

## Waterford Ladies Football History 1989

In 1989 the 3 principal aims were to ensure more club games, to win a provincial title and to seek finance. It was decided to run a mayoral election to generate income and 5 candidates were selected. Bernie Ryan represented Ballymacarbry, P J Roche Na Deise, Mary O'Donnell Ballinameela, Margaret Ahern Kill and Mary Prendergast Ardmore all rowed in, the idea being to get votes, you had to sell lines and the candidate that raised the most money would be declared the winner.

Sr. Dominic Wall presented a cup to the County Board and the Mercy Cup became the trophy for the Under 16 A Championship and on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, Waterford kicked off the league campaign with a 7-9 to 1-3 victory over Laois at Ballymacarbry. On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Kerry were visitors to Ballymacarbry and on a dreadful day the teams drew, Kerry 1-6 to Waterford's 2-3.

Meanwhile the mayoral candidates were busy selling lines and at a function in Crotty lane, Lemybrien on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April, Bernie Ryan was proclaimed lady mayor of Waterford ladies Football registering an incredible tally of 8,150 votes, well ahead of the other contenders.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> April Waterford defeated Cork by a single point 2-5 to 1-7 at Modeligo. Noel Buckley put up a cup for the Under 16 B championship and Kill won their first ever county title at the Friary College, defeating Ballinameela 4-7 to 1-2. It was the first county medal won by a youthful Julie Ann Torpey, a player who was to play a huge part in the Waterford success story in later years. Kill as Under 16 B champions played Ballymacarbry in the Under 16 A final at Modeligo and although they were beaten they gave a very good account of themselves.

Waterford's league fixture against Leitrim on the 16<sup>th</sup> April had been postponed because of weather conditions and was eventually played on the 21<sup>st</sup> May in the unlikely venue of Kiltegan Co Wicklow and Waterford won on a beautiful summer's day 4-9 to 0-1. It was the 16<sup>th</sup> different county that Waterford had played in the 5 years and also the 44<sup>th</sup> different venue to have been visited by the Deise girls.

Munster were defeated in the inter-provincial semi-final, their first defeat since 1983 and the following team lined out: Mary Keane (Clare), Bridget Leen (Kerry), Noreen Hanley (Cork), Ann Dunford (Waterford), Marion O'Doherty (Kerry), Rose Buttimer (Cork), Catriona Casey (Waterford), Annette Walsh (Kerry), Ann Marie Minihane (Cork), Bernie Ryan (Waterford), Mary Jo Curran (Kerry), Eileen Lawlor (Kerry), Margaret Slattery (Kerry), Marie Crotty (Waterford), Aine Wall (Waterford). Subs: June Whyte and Mari O'Ryan, both Waterford.

Next on the list on the 17<sup>th</sup> June was the league semi-final at New Ross against Wexford, where Waterford defeated Wexford 2-9 to 1-5, thanks to a superb display by Marie Crotty who shot 1-8 of Waterford's total. There was to be no joy in the final on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. That afternoon the senior hurlers were well beaten by Tipperary in the Munster final and the girls lost to Kerry 4-8 to 2-7 at Bishopstown,

Kerry's 3<sup>rd</sup> league title in a row and their 9<sup>th</sup> in 10 years. Same old story for the juniors as they lost 2-12 to 2-4 in Doneraile. The Under 16 team played Clare in Cappamore and were delighted to win 2-5 to 3-1, a 2 point margin, only to be told after the game that the referee made it a draw, he had mistakenly credited a Waterford point to Clare.

The Under 16 team made no mistake in the replay against Clare on the 26<sup>th</sup> July winning 3-7 to 1-2 and the following night they had to travel to Doneraile to play Kerry. In the Munster final where they recorded a 2-4 to 0-4 victory over Kerry, the first ever underage provincial title win by the county. That led to an away semi-final against Roscommon at the Pdraig Pearse grounds but the long journey proved worthwhile thanks to a 5-9 to 1-4 victory on the 12<sup>th</sup> August. Kerry had home venue for the Munster senior final at Connolly Park Tralee on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> August. Waterford played really well and led 0-5 to 0-3 at half time. The second half was a humdinger and Waterford seemed on course for victory as they led in the closing stages. However a move that should have brought a goal broke down 10 yards from goal and Kerry moved the ball quickly downfield to shoot a match winning goal in a 1-8 to 0-7 victory.

The Waterford team that came so close read: Patricia Butler (Ballymacarbry), Ann Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry), Dolores Tyrrell (Ballymacarbry), Colette Whyte (Killrossanty), Ann Dunford (Ballymacarbry), June White (Killrossanty), Sinead Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Catriona Casey (Ballymacarbry), Mari O'Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (Ballymacarbry), Bernie Ryan (Ballymacarbry 0-1), Noirin Walsh (Ballymacarbry 0-1), Una McNamara (Ballymacarbry), Margaret Phelan (Ballymacarbry), Marie Crotty (Ballymacarbry 0-3). Sub: Martina O'Ryan (Ballymacarbry).

The following Saturday brought more heartbreak in the under 16 All Ireland final in Dr Cullen park, Carlow. Dublin were in town accompanied by a noisy band of supporters. Waterford started well, led 0-4 to 0-3 at half time. Waterford got a brace of second half goals by Fiona Crotty but Dublin hung in there and at the end of a thriller, won by a single point 2-5 to 2-4.

Waterford: Rachel Ahearn (Kill), Sinead Kelly (Kill), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Alison Morrissey (Kill), Honor Lonergan (Ballymacarbry), Geraldine O'Ryan 0-2 (Ballymacarbry), Martina O'Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Deirdre Wall (Ballymacarbry), Jenny Coffey (Kill), Fiona Crotty 2-1 (Ballymacarbry), Marcella Foran (Na Deise), Edel O'Regan 0-1 (Kill), Subs: Martha Cahill (Na Deise), Michelle Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Leona Guiry (Kill), Roseanne Ryan (Na Deise), Andrea Dunford (Na Deise), Lorena Mooney (Kill), Catherine Hallinan (Ballymacarbry).

Newtown won the junior county final 3-4 to 0-3 against Sliabh Gcua thus capturing the new Waterford Foods Cup. Na Deise captured the Under 14 league title 0-4 to 0-2 over Ballymacarbry, but Ballymacarbry fought back in the championship to qualify for the Under 14 A final.

Ballymacarbry retained the senior title easily beating Na Deise 5-15 to 0-1 in the final. Noel Murray put up a new cup for Under 14 A competition and the

Ballymacarbry club became the first holders defeating Kill 4-7 to 2-2 in the final at Modeligo on the 30 September.

1989 saw Waterford win 3 All Star awards as Ann Dunford, Bernie Ryan and Aine Wall were selected. Ballymacarbry again travelled to Dublin for the All Ireland sevens and for the first time brought 2 teams.

The Munster club championship campaign began on the 22 October, a semi-final clash between Ballymacarbry and Kerry champions, Austin Stack at Killavullen and the Kingdom girls proved no match losing 8-8 o 1-4. The following Sunday brought a Munster final clash with Glanworth and at the last moment the game was moved to Ballyporeen. Marie Crotty missed the semi-final because of a soccer cup final in Dublin and didn't make the starting line up but Ballymacarbry coasted to a 2-14 to 0-4 victory and recorded a 4<sup>th</sup> Munster final victory in 5 years.

The All Ireland semi-final saw another easy victory over London, representatives, the Kingdom in Ballymacarbry. Rochfortbridge also qualified for the all Ireland club final and the game was fixed for Durrow, Co Laois on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The 'Bridge' had been serious contenders for a number of years, this was their 3<sup>rd</sup> final appearance, and they lost the 1980 final to Castleisland and were also beaten by Galway Gaels in 1982. Several of their players were members of the Westmeath team that lost the 1987 All Ireland senior final to Kerry. Both teams travelled to Durrow but on arrival, it was very obvious that no game would take place, visibility was down to about 40 yards because of a severe fog.

The final was re-fixed for the Gaelic Grounds in Athy and this time parts of the pitch were waterlogged. However, the game went ahead and what a battle it proved to be. Conditions dictated that there was going to be no frills and in the end, it came down to Ballymacarbry's greater ability to kick points, 0-9 to Rochfortbridge 0-3 and the club title had been regained.

Ballymacarbry: Patricia Butler, Ann Dunford, Dolores Tyrrell, Martina O'Ryan, Noirin Walsh, Sinead Walsh, Cleona Walsh, Mari O'Ryan, Catriona Casey 0-1, Aine Wall 0-1, Bernie Ryan 0-1, Marie Crotty 0-4, Fiona Crotty 0-1, Ann Fitzpatrick 0-1, Geraldine O'Ryan. Subs: Claire Walsh, Una McNamara, Sharon Wyse, Deirdre Wall, Regina Byrne and Michelle Walsh.

This was a very young team, Fiona Crotty played in the Under 14 grade in 1989, Martina O'Ryan, Noirin Walsh, Cleona Walsh and Geraldine O'Ryan were all Under 16 so the omens for the future were good.

Honours:

Waterford Munster u16 champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland 7 a side cup champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland 7 a side plate champions

All Stars: Ann Dunford Ballymacarbry, (left full back), Bernie Ryan Ballymacarbry, (centre half forward), Aine Wall Ballymacarbry, (right half forward)

