

Waterford Ladies Football History 1994

Officers:

Chairperson	Michael Ryan	(Ballymacarbry)
Vice Chairperson	Joe Cleary	(Abbeyside)
Secretary	Eleanor Hickey	(Na Deise)
Assistant Secretary	Declan Whelan	(Old Parish)
Treasurer	Mary Mooney	(Kill)
Registrar	Dan Murphy	(St. Garvans)
PRO	Declan Whelan	(Ardmore)
Irish Lang Officer	Martin Curran	(Old Parish)

Noel Murray (Ballymacarbry) was elected as Munster President and round 1 of the league saw Westmeath travel to Ballymacarbry where they were well beaten 6-14 to 0-05.

The County selectors of 1994 were u14/16 Johnny Landers, Jimmy O Rourke and Noel Murray, u18/junior Michael Ryan, Ger Mooney & Declan Whelan. Senior, Michael Ryan. Lawlors Hotel continued as team sponsor for the year. Michael Ryan and Noel Murray attended congress in Wexford. On the 27th of March Waterford scored a 4-12 to 2-06 victory over Mayo. A fixtures committee of Declan Whelan, Eleanor Hickey and Dan Murphy was set up to organise club fixtures.

The next league game was at home to Dublin at Kill on the 17 April, Waterford won comfortably 6-14 to 4-02 and in the secondary schools final St.Agustines defeated Ard Scoil 3-05 to 1-06. Ballymacarbry club decided to donate a cup in memory of Dolores Tyrell to Central Council, and fund raising began to raise finance among the ideas used was a sponsored walk in the Comeragh Mountains which ended with refreshments in Bridgre Terries. In the u16 B final St. Coleman's, a new underage team comprising of Old Parish and Ardmore players, defeated Abbeyside 3-11 to 1-04 in the County final.

The Fraher field had been refurbished including the building of a new stand, the official opening was on Sunday 15 May and a ladies Gaelic football game was part of the programme of events. Kerry travelled to play a national league game which Waterford won easily 6-12 to 1-05. Ardmore defeated Rathgormack in the schools C final with a girl who was to emerge as an outstanding player of the future, Mary O Donnell as captain.

On the 22 May Clare travelled to Ballymacarbry for a league fixture which turned out to be a thriller, Waterford winning 3-19 to 4-15 and the following Saturday evening Laois, under a new manager Sean "Goggy" Delaney defeated Waterford in Stradbally (Co. Laois) 3-14 to 0-12.

After a break for the exams Waterford faced Donegal for the first time in Tullamore on Sunday the 26 June and as part of a bonding exercise, stayed in the Killshelin

Hotel, Portlaoise on the Saturday night before travelling on to Tullamore, where they won 4-23 to 3-00.

In the school's A final Ballymacarbry defeated Coolnasmeer/Kilbrien 6-04 to 1-01 and Bushy Park staged an u14/minor double header v Tipperary on 1st July. Tipperary won the u14 game 2-03 to 1-05 while Waterford won the minor, 7-22 to 0-00. Mary Walsh (Na Deise) came on as a substitute in the last five minutes for Waterford but tragedy struck the following week as Mary died suddenly. Waterford refused to travel for a league semi final against Mayo later that week owing to the funeral and were eventually were thrown out of the league because of this. The Walsh family were soon to donate a magnificent trophy to the County board in Mary's honour and this was subsequently played annually as a 7 a side competition.

Waterford were very unhappy at Central Council's decision not to refix the game against Mayo and nobody in the Decies was disappointed when Monaghan beat Mayo in the 1994 league final after Mayo's walkover against Waterford.

On the 17 July Waterford blitzed Limerick 11-10 to 5-02 in the junior championship and defeat of Cork in the senior meant a Munster final against Kerry who defeated Clare in the other semi final. Another easy win over Limerick in the u16 by 3-19 to 0-01.

Old Parish/Ring/Ardmore won the County Community games title and followed this up by winning the Munster title with Sean Wade as trainer.

On the 24th of July Cork confirmed their superiority over Waterford in the junior winning the Munster final 5-16 to 3-04.

Clare beat Waterford in the Munster u16 final and the minor final, between the same teams was another thriller Clare winning by a single point 3-10 to 3-09.

On the club scene St. Anne's won the u14 A title defeating St Coleman's 8-06 to 3-06 in the County final and Kill defeated Na Deise 4-16 to 4-09 in the u14 B final. On the 31 July Kerry were visitors to the Fraher field as defending champions for the Munster senior final but this time Waterford made no mistake winning easily 1-16 to 2-02.

Sean Foley sponsored a shield for the junior B league.

Laois travelled to Dungarvan for the All Ireland senior semi final on Sunday the 28 August. The curtain raiser to the game was a G.A.A match (senior football) between local rivals Abbeyside/Ballincourty and Dungarvan and the admission price set by National were 3 pounds for adults and 2 pounds for students. The ladies match turned out to be a real cracker, Laois always looked dangerous, Sue Ramsbottom was on fire and Waterford struggled to cope. At the end of 60 pulsating minutes the teams were level and heading into extra time, with time almost up Waterford were awarded a penalty and Marie Crotty tapped it over the bar. The referee played 15 additional minutes of injury time and Laois had one last chance, a 25 yard free which

Sue Ramsbottom drove inches wide and Waterford were through by the skin of their teeth.

Laois were devastated, the fact that Sue Ramsbottom won player of the match was no consolation, and they had lost to Waterford 3 times in 4 seasons.

In the junior A County final Brickey Rangers defeated Clashmore 5-05 to 3-05 and Dunhill Fenor defeated St.Oliver's, 7-11 to 3-07.

At a special function at Lawlors Hotel, Dungarvan Ballymacarbry handed over the magnificent Dolores Tyrell memorial cup to National President Helen O'Rourke. This cup was the prize for the All Ireland senior club championship, a competition that Ballymacarbry had dominated in recent times.

The County board organised a fundraiser called the personality of ladies football, the idea being that part of the money raised would go back to the club. Killrossanty put in a tremendous effort and club member Sinead Kirwin was declared the winner and Mairead McGrath Brickey Rangers was second, Waterford crystal sponsored the event. A flag day was also organised and this raised further funds for the trip to Croke Park.

Sunday the 9th October was All Ireland senior final against Monaghan. W.L.R broadcast the game live and Waterford went in as overwhelming favourites. Monaghan had won the junior All Ireland in 1992 and although they won the national league Waterford were still expected to win.

What a game it turned out to be, early goals from Catriona Casey and Aine Wall put Waterford ahead but Monaghan weren't one bit overawed by the occasion. With Jenny Greenan outstanding they ran at Waterford at every opportunity and a crucial moment was a Monaghan penalty which was saved by 16 year old Waterford keeper Annalisa Crotty. Olivia Condon was sent off for a second bookable offence which seemed a bit harsh and Waterford were hanging on for dear life. Aine Wall was the star of the game shooting 1-05 all from play and the final whistle saw the County win the Brendan Martin cup for the 3rd time in 4 years with Geraldine O Ryan as captain. Waterford: Annalisa Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Martina O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Sinead Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Julie Torpey (Kill), Bernie Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Marie Crotty (0-02, Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Geraldine O Ryan (0-01, Captain, Ballymacarbry), Catriona Casey (1-00, Ballymacarbry), Fiona Crotty (0-01, Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (1-05, Ballymacarbry), Claire Ryan (0-01, Ballymacarbry) Subs: Siobhan O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Michelle Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Ann Dunford (Ballymacarbry), Patricia Butler (Ballymacarbry), Rebecca Hallahan (Ballymacarbry), Catherine Walsh,(St Pats) Ruth Ahearn, (Kill).

Manager/ Coach/Trainer Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Assistant coach Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), Physio Billy Kelly, Masseur Biddy Butler, Mascots Michelle Ryan, Louise Ryan & Sinead Ryan.

And so another memorable homecoming to Dungarvan brilliantly organised by Tom Keith, the by now familiar open top bus, band and speeches to a huge crowd in Grattan square Dungarvan.

Aine Wall won the Independent (Newspaper) sports star of the week and the (October) Park Hotel award and 5 Waterford players, Martina O Ryan, Catriona Casey, Noirin Walsh, Fiona Crotty and Aine Wall won All Star awards. Waterford played the All Stars on Sunday the 30 October at Fraher field and lost a good game 4-12 to 4-06.

The Inter County season over the Ballymacarbry players had the by now familiar club championship to contend with. In the minor A championship final they beat St Anne's and defeated Killrossanty in the u16 A final. For the first time the club selected separate captains for club and inter county. Geraldine O Ryan captained Waterford whilst Catriona Casey captained the club. In the Munster club final at Abbeydorney they defeated the home club 2-18 to 0-03 to record an eight successive Munster title and then defeated the Neale (Mayo) at Cappaquinn in the all Ireland semi final. The old foe Rochfortbridge were the opponents in the club final at Semple Stadium, after epic battles in 1989, 1990, 1991 finals they were taking nothing for granted. However on this occasion the margin was much wider. Rochfortbridge played against a strong wind in the first half and got a tonic start as Ann Marie Curran scored a goal after just 20 seconds. Edel Clarke kicked a magnificent point from the kick out and the "Bridge" was 4 points to the good.

Aine Wall opened Ballymacarbry's account with an 8th minute point and 2 minutes later she was brought down in the square. Marie Crotty buried the resultant penalty to level the scores after 10 minutes. Fiona Crotty shot 2 points but these were cancelled out by Patricia Reynolds and Ann Marie Curran. Twenty minutes gone and the team's level despite Ballymacarbry playing with the wind and the new Dolores Tyrrell cup at stake, the pressure was really on. Suddenly Ballymacarbry upped a gear as Fiona Crotty, Marie Crotty (2), Geraldine O Ryan and Claire Ryan pointed to leave Ballymacarbry 1-08 to 1-03 ahead at the interval. The second half would surely be a real test, but when the questions were asked Ballymacarbry had the answers. With Noirin Walsh outstanding at centre back Ballymacarbry pulled out all the stops.

In the 35th minute Geraldine O Ryan put Aine Wall through for a goal and now Rochfortbridge had a mountain to climb. Incredibly against the wind Marie Crotty pointed a 40 yard free, Claire Ryan added another and Aine Wall got on the end of a great move and crashed home her second goal. Wall and Claire Ryan added points to sign seal and deliver the Dolores Tyrrell cup back to Ballymacarbry.

There were emotional scenes as team captain Catriona Casey received the trophy from national President Helen O Rourke. With the prize in memory of a great friend and colleague there was no way Ballymacarbry could lose this final and the second half performance of every single one of the team would have made the late Dolores very proud.

Ballymacarbry: Annlisa Crotty, Regina Byrne, Martina O Ryan, Cleona Walsh, Sinead Walsh, Noirin Walsh, Michelle Walsh, Bernie Ryan, Catriona Casey (Captain), Fiona Crotty (0-03), Geraldine O Ryan (0-01), Marie Crotty (1-04), Ann Dunford, Aine Wall (2-02), Claire Ryan (0-02).

Subs: Siobhan O Ryan, Rebecca Hallahan, Patricia Butler, Marie Fitzpatrick, Ann Walsh, Paula Walsh, Mairead Ryan, Rose Power.

Manager/coach Michael Ryan, assistant coach Brigid Grant

It was Ballymacarbry's 6th All Ireland club title in a row.

Honours;

Waterford Munster & All Ireland senior champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

All Stars: Noirin Walsh Ballymacarbry, (left full back), Martina O Ryan Ballymacarbry, (full back), Catriona Casey Ballymacarbry, (left half forward), Fiona Crotty Ballymacarbry, (right half forward), Aine Wall Ballymacarbry, (full forward).