

Waterford Ladies Football History 1992

In 1992 the test was to try and retain the All Ireland senior title. There was no doubt but that Kerry would make a serious attempt to revenge the '91 result. By the New Year the celebrations had died down. The AGM returned the following officers:

Chairman:	Michael Ryan	(Ballymacarbry)
Vice-Chairman:	Paul Mooney	(Stradbally)
Secretary:	Eleanor Hickey	(Na Deise)
Ass. Secretary:	Ann Dunford	(Ballymacarbry)
Treasurer:	Mary Mooney	(Kill)
Registrar:	June Whyte	(Killrossanty)
PRO:	Sean Foley	(Rathgormack)

Inter county mentors for 1992:

Under 14:	Mary Mooney	(Kill)
	June Whyte	(Killrossanty)
	Brigid Grant	(Ballymacarbry)
Under 16 & Minor:	Michael Ryan	(Ballymacarbry)
	Ger Mooney	(Kill)
	Jimmy McGrath	(Affane)
Junior:	Sean Foley	(Rathgormack)
	Ger Mooney	(Kill)
Senior:	Michael Ryan	(Ballymacarbry)
	Brigid Grant	(Ballymacarbry)

Bridge Terries (The Pike) took over as sponsors of the Waterford ladies football teams.

4 new clubs affiliated, St Oliver's, St Garbhans, Abbeyside, Ballincourty and Clashmore, along with Ballymacarbry, Butlerstown, Faha, Na Deise, St Pats, Old Parish, Killrossanty, Rathgormack, Dunhill, Brickey Rangers, Dungarvan and Kill brought to 16, the number of clubs registered in 1992.

A new club was founded in Dungarvan with Noel Buckley as Chairman and Dan Murphy as Secretary. Noel Murray, who was living in the town, also gave a help out. By the 7 March, Brickey Rangers were also up and running with Carmel Hennebry as Chairperson, Siobhan Cullinan as Secretary and Kay O'Connell as Treasurer.

Waterford opened the league campaign with a 6-7 to 1-3 victory over Laois at Ballylinan on the 12 April but the following Sunday were soundly beaten by Kerry 5-4 to 0-8 at Connolly Park, a wake up call in earnest. On the 3 May, Westmeath proved no match, the score being 4-20 to 0-1 and 2 weeks later, Wexford came to Ballymacarbry and lost 4-19 to 1-1.

In the Under 16 B final St Garbhans, in their first year scored a great 0-13 to 1-6 victory over Killrossanty. The Under 16 A final at the Friary College was a tremendous game, Ballymacarbry defeated Kill 6-8 to 4-8.

On the 24 May, Waterford travelled to Lucan Sarsfields ground and defeated Dublin 10-10 to 0-9. Then came the break for exams and on the 13 June, Leinster defeated Munster 2-8 to 1-9 in the inter-provincial final. In round 6 of the league, Clare, the 1991 All Ireland junior champions, came to Ballymacarbry and put in a fine performance before going under 0-13 to 0-8.

In the Munster minor championship, Waterford earned it against Clare 3-9 to 2-7 and then knocked Limerick out of the junior championship 2-12 to 1-5 at Mallow on the 12 July. On the 25 July, they overcame Kerry 5-11 to 4-4, again at Mallow to retain the Munster minor crown and as part of a double header defeated Kerry in an inaugural Under 14 tournament by 5-12 to 5-4.

Kerry were also the opponents in the under 16 final but proved no match, Waterford winning 7-13 to 1-7, also at Mallow. Then the Munster under 16, minor double of 1991 had been retained. On the 26 July Waterford travelled to O'Moore Park, Portlaoise to play newcomers Monaghan in the league Under 14 final. Monaghan proved to be a real test, Waterford winning 0-10 to 1-4 but at a price. Aine Wall attempting to block down a shot broke a bone in her wrist and the following day had her hand put in plaster and was told she was out of the Munster final.

On 1 August, Cork won the junior final in Ardfinnan 1-10 to 0-4 and Ballymacarbry, again trained by Marie Crotty won the Munster Community Games title defeating Blennerville (Kerry) 7-11 to 1-1 in the final. Mayo travelled to Dungarvan for the Under 16 All Ireland semi-final and scored 5 goals but were still beaten by Waterford's ability to kick points 1-18 to 5-3.

One week later, Roscommon travelled to Cappaquinn and played well but lost 1-11 to 0-8 on the 15 August. The following day the senior team travelled to Newmarket on Fergus to play Clare and took the game very serious especially as Clare ran them close in the league at Ballymacarbry in late June. Over the intervening 2 months, Waterford had stepped up the training considerably and it showed in a 2-17 to 2-2 victory. Na Deise defeated Kill 2-6 to 1-7 in the intermediate county final and Amelia Ryan played in the Croke Park mini sevens.

The third trip to Mosney in 6 seasons again brought All Ireland success as Ballymacarbry defeated Headford (Galway) 5-8 to 1-6 in the semi-final and Carbury (Kildare) 1-10 to 0-2 in the All Ireland final. The successful teams in 1987, 88 and 92 were all trained by county senior player Marie Crotty, a feat even more remarkable for the fact that during the entire time she was working and living in Dublin and travelled up and down every weekend.

On Saturday evening the 29 August, Kerry arrived in Dungarvan for a Munster final clash with Waterford, the 6th consecutive final between the teams. Aine Wall had a dilemma, her hand was in plaster since the Monaghan league game and she had strict instructions not to take it off for another week, not to mention play a game. On the Thursday before the game, Mary Wall (mother) walked into her sitting room and found Aine dissolving the plaster in a bucket of water. The matter of a broken bone in her wrist wasn't going to stop Aine Wall playing in a Munster final.

The weather before and during the game was dreadful, the rain teaming down and Kerry struck for an early goal. Waterford fought back to lead at half time by a single point and went on to win a very tense affair, 0-8 to 1-1. Julie Torpey made her championship debut as a second half substitute and the same Aine Wall was Waterford's leading scorer notching 0-4.

The All Ireland minor final was fixed for Dr Cullen Park on Saturday, the 12 September against Laois. Claire Ryan was a notable and significant absentee though injury sustained at a basketball match and again the weather conditions were dreadful. The Dr Cullen Park committee refused to let the game go ahead on the pitch and there was a discussion during which the idea of playing the match on the adjoining training pitch was mooted.

After a while Waterford fatally agreed to this. The small tight pitch definitely suited Laois who scored 3 early goals and were more committed all over the field. A Lorena Mooney goal brought Waterford back into contention after half time but try as they did, they still went under to a very good Laois team despite a very good second half performance and lost their minor crown, Laois 4-5 Waterford 2-8.

Waterford: Deirdre Wall (Ballymacarbry), Ann Hearne (Kill), Honor Lonergan (Na Deise), Jennifer Coffey (Kill), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Michelle Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Cleona Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Julie Torpey (Kill), Ruth Aherne (0-1 Kill), Rosie Fitzgerald (Kill), Fiona Crotty (0-1 Ballymacarbry), Lorena Mooney (1-3 Kill), Catherine Walsh (0-2 St Pats). Subs: Roseanne Ryan (1-1 Na Deise), Leah Murphy (Old Parish).

A week later came the Under 16 final against Wexford at Walsh Park. Claire Ryan was back after injury and Wexford started like a hurricane and led by 6 points after 5 minutes. Evelyn Mooney goaled for Waterford but Wexford went straight down field and scored a 3rd goal and quickly added 2 points to go into an 8 point lead. Waterford rang the changes including putting outfield player Denise Nugent back into goal.

Claire Ryan shot 2-2 in a blistering 5 minute spell. Catherine Walsh 0-2, Martina Beresford and Deirdre O'Rourke all adding points and incredibly Waterford led 3-6 to 3-3 at half time. Youthful Annlisa Crotty came on as a substitute and had a stormer. Wexford had a decent team and proved it by leading by a point after 50 minutes and it would have been more only for Julie Torpey at centre back. Again, Waterford took

over and Claire Ryan shot 4 consecutive points to sign, sealed and deliver a 3-10 to 4-4 victory with Claire Ryan scoring an incredible tally of 3-6 out of 3-10.

Waterford: Mary Walsh (Na Deise), Sinead Hennessy (Kill), Karen Denn (Na Deise), Edel Lonergan (Na Deise), Denise Nugent (St Pats), Julie Torpey (Kill), Ann Harney (Kilrossanty), Catherine Walsh (0-2 St Pats), Rebecca Hallahan (Ballymacarbry), Martina Beresford (0-1 St Pats), Ruth Ahern (Kill), Leah Murphy (Old Parish), Deirdre O'Rourke (0-1 Clashmore), Claire Ryan (3-6 Ballymacarbry), Evelyn Mooney (1-0 Kill). Subs: Annlisa Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Josephine Terry (St Garbhans), Gillian Denn (Na Deise), Suzy Kennedy (Kill), Sarah Hickey (Brickey Rangers), Naomi Flynn (Dunhill), Jenny Hallahan (Kilrossanty), Noelle Sheehan, (Abbeyside), Caroline Ahearn (Kill), Triona Whyte (Kilrossanty), Rachel Kiely (Kill), Siobhan O'Ryan (Ballymacarbry).

Waterford defeated Monaghan in the All Ireland Under 14 blitz 3-7 to 3-2 and Old Parish defeated St pats 3-4 to 2-4 in the junior county final. Paula Walsh travelled to Croke Park on All Ireland GAA final day to play in the mini sevens.

On Sunday the 4 October, Waterford ran on to Croke Park as warm favourites against Laois. Having defeated the O'Moore County the previous year, they fancied their chances. But didn't realise this was a much better prepared Laois team. Waterford had the win in the opening half. Catriona Casey opened the scoring with a point, then Bernie Ryan hit a precision 50 yard pass over the Laois full back line and Aine Wall buried the ball in the back of the net.

Everything was going according to plan but Laois had other ideas and Linda Brennan goaled. Then Kathleen Murphy scored a second Laois goal and Waterford were in trouble. Noirin Walsh, Geraldine O'Ryan and Marie Crotty kicked points but Laois hung in there and left the field at half time level, 2-3 to Waterford's 1-6 with wind advantage to come in the second half.

Waterford seemed in dire straits, Regina Byrne retired injured and was replaced by Honor Lonergan as referee Johnny Hayes threw in the ball for the second half, the wind had got stronger. But Waterford answered the challenge with a super second half performance with the back particularly outstanding. Bernie Ryan's long pass found Geraldine O'Ryan and a quick pass put Aine Wall in, and the Laois net bulged, a crucial goal and a mortal wound for Laois. Marie Crotty kicked 3 great points, Claire Ryan made her debut when she came on as a substitute and Aine Wall had the final say to secure a memorable 2-10 to 3-4 victory.

Waterford line out as follows: Patricia Butler (Ballymacarbry), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Martina O'Ryan (Ballymacarbry), June Whyte (Kilrossanty), Sinead Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Ann Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry), Cleona Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Bernie Ryan (cap. Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (0-1 Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Geraldine O'Ryan (0-2 Ballymacarbry), Catriona Casey (0-2 Ballymacarbry), Fiona Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (2-2 Ballymacarbry), Marie Crotty (0-4 Ballymacarbry), Subs: Claire Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Michelle Walsh

(Ballymacarbry), Rose Donnelly (Dunhill), Lorena Mooney (Kill), Julie Torpey (Kill), Colette Whyte (Kilrossanty), Deirdre Wall (Ballymacarbry).

Mascots: Michelle Ryan, Louise Ryan
Manager/Coach/Trainer: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)
Assistant coach: Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry)

Sunday 11 October, Waterford travelled to Kerry for the league semi-final and earned a 0-12 to 2-2 victory and 7 days later another trip, this time to O'Moore Park, Portlaoise for the league final, and a repeat of the All Ireland final v Laois. This was a thriller and it took a brilliant save from Patricia Butler late in the game to keep Waterford in front and register a 1-8 to 2-3 victory thus winning the league for the first time after losing 4 consecutive league finals. So Waterford headed home from Portlaoise as double winners.

There was no rest for the Ballymacarbry players and the following Sunday they lined out again Fergus rovers in the Munster club semi-final at Mallow. The 4th consecutive Sunday playing matches. This time there was no cliff hanger only a comfortable 3-17 to 1-2 victory. 2 weeks later, Glanworth travelled to the Mill Field Ballymacarbry for the Munster club final. But Ballymacarbry proved far too strong winning 3-14 to 1-3. It was the club's 7th provincial and they were on course for a 4th consecutive club title.

On Saturday, the 14 November, there was a short trip to Ardfinnan for the All Ireland club semi-final against Wembley Gaels (London) which resulted in a 6-12 to 0-1 victory. The following day, Waterford defeated the All Stars 3-7 to 3-3 at Dungarvan club grounds. Again Rochfortbridge were the opponents in the All Ireland club final and the venue was the Gaelic Grounds in Athy. Conditions were terrible, the field was a quagmire of mud.

Ballymacarbry had 13 of the Waterford senior team that started the all Ireland final 2 months earlier, the exceptions being Michelle Walsh and Claire Ryan who came on as a substitute at Croke Park.

Again, scores were scarce in the second half, Aine Wall's point, the only score in the 3rd quarter before the game was decided. The Rochfortbridge keeper blocked down by Catriona Casey and Aine Wall slammed the rebound to the net to end the contest. Marie Crotty pointed a free and although Ann Marie Curran did get a consolation goal for the Bridge, player of the match Aine Wall had the final say blasting home her 3rd goal of the game to seal victory, Ballymacarbry 3-8 to Rochfortbridge 1-2 at the final whistle.

Team captain Bernie Ryan completed a unique record, she had received the Munster senior, the All Ireland senior, the National league, the Munster and All Ireland club cups, 5 in total, the first person to do so – a remarkable achievement.

Ballymacarbry: Patricia Butler, Regina Byrne, Martina O'Ryan, Cleona Walsh, Michelle Walsh, Ann Fitzpatrick, Sinead Walsh, Bernie Ryan (cap), Noirin Walsh (0-1),

Marie Crotty (0-4), Geraldine O’Ryan, Catriona Casey, Fiona Crotty, Aine Wall (3-3), Claire Ryan.

Manager/Coach/trainer: Michael Ryan Ballymacarbry
Assistant Coach: Brigid Grant Ballymacarbry

Honours:

Waterford Munster & All Ireland senior champions

Waterford National league Division 1 champions

Waterford U16 Munster & All Ireland champions

Waterford All Ireland u14 Blitz champions

Waterford Munster minor champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

Ballymacarbry u14 All Ireland Community games champions

All Stars: Bernie Ryan Ballymacarbry, (mid field), Martina O’Ryan Ballymacarbry, (full back), June Whyte Killrossanty, (left full back), Geraldine O’Ryan Ballymacarbry, (centre half forward), Aine Wall Ballymacarbry (full forward).

Bernie Ryan created history by captaining her club to win County, Munster & All Ireland titles as well as Captain of the Waterford team that won Munster, All Ireland and National league titles.