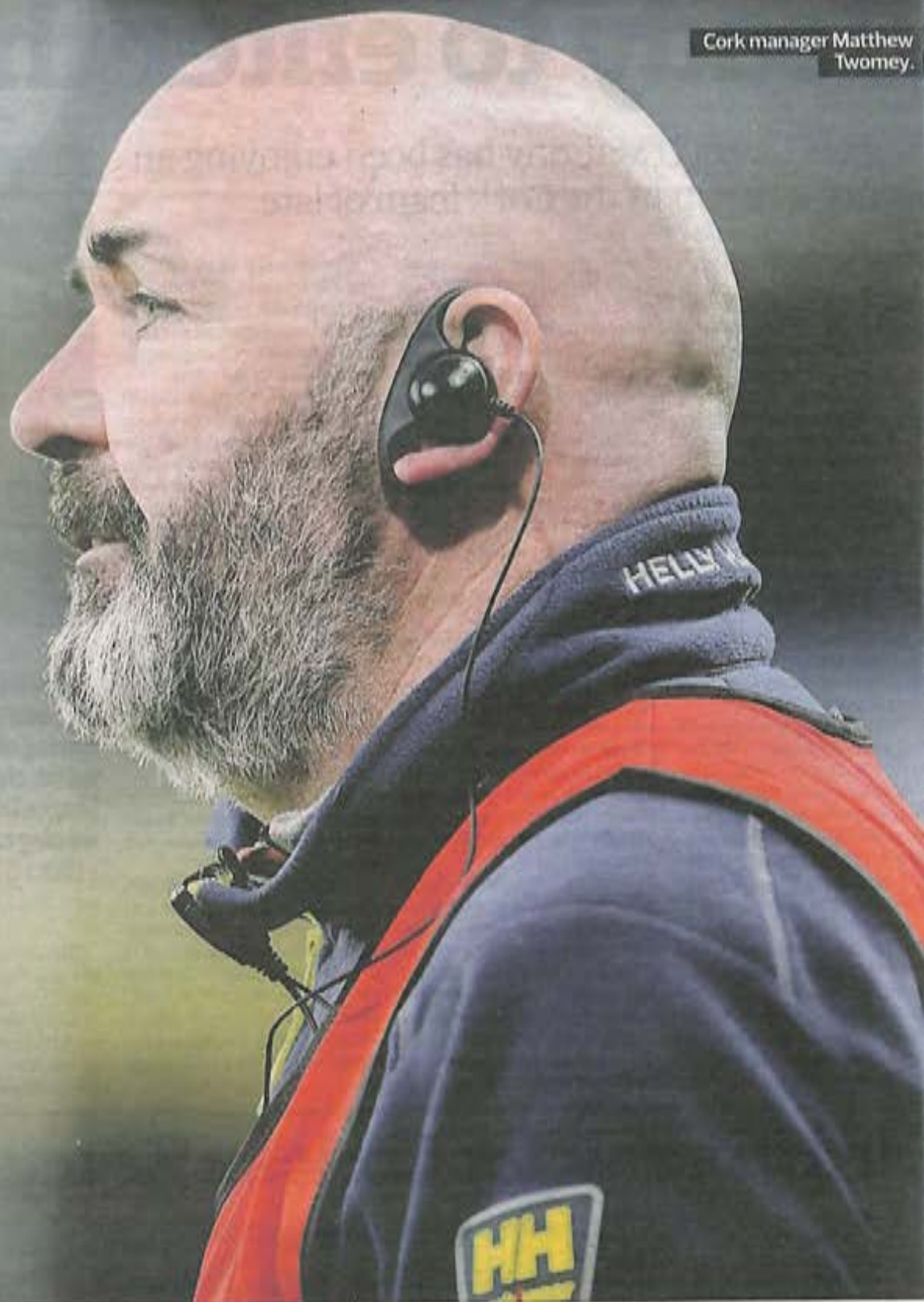
Meabh Cahalane will play against Clare. Without being disrespectful to Clare, but in the past Cork would have been looking to give their extended panel a run for this game.

Not anymore. Cork will be putting out the best they have available for this one.



Cork's Joanne Casey hits a point against Kerry. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

# Twomey expecting 'massive test' from the Banner



BY GER MCCARTHY

CORK will not be underestimating Clare's challenge ahead of this Saturday's Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Camogie senior championship clash at Páirc Uí Rinn.

The two rivals meet for the third time this season following Cork's narrow National League victory in Clare and an unforgettable Munster final.

The Rebels needed two periods of extra-time to see off the Banner 0-24 to 1-18 following a cracking provincial decider on May 15th.

Last weekend's 0-10 to 0-10 draw away to All-Ireland contenders Tipperary further underlined Clare's burgeoning reputation. It is something Cork senior manager Matthew Twomey and his players are not underestimating ahead of a third meeting with their pro-

vincial rivals.

'It is going to be another titanic battle with Clare this weekend,' Matthew Twomey told *The Southern Star*.

'They put us to the pin of our collar and performed brilliantly against Tipperary (in the All-Ireland Championship) last weekend. They are going to come to Cork full of confidence. They probably should have beaten us in normal time the last day.

'So they are going to be confident that they can put it up to us once again. It is going to be another massive test for our players. We will just have to be ready and embrace the challenge.'

Clare's performance away to Tipperary in their group opener reaffirmed Matthew Twomey's high opinion of this weekend's opponents.

There will be little margin

**'It is going to be another titanic battle with Clare this weekend' - Cork manager Matthew Twomey**

for error in Cork's All-Ireland group as evidenced by Tipp and Clare's stalemate as well as Dublin's hard-earned 1-11 to 0-12 defeat of Waterford in Walsh Park.

'We are more focused on ourselves rather than Clare heading into this weekend's match but we are also conscious of the fact it is their sixth week on the trot playing competitive Camogie,' the Cork manager added.

'It is a big ask for the Clare players. A lot of their games have been away from home as well. I would imagine they might have to freshen things up a bit. I watched back their game against Tipperary and they were impressive.

'The ten points each scoreline doesn't do justice to that game. Their hurling was very good and it was a competitive game. We are under no illusions about Clare. We know what we are going to face. It is going to be another battle but we are ready for it.'

Saturday's 5pm throw-in at Páirc Uí Rinn was the original date and time for Cork and Clare's senior Camogie clash. Unfortunately, Cork and Kerry are also playing in a Munster LGFA senior final earlier that same day in Killarney.

That means dual players Meabh Cahalane (Eire Óg) and Libby Coppinger (St Colum's), two thirds of Matthew Twomey's

full-back line, face the prospect of missing out on one of those big matches due to yet another LGFA and Camogie scheduling clash.

On the plus side, Cork came through last weekend's All-Ireland senior championship opener away to Wexford, 2-14 to 1-6, with Sorcha McCartan and Orla Cronin continuing their respective returns from long-term injuries.

Add in Hannah Looney's imminent return from the USA and Matthew Twomey's panel is beginning to take shape ahead of a crucial period.

'Every game we play, Cork are more often than not going to be favourites, so every team is going to put it up to us,' the Cork manager said.

'More than anything else, we have to match the intensity of our opponents if not top it. That was one of the most pleasing

aspects of last weekend's win down in Wexford. We matched them physically and edged the result because of that.

'Panel-wise, Orla Cronin came on (against Wexford), as did Sorcha McCartan. It was great to see Sorcha back because she has had a long injury layoff. Now Hannah Looney is due back this week as well and she is going to make a huge impact.

'What we have found out since the start of the year is that Cork needs a full squad for the coming season. The likes of Emma Murphy and Izzie O'Regan mightn't have been in the picture this time last year but most certainly are now.

'Everyone is chomping at the bit to get into the team. It is positive but we are only after playing one (championship) game and now we must focus on Clare.'





Finola Neville captained Cork against Wexford. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Cork championship campaign begins with easy win over Wexford

Cork 3-15

Wexford 0-7

CORK got their Glen Dimplex Intermediate Camogie Championship campaign off to a good start, as they overcame last season's Junior All-Ireland champions, Wexford, in sun-drenched Enniscorthy. Cork laid the foundations for victory with a solid opening 30 minutes.

Jayley Ryan and Michelle Murphy hit early points and they extended their lead with a Ryan goal inside the opening five minutes.

Joanne Casey added to the tally with a point, as the Cork attack continued to find gaps in the Wexford defence and it was 10 minutes before Wexford opened their account with a Louise Cashe 45 and Cashe added a free to cut the deficit.

The Cork defence was holding a firm grip though and Wexford were finding the going tough.

Casey and Finola Neville added a brace of points, as Cork began to stretch their lead.

Captain Neville was forced to leave the game with a knee injury after 24 minutes, but Murphy got her second score in between a Cashe free and an Emma O'Donnell effort from play.

Cork held a commanding 1-10 to 0-4 lead.

They killed the game as a contest with a Cliona O'Callaghan goal and, dominant in all sectors, the result was never in doubt, as Cork

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

showed their experience in all areas.

In defence, they never allowed Wexford gain a grip and moved the ball quickly to their inside line. With Cork piling on the pressure up front, they continued to pick off scores.

Cliona O'Callaghan, Casey, and Rachel O'Shea all hit points, before O'Shea grabbed Cork's third goal. Casey rounded it off with two frees, conceded by a Wexford side that had no answer to Cork's intensity.

In the other game in the group, Kilkenny had an impressive, 1-22 to 0-11 win over Kildare, while Derry defeated Meath 2-14 to 0-11.

Cork take on Kilkenny next weekend in what is sure to be a tougher test.

Scorers for Cork: J Casey 0-7 (0-3 f), H Ryan 1-2, R O'Shea, C O'Callaghan 1-1 each, M Murphy, F Neville 0-2 each.

Wexford: C Cashe 0-5 (0-4 f, 0-1 45), E Codd, L Firman 0-1 each.

CORK: S Beausang; N O'Leary, K Falvey, A Moloney; J O'Leary, K Kilcommins, L O'Sullivan; L Callanan, R Harty; J Casey, M Murphy, S Hutchinson, F Neville (c), H Ryan, C O'Callaghan.

Subs: R O'Shea for F Neville (inj 24), K Hickey for S Hutchinson (41), L Doyle for K Falvey (47), C Finn for R Harty (51), C O'Leary for A Moloney (54).

WEXFORD: L O'Shea; C Jackman, A Halligan, M O'Dowd; C Donoghue, A Brennan (c), A Dunne; C Cashe, K Tomkins; E Codd, R Cooney, E Tomkins; L Firman, J Morrissey, K Smyth.

Subs: M Fitzgerald for K Tomkins (28), K Gallagher for K Smyth (32), K Roche for C Jackman (41), S Doyle for E Codd (48), S Roche for Firman (48).

Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin).



Cork's Joanne Casey hit seven points against Wexford.

# Cork up their game to win comfortably



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

Cork

2-17

Clare

2-5

THIS game lacked the excitement of the Munster championship clash two weeks ago, as Cork were in control from the outset in their Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship second round tie at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

On a beautiful hot evening, with every opportunity taken to get water into the players, Cork stepped up a gear and created a gap expected of the Rebels. They led 1-8 to 0-4 at half-time and more than doubled that score in the second period, hitting 1-9.

Amy O'Connor, Katrina Mackey, and Orla Cronin were Cork's inside three, roaming throughout, with Chloe Sigerson dropping out to the middle of the park, where she scored three outstanding long-range first-half points.

Emma Murphy and Fiona Keating hung out around the 45. Chloe Morey stayed in a sweeper role for Clare with Laura Treacy doing likewise for Cork. Cork's high fielding was very good and while the scores might not have come quickly, the quality of the ones they did score were from the top drawer.

Cronin and Zi Yan Spillane swapped points inside three minutes. Meabh Cahalane was excellent. Her pinpoint cross-field pass to Sigerson saw the latter score her first, from 65 yards. Chloe Morey levelled it again with a free before four points on the trot gave Cork a four-point lead on 20 minutes. Sigerson, Keating, Hayes and O'Connor all struck over.

With Laura Treacy's excellent positioning and breaking out with the ball, Laura Hayes influential up the left flank and Cork working hard all over, Clare weren't getting a return; their rushed shots at times falling short into Amy Lee's hands.

Cork's goal on 31 minutes pushed the game beyond Clare even though there was another half to go. With Cork showing their best, an excellent move up the field came to Katrina Mackey who drove a powerful shot towards goal. It was bril-



Cork's Fiona Keating and Niamh O'Dea of Clare in action on Saturday evening.

Picture: INPHO/Jim Coughlan

liantly saved by Doireann Murphy but equally the rebound was well finished by O'Connor.

The deal was sealed with the second-half throw-in. Sigerson to Mackey and another brilliant finish to the net by who else but O'Connor. Sigerson added another long beauty as the gap widened to 11. Clare dropped further balls into Lee's comfortable hands in the early stages. Two more wides and things weren't going well for the visitors.

By the 42nd minute, Cork led 2-11 to 0-4, 2-10 coming from play. Ray Kelly refereed the game sensibly, playing the advantage rule. Still, the game had a number of small stoppages.

On 45 minutes an unnecessary free conceded by Cork was struck by Lorna McNamara. Her low drive went straight to the net after Lee's attempted catch slipped from her hand. She more than made up for it on 56 minutes with a brilliant save. Saoirse McCarthy getting a great point from the clearance.

Mackey hit another rasper off the post with 12 minutes remaining.

With a number of stoppages, the game

became lacklustre, but Cork won't mind. It was a far better performance than that of two weeks ago. Seven players made the scoresheet with 2-14 from play, some lovely striking and some good passages of play. With Clare and Tipp drawing last weekend and Dublin and Tipp drawing today, it makes Cork's journey out of the group easier.

They are away to Dublin next weekend and after a week's break they will travel to Waterford while a final game at home to Tipp completes their campaign.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor 2-5 (0-2 f), C Sigerson 0-4, O Cronin, S McCarthy 0-2 each, L Hayes 0-2 (0-1 f), F Keating, K Mackey, 0-1 each.

Clare: L McNamara 1-2 (1-1 f), C Carmody 1-0, E Kelly, Zi Yan, C Morey (f) 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, A Egan, M Cahalane; L Hayes, L Tracey, S McCarthy; K O'Mahoney, A Thompson; O Cronin, F Keating, E Murphy; A O'Connor, C Sigerson, K Mackey.

Subs: C O'Sullivan for E Murphy (36), S McCartan for C Sigerson (47), K Wall for O Cronin (54), E Flanagan for A Egan (59), A Hurley for K Mackey (59).

CLARE: D Murphy; C Grogan, C Hehir, C Kelly; A Keane, C Morey, A Ryan; M O'Dea, C Carmody; L Daly, L McNamara, O Duggan; M Scanlan, E Kelly, Zi Yan Spillane.

Sub: S Daly for M Scanlan (11).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Cork coach Davy Fitzgerald speaking with the squad prior to the game.

Picture: INPHO/Jim Coughlan

# Devane is there when it matters most once again

## Camogie

Not for the first time in her storied career, Cáit Devane came up trumps for Tipperary, striking her seventh point from frees in the sixth minute of injury-time to rescue a 0-10 to 0-10 draw against Dublin in the second round of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship at Parnell Park.

It is the second draw in as many weeks for Bill Mullaney's charges and they remain behind the Dubs in Group 1, Adrian O'Sullivan's crew having gotten off to a winning start. The Munster women showed tremendous character to claim a share of the spoils, after playing catch-up for most of proceedings and losing key operator Róisín Howard to a red card at the three-quarter mark.

The dream duo of Aislings, Maher and O'Neill, shared four points, while the ultra-consistent Jody Couch split the posts too to establish a two-point advantage at the end of regulation time, all the Dubs' scores coming from play.

Devane, who had opened the scoring, provided Tipp's three points from placed balls but the Premier finished strongly, Grace O'Brien slotting their first point from play and Claire Hogan following up immediately to bring the sides level.

Dublin were one up when Howard received her marching orders and further scores from Maher (free) and Ali Twomey looked significant. Tipp knuckled down though, with frees from Devane to bookend a point from sub Niamh Treacy. Niamh Gannon looked to have snatched it for the hosts but there was still time for Devane to have the final say.

Cork went top of the group when accounting for Clare 2-17 to 2-5 at Páirc Uí Rinn. The Rebels had been pushed to extra-time by the Bannerwomen in the Munster final recently but after the opening exchanges were evenly matched, with the teams level twice, Matthew Twomey's troops gradually moved through the gears to take the verdict easily.

Waterford breathed new life into their aspirations thanks to their best championship performance in some time as they blitzed Wexford by 3-18 to 0-9 at Walsh Park.

The victory was founded on a tumultuous start against a team that had beaten them in the Division 2 league semi-final earlier in the year. Goals inside the first seven minutes from Orla Hickey and captain Lorraine Bray enabled them to establish a 2-9 to 0-6 half-time advantage, Abby Flynn, Bray, Mairéad O'Brien and



Cáit Devane kept her cool

Beth Carton striking some lovely points also.

In Group 2, a pulsating Ulster derby between Down and Antrim ended all square, thanks to a 58th-minute point from Niamh Mallon that made it 1-12 each at Ballycran. This was the first senior championship meeting between the old rivals in 40 years and it swung wildly in the closing stages, as Mallon's leveller arrived just a couple of minutes after Caoimhe Wright's excellent individual goal for Antrim.

Elsewhere, All-Ireland and league champions Galway made it two out of two when accounting for Offaly at St Brendan's Park, 2-12 to 1-6.

It was far from plain sailing for Cathal Murray's unit though, particularly in the first half, when they struggled desperately to break the home team down and could be grateful to teenager Sabina Rabbitt's goal for a 1-4 to 0-3 lead, Mairéad Teehan hitting the target from frees for Offaly.

Just like last week, the Tribeswomen found a little more fluidity after the resumption and another player that has broken through this term, Aine Keane, raised a second green flag three minutes in. Teehan shook the Galway net in reply but Keane, Carrie Dolan, Niamh Hanniffy and Rebecca Hennelly kept the scoreboard ticking over for the Maroons.

Limerick were not afforded a gentle introduction to their campaign having started with Galway and while they were competitive in the first half of that tie, they found Kilkenny far too tough a nut to crack altogether at UPMC Nowlan Park, where the Stripec women prevailed by 1-21 to 0-6.

Kilkenny swept into a 0-5 to 0-1 lead early on and the scoreboard read 1-11 to 0-1 at the change of ends.

The gap hit 18 points before Costelloe despatched three frees over the bar but hard though Limerick tried, it was comfortable for Kilkenny, who are one of just three teams, along with Galway and Cork, boasting a 100 per cent record after two rounds of action.

quarter goals from Lorna McNamara and Clare Hehir but there were still 12 points between the sides at the final whistle.

"We took control of the game from the start," said Twomey on RedFM's Big Red Bench. "To be fair to Clare, they have been out nearly five weeks on the bounce now and you could see after about 15 minutes that they were starting to get a bit leggy."

"Overall, I would have to be very, very happy with our performance."

"Number one, for me, is the progression that we have made but that result and three more points on the board means we are top of the group. That's where we want to be."

Dublin are on Cork's coat-tails but were denied full

points by a late Cáit Devane point from a free, her seventh of the day, at Parnell Park to make it 0-10 apiece.

Tipp were down to 14 at this stage too, following the dismissal at the three-quarter mark of the hugely influential Róisín Howard but a Devane pair of points either side of a Niamh Treacy score brought them level.

Niamh Gannon looked to have snatched the win for Dublin but Devane made it a second draw in a week for Bill Mullaney's charges.

"It was one hell of a championship match," said Dublin boss, Adrian O'Sullivan on DubsTV. "Tipp are a serious outfit. They've been in the All-Ireland semi-final the last four years in a row so we knew it would be a huge challenge



Cork's Aisling Thompson gets away from Clare's Susan Daly during their Munster All-Ireland championship game. Picture: INPHO/Jim Coughlan

## Clinical Cork 'up their performance' to ease past a tired Clare

A FORTNIGHT ago, Cork and Clare took 90 minutes to be separated in a pulsating Munster final.

In the All-Ireland series on Saturday evening, the game was done and dusted by half-time, the Rebels going on to win 2-17 to 2-5, following on from their victory over Wexford.

"I think we were more clued in," said manager Matthew Twomey, "we were more prepared on what they were going to bring to us and, to be fair to Clare, this is their fifth or sixth week on the bounce."

"They looked very tired out there, so we have to take that into consideration as well, but we definitely upped our performance. It was more precise and clinical, what we wanted from them, so we're happy with our side of things."

The team's work-rate was very good, with the style of play evolving.

"Yeah, that's the whole key. We're just trying to use our strengths, which is pace, and there's a high level of skill there at the moment, so we're trying to use that and utilise players in the right positions for that. Sometimes they didn't work and sometimes we went short with passes, but you don't expect a perfect performance."

"The main thing was to come out of here with a win and we got that, and we played OK, so happy enough with a lot of it, but not all of it."

## CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

The move that led to Cork's first goal for Amy O'Connor was top class.

"It was great, yeah, it's something we're trying to work on as well. The movement was brilliant, and I think the initial shot, their 'keeper made a great save and Amy followed it up — she's a poacher — and we got the goal. I think we deserved it, but as you say, if the original shot had gone in it would have been a cracker."

The goal just after halftime put the game to bed and there was no way back for Clare. Cork did concede two goals, with Amy Lee disappointed with her role in one of them.

"The two goals were very poor. As you say, Amy had a mistake inside and we didn't track back for the second goal, which was extremely disappointing. We spoke to the players involved already and they admitted their fault, but a game, if it was tighter, you're giving momentum to the other team... it is a concern, because we're working so hard to get a score and two goals so cheaply was very disappointing."

Two wins from two and a trip to Dublin next week.

"The objective is to get to the semi-final, but putting up a performance against Dublin is all we're focusing on."



Cork camogie manager Matthew Twomey. Picture: INPHO/Jim Coughlan

## Twomey happy as Cork victory moves them top

### Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Cork manager, Matthew Twomey is pleased with the way his squad is progressing this year under his stewardship and that was very much in evidence as they moved to the top of Group 1 of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship with a 2-17 to 2-5 triumph over Clare at Páirc Uí Rinn Saturday night.

It was a repeat of the Munster final clash that went to extra time just a fortnight previously but the verdict of this tussle was never in doubt, as Amy O'Connor kept her stunning goal ratio up with a brace.

Clare battled hard and were rewarded with two final-



Cork manager Matthew Twomey gives instruction during the weekend win over Clare at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Inpho

match coming in.

"We went 10-9 up in injury time and I thought we should have held on. They had a player sent off. There's no doubt we had our chances but once the disappointment goes away and we settle down later on, if you'd offered me four points from the first two games, I'd have snapped your hand off as our group is really difficult."

Lorraine Bray produced a real captain's performance with 2-2 to propel Waterford to a stunning 3-18 to 0-9 victory over Wexford in the south-east

derby at Walsh Park.

In Group 2, Galway and Kilkenny kept their 100% records, with the All-Ireland champions defeating Offaly by 2-12 to 1-6 at St Brendan's Park and the Cats proving far too strong for Limerick, 1-21 to 0-6 at UPMC Nowlan Park.

Antrim remain unbeaten too after the first Ulster derby at senior championship level in 40 years ended in a 1-12 to 1-12 draw at Ballycran, the brilliant Niamh Mallon bringing her tally to 1-9, 1-5 from play, with a 58th-minute point for Down.

# Lea leads the way in high-scoring Berrings' win

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Berrings NS	7-9
Dungourney	0-1



Berrings' Lea Meillouin looks for an opening as Dungourney's Myah Horgan and Aine Collins close in during their Sciath na Scol final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture: Jim Coughlan

BERRINGS were too strong for a gallant Dungourney side as they claimed the Allianz DC3 camogie title with a comfortable win at Páirc Uí Rinn.

A blistering start for Berrings saw them 2-2 up after three minutes. Lea Meillouin opened the scoring with a point in the first minute, followed by a Mary Ellen Logue goal and 1-1 from the impressive Ellie Whelton.

Dungourney worked really hard with Annie Kelleher superb in defence, Anna Herlihy was a threat up top, and keeper Lucy O'Brien made some superb saves.

However, Berrings continued to battle hard and were rewarded with two more goals before half-time. Meillouin added to her tally while Julie Brislane chipped in with a goal to make it 4-2 to no score at the break.

Both sides battled hard in the opening 10 minutes of the second half before stand-out player Meillouin hit a long-range point for Berrings. Dungourney got their only score when Abby Keane struck over a beautiful well-worked point. However Berrings upped their game again and finished strong with scores from Meillouin (1-6) and Whelton



Ellie Whelton and Ide Desmond, Berrings with their trophies after the win over Dungourney. Picture: Jim Coughlan

(2-1). Credit to Dungourney, who battled right until the end, but well done to Berrings.

**Scorers for Berrings:** L Meillouin 2-7, E Whelton 3-2, J Brislane and Mary Ellen Logue 1-0 each.

**Dungourney:** A Keane 0-1.

**Berrings:** Ruby Costello, Clara Murphy, Cliona O'Driscoll, Aileen Lyons, Emer Hennessy, Róisín Seignott, Marie Murphy, Clara Doyle, Caoilinn Donnellan, Lea Meillouin, Mary Ellen Logue, Ellie Whelton, Ide Desmond, Eileen

O'Connell, Isabelle O'Regan, Julie Brislane, Robyn Malone, Kitty O'Mahony, Kate Whelton, Lara Daly, Saoirse Desmond, Rachel Maher, Avah McSweeney  
**Dungourney:** Lucy O'Brien, Sophia O'Flynn, Myah Horgan, Holly Hegarty, Niamh McGrath, Niamh Dooney, Aine Collins, Abby Keane, Annie Kelleher, Anna Cronin, Viktoria Urbanak, Hannah Casey, Willow Collum, Anna Herlihy, Ava O'Callaghan, Holly Finnegan, Livia McCarthy, Eimear McCarthy, Maria Szymanska-Jazny, Ciara Corfield.  
**Referee:** S Scanlon



Riverstown celebrate their win over GS Uí Riordáin in their Sciath na Scol win at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

# Riverstown claim spoils

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Riverstown NS	1-3
GS Uí Riordáin	0-5

A BETTER overall superb team performance, saw Riverstown NS claim the Allianz DC1 camogie title with the narrowest of victories over Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin on Monday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

The sides were level at the break thanks to three points from stand-out player Ella Ni Shuilleabhain for Gaelscoil Uí Riordáin while Lucia O'Leary was the goalscorer for Riverstown.

Riverstown started the second half the brighter and took the lead through an excellent point from Emma Walsh.

Sile Óg Breathnach got the equaliser when she pointed to make it 1-1 to 0-4.

This was followed with a superb strike over the bar from Ni Shuilleabhain.

However, a point a piece from Meabh Bracken and Emma Walsh put Riverstown in the lead, 1-3 to 0-5.

It was an exciting final few minutes with both teams battling very hard and playing some excellent hurling.

Aisling Ryan had a superb strike on goal but was denied by an excellent save from Heather Nic Cormaic while at the other end Óg Breathnach



Niamh Quirke and Orna Higgins, Riverstown, lift the trophies after their win over GS Uí Riordáin. Picture: Jim Coughlan

had a great opportunity to equalise but her shot from a 45 went inches wide.

Riverstown hung on to secure a hard fought win.

**Scorers for Riverstown:** L O'Leary 1-0, E Walsh 0-2, M Bracken 0-1.  
**GS Uí Riordáin:** E Ni Shuilleabhain 0-4, S Óg Breathnach 0-1.

**RIVERSTOWN:** Aisling Ryan, Mikayla Allen, Aisling Power, Jane Twohig, Aisling Sreenan, Niamh Quirke, Ella Walsh, Sophie Duggan, Aoife Hanley, Mary Ellen Lynch, Orna Higgins, Emma Walsh, Julianna Tobin, Meabh Bracken, Lucia O'Leary, Sophie Donnaciffe, Aisla Canty, Kate O'Donovan, Anna O'Halloran, Jennifer Buckley, Sarah Murphy, Niamh Fennessy, Lia Murphy, Emily Crowley, Ali Brennan, Aisling Lynch, Aisling Tierney, Ava Ryan, Ciara Kelly, Ciara

Cronin, Clara O'Mahony, Ellie Cogan, Gemma Kirwan, Olivia Nyhan, Orlaith Mohaity, Rebecca Cotter, Sophie Browne.

**GS UÍ RIORDÁIN:** Muireann Ni Ghollin, Emma Ni Chonail, Kate Ni hAnragain, Róisín Nic an Bhaird, Eilisa Ni Neill, Laura Ni Mhuineachain, Sarah Ni Mhathuna, Maeve Ni Bhuachalla, Bláithín Ni Chondubh, Ros Ni Loinsigh, Sile Óg Breathnach, Ella Ni Shuilleabhain, Amy Ni Cholleán, Heather Nic Cormaic, Clare Ni Mhuiri, Bláithnaid Ni Leanaichain, Alana NicÉochaidh, Lily Ni Múigin, Saoirse Ni Fhionn, Isabel Ni Mhurchu, Brooke Ni Chaoimh, Emma Ni Cheallachair, Holly Ni Lualigh, Makayla Ni hAonasa, Emma Ni Bhrian, Cloda Ni Luing, Saoirse Ni Chonnactain, Aisling Ni Cheallachair, Edel Ni Mhuineachain, Laragh Ni Dhomhnaill.

**Referee:** C O Mhurchu (Carrigtwohill)

# Scoil Bhríde hold off Rushbrooke in feast of goals

Scoil Bhríde Midleton 5-5
Rushbrooke 5-2

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

AFTER a thrilling game, Scoil Bhríde, Midleton claimed the Allianz Urban C1 camogie title with a win over an excellent Rushbrooke side at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

There was very little between the sides in the first half, but Scoil Bhríde were more clinical and their goals gave them a 3-0 to 0-1 lead at the break.

Standout player and Rushbrooke captain Isabelle O'Connell opened the scoring with a superb point in the first minute. Both teams battled hard with O'Connell, Aoibheann Anderson, Chloe O'Donovan, and Emily O'Connell impressing for the Cobh school, while Róisín Meaney, Eve Murphy and Siun Kelly excelled for Midleton.

Two goals from Kelly and a goal from Anna Griffin gave Midleton the lead at the break.

An excellent and exciting second half saw Rushbrooke's Isabelle Geary open the scoring when she blasted to the back of the net. This was soon followed by another goal from Geary before Kerrie Morey fired over two Midleton points.

Rushbrooke dominated for the next few minutes with Isabelle O'Connell grabbing 1-1, but scores from Midleton's Orlaith Corby and Kelly closed the gap again.

Morey added another goal to make it 4-4 to 3-2 and with another 1-1 coming from Kelly, Midleton pulled away before

goals from Isabelle O'Connell and Anderson made for an exciting finish, with Emily O'Connell producing an excellent save for Rushbrooke, but time ran out for the Cobh school.

Well done to both teams on an excellent game of camogie.

**Scorers for Scoil Bhríde Midleton:** S Kelly 3-2, K Morey 1-2, A Griffin 1-0, O Corby 0-1.

**Rushbrooke:** I O'Connell 2-2, I Geary 2-0, A Anderson 1-0.

**SCOIL BHRÍDE:** Jamie O'Donovan Healy, Anna Griffin, Kerrie Morey, Orlaith Corby, Emilia Misico, Jennifer Walsh, Emily O'Sullivan, Róisín Meaney, Molly McGrath, Orlaith O'Neill, Ava Boyle, Eve Murphy, Margaret Spelman, Siun Kelly, Edel Dineen, Layla O'Shea.

**RUSHBROOKE:** Chloe O'Donovan, Isabelle O'Connell, Aoibheann Anderson, Leah Keenan, Ella Doherty, Fialyn Hastings, Ava O'Flynn, Faye Dunne, Annabelle Shek, Minal Van Wijen, Emily O'Connell, Sophie O'Neill, Jessica O'Neill, Chloe Farrell, Isabelle Geary, Grace Doran, Alannah Fox.

**Referee:** H Ormond.



Elisa Ni Neill, GS Uí Riordáin gets away from Riverstown's Ella Walsh.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



The Scoil Bhríde Midleton team which defeated Rushbrooke in their Sciath na Scol final. Picture: Larry Cummins



Rushbrooke player Isabelle O'Connell had a great game for her school in the final. Picture: Larry Cummins

# Brooke and Frida help Duglaise to excellent victory



The Gaelcoil na Duglaise team beat Castlelyons in their G3 final at the Allianz Sciath na Scol final at Páirc Uí Rinn. Picture Dan Linehan



Maggie Nic Seoin and Frida Ni Mhuiri captain of Gaelcoil na Duglaise raise the cup after their win over Castlelyons. Picture Dan Linehan

**GS Na Duglaise** 2-3  
**Castlelyons** 0-0

**GAEILSCOIL NA DUGLAISE**, in particular Brooke Ni Allurain and Frida Ni Mhurchu, proved too strong and too good for Castlelyons as they claimed the Allianz C3 camogie title at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

It was a low-scoring first half which ended 0-3 to no score in favour of GS Na Duglaise.

Brooke Ni Allurain, Roisin Ni Mhaolruanaidh and captain Frida Ni Mhurchu dominated for Douglas, while Emer Hallihan and Lisa Hosford worked very hard for Castlelyons.

Ni Mhurchu opened the scoring as she pointed from a free. They had a chance to widen the gap when Clar Halligan struck towards goal, but a great save from Castlelyons keeper Lisa Hosford denied her on this occasion.

For the remainder of this half, the Douglas school were on top with Ni Allurain the standout player and scoring two points to give her side the advantage at the break.

The second half was a much tighter contest with both teams battling hard. However, again Ni Allurain and Ni Mhurchu, also a talented soccer player, proved too strong for their opponents.

## SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Their physicality, quick feet and natural talent proved to be the difference between the sides and both scored a goal apiece which helped their team to a well-deserved victory.

**Scorers for GS Na Duglaise:** B Ni Allurain 1-2, F Ni Mhurchu 1-1.

**GS NA DUGLAISE:** Maggie Nic Seoin, Una Nic Dhoartaigh, Georgia Eilen Ni Eidin Ni Loochlainn, Katelyn Ni Cholleain, Emma Ni Bhuachalla, Shonogh Ni Shuilleabhain, Lucy Ni Mhurchu, Caoilinn Ni Chonchuir, Brooke Ni Allurain, Frida Ni Mhurchu, Roisin Ni Mhaolruanaidh, Clar Halligan, Mona Ni Chumhain, Emily Ni Bhroin, Daisy Ni Haicéad, Aoife Nic Einri, Annie Mac an Deaigh, Eileen Ni Carthaigh, Emma Ni Dheasnuasaigh, Willow Ni Loire Ni Leannachtain, Isabelle Ni Mhurchu, Michaela Ni Fhoitinn Ni Fheargail, Hannah Larsson, Lily Ni Mhathuna, Freya Ni Riagain, Niamh Nic Carthaigh, Isabelle Ni Bhaolghit, Mollie Ni Dhonnabhain, Cara Ni Laoire, Ailbhe Ni Mhaolain, Searlaid Ni Shuilleabhain, Ella Ni Thuama, Eva de Bulteir, Julie Ni Bhroin, Amelie Sotriu, Alice Ni Dhuil, Emily Uilmit.

**CASTLELYONS:** Lisa Holland, Eve O'Doherty, Emily Hussey, Sofia Boyd, Clara Hickey, Evie Stack, Emer Hallihan, Lily O'Callaghan, Aisling Cotter, Jasmine McCarthy, Grace Shanahan-Hurley, Natasha Leetch, Ailannah McCarthy, Rachel Blake, Jane Voring, Isabelle O'Mahony, Ella Burke, Aoibhe McAuliffe.

Referee: D Horgan.



Zara Dioluín and Mia Ni Cholleáin of Gaelcoil Carrig Uí Leighin surrounded by Scoil Bhalenora players in their C2 final. Picture Dan Linehan

## Ciara's goal sets Carrig Uí Leighin on their way

### SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

**Carrig Uí Leighin** 3-4  
**Scoil Bhalenora** 0-2

GS Carrig Uí Leighin were too strong for a gallant Ballinora side as they claimed the Allianz C2 camogie title on Tuesday at Páirc Uí Rinn.

GS Carrig Uí Leighin got off to a great start when Ciara Ni Ghealbhair hit the back of the net.

She almost doubled her lead but was denied by an excellent save from Maggie O'Keefe.

It wasn't long before they added to their tally when Lena Ni Fhiach struck to the back of the net.

This was followed by a point a piece from Ruby Ni Aris and Ni Fhiach.

Stand-out player and captain Eibhlín Ni Mhathairbhui was causing a lot of problems for Ballinora.

However, Ballinora battled hard and deservedly scored when Mary Kate O'Connell kicked over a lovely point to make it 2-2 to 0-1 at the break.

The second half was a much closer contest.

Ni Mhathairbhui scored a superb point to widen the gap and at the other end Ballinora were denied two goal-scoring opportunities when both of Isobel House-Brophy's shots were excellently blocked by Lucy de Prut and Chloe Ni Chreimin.

The score of the game came midway through the half when the impressive Ni Mhathairbhui went on a superb run before she hit the ball at pace across the box for Ni Ghealbhair to tap into the net.

She then added a point a minute later to make it 3-4 to 0-1.



Gaelcoil Carrig Uí Leighin supporting cheer on their team. Picture: Dan Linehan

House-Brophy added a point for Ballinora, however time ran out and Carrigine celebrated with their huge fantastic support.

**Scorers for GS Carrig Uí Leighin:** C Ni Ghealbhair 2-0, L Ni Fhiach 1-1, E Ni Mhathairbhui 0-2, R Ni Aris 0-1.

**Scoil Bhalenora:** M K O'Connell and House Brophy 0-1 each.

**GS CARRIG UÍ LEIGHIN:** Chloe Ni Chreimin, Sophia Ni Mhurchu, Fiona Ni Cheallachain, Mia Ni Cholleain, Belle Ni Giollaichoda, Zara Dioluín, Lucy de Prut, Eibhlín Ni Mhathairbhui, Ruby Ni Aris, Emily de hOchtun, Lena Ni Fhiach, Ori Ni Ni Mhurchu, Ruth McGrath, Ciara Ni Ghealbhair, Freya Ni Bhriain, Siun Ni Mhuirghéasa, Grace Middleton, Zoe Ni Shuilleabhain, Doireann Breathnach, Zoe Ni Mhurchu, Jessica Ni Chonail, Una Ni Eachtigheirn, Rebecca Ni Fhiachra, Lauren Ni Mhurchu, Edel Ni Dhúinín, Fae Ni Mhuircheartaigh, Fiona Ni Mhuircheartaigh, Amy Ni Mhurchadha, Siun Nic Connara, Aoibhinn Ni Mhurchu, Molly Ni Shearraig, Emily NicGiollarnath, Kacie Ni Dhriacoill, Cara Ni Fheargail.

**SCOIL BHAILENORA:** Maggie O'Keefe, Cliona Ahern, Caoimhe O'Flynn, Ciara Guiney, Katie Lyons, Sheola Brid Lane, Clara McGrath, Grace Keohane, Eabha O'Flynn, Mary Kate O'Connell, Isobel House-Brophy, Muireann O'Mahony, Aoife Werner, Riona Ni Chaomh, Lily Noonan, Aine Falvey, Edie Murray, Elena Murphy O'Connor, Juliet Dineen, Emily O'Sullivan, Rachel O'Donovan.

Referee: L McCarthy (Scoil Chriost Rí)



Frida Ni Mhuiri, Gaelcoil na Duglaise breaking past Emily Hussey, Castlelyons. Picture Dan Linehan



The Castlelyons girls line up for their Sciath na Scol final against Gaelcoil na Duglaise. Picture Dan Linehan



Eibhlín Ni Mhathairbhui, Gaelcoil Carrig Uí Leighin breaking past Eabha O'Flynn, Scoil Bhalenora. Picture: Dan Linehan

# Foley shines for Ballinspittle but Minane Bridge win out

## SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

**Minane Bridge** 2-3  
**Ballinspittle** 0-2

MINANE BRIDGE, inspired by a great team performance, claimed the Allianz DC5 camogie title with a win over Ballinspittle at Páirc Uí Rinn on Wednesday.

It was a low-scoring first half but with some excellent play from both teams.

Stand-out player Ballinspittle's Caoimhe Foley opened the scoring with a well-taken point and followed up with another after showing great footwork to skip past her marker.

Ballinspittle's Saoirse O'Mahony had a good shot on goal but was denied by an excellent block from Minane Bridge's Rebecca Scollard.

Both teams battled hard with Foley, Aoife Napier, Libby Hegarty, and Cathy Walsh impressive for Ballinspittle while Saoirse Tagney, Faye Osborn, and Aoife Mulcahy excelled for Minane Bridge.

Minane Bridge took the lead close to half-time when a long-range effort from Ruby Walsh hit the back of the net to make it 1-0 to 0-2.

Early in the second half Osborn's shot hit the back of the net from over 60 yards for Minane Bridge's second goal.

This was followed by two excellent points from Walsh to widen the gap to two goals.

Most of Minane's attacks began with the impressive Mulcahy, while at the other end Foley had a superb shot on goal but her shot was excellently blocked.

A quick break up the pitch saw Walsh point again.

Ballinspittle piled on the pressure but excellent defending and superb goalkeeping from Aisling Lynch kept Ballinspittle at bay.

Scorers for Minane Bridge: R Walsh 1-3, F Osborn 1-0.

Ballinspittle: C Foley 0-2.

**MINANE BRIDGE:** Aisling Lynch, Millie Ashcroft, Faye Osborn, Rebecca Scollard, Aoife Mulcahy, Amy O'Mahony, Kim Lynch, Saoirse Tagney, Ruby Walsh, Rebecca Hanlon, Sophie Kearns, Elizabeth Lombard, Lauren Hanlon, Ava Staunton, Caoimhe Dempsey, Millie Jeffers, Aoibhe Walsh, Tayla Donaghy, Aoibheann Jordan, Sally Ward, Phoebe Hanlon, Zoe O'Brien, Hannah Lombard, Faye Pierce, Michaela Foran, Katie Griffin, Michaela Parsons.

**BALLINSPITTLE:** Saoirse O'Mahony, Roisin Merwick, Cathy Walsh, Aoife Napier, Megan Galvin, Niamh Griffin, Libby Hegarty, Carolyn O'Leary, Kelly Hannon, Ava Hurley, Caoimhe Foley, Lily Murray, Anna Hegarty, Emma O'Leary, Lauren Hurley, Sarah Barry, Sinead Healy.

Referee: H Ormond



The Minane Bridge team captain Rebecca Scollard and team celebrate after their win over Ballinspittle in the DC5 final at the Sciath na Scol final at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Minane Bridge NS team captain Rebecca Scollard and vice captain Ruby Walsh.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Saoirse Tagney, Minane Bridge NS gets his shot away.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Mullins, William Buckley, Megan, Martin, Oliver McAdoo and Megan McCarthy-O'Donovan, representing St Estown, and the Cork minor camogie team, winners of the March and April Rebel Óg awards.

# Twomey's delighted with Cork progress

BY DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

CORK manager Matthew Twomey is pleased with the way his squad is progressing this year under his stewardship and that was very much in evidence as they moved to the top of Group 1 of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship with a 2-17 to 2-5 triumph over Clare.



Cork boss Matthew Twomey.

It was a repeat of the Munster final clash that went to extra time just a fortnight previously but the verdict of this tussle was never in doubt.

'We took control of the game from the start,' said Twomey on Red FM's Big Red Bench.

'To be fair to Clare, they have been out nearly five weeks on the bounce now (having also had a replay with Tipperary in the Munster semi-final) and you could see after about 15 minutes that they were starting to get a bit leggy.'

It was 1-8 to 0-4 at half-time. Then, at the start of the second half, we got another goal and the game was as good as gone. We played very well in patches but left a good number of scores behind us too. Overall, I would have to be very, very happy with our performance.

'Number one, for me, is the progression that we have made but that result and three more points on the board means we are top of the group. That's where we want to be.'

Dublin - next up for the Rebels - are on Cork's coattails but were denied full points by a late Cáit Devane free at Parnell Park in their 0-10 apiece draw against Tipperary last weekend.

'If you'd offered me four points from the first two games, I'd have snapped your hand off as our group is really difficult. That leaves us in a pretty strong position going into next week (against Cork),' said Dublin boss Adrian O'Sullivan ahead of Rebels' trip to the capital.



# CORK IN CRUISE CONTROL

## Rebels' sizzle to lower the Banner and boost championship hopes

CORK	2-17
CLARE	2-5

### NOEL HORGAN REPORTS

CORK shone under the summer sun with a compelling performance at Páirc Uí Rinn in the Glen-Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship last Saturday.

It enabled the Rebels to romp to victory over a Clare side that had pushed them all the way in an enthralling Munster final recently when Cork needed extra-time to shade the issue.

Cork, making it two Group 1 wins in two games, effectively wrapped things up under a minute into the second half this time after moving 2-8 to 0-4

ahead courtesy of a second goal from full-forward Amy O'Connor.

O'Connor bagged her first goal towards the end of a first half in which, with both sides opting to operate with a sweeper at the back, scores were generally hard to come by.

Laura Tracey filled the role of unattended defender for Cork to great effect, with Saoirse McCarthy, Laura Hayes and Meabh Cahalane others to shine in a Rebel rearguard that limited the visitors to just two points from play before the break.

Elsewhere, ubiquitous midfielder Ashling Thompson was very influential, while O'Connor and wing-forward Chloe Sigerson emerged as the main score-getters in attack, with

a Sigerson point in the tenth minute allowing Cork to hit the front, 0-3 to 0-2, where they remained until the finish.

Orla Cronin and Sigerson had both nudged Cork ahead by the minimum prior to that, with the hard-working Fiona Keating later chipping in with a beauty and the excellent Laura Hayes also on target before O'Connor pounced for the game's first goal in stoppage time.

The chance came about following a splendid build-up involving Laura Tracey, Fiona Keating, Saoirse McCarthy and Katrina Mackey, who brought the best out of Clare custodian Daireann Murphy.

O'Connor was on hand to knock in the rebound from Murphy's fine save and send Cork's prospects soaring.

It was 1-8 to 0-4 after free-taker Laura McNamara had the last word before the break for Clare, but the writing was clearly on the wall for the Banner ladies after Amy O'Connor, fed by Katrina Mackey, struck for another three-pointer within seconds of the turnover.

Playing well within themselves, Cork steadily stretched their advantage to 13 points, 2-11 to 0-4, before a mistake by goalkeeper Amy Lee led to a fortuitous Clare goal by Laura McNamara from a free in the 45th minute.

The epitome of dependability prior to that, Lee certainly atoned for her uncharacteristic lapse when bringing off three remarkable saves in quick succession to deny Clare a second goal inside the last five minutes.



Cork forward Fiona Keating gets her shot away despite pressure from Clare's Niamh O'Dea.

Cork's Aisling Thompson gets away from Clare's Susan Daly during their Group 1 clash at Páirc Uí Rinn last weekend.

(Photos: Jim Coughlan/INPRO)

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Star:** The foundations for Cork's triumph were laid in the first half when Laura Hayes stood out on the right flank of a defence that was practically air-tight.

**Star moment:** Following a wonderful triple-save by goalkeeper Amy Lee, wing-back Saoirse McCarthy completed a Cork counter-attack with one of the best scores of the match in the 56th minute.

**Talking point:** Clare didn't play that badly, and it's a measure of Cork's improvement since the Munster final that they ran out such comprehensive victors this time.

**What's next?** An away fixture this Saturday (at 5pm in St Peregrines GAA) against Dublin is next on Cork's agenda, as the Rebels attempt to extend their unblemished record in the All-Ireland series.

## SENIOR GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	SD	Pts
Cork	2	2	0	0	4-31	3-11	+23	6
Dublin	2	1	1	0	1-21	0-22	+2	4
Waterford	2	1	0	1	3-30	1-23	+16	3
Tipperary	2	0	2	0	0-20	0-20	0	2
Clare	2	0	1	1	2-15	2-27	-12	1
Wexford	2	0	0	2	1-15	5-32	-29	0

The losers did manage a consolation goal through Eimear Kelly near the end, but the bottom line is they received a chastening lesson from a Cork team that stepped up considerably on their Munster final display and had no obvious weak link on the day.

### Scorers

**Cork:** A O'Connor 2-5 (2f); C Sigerson 0-4; S McCarthy, O Cronin 0-2 each; L Hayes 0-2 (1f); F Keating, K Mackey 0-1 each.

**Clare:** L McNamara 1-2 (f); E Kelly 1-1; Z Yan-Spillane, C Morey (f) 0-1, each.

**Cork:** A Lee (Na Piarsaigh); M Murphy (Ballinora), A Egan (St Finbarr's), M Cahalane (do.); S McCarthy (Courcey Rovers).

L Tracey (Killeagh), L Hayes (St Catherine's); K O'Mahony (Innischarra), A Thompson (Milford); C Sigerson (Killeagh), F Keating (Courcey Rovers), E Murphy (Glen Rovers); O Cronin (Enniskeane), A O'Connor (Na Piarsaigh), K Mackey (Douglas).

**Subs:** C O'Sullivan (Newcestown) for E Murphy (38), S McCartan (St Finbarr's) for Sigerson (47), K Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) for Cronin (54), A Hurley (St Catherine's) for Mackey (59), E Flanagan (Aghabullogue) for Egan (59).

**Clare:** D Murphy; C Grogan, C Hehir, C Kelly; A Keane, C Morey, A Ryan; N O'Dea, C Carmody; L Daly, L McNamara, O Duggan; M Scanlon, E Kelly, Z Yan-Spillane.

**Sub:** A Power for Carmody (48).  
**Referee:** R Kelly.

# Lil was a great camogie servant

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman



Mary Newman, Theresa Murphy, Lil O'Neill and MC for the night, Finbarr McCarthy at the Cork Camogie Board Centenary Banquet at Rochestown Park Hotel in 2004. Picture: Larry Cummins



Nora Newman, Greenmount, Mary Moran, Bishopstown, Lil O'Neill, Ballinlough, and Sheila Golden, Donoughmore, pictured at a Cork Camogie holidays fund-raising luncheon in the Rochestown Park Hotel in 2005. Picture: Richard Mills

CAMOGIE followers and mentors were saddened last week to learn of the passing of Lil O'Neill (nee O'Grady).

Lil served camogie with huge distinction and was chair of the Cork Camogie Board for six years from 1960 to 1966.

During four of those years Lil was also chair of the Munster Camogie Council from 1960 to 1964 and she took the reins again in the Munster Council from 1968 to 1974.

In total she served the province for 12 years.

Previously, Lil had served the Cork board as treasurer from 1958 and 1959.

She had huge interest in schools and colleges camogie and chaired the Munster Colleges Council and also served as president of the All-Ireland Colleges Council.

The ultimate honour of president of the Camogie Association was bestowed on Lil from 1965 to 1967 when she became the association's 13th president and it was a fitting honour for a hugely efficient and admired official.

Lil was elected unopposed at Congress in 1965 and used her casting vote to defeat the motion calling for the abolition of the double crossbar which was a feature of camogie in those days.

During her presidency in 1966 the first national training programme for coaches were introduced.

She was one of three camogie selectors of the Gaelic Weekly All Star award which was the predecessor of the current GAA All Stars, when the scheme was extended to camogie in 1964.

Lil was a wonderful person and was always dignified and sincere; her dedication to the game was second to none and she chaired meetings with huge authority and efficiently.

As a player, Lil lined out with St Aloysius School, Old Aloysians and the Cork schools team, winning several championship medals.

She was also a hugely popular referee both at local and national level and she officiated at the 1969 All-Ireland senior final in which Wexford defeated Antrim.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Her dedication to camogie knew no bounds and her like will not be seen again.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

## Lots of camogie still to play as adult league closes

THE adult camogie league competitions have moved along at a steady pace, and we are now reaching the concluding stages, whilst the Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 leagues are also continuing, and will run for another few weeks with the under 16s breaking this weekend for exams.

**Senior:** Six teams emerged from three groups to contest the quarter and semi-final stages. Inniscarra topped group one with Glen Rovers in second spot.

St Catherine's took the top spot in group two with Ballygarvan in second place and in group three Sarsfields took the top spot with St Finbarr's runners up.

The semi-final spots went to Inniscarra and St Catherine's with the third group winner, Sarsfields, losing out on a semi-final place on scoring difference.

The quarter finals saw Sarsfields and Glen Rovers in a clash, with Glen Rovers edging home on a 1-10 to 0-12 scoreline. In the second quarter final, St Finbarr's had too much for Ballygarvan as they ran out 3-2 to 1-5 winners, to book their semi-final place against St Catherine's.

The second semi-final will see Inniscarra meeting Glen

## CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Rovers.

**Intermediate:** In the intermediate league Blackrock, Na Piarsaigh, Newtownshandrum, Na Piarsaigh, Aghabullogue and Clonakilty reached the quarter and semi-finals.

In the quarter finals, Newtownshandrum overcame Blackrock, whilst Clonakilty defeated Na Piarsaigh. The semi-finals were down for decision this week where Aghabullogue took on Newtownshandrum and Charleville had a meeting with Clonakilty.

**Junior A:** In the Junior A league semi-final it took extra time to separate Sarsfields and Ballinhassig in an exciting contest where Sarsfields got the upper hand to book a place in the final where they will meet a Tracton side who overcame Cobh to secure their place in the last two.

**Junior B:** In The Junior B league eight teams made it to the quarter final.

Youghal, Blarney, Glen Rovers, Bishopstown, Castlemartyr, Blarney, Courcey Rovers and Barryroe.

Glen Rovers overcame Courcey Rovers, Youghal had a goal to spare over Inniscarra, Blarney defeated Barryroe, and Bishopstown defeated Castlemartyr to set up the semi-finals, where earlier this week Bishopstown were down to play Glen Rovers and Blarney were meeting Youghal.

**Junior C:** In the Junior C league Midleton, Bride rovers, Kinsale and Grenagh made it though to the semi finals. Midleton overcame Kinsale to book their place in the final and they will play the winners of the game between Grenagh and Bride Rovers.

**Lilly O'Sullivan league:** A lot of the second teams in clubs opted to participate in either the A or B league but some senior and intermediate clubs decided to enter the second team competition and in this St Finbarr's overcame Newtownshandrum in the quarter final. Enniskeane will meet Cloughduv in the other quarter final with Aghabullogue and Ballincollig both through to the semi-finals.



Rachel O'Shea made a big impact off the bench against Wexford.  
Picture: Larry Cummins

## Old rivals in top form as they face-off in Intermediate campaign

**SATURDAY: Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Intermediate Championship: Cork v Kilkenny, Páirc Uí Rinn, 5pm.**

ROUND two of the Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship and it's a mouth-watering clash between old rivals Cork and Kilkenny in Páirc Uí Rinn.

Both sides got their championship campaigns off to a great start last weekend as they recorded victories in their opening game where Cork overpowered Wexford and Kilkenny had an excellent victory over Kildare where they hit an impressive 1-22 and conceded just 11 points.

Kilkenny were defeated in last season's Intermediate All-Ireland final where they lost out to Antrim in an exciting contest, they are a very experienced side and their clash with Cork is eagerly awaited as going on form they look to be the two teams that will have a big say in this championship.

Their league form was good, they were runners-up in their group to Waterford and reached the quarter-finals where they lost out to Wexford 1-13 to 1-5 but you must remember that was Wexford's first choice side who are now competing in the Senior All-Ireland Championship.

Cork ran the same Wexford team close losing out in the opening group game by five points with Cork later going on to reach the league semi-final where they lost out to Antrim by two points.

Kilkenny are under the management of John Scott and last weekend his side featured nine of the sides that lined out in the All-Ireland final last year against Antrim. Sinead Farrel, Roisin Phelan, Ciara Murphy and Sinead O'Keeffe form part of a strong defense

### CAMOGIE

#### Mary Newman

while Hannah Scott, Laura Hegarty, Teresa Donnelly, Ciara O'Keeffe and Shauna Treacy featured prominently in attack against Kildare.

From the throw-in last week Cork controlled matters in Enniscorthy as they took on Wexford, they settled fast and were on the scoreboard quickly and had opened up a six-point lead before Wexford opened their account.

In defence Cork were very solid conceding just two points from play. Up front they hit an impressive 3-15 and while this will have pleased manager Trevor Coleman he will be under no illusions as to the challenge Kilkenny will bring to his charges.

He was in a position to make five changes during the game last Saturday and this will no doubt help keep the momentum going and the competitiveness for places on the starting 15 alive.

Cork have been hit with a string of injuries and will be forced into several changes.

Captain Finola Neville was forced off after just 24 minutes on Saturday last with a knee injury, Danielle Carroll who impressed through the league campaign continues to be out with an ankle injury and did not play any part last weekend whilst Aoife O'Callaghan is also an injury concern.

Cork have a strong bench as was shown last weekend with Rachel O'Shea notching up 1-1 on her introduction to the action in place of Neville.

They should have enough strength to get over the line but it will be tough as both sides will strive to maintain their spot at the top of the group heading into round three.



Finola Neville is set to miss out against Kilkenny this weekend through injury.  
Picture: Moya Nolan



Cork's Amy O'Connor during the warm-up for the Clare game last weekend.

Picture: INPHO/Jim Coughlan

# Dubs date for perfect Rebels



### CAMOGIE

#### Linda Mellerick

**SATURDAY: Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Championship: Dublin v Cork, St Peregrines GAA, 5pm.**

CORK head into their third championship game in three weeks on full points as they travel to take on Dublin in their home patch tomorrow.

It's no surprise that Cork are on maximum points despite expecting a tougher encounter with Clare last Saturday. But one has to consider the gruelling schedule that Clare have endured over the past five weeks, and it was very evident, a number of stoppages in the second half for players going down, it was visibly obvious that they just couldn't get that burst from their legs.

It was a good performance from Cork overall, albeit with a number of areas still to work on.

The impact of Orla Cronin, her first start this year, was telling. She just buzzes around and has added an acceleration in pace up front. Cork approached the game somewhat different in that Amy O'Connor, Katrina Mackey and Cronin made up an inside line and outside of the usual movement for the ball, they primarily stayed within thirty yards of goal.

Space is created for them by pulling Chloe Sigerson out around the middle over on the left wing, hugging the side-line and Emma Murphy and Fiona Keating moving out and leaving room inside. It's surprising how much space teams are giving Sigerson and she's the last person as the opposition you'd want having a free long-range pop at the posts. Her striking is beautiful and she's back to her best in accuracy.

Midfield isn't as impactful in camogie as it once was with all teams now pulling out and playing deep, congesting the middle. It's what teams want as they launch from their half-back line into their inside line. Cork are good at playing it



Cork's Libby Coppinger and Aoife Donohue of Galway in action in the league final.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

through the lines too though when they have to, and they've struck some nice scores by combining some fluent passages of play.

What is a concern however is that Cork have conceded a goal in every game since their league final defeat to Galway. It started with those two league final goals and since then Cork have conceded a further seven from four games. It wouldn't be such a concern if these goals weren't given up to weaker counties such as Waterford (3) and Wexford (1) with Clare having got through for three in their last two meetings.

So, it's something they will need to work on, and it was the one disappointing factor manager Matthew Twomey commented on after their game with Clare. With bigger games ahead in the knockout stages, it's uppermost in their thoughts.

Cait Devane struck her seventh point from frees in the sixth minute of injury time to record a 0-10 to 0-10 draw with Dublin in their second round last Saturday. With their opening win over Waterford Dublin are on four points and sit second in the table, which is a healthy posi-

tion for them to be in.

It is a relatively easy group with Tipperary having surprisingly regressed this year, Waterford, Clare, and Wexford Clare and Tipp both drew, the fact that Dublin also drew with Tipp helps Clare's cause and Cork's.

At this moment in time, Cork will top this group, with the second-place battle being between Dublin and Clare. It could also go to scoring difference so it would be important for Dublin to keep Cork's total against them as low as possible tomorrow.

Dublin manager Adrian O'Sullivan is in his second term at the helm. He knows camogie inside and out, the players, the counties, their strengths, and weaknesses. He has a strong backroom team and it's without question that he'll get the best out of the squad he has.

He doesn't however have the talent or strength in depth that Cork camogie has and in particular Cork's number one side so while Dublin will bring a determined and physical approach to the game, it will open up and Cork will travel the road home nine points to the good in Group 1.



**MARCHING ON:** Cork's Amy Lee is pursued by Aoife Walsh and Aisling O'Neill of Dublin



**Daragh Ó Conchúir**

CORK survived a fervent Dublin challenge to retain their perfect record, scoring the last goal and eight points to record a 2-10 to 0-9 win over Dublin in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Group 1 tie at the St Perre's club grounds. Katrina Mackey struck for both Cork and they were needed, as a run of nine points in a row from Dublin had left them chasing shadows. Cork threatened to run away with it in the first quarter, opening up a five-point advantage when Mackey dispatched to the Dublin net in the 15th minute, following up from Amy O'Connor and Saoirse McCarthy points. Dublin had also been forced into replacing Niamh Gannon seven minutes earlier at her replacement, Kerrie Finnegan helped settle Adrian Sullivan's crew with their opening score two minutes after Mackey's green flag. That was the start of an astonishing scoring run as the Blues' belief became shattered. Aisling O'Neill followed up Finnegan's score and the exciting tacker added her second after Aisling Maher split the uprights with a free including one from a free, to move the home team ahead. Maher made no mistake from a second placed ball for her third and was 0-7 to 1-2 at half-time, Cork not having scored in 23 minutes, including eight minutes of injury time.

Matters didn't improve immediately for Matthew Twomey's unit after the resumption, as Finnegan and Twomey pointed in the opening 10 minutes. O'Connor ended a lengthy scoring famine from a free that seemed to scramble the collective Cork mindset. They were quickly back on terms thanks to Kate Wall, Chloe Sigeron and Mackey and a feisty affair became dotted with yellow cards. Cork edged ahead through O'Connor before Mackey plundered her second major in the 49th minute. Dublin continued to fight might-

**BATTLE:** Dublin's Ali Twomey fights for space yesterday

# Cork survive a Blues blitz to stay unbeaten

and Waterford to have any hope of making the last six. For their part, Wexford are back in the mix after recording their first triumph. Joanne Dillon's 24th-minute goal was crucial for Kevin Tattan's outfit, as they had trailed by four points to one playing into the breeze, Eimear Kelly and Lorna McNamara (frees) slotting a pair each. Anais Curran converted a couple of placed balls to push the Model County ahead but scores from Linda Daly and a long-distance Chloe Morey free made it 0-6 to 1-3 at the change of ends. The visitors got off to a jet-propelled start to the second period, shooting four points in eight minutes from Dillon, Curran (45) and the O'Connor sisters, Ciara and Aoife. Clare would not be undone easily however and drew level as they registered five of the next six points. Kelly and McNamara did the scoring for Conor Dolan and John Carmody's side, with Curran on target for Wexford. The leveller came from a McNamara free but when another O'Connor sibling, Sarah sent a long delivery into the Clare mixer, the break landed right into Claire's hand around 30m out and she made no mistake to claim the victory in the fifth minute of injury time.

ily but Muireann Kelleher received her marching orders three minutes from the end of normal time, having been issued

with her first yellow just six minutes earlier. O'Connor and McCarthy pointed to confirm the verdict. Meanwhile, an injury-time point from Ciara O'Connor snatched a 1-9 to 0-11 victory for Wexford over Clare in an exciting encounter in Sixmilebridge. It was a tremendous result for the

last year's quarter-finalists and current Division 2 League champions, bouncing back in style a week after a dreadful performance when suffering an 18-point reverse in Waterford. Clare went into the game off a loss to Cork, having drawn their opener against Tipperary but they must now surely beat both Dublin

# Waterford climb to second after win over Tipperary

**Camogie**

**Daragh Ó Conchúir**

around three of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior championship was labelled the Side Round, to promote and highlight inclusivity and safety for all within camogie. There was clear pride too among the Waterford contingent as they recorded a deserved 1-16 to 0-13 victory over Tipperary at Semple Stadium yesterday. The win moves them to second in Group 1 behind Cork and significant scoring contributions from Both Carton, Sísin Kirwan, Lorraine

were part of the reason for that, Abby Flynn's rocket of a goal 20 minutes in also vital as it came at the end of a good Tipperary period. Phenomenal workrate was the foundation of it all though and nobody illustrated that more than Clara Griffin, who seemed to emerge from countless tussles with possession, in the first half especially, when the tone was being set. Afterwards, Griffin pointed to growing confidence now that the Déise have bounced back from an opening-round defeat with two successes. That will only be strengthened further, by laying a Tipp bogey that had seen the Pre-



**Waterford's Clodagh Carroll gets to the ball ahead of Tipperary's Laura Shinnors in yesterday's clash at FBD Semple Stadium. Picture: INPHO**

the Waterford aspirations at the quarter-final stages. "Every time we play Tipperary it's always a big battle and over the last four years, we've kind of been at the wrong end of those results so we're determined to get it right today and push on now for the rest of the championship," said Griffin. "There were lots of rucks and big tackles going in there today. The workrate Tipperary, and we did as well to get the

win and it was great to be part of it. We've weeks to regroup now and go to Cork but we're really happy with the two wins but we've got to push on from here." On Saturday, two goals from Katrina Mackey and a strong overall showing in the second half in the end helped Cork get over an ever-improving Dublin team by 2-10 to 0-9 at St Perre's. The final margin flattered the winners, who conceded nine points on the trot to the home team and trailed by four early in the second half, thanks to scores from Aisling Maher, Aisling O'Neill and Kerrie Finnegan among others.

The Rebels did find another gear though and kept the Dubs scoreless for the remainder of the game and when Mackey notched up her second green flag, the verdict wasn't in doubt. An injury-time point from Claire O'Connor snatched a 1-9 to 0-11 victory for Wexford over Clare in Sixmilebridge that breathes life into the chances of Kevin Tattan's crew making it out of Group 1 into the last six. Joanne Dillon goalied in the 24th minute but with Lorna McNamara accurate from frees, it looked like the game was heading for a draw until O'Connor pounced on a break to strike a dramatic winner.



Cork corner-forward Hayley Ryan is pushed away from goals by Niamh Leahy, Kilkenny. Picture: Larry Cummins

## Rebels come out on top against the Cats in testing conditions

**Cork** 0-14  
**Kilkenny** 1-5

### CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

CORK made it two victories from two in the Glen Dimplex Intermediate Championship as they overcame last season's defeated All-Ireland finalists Kilkenny at rain-drenched Páirc Uí Rinn.

Continuous heavy rain made conditions hard for both sides with the slippery surface making for a lot of unforced errors but credit the players who worked hard all through.

Kilkenny played with just two in their inside line and with both defences enjoying numerical advantage scores were hard to come by. The game was nine minutes old before Clara O'Keefe set up Aoife Cantwell to point the opener. Thirteen minutes in Joanne Casey converted a Cork 45 and she added a second from play to give Cork the lead.

Michelle Murphy and Emma Monogue swapped points but Cork finished the half stronger with points from Cliona O'Callaghan and Casey to lead 0-5 to 0-2 at the break.

Kilkenny went with three in their inside line for the second half and from the restart, they came at Cork, Emma Monogue won a free and converted but crucial Cork got the next three scores with Casey, Hayley Ryan and Rachel Hartly pointing.

Kilkenny had a glimmer of

hope when they grabbed a fortuitous goal as Hannah Scott dispossessed Cork keeper Stefanie Beusang to finish to the net to cut the Cork lead to two.

Trevor Coleman's side upped their work-rate in response with five points without reply to stretch their advantage to seven points with ten minutes remaining and from her to the full-time whistle there was only going to be one winner.

Emma Monogue and Aine Phelan had later Kilkenny points as in between substitute Lauren Homan had one on a day when Cork were full value for their victory.

**Scorers for Cork:** J Casey 0-6 (0-3 f, 0-1 45), M Murphy, H Ryan, R Hartly 0-2 each, L Homan, C O'Callaghan 0-1 each.

**Kilkenny:** E Manogue 0-3 f, H Scott 1-0, A Phelan 0-1, A Cantwell 0-1 each.

**CORK:** S Beusang; N O'Leary, K Falvey, A Moloney; J O'Leary, K Kilcommins, L O'Sullivan; L Callanan, R Hartly; J Casey, M Murphy, S Hutchinson, R O'Shea, C O'Callaghan, H Ryan.

**Subs:** K Hickey for C O'Callaghan (40), L Homan for R O'Shea (46), C Finn for H Ryan (58), T McCarthy for M Murphy (61).

**KILKENNY:** S Farrell; J Cass, R Phelan, A O'Connor; S O'Keefe, C Murphy, N Leahy; D Quigley, A Cantwell; S Tracey (c), H Scott, L Hegarty; T Donnelly, C O'Keefe, E Manogue.

**Subs:** R Brennan for D Quigley (h-t), C Comerford for T Donnelly (40), N Sweeney for L Hegarty (54), A Phelan for S Tracey (54), T Ronan for H Scott (60).

**Referee:** Aaron Hogg (Clare).



Cork's Michelle Murphy fires over a point from play against Kilkenny. Picture: Larry Cummins



Cork's Meabh Murphy with Aishling Maher of Dublin in Saturday's championship clash.

Picture: INPHO/Evan Treacy

# Mackey's late goals seal Cork comeback win

### CAMOGIE

■ Daire Walsh

**Cork** 2-10  
**Dublin** 0-9

KATRINA MACKEY grabbed a brace of goals at St Peregrine's on Saturday evening as Cork produced a powerful turnaround to defeat Dublin in Group 1 of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

Four points adrift in the early stages of the second half, the Leesiders registered 1-8 without reply to comprehensively seal their third successive win in this year's competition. This result puts them in prime position to top the group and thus secure automatic progression to the semi-final stage of the O'Duffy Cup.

Following a tentative start to the action, Cork eventually opened the scoring with a fifth-minute pointed free from inside forward Amy O'Connor.

Laura Hayes had been breaking up the field to good effect during the early exchanges, but it was her half-back partner Saoirse McCarthy who double her side's lead with an excellent strike on the right-wing.

Cork were starting to find their feet and displayed a clinical edge in the 15th-minute of the tie. Picking up possession close to the opposition posts, Douglas ace Mackey ruthlessly dispatched a powerful shot beyond the reach of Sky Blues net-minder Eabha Mooney.

The Leesiders appeared well in control at this stage, but Dublin soon settled into a more familiar stride. Having replaced the injured Niamh Gannon in attack with just eight minutes on the clock, Kerrie Finnegan got the home team up and running with a superb point out towards the right-hand touchline.



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy gets past Aishling Maher of Dublin. Picture: INPHO/Evan Treacy

This heralded a strong purple patch from the Metropolitans with a second point from full-forward Aisling O'Neill being followed by a brace of frees courtesy of Aisling Maher.

It was anticipated that Dublin would have a spell of dominance in the first half, given they were playing with the aid of a strong breeze in the Blakestown venue. Cork passed up some good scoring opportunities before their Leinster counterparts got up and running and this was something Matthew Twomey's charges were left to rue at the interval.

Owing to a succession of hold-ups, referee John Dermody played eight minutes of stoppage-time at the end of the opening period. Dublin made hay during this juncture with O'Neill and Maher (two) knocking over unanswered scores to propel Adrian O'Sullivan's outfit into a 0-7 to 1-2 advantage.

The half-time break offered Cork a chance to regain focus and even though Finnegan and Ali Twomey found the range to create further daylight between the teams, the visitors' scoring drought

finally came to an end when O'Connor converted a 34th-minute free. This was quickly supplemented by impressive efforts from play by Kate Wall and Chloe Sigerson, which brought the gap back down to a single point.

Parity was eventually restored by Mackey at the beginning of the final quarter and this was the cue for Cork to push into overdrive. Squeezed in between place-ball contributions from O'Connor Mackey got on the end of an enterprising attack to hammer home her second goal of the game in fine style.

This suddenly edged Cork into a five-point buffer and within sight of a maximum return from this tricky fixture. Dublin were now struggling to make any sort of impact and also lost corner-back Muireann Kelleher to a second yellow card on 58 minutes.

This eliminated any prospect of a dramatic fightback, but O'Connor and the outstanding McCarthy split the uprights to ensure Cork had the final say.

Cork will now have a two-week break, before resuming competitive fare against Waterford on June 18.

**Scorers for Cork:** Katrina Mackey 2-1, Amy O'Connor 0-5 f, Saoirse McCarthy 0-2, Kate Wall, Chloe Sigerson 0-1 each.

**Dublin:** Aisling Maher 0-4 (0-3 f), Aisling O'Neill, Kerrie Finnegan 0-2, Ali Twomey 0-1 each.

**CORK:** Amy Lee; Meabh Murphy, Libby Coppinger, Meabh Cahalane; Laura Hayes, Laura Tracey, Saoirse McCarthy; Katie O'Mahoney, Aisling Thompson; Orla Cronin, Fiona Keating, Kate Wall; Amy O'Connor, Chloe Sigerson, Katrina Mackey.

**Subs:** Clara O'Sullivan for O'Mahoney (12-18, blood), Sorchá McCartan for Wall (40), O'Sullivan for Tracey (43), Emma Murphy for O'Mahoney, Cliona Healy for Cronin, Hannah Loony for Sigerson (all 60).

**DUBLIN:** Eabha Mooney; Roisin Baker, Eve O'Brien, Muireann Kelleher; Issy Davis, Hannah Hegarty, Emma O'Byrne; Leah Butler, Gabby Couch; Aisling Maher, Niamh Gannon, Jody Couch; Elyse Jamieson-Murphy, Aisling O'Neill, Ali Twomey.

**Subs:** Kerrie Finnegan for Gannon (8), Aoife Walsh for Finnegan (40), Aoife Whelan for Jamieson-Murphy (51), Ellie Young for Maher (60).

**Referee:** John Dermody (Wexford).

Cork manager Matthew Twomey.

# 'No one is getting carried away'



Rebels remain grounded after third Group 1 win in a row

BY GER McCARTHY

MATTHEW Twomey was full of praise for his side after their third All-Ireland camogie senior championship Group 1 win in a row keeps them on track for the knock-out stages – but the Cork boss feels there is even more to come from the Rebels.

The 2-10 to 0-9 victory away to Dublin keeps Cork at the summit of Group 1, with games to come against Waterford and Tipperary in the weeks ahead.

Last weekend's triumph away to the Dubs was notable for a number of reasons. Katrina Mackey's brace of goals, another impressive display from half-backs Laura Hayes, Laura Tracey and Saoirse McCarthy plus Cork's strength off the substitutes bench.

Clara O'Sullivan, Sorcha McCartan, Emma Murphy, Cliona Healy and the returning Hannah Looney were all introduced, further underlining the depth of manager Matthew Twomey's squad.

'I speak about it a lot but we are going to need a full squad this year,' Twomey outlined.

'Emma Murphy didn't have her best game last week but she came on against Dublin and made a big difference. Clara O'Sullivan was the same. We are trying to get as much of an impact off the bench as possible.'

'There are plenty of other players champing at the bit to get on as well. It was great to have Hannah (Looney) back too. We tried to give her a bit of

game time just from the physicality side of things. It was the same for Sorcha (McCartan) and she did make a difference.'

'As good as it was to win in Dublin, I don't think we are anywhere near the finished article yet. That is good in some ways and not so good in other ways but we definitely have options (off the bench) now.'

The final score (2-10 to 0-9) suggests a comfortable win but Dublin made life difficult for Cork throughout a physical encounter. Twomey's side was behind early in the second half before finding another gear and

racking up their third consecutive Group 1 win.

'We talked to the girls at half time and to be fair to them, before we even spoke they were already settling themselves down and putting things into perspective,' the Cork manager said.

'It was a case of sticking to our plan and doing what we set out to do. In fairness, they did that. Going 'old-school', you'd be in there banging hurleys but the reality was we went to sleep for about 20 minutes.'

'Everyone stayed composed, the Cork players settled

themselves and that's where the value of experience, from both players and management, comes in. Look, it was a good win for us as Dublin have come on, especially after beating Waterford in Walsh Park and unlucky to only get a draw with Tipperary.'

Cork enjoy a welcome break before travelling to Waterford for their penultimate Group 1 fixture on June 18th.

The Déise will be no pushovers having lost narrowly to Dublin before scoring 3-18 in seeing off Wexford. Last Sunday, Waterford underlined

their growing stature by defeating Tipperary 1-16 to 0-13 in Thurles. Cork will need to be at their best to overcome an improving opponent.

'There were a lot of sore bodies after the Dublin game but then we have been out for three weeks on the bounce so we are happy to have an extra week's break,' Twomey said.

'Momentum-wise, having next weekend off is not going to be a deterrent. Our players need their recovery time and to get some freshness back into their legs. That's why I think we'd struggle a bit if we were

out on Sunday because some players need a few days for their knocks to heal up.

'Ahead of playing Waterford, if someone offered us three wins on the bounce, we would have taken it no problem. To get nine points out of nine, we couldn't do much more. We still have a lot of work to do. We know that.'

'No one in the Cork set-up is getting carried away. One more win from our last two matches and we will qualify for the All-Ireland semi-finals. Our destiny is in our own hands and that's the way you want it to be.'

## Mackey's double maintains Cork's perfect record

BY DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

CORK survived a fervent Dublin challenge to retain their perfect record, scoring the last goal and eight points to record a 2-10 to 0-9 win over Dublin in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland senior camogie championship Group 1 tie at the St Peregrine's club grounds.

Katrina Mackey struck for both Cork goals and they were needed last Saturday, as a run of nine points in a row from Dublin had left them chasing shadows in the first-ever Pride Round in camogie history.

Cork threatened to run away with it in the first quarter, opening up a five-point advantage when Mackey dis-

patched to the Dublin net in the 15th minute, following up from Amy O'Connor and Saoirse McCarthy points.

Dublin had also been forced into replacing Niamh Gannon seven minutes earlier but her replacement, Kerrie Finnegan helped settle Adrian Sullivan's crew with their opening score two minutes after Mackey's green flag.

That was the start of an astonishing scoring run as the Blues' belief became bolstered.

Aisling O'Neill followed up Finnegan's score and the exciting attacker added her second after Aisling Maher split the uprights with a brace including one from a free, to move the home team ahead.

Maher made no mistake from a second placed ball for her third and it was 0-7 to 1-2 at half-time, Cork not having scored in 23 minutes, including eight minutes of injury time.

Matters didn't improve immediately for Matthew Twomey's unit after the resumption, as Finnegan and Twomey pointed in the opening two minutes.

O'Connor ended a lengthy scoring famine from a free that seemed to unscramble the collective Cork mindset. They were quickly back on terms thanks to Kate Wall, Chloe Sigerson and Mackey and a feisty affair became dotted with yellow cards.

Cork edged ahead through O'Connor before Mackey plundered her second goal in the 49th minute.

Dublin continued to fight mightily but Muireann Kelleher received her marching orders three minutes from the end of normal time, having been issued with her first yellow just six minutes earlier. O'Connor and McCarthy pointed to confirm the verdict.

### Scorers

**Cork:** Katrina Mackey 2-1; Amy O'Connor 0-5f; Saoirse McCarthy 0-2; Kate Wall, Chloe Sigerson 0-1 each.  
**Dublin:** Aisling Maher 0-4 (3f); Aisling O'Neill, Kerrie Finnegan 0-2 each; All Twomey 0-1.

**Cork:** A Lee; M Murphy, L Coppinger, M Cahalane; L Hayes, L Tracey, S McCarthy; K O'Mahony, A Thompson; O Cronin, F Keating, K Wall; A O'Connor, C Sigerson, K Mackey.

**Subs:** C O'Sullivan for O'Mahony (12-19, blood), S McCartan for Wall (41), C O'Sullivan for Tracey (44), E Murphy for O'Mahoney (60), C Healy for Cronin (60), H Looney for Sigerson (60).

**Dublin:** E Mooney; R Baker, E O'Brien, M Kelleher; I Davis, H Hegarty, E O'Byrne; L Butler, Gaby Couch; A Maher, N Gannon, J Couch; E Jamieson-Murphy; A O'Neill, A Twomey.

**Subs:** K Finnegan for Gannon (9), A Walsh for Finnegan (45), A Whelan for Jamieson-Murphy (52), E Young for Maher (60).

**Referee:** J Dermody (Wexford).

### GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	SD	Pts
Cork	3	3	0	0	59	29	+30	9
Dublin	3	1	1	1	33	38	-5	4
Waterford	2	1	0	1	39	23	+16	3
Wexford	3	1	0	2	30	58	-28	3
Tipperary	2	0	2	0	20	20	0	2
Clare	3	0	1	2	32	45	-13	1



Ballynoe NS celebrate in capturing the Allianz Sciath na Scol DC6 trophy following their victory over Inch NS in the final played in Pairc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Howard Crowley

## Goals are the key to St Catherine's win

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

St Catherine's	4-4
Ballynoe	4-4
Inch	1-5

WHILE there was little between these sides in the Allianz DC6 camogie final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, goals from the impressive Laura Twomey, Amy O'Connell, and Sophia O'Sullivan helped St Catherine's to victory.

After a close contest in the first half, Ballynoe led at the break by the narrowest of margins: 0-2 to 0-1. Maedbh Fitzgerald and Sophia O'Sullivan were on the scoresheet while Clodagh Walsh pointed for Inch.

It was a great battle between the sides with Ella Higgins and O'Sullivan working hard for Ballynoe while Lorna Bourke and Lauren O'Connor did well for Inch.

The second half was much the same with a huge effort being put in across the Páirc. Meadh Fitzgerald brought the sides level with a neat score before Inch re-took the lead when Orla Motherway hit over an excellent point.

Catherine's went ahead again with the impressive Laura Twomey showing great feet before blasting the sliotar to the back of the net. Inch responded well and two consecutive points from Lauren O'Connor and Aoibheann McGrath brought the teams level once more.



Ballynoe NS captain Katie Dee holds aloft the Allianz DC6 Sciath na Scol trophy following her team's victory over Inch NS. Picture: Howard Crowley

Ballynoe were back in front again when a long-range effort from O'Sullivan dropped into the back of the net.

At the other end, McGrath went close, but her effort was cleared off the line by Abby Leahy, which was a big swing between some well-matched sides.

Amy O'Connell was also was denied a goal when her strike was excellently blocked by Lorna Bourke but Twomey was quickest to react and buried the rebound. This was followed by a goal from O'Connell and although Kate Harvey and Lauren O'Connor added a point a piece for Inch, another score for Twomey en-

sured the Ballynoe school was victorious.

Scorers for Ballynoe: L Twomey 2-1, S O'Sullivan 1-1, A O'Connell 1-0, M Fitzgerald 0-2.

Inch: C Walsh 1-0, L O'Connor 0-2, K Harvey, O Motherway, A McGrath 0-1 each.

BALLYNOE: Simone Fitzgerald, Hannah O'Donnell, Niamh Kilmartin, Abby Leahy, Eileen Bryan, Meadh Fitzgerald, Ella Higgins, Sophia O'Sullivan, Amy O'Connell, Laura Twomey, Katie Dee, Amy Leahy, Katie Molloy, Lucy Geaney, Aine Kieilly, Ava Cotter, Anna McAuliffe, Roisin Collins.

INCH: Lorna Bourke, Emily Tate, Clodagh Spillane, Kate Harvey, Lucie Nelo, Lauren O'Connor, Orla Motherway, Mai Power, Clodagh Walsh, Caoimhe Walsh, Aoibhinn McGrath, Lauren Walsh, Sarah Cunningham, Lucy Tate, Lucy May Kelleher, Neasa Barry, Leah Daly, Keira Walsh, Sara O'Connor, Roisin Brennan. Referee: A McSweeney.



Lucie Nelo of Inch NS attempts to break away from Ballynoe's Eileen Bryan. Picture: Howard Crowley

# Six of best as Cloghroe land camogie title

Cloghroe NS	6-4
Ovens NS	2-1

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

AFTER a great game of camogie, Cloghroe NS claimed the Allianz C1 title at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, thanks to their six-goal haul.

It was a real battle in the first half, with some excellent players on both teams. Ovens opened the scoring after just 30 seconds, when Orla McCarthy hit the roof of the net.

However, for the next 10 minutes it was Cloghroe who piled on the pressure and who had five unanswered scores in this half. Orla O'Connell grabbed a superb hat-trick, while Aoibheann Lynch and stand-out player Niamh O'Connor clipped a point apiece.

The gap could have been bigger, only for excellent defending from Ovens' Keira Moloney, Maisie O'Sullivan, Saoirse O'Sullivan, and Aoibhinn Ni Chroinín, along with hard work from Sarah Galvin, Ciara Roche, and Orla McCarthy.

Erin Murphy, O'Connor, Erin O'Leary, and Lynch impressed for Cloghroe, who led at the break 3-2 to 1-0.

Cloghroe opened the scoring in the second half, when O'Leary blasted to the back of the net.

At the other end, Roche hit over a beautiful point to close the gap, but Cloghroe made it 4-3 to 1-1 when O'Leary landed a wonderful long-

range point.

Ovens continued to battle hard and closed the gap when Roche went on a superb solo run to finish to the back of the net. However, a quick break up the pitch also saw Ellen Doyle add a goal for Cloghroe.

This was followed with another goal and a point from O'Connor to finish the scoring and a very entertaining game. Well done to both sides.

Scorers for Cloghroe: O O'Connell 3-0, N O'Connor 1-2, E O'Leary 1-1, E Doyle 1-0, A Lynch 0-1.

Ovens: C Roche 1-1, O McCarthy 1-0.

CLOGHROE: Amy Dooling, Ellie O'Sullivan, Jessica Kirwan, Rachel Barry, Emma Lowney, Eisa Murphy, Neil O'Connell, Erin O'Leary, Aoibheann Lynch, Niamh O'Connor, Erin Murphy, Ellen Doyle, Orla O'Connell, Sadie Downey, Alanna O'Farrell, Aine O'Mahony, Lucy O'Leary, Eimear Ryan, Brooke Warren Doyle, Kayla Constant, Alicia McCann.

Ovens: Keira Moloney, Maisie O'Sullivan, Saoirse O'Sullivan, Aoibhinn Ni Chroinín, Caylin Hegarty, Anna Rochford, Hannah Stapleton, Sarah Galvin, Ciara Roche, Caoimhe Dillon, Michaela Moynihan, Ava Murphy, Meadh O'Shea, Orla McCarthy, Emma Hosford, Clodhna Sheehy, Chloe Galvin, Sophie O'Connell, Amy Ryan, Ellie Golden, Ella Kenneally, Ruby O'Regan, Chloe O'Halloran, Amelia Scully, Daisy Arundel, Mia Strand, Julie Broderick, Cliona Larkin.

Referee: A O'Connell

## Deasy's goals the difference

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Scoil Mhuire na nGrast, Belgooly	3-1
Goggins Hill	1-2

AFTER a very entertaining game, Scoil Mhuire na nGrast claimed the Allianz DC4 camogie title with a win over Goggins Hill in Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

It was a low-scoring first half with the schools hitting a goal apiece. Aoife Cotter scored the opener for Goggins Hill while the impressive Hannah Deasy blasted to the back of the net for Belgooly.

Olivia White created a superb goalscoring opportunity only to be denied by Goggins Hill defender Tara Hennessy.

Orla Lynch, Gracie O'Sullivan and Hennessy did well for Goggins Hill in this half while Aoife Sheehan, Aisling Coleman, Hannah Deasy, and Robyn O'Brien excelled for Belgooly.

The wind made a difference in the second half which showed when Deasy's long-range effort was swept into the back of the net to give Belgooly the lead.

Goggins Hill recovered and Leah O'Connell pointed to close the gap to just two points. White responded



Supporters cheer on Goggins Hill in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí finals at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Larry Cummins

though after a great ball from Aisling Coleman.

With just a minute left on the clock, Belgooly ended the game as a contest when White blasted to the back of the net to make it 3-1 to 1-1.

Goggins Hill never gave up and O'Connell fired over her second score.

Scorers for Belgooly: H Deasy 2-0, O White 1-1.

Goggins Hill: A Cotter 1-0, L O'Connell 0-2.

BELGOOLY: Sarah O'Connor, Aoife Sheehan, Dara O'Shea, Aisling Coleman, Nina Massalve, Hannah Deasy, Kasey Good, Robyn O'Brien, Aisleen O'Shea, Ella O'Brien, Grace Kelleher.

Freya Horan, Jessica Kearney, Beren Galvin, Riley Jones, Aoibhe O'Regan, Zoe O'Dwyer, Emma Moynihan, Olivia White, Victoria Proc, Emily O'Donovan, Libby O'Donovan, Abby Kidney, Ellie McCarthy, Lucy Corkery, Vivienne Long, Saibh Adams, Kaley Murphy, Olivia Ziegert, Jill McSweeney, Zoe Harte, Evelyn Rath, Ciara Dunigan, Nicole Manley, Erika Vaughan.

GOGGINS HILL: Moya Deasy, Savannah Murphy, Sophie Lynch, Aine Marie Reynolds, Tara Hennessy, Evie Twichig, Simone Murphy, Orla Lynch, Gracie O'Sullivan, Aoife Cotter, Isabelle O'Sullivan, Ava Cullinane, Emma Cleary, Kaylee Murphy, Ruby Quilter, Kate Lynch, Lucy Lombard, Muireann Hurley, Emily Carroll, Leah Cullinane, Leah O'Connell, Bláithín Collins.

Referee: P Brophy.



Delighted Ballygarvan players with the cup after the DC2 final. Picture: Larry Cummins

# Ballygarvan firepower proves too much

SCIATH NA SCOL

Barbara O'Connell

Ballygarvan	7-5
Scartleigh	1-1

BALLYGARVAN proved too strong for a gallant Scartleigh side in the Allianz DC2 camogie final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Ballygarvan got off to the perfect start with the wind proving to be a huge advantage when Freya Bateman's long-range strike hit the back of the net. This was followed with a goal apiece from Emma Dennehy and Míla Beleski while Bateman added a point to her tally.

Scartleigh got their first score of the game when Aoife O'Brien struck over from long range however further scores from Emma Dennehy (1-0), Freya Bateman (0-1), Lily Davidson (1-0) and Eva Dullea (0-1), gave Ballygarvan a 5-3 to no score lead at the break.

Scartleigh got off to a great start in the second half with Gabrielle Smith working really hard which resulted in a goal when Aoife O'Brien unleashed an unstoppable shot to the roof of the net.

Ballygarvan took seven minutes until they got their first score of this half but what a great score it was from stand-out player Freya Bateman as she pointed over from long range.

Eva Dullea had a great scoring opportunity only to be denied with an excellent save from Scartleigh's Chloe Kenneally.

A minute later Ballygarvan w-



Ballygarvan captain Freya Bateman and vice captain Aoife Cotter collect the silverware after the DC2 final.

dened the gap when Bateman's free hit the back of the net. At the other end, Gabrielle Smith had a great strike on goal but was excellently blocked by Laoise Fitzpatrick.

Emma Dennehy had another strike on goal but another superb save from Chloe Kenneally denied her on this occasion.

Bateman added to her tally with another great goal and credit to Scartleigh who never gave up and added a late goal when Amy O'Connell blasted to the net.

**Scorers for Ballygarvan:** F Bateman 3-3, E Dennehy 2-0, L Davidson 1-1, M Beleski 1-0, E Dullea 0-1.

**Scartleigh:** A O'Connell 1-0, A O'Brien 0-1.

**BALLYGARVAN:** Annie Duggan, Shannon Dunne, Laoise Fitzgerald, Lucy Aherm, Laura Falvey, Ava Downey, Olivia Connolly, Aoife Cotter, Freya Bateman, Lily Davidson, Eva Dullea, Kalya Kelleher, Kayla Walsh, Emma Dennehy, Míla Beleski, Emma Kinahan, Cerys Murphy, Aisling Neville, Ruth O'Mahony, Aoife Keohane, Clodagh Morgan, Lia O'Toole, Anna Cotter, Romy Desmond, Tara Twomey.

**SCARTLEIGH:** Chloe Kenneally, Captain Hegarty, Lauren Conroy, Anne Marie O'Driscoll, Ciara Bowden, Aoise Woods, Sábh Casey, Elie Kate Molloy, Gabrielle Smith, Robyn Ryan, Amy O'Connell, Sophie McCarthy, Abbie Fitzgerald, Aoife O'Brien, Kayleigh O'Hara Corigliano, Kate Somerville, Faye O'Brien, Hailey Twomey, Ciara Mullaney, Isobel Walsh, Míla Babin, Aoife O'Connell, Abigail Healy, Ruby Murphy, Amanda Walsh Power, Callie O'Brien, Aoife Nolan, Miya Mannion, Ellie Coughlan, Kate O'Brien, Mary Kate Hannon.

**Referee:** H Ormond.



Ballygarvan players celebrate after their win in the DC2 final, at the Allianz Sciath na Scol finals at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Larry Cummins



Cork's Katie O'Mahoney clears from Elyse Jamieson Murphy of Dublin during their All-Ireland Championship game. Picture: INPHO/Evan Treacy

# Mackey's goal drove us on to victory says Cork boss Twomey

CAMOGIE

Daire Walsh

CORK manager Matthew Twomey pinpointed Katrina Mackey's second-half goal as the catalyst for his side's eventual seven-point win over Dublin in Group One of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship at St Pegerine's on Saturday.

Trailing 0-9 to 1-2 in the early stages of the second half — having initially burst into an early lead — the Leesiders rattled off five points without reply to edge themselves back into the ascendancy. The tie very much remained up for grabs, but a smooth Mackey finish on 49 minutes ultimately helped Twomey's charges to preserve their 100% record in this year's O'Duffy Cup.

"There was great comfort in the goal. We were trying to do that move a couple of times and Dublin blocked us off. We got one opportunity in the second half and took it. We started the game very well.

"Getting 1-2 to no score and then we conceded nine points without reply, which was disappointing," Twomey said afterwards.

"About 10 minutes into the second half we kicked into our own again. It was a funny kind of a game with the wind the way it is and it's a funny kind of a pitch as well.

"A win is a win, nine points on the board. In fairness to Dublin, they were a dogged team.

"They were in our face the

whole time and the crowd got behind them when they got a bit of momentum, but we gifted them about four or five scores there in the first half.

"In the latter stages, if we give away them kind of scores we could be punished big time."

Cork's stated objective is to top Group One and thus secure automatic qualification to the last-four of the championship.

One victory from their remaining two games against Waterford and Tipperary should enable them to do this, with a trip to the former on June 18 next on the agenda.

Though Twomey revealed that Laura Tracey's withdrawal in the 43rd-minute was more of a precautionary measure, he is glad to have a little bit of respite before focusing on the challenge of the Deise.

"We've a good few now back from injury and Hannah Looney [who appeared as a late substitute] is back from America.

"She's a huge addition. We'll just try and press on now. We've a two-week break, which we could really do with after being on three weeks in a row. We'll try to get some rest into the legs now and go again," Twomey added.

See page 42 for more.



Cork's Katrina Mackey scores a goal against Dublin.

# Kilbree and Clon target league glory

## Two West Cork clubs in county league camogie finals

BY GER MCCARTHY

TWO West Cork clubs – Kilbree and Clonakilty – go in search of Cork camogie county league glory this Sunday.

Castle Road is the venue for Sunday's triple-header of county league camogie finals. Kilbree take on Aghada in the Junior B league Plate curtain-raiser at 12pm. That is quickly followed by a second West Cork club, Clonakilty, going face to face with Aghabullogue in the intermediate county league decider (3pm). The senior league final throws in at 6pm.

Reigning junior C county champions Kilbree may have endured a difficult league campaign but are delighted to have reached a Plate final at their new grade.

'Winning the 2021 junior C county title was a great boost for the club and we are operating at a higher grade this year,' Kilbree coach Sean O'Brien

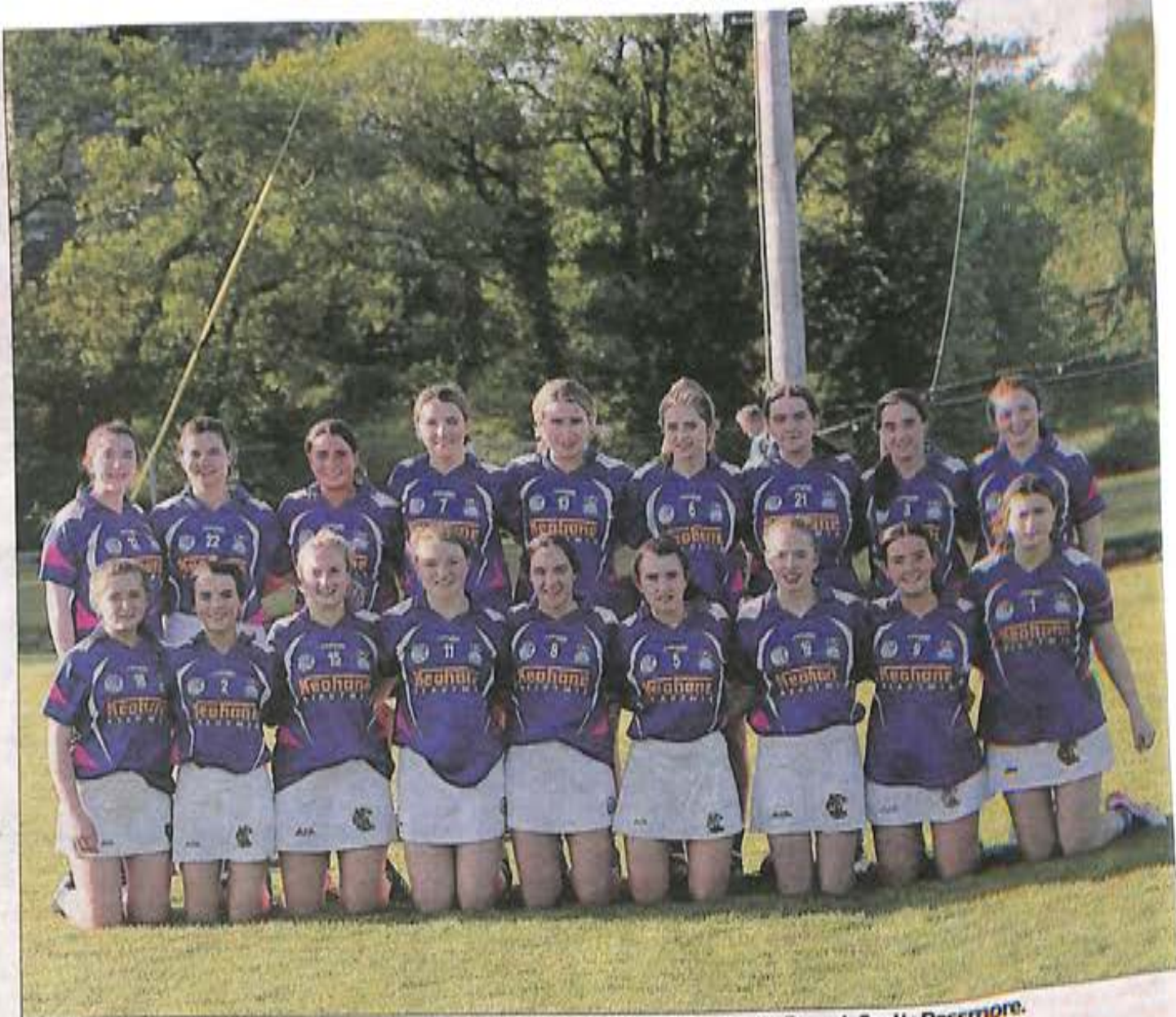
told *The Southern Star*.

'To be honest, we had a shaky enough league campaign with so many players missing for various reasons. That is why getting to contest a county league Plate final is a nice bonus for us as we start to pick things up for the county championship in August.'

'It has been tough to keep the momentum going because Kilbree has players lining out for the Dohenys, Clonakilty and Rosscarbery LGFA. There are girls away in college, too, and others doing their Leaving Cert so it has been challenging. The good thing is our girls are eager to represent Kilbree camogie, and love to be involved.'

Kilbree faced Aghada in a junior C county final back in 2020 with the latter winning by a couple of points. Sean O'Brien and fellow mentors Padraig O'Reilly and Brian Deasy will hope Kilbree can reverse that result on Sunday.

The same goes for Clonakilty who take on an opponent they have come to know well, Aghabullogue, in Sunday's intermediate county league final. Na Piarasigh and Charleville were defeated in the quarter and semi-finals to set up this weekend's showdown. Keith Kennedy, Adrian White, Ken-



The Kilbree camogie team that defeated Banteer in the recent county league junior B semi-final in Rossmore.

neth Meade and Donal McCarthy have guided an up-and-coming Clonakilty team to Sunday's final.

'We have a panel of 38 players and 18 of those would be minors,' Clonakilty's Keith Kennedy explained.

'We have a good mix and didn't really have any targets

for the league as the county championship isn't until August. That is what we have been building towards. Getting to play three extra league (knockout) matches has been a bonus.'

'The team is progressing and we have a few to come back after completing their exams

and a few coming back from injury too.'

'It is hard to know how Aghabullogue will line out as they have three senior inter-county players who may or may not be available. They are the team that knocked Clonakilty out of last year's championship, have a strong spine and are a full

60-minute team. That is what we are building towards. Aghabullogue are a team we have played more frequently the last couple of years and they were very unlucky not to reach senior level last year. Sunday's league final will be a good test of where we are at this stage of the season.'

# Six of best from Costelloe keeps Limerick in mix

LIMERICK kept their hopes of making the knockout stages of the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship alive with a strong finish to prevail 0-11 to 0-9 over Offaly in their Group 1 tie at Cappamore GAA.

With Galway and Kilkenny assured of advancing to the last six as a result of their triumphs against Down and Antrim respectively, there is just one qualifying spot up for grabs.

While Offaly aren't out of contention yet, they have lost all three of their outings and prop up the table with Down just ahead on one point. Limerick are now on three points, behind Antrim, who retain third spot on four points.

Offaly were the superior side in the first half, at the end of which

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

they led by 0-6 to 0-4. A Christine Cleary point soon after the restart stretched the advantage but Limerick came roaring into it thereafter, Caoimhe Costelloe shooting six points in the course of bringing her tally to nine, to drive the Treaty County women to a brilliant victory.

Points from Aisling Brennan, Sarah Harding and Mairéad Teehan edged the visitors in front after 15 minutes and though a converted free and 45 by Costelloe gave Limerick a temporary lead, scores from Sarah Walsh, Harding and Siobhán Flannery made a two-point game at the change of ends. As Limerick exerted more



STICK TO IT: Limerick's Michelle Curtin takes on Grace Teehan of Offaly

pressure, Offaly started conceding frees and Costelloe punished them for that, pushing her side ahead in the 47th minute. Brennan and skipper Róisín Egan equalised after further Costelloe scores but

they had no answer to the final Costelloe brace, Harding's injury-time sending-off the final blow.

Champions Galway continue on their merry way, producing a lethal first-half performance before dispensing with Down by 3-23 to 0-6 at Kenny Park, a result that sees them overtake Kilkenny at the top of the group on score difference.

The Cats retained their perfect record but had to sweat before getting the better of Antrim in a far more competitive affair by 1-15 to 1-9.

Galway were 2-17 to 0-0 to the good at half-time with goals from Rebecca Hennelly and Niamh Hanniffy.

Hennelly finished as top scorer for Galway with 1-5, 1-3 from play,

while Ailish O'Reilly registered seven points, three from play and Donohue shot four. Niamh Kilkenny pounced for a third goal in the 54th minute.

The clash between reigning intermediate champions Antrim and Kilkenny was a highly entertaining one that started with a bang as Miriam Walsh powered through before goaling in the fourth minute.

Caitrin Dolbin netted for Antrim as they trailed by 1-7 to 1-5 at the interval.

Kilkenny doubled that lead in the next ten minutes but when Mary O'Connell was sent off and the margin at just four with 20 minutes remaining, the potential for a shock seemed on the cards but the Cats held out.

### Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship

Group 2: Limerick 0-11 Offaly 0-9; Galway 3-23 Down 0-6; Kilkenny 1-15 Antrim 1-9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galway	3	3	0	0	73	25	9
Kilkenny	3	3	0	0	68	31	9
Antrim	3	1	1	1	57	46	4
Limerick	3	1	0	2	27	56	3
Down	3	0	1	2	34	73	1
Offaly	3	0	0	3	31	59	0

### All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship

Group 1: Kerry 0-11 Dublin 1-7; Westmeath 2-16 Carlow 0-8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galway	3	3	0	0	75	30	9
Kerry	3	3	0	0	46	38	9
Westmeath	3	2	1	1	58	38	6
Dublin	3	1	1	1	39	49	4
Laos	3	0	0	3	41	58	0
Carlow	3	0	0	3	27	73	0

Group 2: Kildare 0-14 Wexford 1-6; Kilkenny 2-7 Derry 1-8; Cork 1-12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cork	3	3	0	0	52	26	9
Derry	3	2	0	1	48	35	6
Kilkenny	3	2	0	1	46	35	6
Kildare	3	1	0	2	36	51	3
Wexford	3	1	0	2	33	53	3
Meath	3	0	0	3	37	52	0

### All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Championship

Group 1: Armagh 4-26 Roscommon 1-5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Armagh	3	3	0	0	108	21	9
Antrim	1	1	0	0	20	8	3
Roscommon	3	1	0	2	31	66	3
Down	1	0	0	1	7	31	0
Limerick	2	0	0	2	14	54	0