

## Waterford Ladies Football History 1995

### Officers:

Chairman	Michael Ryan	(Ballymacarbry)
Vice Chairman	Johnny Landers	(St.Pat's)
Secretary	Sylvia Murray	(Brickey Rangers)
Assistant Secretary	Marguerite Ryan	(Na Deise)
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PRO	Margaret Fleming	(Dungarvan)
Registrar	Dan Murphy	(St.Garbhans)
Irish Lang. Officer	Catriona Casey	(Ballymacarbry)

Finance committee: Michael Ryan, George Young (Old Parish), June Whyte (Killrossanty), Noel Murray (Ballymacarbry), Siobhan Cullinan (Brickey Rangers), Eleanor Hickey (Na Deise)

Inter County managements: U14 Joe Flynn (Dunhill), Joe Cashman (Na Deise), Declan Whelan (Old Parish), U16 June Whyte (Killrossanty), Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), Nicky Sheehan (Dungarvan), Minor Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Ger Mooney (Kill), Declan Whelan (Old Parish), Junior Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Ger Mooney (Kill), John Mullarkey (Brickey Rangers), Senior Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry) Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry).

Congress was held in Dungarvan on the weekend of the 3/5<sup>th</sup> March and a special committee under the Chairmanship of Noel Murray organised the event which included a cabaret show in the hotel on Saturday night and this was well received by delegates.

Waterford began the league campaign on the 19 March at O Moore Park Portlaoise with a 2-14 to 3-04 victory over Laois and followed this up a week later, defeating Cork 5-16 to 1-07 at Lemybrien. On the 2 April a trip to Newmarket on Fergus brought a 4 point win, 3-09 to 3-05 over Clare.

Killrossanty defeated Clashmore 5-11 to 1-06 in the Minor B final and on Sunday 8 April the Deise girls travelled to Kerins O Rahilly's club grounds in Tralee to play Kerry. On arriving they found one of Kerry all time greats Seanie Walsh jogging around the pitch. The game itself resulted in a 2-11 to 2-05 victory for Waterford. The following Sunday Monaghan were visitors a repeat of the 1994 All Ireland final and another cliff hanger resulted, in a single point victory for Waterford, 1-11 to 2-07.

Two weeks later Waterford were in Rochfortbridge to record a 6-14 to 0-06 victory over Westmeath and 2 weeks later travelled to Rockcorry for a league semi final against Monaghan, a tremendous goal by Catriona Casey clinched a 2-14 to 2-11 victory. In u14 Waterford easily defeated Tipperary 7-16 to -02 in Ardfinnan and seemed to have the makings of a good team. Waterford County Board decided to buy a Fax machine to help with running of fixtures.

On Sunday 25 June Waterford and Mayo met in the league final at Cusack Park in Ennis and the game ended in a draw, Waterford 3-11 Mayo 4-08. Munster won the Interprovincial title with 6 Waterford players, Marie & Fiona Crotty, Siobhan O Ryan, Catriona Casey, Geraldine O Ryan and Aine Wall featuring.

In the junior championship a strong Clare team defeated Waterford 6-13 to 2-08. Waterford then travelled to Newmarket on Fergus for the league final replay with Mayo and again there was very little between the teams, Waterford winning the league title for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, 2-13 to 3-08. On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of July Waterford defeated Kerry 2-09 to 3-05 in the Munster u16 championship.

The seniors were drawn against Clare in the Munster senior final, Clare had home venue and took the game to Quilty on the Atlantic seaboard. Waterford were taking no chances and travelled up overnight staying in Miltown Malbay. The game itself was a tough affair, Waterford winning 3-09 to 1-06.

Progress continued in the u16 championship with a 4-12 to 0-06 victory over Tipperary but the minors campaign ended at the hands of Clare, 3-09 to 1-06. The u14 team destroyed Limerick 5-13 to 1-02 in Clogheen and the u16 team won the Munster championship and travelled to Stradbally (Laois) for an All Ireland semi final clash with Roscommon where they won comfortably 3-12 to 2-04. Martina O Ryan and Olivia Condon formed a new midfield and on Sunday July 30 the senior team headed to Fitzgerald stadium for the Munster final and had to battle all the way before winning 2-12 to 3-07. Lawlors Hotel were still the main sponsor of the senior team and the Dublin branch of the Waterford supporters club were also giving much appreciated help with Ann Ryan representing them at most games.

In the u14 B final Killrossanty defeated St.Pat's 3-08 to 2-00. On Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> September the u16 team won the All Ireland final in Cashel defeating Monaghan 4-03 to 0-08, the ability to get goals proved crucial, Brid Breathnach, Triona Whyte and Breda Morrissey all found the net in the first half as Waterford led 3-03 to 0-04 at half time and Triona scored the second goal with 10 minutes remaining to seal a 4-03 to 0-08 victory.

Waterford: Nuala Hearn (St.Anne's), Catriona Hanley (Dungarvan), Honor O'Brien (St.Pat's), Martina McCarthy (Killrossanty), Brigid Hannigan (St.Anne's), Sarah Hickey (Brickey Rangers), Sarah Gleeson (Na Deise), Sharon Foley (Abbeyside), Catriona Beresford (Kill), Triona Whyte (Killrossanty), Mairead Ryan ( Captain, Ballymacarbry), Mary O'Donnell (Old Parish), Breda Morrissey (Na Deise), Paula Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Brid Breathnach (Old Parish)

Management: Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), June Whyte (Killrossanty), Nicky Sheehan (Dungarvan)

The senior team attended the game and after the final whistle travelled to Castlebar to play Mayo the following day. The conversation on the bus on the way up centred on Steve Collins's world championship title fight that evening.

Waterford were very concerned as they took the field in McHale Park the following day. It had taken a replay to defeat Mayo by just two points a couple of weeks earlier and the fact that Mayo were at home left plenty of cause for concern.

Waterford got two early points by Catriona Casey and Aine Wall. Mayo hit back and Marcella Heffernan slammed home a goal. There was little between the teams, a switch which saw Catriona Casey move to midfield helped matters considerably and 2 points by Rebecca Hallahan gave Waterford to an 0-08 to 1-03 half time lead. Mayo got the first score of the second half but incredibly were not to score again. Annalisa Crotty pulled off a great save and Waterford suddenly moved up several gears and blitzed Mayo. Points by Claire Ryan, Marie Crotty and Aine Wall quickly followed and then a quick Catriona Casey pass caught Mayo napping and Aine Wall blasted the ball to the net. Waterford were flying and kicked a succession of points to score a 1-19 to 1-04 victory with Aine Wall scoring 1-05 and Marie Crotty notching 0-05 whilst Regina Byrne, Cleona and Sinead Walsh were outstanding in defence.

Monaghan defeated Waterford in the All Ireland u14 final in Navan to balance matters after the u16 final and Sunday October 1st the senior final was the 3<sup>rd</sup> All Ireland clash between the Counties in 1995. The Country awaited a thriller. A gale force wind blew down towards the Railway goal and the toss was going to be crucial and team captain Noirin Walsh called it right and elected to play with the wind in the first half.

By the 13<sup>th</sup> minute Waterford were 6 points up including a massive long range effort by Aine Wall. Then a defence mix up between Monaghan keeper Ann Gavan and a defender saw Geraldine O Ryan shoot to the net. A minute later Rebecca Hallahan pounced on another error and goaled again and then Claire Ryan fed Geraldine O Ryan who blasted to the net and Waterford led 3-10 to 0-01 at half time.

Within minutes of the restart Olivia Condon finished this contest with a 4<sup>th</sup> goal. Angela Larkin scored a fine Monaghan goal in the 44<sup>th</sup> minute but this only served to cut the deficit to 14 points. Monaghan were not to score in the closing 14 minutes as Waterford tacked on 4 consecutive points to win by a huge margin of 18points 4-14 to 1-05. This game was a continuation of the second half display against Mayo in the semi final as Sarah Hickey, Fiona Crotty, Catherine Walsh and Lorena Mooney came on as second half substitutes.

Waterford: Annalisa Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (Captain, Ballymacarbry), Cleona Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Sinead Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Siobhan O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Julie Torpey (Kill), Martina O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (1-00, Na Deise), Geraldine O Ryan (2-01, Ballymacarbry), Marie Crotty (0-06, Ballymacarbry), Catriona Casey (Ballymacarbry), Rebecca Hallahan (1-00, Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (0-05, Ballymacarbry), Claire Ryan

(0-02, Ballymacarbry). Subs: Sarah Hickey (Brickey Rangers), Fiona Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Catherine Walsh (St.Pat's), Lorena Mooney (Kill), Patricia Butler (Ballymacarbry), Deirdre O'Rourke (Clashmore), Helen Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry), Marguerite Casey (Clashmore), Mascots Louise Ryan & Sinead Ryan, Manager/coach/trainer Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Assistant coach/trainer Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), Physio Billy Kelly Masseur Bidy Butler.

Noirin Walsh climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand to collect the Brendan Martin Cup, Waterford's 4<sup>th</sup> in five years and completed the league championship double for the second time in 3 years, her clenched fist salute showed exactly what it meant.

Another memorable Monday night in Dungarvan, Tom Keith again doing the honours and on to Ballymacarbry. In the intermediate County final Kill defeated Old Parish, Dunhill/Fenor won the junior defeating Clashmore 3-02 to 0-07. St.Anne's won the minor A title defeating Ballymacarbry 1-07 to 1-06.

By now Ballymacarbry were given a bye into the Munster club final and hammered Glanworth 3-29 to 0-02 to claim the 9<sup>th</sup> successive Munster club title. The All Stars took on Waterford in Dungarvan the game ended in a draw, Waterford 4-06 All Stars 2-12 which meant Waterford had gone the entire year unbeaten. Seven Waterford players, Annalisa Crotty, Regina Byrne, Cleona Walsh, Julie Torpey, Marie Crotty, Catriona Casey and Geraldine O Ryan won All Star awards in 1995.

Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry) became the first person from ladies Gaelic football to be honoured as the Philips Manager of the month and Ballymacarbry faced a trip to far away Aghabog for the All Ireland club quarter final against Monaghan champions Aghabog and recorded a convincing 2-18 to 1-05 victory as a large home crowd showed their admiration.

Two weeks later they had home venue for the semi final and played Shelmaliers (Wexford) in Cappoquin where they won 3-12 to 2-02. Another home venue for the club final, this time the Fraher field, with Parnell's (London) as visitors. Early goals by Aine Wall and Geraldine O Ryan helped Ballymacarbry to a 2-06 to 1-02 half time lead, Parnell's goal was scored by Debbie McCooey. Further goals by Rebecca Hallahan and Aine Wall with Marie Crotty (0-04) Catriona Casey and Claire Ryan all pointing meant a comfortable 4-12 to 1-04 victory, the Dolores Tyrell cup was safe and sound as Ballymacarbry won the All Ireland senior club title for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Former club player Michelle Walsh then living in London played with Parnell's who were managed by Galway man Tommy O Donoghue.

Ballymacarbry: Annalisa Crotty, Regina Byrne, Noirin Walsh, Helen Fitzpatrick, Sinead Walsh (Captain), Martina O Ryan (0-01), Catriona Casey (0-02), Rebecca Hallahan (1-00), Marie Crotty (0-04), Geraldine O Ryan (1-02), Paula Walsh, Aine Wall (2-01), Claire Ryan (0-02)  
Manager/coach/trainer Michael Ryan, Brigid Grant

Thus the year ended with 3 All Ireland titles captured in u16, senior and club whilst the u14 team also got to the All Ireland final. Waterford's dominance of ladies Gaelic football continued.

Honours:

Waterford Munster & All Ireland senior champions

Waterford Division 1 National league champions

Waterford Munster & All Ireland u16 champions

Waterford Munster u14 champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

All Stars: Annlisa Crotty Ballymacarbry, (goalkeeper), Regina Byrne Ballymacarbry, (right full back), Cleona Walsh Ballymacarbry, (left full back), Marie Crotty Ballymacarbry, (centre half forward), Catriona Casey Ballymacarbry, (left half forward), Geraldine O Ryan Ballymacarbry, (right full forward).