

## Waterford Ladies Football History 1987

1987 saw Waterford back in the senior grade. They began the league campaign with 0-13 to 2-5 victory over Laois on 1 March and on the 29 March scored a 3-9 to 0-1 victory over Wexford in Ballymacarbry. Then all Ireland champions Kerry visited Ballymacarbry and Waterford scored a 2-6 to 1-6 victory.

Noel Murray was elected as President elect defeating Christy Byrne (Westmeath) at Congress in Wexford.

For the first time the County Board decided to run 5 different competitions, i.e. Under 14, Under 16, Minor, Junior and Senior.

In May, Michael Ryan and Noel Murray accepted an invite from the Kill club and did a coaching session. Ballymacarbry defeated Kilmacthomas in the Under 14 County final and on the 29 May Waterford scored a hard earned 0-8 to 1-1 victory over Westmeath in Mullingar. Waterford had qualified for the national league semi finals where they played Kerry and the Kingdom prevailed winning an entertaining game 1-11 to 1-4 on the 7 June. 2 weeks later, Munster won the inter-provincial title at O'Toole Park, Dublin defeating Leinster 2-10 to 0-7. Frances Wall, Anne Fitzpatrick, Mari O'Ryan, June Whyte, Marie Crotty and Bernie Ryan all started the game whilst Mona Fitzpatrick and Aine Wall came on as subs. The team was: Kathleen Curran (Kerry), Bridget Leen (Kerry), Mari Hurley (Cork), Frances Wall (Waterford), Ann Fitzpatrick (Waterford), Mary Lane (Kerry), Ann Corcoran (Cork), June Whyte (Waterford), Mary Jo Curran (Kerry), Marie Crotty (Waterford) 0-5, Mary Walsh (Cork), Bernie Ryan (Waterford) 2-3, Eileen Lawlor (Kerry). Subs: Marion O'Doherty (Kerry), Mona Fitzpatrick (Waterford), Patricia Meade (Clare), Ann Cadogan (Cork), Aine Wall (Waterford).

On the 9 July Tipperary beat Waterford in the Under 16 championship at Clonmel. A new club called Affane-Cappaquin-Modeligo (ACM) was formed. On the 18 July, Ballymacarbry won the Munster community games final defeating Clare champions in Ennis by 6 points.

On the 25 July Waterford hammered Tipperary 9-10 to 0-1 at Ballymacarbry in the minor championship. This led to the Munster final at Rathcormack where Cork won a thriller 2-3 to 1-4 as Waterford missed several good chances.

In the junior league final Ballymacarbry defeated Ballinameela. On the 22 August Waterford defeated Cork 2-7 to 1-5 in Rathcormack. Cork led in the closing stages but a goal by Catriona Casey turned the tide.

Ballymacarbry travelled to Mosney for the community games finals, trained by County player Marie Crotty they defeated Stradbally (Laois) 2-8 to 1-9 in the semi-finals. They won the title defeating Sheelin (Cavan) 2-1 to 0-2 with the following team: Ballymacarbry: Mary Mangan, Catherine Wall, Regina Byrne, Fionnula Ryan, Ann Marie Ryan, Catherine Hallinan, Rose Phelan, Noirin Walsh (Capt.), Deirdre Wall,

Michelle Walsh, Cleona Walsh, Natasha Galvin, Claire Ryan, Fiona Crotty, Catriona O'Gorman. Sub: Martina Fenton, Catherine McCarthy, Gillian Flynn and Annabelle O'Donovan.

4 years later, 6 members of that Community games team, Regina, Byrne, Noirin Walsh, Michelle Walsh, Cleona Walsh, Claire Ryan and Fiona Crotty were members of the Waterford team that won the first senior all Ireland title.

In the junior county final, Ballymacarbry won, defeating new club ACM 3-7 to 1-0 and made it a double in the senior final winning 2-20 to 0-1 against Newtown at Fraher Field.

On Saturday 29 August, Waterford travelled to Castleisland to take on Kerry in the Munster senior final. The game was a clash of the 1986 senior champions and the 1986 junior champions. Waterford played well but Kerry's experience brought them a comfortable victory 1-9 to 0-4.

Waterford lined out as follows: Patricia Butler, Ann Dunford, Margaret Phelan, Lisa Fitzpatrick, Ann Fitzpatrick, Frances Wall, Dolores Hallinan, June Whyte, Marie Crotty, Mona Fitzpatrick, Mari O'Ryan, Catriona Casey, Una McNamara, Bernie Ryan, Aine Wall.

Subs: Majella Hubbard, Caroline Ryan, Helena Walsh, Deirdre O'Ryan, Brigid McGrath, Sharon Wyse.

Next both Newtown and Ballymacarbry travelled to Dublin for the All Ireland sevens. In round 1, Ballymacarbry beat The Heath (Laois) 2-5 to 3-0. In round 2 they beat Portobello (Dublin) 6-7 to 1-2. Next came a 4-3 to 3-3 victory over Shelmaliers (Wexford) in the semi final and scoring a 1 point victory over old rivals St Endas (Cork) 1-17 to 4-7 in the final with Mona Fitzpatrick scoring the winning point. The team was: Francis Wall, Ann Fitzpatrick, Ann Dunford, Bernie Ryan, Catriona Casey, Marie Crotty, Aine Wall, Sinead Walsh, Mona Fitzpatrick, Lisa Fitzpatrick. Ann Dunford captained the team.

In the first round of the Munster club championship, Ballymacarbry defeated Ardfinnan (Tipperary) 6-11 to 0-1 in Clonmel and then travelled to Dongourney to play St Endas and this resulted in a 0-11 to 0-5 victory. All Ireland club champions, Castleisland were the Munster final opponents but Ballymacarbry played superbly at Castletownroche on Saturday 22 October and won convincingly 3-7 to 0-2. The following weekend saw a home venue for an All Ireland semi final clash with Wexford champions Adamstown and Ballymacarbry won 3-7 to 0-3 but the scoreline didn't do justice to Adamstown.

The All Ireland club final was played in O'Connor Park, Tullamore on Sunday 22 November. Ballymacarbry won the toss and played with the wind and by half time the game was as good as over and Ballymacarbry won 4-10 to 1-2 with Una McNamara, Catriona Casey, Mari O'Ryan and Aine Wall getting the goals. Ballymacarbry: Patricia Butler, Ann Dunford, Margaret Phelan, Dolores Tyrrell (Capt.), Ann Fitzpatrick, Frances Wall, Lisa Fitzpatrick 0-1, Mari O'Ryan 1-0, Catriona

Casey 1-1, Mona Fitzpatrick, Marie Crotty 0-2, Helena Walsh, Una McNamara 1-0, Bernie Ryan 0-3, Aine Wall 1-4. Subs: Helena Walsh, Deirdre O’Ryan, Sinead Walsh, Brigid McGrath, Noirin Walsh, Sharon Wyse, Claire Walsh. Thus, Ballymacarbry had captured the All Ireland club championship after the disappointment of losing the final to the Heath 2 years earlier.

#### Honours

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club Champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland u14 Community games champions

All Stars: Ann Fitzpatrick Ballymacarbry, (right half back), Marie Crotty Ballymacarbry (centre half forward)