

Waterford Ladies Football History 1988

In 1988 Jimmy McGrath (Affane) took over as county chairman succeeding Noel Murray. The full Board was:

Chairman:	Jimmy McGrath (Affane)
Vice-Chairman:	Jimmy Fitzgerald (Clashmore)
Secretary:	June Whyte (Kilrossanty)
Assistant Secretary & Registrar:	Nellie McGrath (Dunhill)
Treasurer:	Ann O'Neill (Fenor)
Committee:	Fr Fitzgerald (St Oliver's)
	Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Waterford opened the league campaign with a 3-6 to 0-4 defeat by Cork at Donoughmore on the 13 March and then scored a 4-5 to 1-4 victory over Laois in The heath on Sunday 10 April. On the 24 April, Waterford defeated Westmeath 2-6 to 2-3 at Ballymacarbry. Munster defeated Connaught 0-16 to 0-1 at Castleisland with 5 Waterford players Ann Dunford, Mari O'Ryan, Marie Crotty, June Whyte and Bernie Ryan.

On the 21 May, Waterford travelled to Kerry and lost by a disputed point 1-7 to 1-6. Next, they defeated Wexford by 3 points at Wexford Park on a Friday evening and 2 days later Munster defeated Leinster in the inter-provincial final at Cappaquin 2-10 to 0-4 with the following Munster team:

Mary Keane (Clare), Bridget Leen (Kerry), Joan Shannon (Cork), June Whyte (Waterford), Marion O'Doherty (Kerry), Mary lane (Kerry), Phil Curran (Kerry), Mari O'Ryan (Waterford), Mary Jo Curran (Kerry), Phil Curran (Kerry), Marie Crotty (Waterford), Eileen Lawlor (Kerry), Rose Buttimer (Cork), Margaret Lawlor (Kerry), Bernie Ryan (Waterford, Ann Dunford (Waterford).

Subs included: Catriona Casey (Waterford) and Aine Wall (Waterford).

On the 18 June, Waterford played Wexford in the league semi-final at Walsh Park and won a thrilling game 2-7 to 2-6 thus qualifying for the league final for the very first time and lined out against Kerry in that final on the 26 June at Semple Stadium. Kerry were bidding for their 8th league title in 9 years, their only blemish was in 1986 when Wexford won and the Kingdom again proved too good with a 2-8 to 0-6 victory.

Ballymacarbry beat Kill in the Under 14 league final and on the 25th June, Kerry knocked out Waterford 0-12 to 1-6 in the Munster under 16 championship. The first of July saw Cork defeat Waterford 7-7 to 2-5 in the minor championship at Lisgoold and the following day Ballymacarbry beat Kill in the Under 16 County final. Ballymacarbry retained their senior championship title defeating a group team Avonmore 12-11 to 0-1 at Cappaquin, whilst ACM won the junior league final with a 2-6 to 1-2 victory over Ballinameela.

Ballymacarbry also retained their Munster community games title in Ardfinnan defeating Tipperary champions Clogheen 2-4 to 2-1. Waterford and Kerry were scheduled to meet in the Munster senior final at Ballymacarbry on the 27 August but the game was called off due to the death of Patricia Butler's father.

Naomh Brid beat Kill in the Under 14 B final and this result qualified them for an Under 14 A final where they were beaten by Ballymacarbry.

In Community Games, Ballymacarbry again travelled to Mosney in a bid to retain the title. In the semi-final, they scored a good 4-6 to 0-0 win over Milford (Donegal) and the following day won the title defeating Mayo champions Cong 3-11 to 2-3.

The Munster senior final was re-scheduled for Saturday 17 September in the Mill Field Ballymacarbry. Waterford started brightly and Mona Fitzpatrick goaled after 40 seconds. Waterford led by 1 point at half time before Kerry eventually triumphed 3-5 to 1-8 with one of the Kerry goals hotly disputed by Waterford claiming the scorer was inside the square.

In the Junior Championship final ACM defeated Ballinameela 3-8 to 1-1.

Ballymacarbry brought 2 teams to the All Ireland sevens and the A team retained their title with the following results:

Round 1:	Ballymacarbry	5-7	Coralstown (Westmeath)	1-0
Round 2:	Ballymacarbry	2-5	St Endas (Cork)	0-2
Round 3:	Ballymacarbry	7-7	Shelmaliers (Wexford)	0-2
Semi-final:	Ballymacarbry	4-4	Padraig pearse (Roscommon)	0-1
Final:	Ballymacarbry	5-4	Adamstown	3-1

The B team gave very good accounts of themselves. In Round 1 they beat Hollymount (Mayo) 3-2 to 0-6. Round 2 Ballymacarbry 11-5, Croughan (Offaly) 0-0, and Round 3 beat Roscommon champions by 6 points whilst in the semi-final, they went under to Adamstown (Westmeath) by a 6 point margin.

On the 8 October, Ballymacarbry travelled to Killeely (Limerick) for the Munster club semi-final where they destroyed the Clare champions Fergus Rovers 9-12 to 1-1. On the 30 October, they played Beaufort (Kerry) in the Munster final scoring a 10-7 to 3-3 victory with Aine Wall scoring 6 goals. The following Sunday Ballymacarbry defeated St Grellans 2-7 to 1-2 and on the 20 November travelled to Callan (Co Kilkenny) to play Adamstown in the All Ireland club final. On a bitterly cold day, Ballymacarbry dominated the opening half but Adamstown stormed back after half time to score a deserved 2-6 to 1-4 victory.

Ballymacarbry lined out as follows: Patricia Butler, Ann Dunford, Margaret Phelan, Dolores Tyrrell, Noirin Walsh, Ann Fitzpatrick, Marie Crotty (0-2), Claire Walsh (0-1), Una McNamara, Bernie Ryan, Aine Wall (1-1). Sub: Geraldine O'Ryan, Referee: Mary O'Donovan (Cork)

Remarkably after winning the All Ireland title with an excellent team, Adamstown suffered a fate similar to The Heath a couple of years earlier and went out of existence. You would have got long odds against that happening that evening in Callan.

The All Stars played Kerry in Tralee losing 3-7 to 0-7 with Marie Crotty scoring 6 points for the All Stars. Dolores Tyrrell, June Whyte, Bernie Ryan started the game whilst Ann Dunford and Mari O'Ryan came on as substitutes.

On the 12 November 1988, senior team manager, Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry) took over as Chairman of the Waterford County Board and the other elected officers were:

Vice-Chairman:	Jimmy McGrath	(Affane)
Secretary:	June Whyte	(Kilrossanty)
Treasurer:	Paddy O'Donnell	(ACM)
Registrar:	Brigid McGrath	(Ballymacarbry)

Honours:

Ballymacarbry Munster senior club champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland u14 Community games champions

All Stars: Marie Crotty Ballymacarbry (centre half forward), Bernie Ryan

Ballymacarbry (full forward), Dolores Tyrell Ballymacarbry (left full back)