

Waterford Ladies Football History 2000

Michael Ryan a native of Kilgobnet, and a Dublin based business man, and his company Salten Properties came on board as sponsors of Waterford Ladies football, a practice he generously continued for the rest of the decade.

2000 the year of the new Millennium in a blaze of publicity but it was business as usual for the Waterford Ladies Footballers. Marion Troy was selected as one of the nominees for the Pat Noctor young sports star of the year awards.

Brendan Gallagher was appointed team manager for the U14 team; Johnny Kirwin was in charge of U16 while Michael Ryan continued as Minor and senior team manager.

The National league commenced with a home game to Wexford. Wexford had already beaten league champions Monaghan and were top of the table. Waterford won a close encounter 2-8 to 1-8; Rebecca Hallahan scored a lovely goal. Waterford led 1-6 to 0-2 at half time and a late goal by Aoife Murphy clinched victory.

On the 19th of March, Waterford played Monaghan in Westmanstown (Dublin) and played well to win 1-12 to 0-5. They led 0-4 to 0-3 at half time but began the 2nd half well on top as Claire Ryan, Rebecca Hallahan and Geraldine O' Ryan kicked points and a superb move saw Niamh Barry score a goal. Claire Ryan was the leading scorer with (0-5) in a convincing victory.

On the 27th of April Waterford flew to London to play the home side in Ruislip the following day and fielding virtually a full strength side, the game was a mismatch 7-28 to 0-2. Mary O' Rourke scored 3-1, Geraldine O' Ryan scored 1-5, Rebecca Hallahan 1-3 and Claire Ryan 2-1.

The U14 team lost to Limerick 1-9 to 2-4. Rachel Wall and Emma Gallagher scored Waterford's goal. Senior team manager Michael Ryan took over as coach of the Waterford (men's) U21 footballers and after a draw with Kerry in Dungarvan, travelled to Killarney and defeated the Kingdom. They subsequently lost to Limerick in the Munster Final.

On the 16th of April Waterford played Meath in Walsh Park as a curtain raiser to a National League hurling game between Waterford and Tipperary. Again Waterford won 4-19 to 1-7. Mary O' Rourke scored 2-0, Niamh Barry and Geraldine O' Ryan got the other goals.

On the 14th of May Waterford played Mayo in Pairc Chiarain in Athlone and won, decisively 5-17 to 3-10. The Deise girls led 2-14 to 1-2 at half time. Mary O' Rourke got both Waterford goals and Diane O' Hora replied for Mayo within 30 seconds of the restart and Aoife Murphy quickly added a 4th and Mayo scored 1-2 in injury time.

A week later Tyrone was the opposition and the unbeaten run continued with 3-10 to 2-9 victory. Deirdre Breathnach got a great goal in the 27th minute, Niamh Barry added a 2nd in the 45th minute and Julie Mai Keane scored the 3rd by flicking the ball into the corner of the net in the 58th minute.

The following Sunday the 28th of May it was Mayo again in the League semi final at Ballinasloe and Mayo reversed that defeat 2 weeks earlier with a 2-9 to 1-10 victory. Waterford led by 8 points after 43 minutes yet lost by 2. Aoife Murphy's goal gave Waterford a 1-5 to 0-2 interval lead but Mayo had a strong wind behind them after the restart.

Two Geraldine O' Ryan points and another by Rebecca Hallahan put the blues in control but Mayo responded well and really kicked into gears in the final quarter. Assumpta Bohan goaled and a 2nd goal by Deirdre Mc Donagh put Mayo in front and despite two late points by substitute Catriona Casey in her first game since her serious leg injury, Mayo were deserving winners.

Meanwhile, at the club scene St. Anne's beat Clashmore 4-10 to 2-7 in the U16 A club final in Old Parish and Ballymacarbry beat Rathgormack 1-9 to 0-1 in the schools A final. Kill beat Kilbrien/Coolnasmeer 5-11 to 0-3 in the schools B final.

In the U16, Waterford beat Tipperary 8-27 to 0-1 on the 28th of June in Ardfinnan and on July 1st the juniors beat Clare 5-11 to 1-7 at Cappamore. Elaine Power got 2-1, Mary O' Rourke got 1-2, Aoife Murphy 1-1 and Sharon Foley 1-0.

On the 8th July Waterford travelled to Midleton to take on Cork in the senior championship. After an even 1st quarter Geraldine O' Ryan goaled and Mary O' Rourke got another in the 24th minute to leave Waterford 2-6 to 0-4 ahead at half time. In the second half Waterford turned on the style and further goals by Niamh Barry (2) and Rebecca Hallahan and 5 great points by Geraldine O' Ryan sealed and delivered a 5-13 to 0-11 victory. Deirdre O' Reilly who scored 0-6 was Cork's outstanding player and she got good support from Juliet Murphy and Mary O' Connor.

The following day, Sunday the 9th of July Waterford beat Limerick 1-20 to 0-7 at Bansha in the Munster junior championship, Teresa Mollohan scored 0-12 and Ann Morrissey got the goal. In the U16 Championship Waterford played very well to defeat Kerry 1-14 to 1-3 in Cappamore and Elaine Power got the goal. On the 12th of July Waterford played Limerick in the U16 A final at Tipperary town and Limerick won a thriller 2-12 to 2-10, the winning goal coming late in injury time.

In the Mary Walsh 7 aside tournament in Modeligo and up and coming Tramore side beat Ballymacarbry in the final.

The Munster Junior and Senior finals were scheduled for Bruff on the 30th of July. In the junior final Kerry played Waterford and this was a very even affair and the crucial Waterford goal was scored in the 36th minute when Julie Cunningham took a pass

from Elaine Power and hammered the ball to the net. Teresa Mollohan kicked 5 excellent points, Sharon Foley and substitute Miriam Liston each got 2 while Elaine Power and Julie Mai Keane got 1 each, completing the scoring as Waterford were the Munster Junior champions for the 4th successive year.

In the senior grade Clare had regrouped and came into the final very confident. Claire Ryan kicked an early point and Mary O' Rourke drove to the net when the ball rebounded off the cross bar. Claire Ryan hit 3 consecutive points and another by Rebecca Hallahan gave Waterford a 7 point lead after 7 minutes.

Majella Griffin brought Clare back into contention and by half time the margin was reduced to 3 points, 1-6 to 0-6 in Waterford's favour. The reigning champions had to play against a strong wind in the 2nd half and Claire Ryan quickly pointed. However a Majella Griffin point and an Aoife Healy goal levelled the scores by the 35th minute and Clare were flying. Ten scoreless minutes followed and then came the match winning goal. Rebecca Hallahan floated a free into the Clare goalmouth and Annalisa Crotty rose high and punched the ball to the Clare net.

Fifteen minutes remained and Waterford didn't score again. Clare tacked on 2 points but a resolute Waterford defence held firm thanks to a great Sarah Hickey save and some great tackling and Waterford held on for a 2-9 to 1-11 victory over a defensive gallant Banner side once again. Waterford scores were Claire Ryan 0-7, Mary O' Rourke 1-0, Annalisa Crotty 1-0, Geraldine O' Ryan 0-2. Thus for the 4th consecutive year Waterford recorded a Munster Senior and Junior Championship double.

On the 9th of August Waterford played Kerry in the Munster minor final in Fermoy and won 2-19 to 2-6 to win the title for the 7th time in 10 years. Mary O' Rourke scored 8 points, Aoife Murphy and Marie Hogan got the goals and Aine Ryan marked ace Kerry forward Sarah O' Connor out of the game.

In the Waterford Senior county final Ballymacarbry, managed by Marie Crotty who travelled up and down from Dublin twice a week, beat an East Waterford selection 2-23 to 2-3 at Fraher field and in the junior final Tramore defeated Clashmore 5-18 to 2-6.

On Sunday the 20th of August Waterford travelled to Stradbally (Laois) to play Meath in the All-Ireland minor semi final and what a game that turned out to be. They led 1-7 to 1-4 at half time, Mary O' Rourke scoring the goal. Waterford keeper Mary Hayes collided with the post and had to go off. Corner back Aine Ryan took over in the goal. Aoife Murphy goaled in the 48th minute to put Waterford 2-10 to 2-7 in front, Meath battled away and Elaine Duffy shot to the Waterford net to put the royal county into the lead. Then came the crucial moment, Aine Ryan made a brilliant save and Waterford quickly broke down field and Mary O' Rourke scored the match winning goal to leave Meath devastated.

The junior team travelled to Manchester to play Lancashire in a game that turned out to be a mismatch and won 8-40 to 0-0.

The All-Ireland Junior and Senior semi finals were a double header at Parnell Park on the 9th Sept. The juniors played Galway and the Westerners began with a flurry of points. Sharon Foley scored a Waterford goal to keep the game alive and points from Elaine Power, Teresa Mollohan, Julie Mai Keane and Fiona O' Reilly reduced the deficit to the minimum by half time.

Galway edged three points in front by the 35th minute, Marie Hogan pulled on a loose ball which flew inches over the bar. Sinead Kirwin was outstanding at full back and Teresa Mollohan levelled the scores but Galway tacked on two quick points and it was an uphill battle for Waterford again. Sharon Foley drove a penalty over the bar. Further points by Teresa Mollohan and Elaine Power levelled the scores by the 56th minute, but two late Galway points won the day and Waterford faced junior heartbreak for the second year in a row. Waterford: Nuala Hearne, Ciara Prendergast, Sinead Kirwin, Denise Nugent, Donna Frost, Carmel Kissane, Aine Ryan, Deirdre Breathnach, Fiona O Reilly (0-1), Julie May Keane (0-1), Marie Hogan (0-1), Julie Cunningham, Teresa Mollohan (0-3), Sharon Foley (1-1), Elaine Power (0-2), Subs: Miriam Liston, Niamh O Connell, Cleona O Keeffe, Ann Morrissey.

The senior game was a different story, Waterford made a blistering start, Geraldine O Ryan, Catriona Casey, Claire Ryan and Casey again all pointed in the first five minutes and Niamh Barry goaled. Claire Ryan pointed again and Meath were in serious trouble. It took all of 20 minutes for Jackie Shields to score the first Meath point and by half time Waterford were out of sight 1-12 to 0-2 ahead.

They eventually won 1-17 to 0-8. Geraldine O Ryan scored 0-5, Catriona Casey, back at the venue where she broke her leg twelve months earlier, scored four points and Niamh Barry got 1-1.

The following Saturday Waterford were off to Ballinasloe for the All Ireland minor final against Tyrone. Waterford were raging favourites and fully justified that in the opening quarter as they absolutely blitzed Tyrone. The full forward line shot 7-7 between them in a 7-12 to 1-6 victory. Mary O Rourke got 4-2, Aoife Murphy 2-4, Niamh Barry 1-1. In the desire to rest senior players Waterford made six substitutions and this eventually led to Central Council awarding the game to Tyrone. Imagine losing an All Ireland final 7-12 to 1-6, the opposition taking off their best six players to prevent a massacre and the Association awarded the game to the losers. Thankfully the rules have been changed since to prevent a recurrence. This was the second time an injustice to Waterford led to a radical change of policy. In 1998 the clock was brought in after the fiasco of 11 minutes and 32 seconds additional time was added on the previous year.

For the record the Waterford team that won the 2000 All Ireland minor title was: Mary Hayes, Donna Frost, Ciara Prendergast, Aine Ryan, Bridget Hannigan(Capt.), Marion Troy, Elaine Power, Mary O Donnell (0-1), Deirdre Breathnach, Miriam Liston, Marie Hogan(0-1), Fiona O Reilly(0-1), Aoife Murphy(2-4), Niamh Barry(1-1), Mary O Rourke(4-2), Subs: Cliona O Keeffe, Linda Wall (0-1), Marian Ryan (0-1), Michelle Ryan, Natalie O Connor, Ealga Hayes, Aileen Barron.

On Sunday 19th Sept Brickey Rangers defeated Crusheen (Clare) in the Munster junior club championship on a 4-17 to 2-2 scoreline in Cappamore. In the final at Rathkeale four weeks later Rockchapel defeated the Brickeys 3-17 to 2-7.

Sunday 1st Oct was All Ireland final, a repeat of the 1999 final between Waterford and Mayo. This time Mayo were favourites. Mary O'Donnell's shot was given as a point although it was clearly wide in the 2nd minute but that was the only break that Waterford got all day long. Shortly after Mary O'Donnell caught Sarah Hickey's kick and just inside her own 20 metre line, the referee correctly ordered a free to Mayo, which Cora Staunton pointed. It was tit for tat early on, Geraldine O'Ryan and Catriona Casey (free) both pointed for Waterford and Diane O'Hara replied for Mayo, 0-3 to 0-2 after twenty minutes.

In the 24th minute Cora Staunton danced through the Waterford defence and planted the ball in the back of the net. An Assumpta Bohan and Catriona Casey (free) swapped points and another Casey free left Mayo 1-3 to 0-5 ahead at the break.

Aoife Murphy came on as a sub for Catriona Casey and made a definite impression. Marcella Heffernan pointed for Mayo, then Waterford hit a purple patch as Murphy, Annalisa Crotty, Claire Ryan (free) and Geraldine O'Ryan landed four points on the trot to put Waterford into the lead. Then came a decisive moment Mayo broke down field and Marie Staunton won possession in the Waterford square, she was shielded by Waterford keeper Sarah Hickey but the referee awarded a penalty and Yvonne Byrne took a brilliant spot kick and scored in the right hand corner and Mayo led 2-4 to 0-9. Rebecca Hallahan equalised and eight scoreless minutes followed. Then Christine Heffernan edged Mayo ahead but Waterford wing back Julie Torpey kicked the equaliser. Mary O'Donnell had been moved to full back to mark Cora Staunton and was doing well, but Staunton won possession out in the left corner forward position, got away with hopping the ball twice and drove a high ball goalwards and it deceived Waterford keeper Sarah Hickey and crept in under the cross-bar, a goal reminiscent of Mary O'Donnell's lob on Brenda McAnespie in 1998.

Mayo pointed again and Mayo were four points up. Undaunted Waterford fought back, Mary O'Rourke, Geraldine O'Ryan and Aoife Murphy landed three points on the trot and it was a single point game. Mayo were hanging on and there was one more chance, Waterford broke from defence and were awarded a free. A quick exchange of passes put Marion Troy through but she drove inches wide with five seconds left on the clock. The hooter brought devastation and Mayo had retained the title.

Waterford had players much better than 1999 against a very good Mayo side but two major decisions had been given against them. Then again these things balance out over the years; Waterford got a few breaks in 1998. Waterford: Sarah Hickey, Marion Troy, Angie Walsh, Olivia Condon, Bridget Hannigan, Martina O'Ryan, Julie Torpey (0-1), Annalisa Crotty (0-1), Mary O'Donnell (0-1), Rebecca Hallahan Capt. (0-

1), Claire Ryan (0-1), Catriona Casey (0-3), Mary O'Rourke (0-1), Niamh Barry, Geraldine O'Ryan (0-3), Subs: Aoife Murphy (0-2), Triona Whyte.

Mary O'Donnell, Olivia Condon and Geraldine O'Ryan were Waterford's best players on a team that came so close to reversing the 1999 result. Cora Staunton who missed the '99 final scored 2-2 for Mayo.

In the Munster Junior club championship St Vals (Cork) defeated Tramore.

Two weeks later Ballymacarbry played the Munster club final against Donoughmore in Glanworth. They led 3-6 to 0-6 at half time and the ability to score goals proved decisive in a 6-12 to 3-12 victory. Linda Wall scored (2-2), Fiona Crotty (2-1), Geraldine O'Ryan (1-3), Martina O'Ryan (1-0); Aine Wall came on as a sub and scored (0-3).

Three weeks later they played Mayo champions Carnacon at Fraher field in the All Ireland quarter final. Carnacon fielded Mayo players Maria Staunton, Cora Staunton, Claire Egan and Niamh Lally, but Ballymacarbry, inspired by player/manager Marie Crotty, were deserving winners, 0-13 to 0-7.

On the 12th Nov Ballymacarbry travelled to Laois to play Timahoe in the All Ireland club semi-final. They led 1-6 to 1-3 at half time, thanks to a Claire Ryan goal, Sue Ramsbottom got Timahoe's goal. Late in the match Marie Crotty's free went all the way to the net, but Lulu Carroll shot the equalising goal. So it was on to extra time and although Marie Crotty scored 1-9 in total the loss of Geraldine O'Ryan, who got injured against Carnacon, proved decisive and Timahoe had a historic win 3-11 to 2-13. They subsequently lost the final to Monaghan champions Monaghan Harps. It was only Ballymacarbry's second defeat in 14 All Ireland senior club semi-finals.

Ballymacarbry: Shirley Condon, Ann Dunford, Noreen Walsh, Paula Walsh, Aine Ryan, Martina O'Ryan, Michelle Ryan, Annalisa Crotty, Catriona Casey, Rebecca Hallahan, Claire Ryan(1-1), Linda Wall(0-2), Marian Ryan(0-1), Marie Crotty(1-9), Marie Hannigan. Sub: Aine Wall.

Ballymacarbry won the under 12 title for the 2nd successive year defeating Comeragh Rangers 3-2 to 0-3 at Bushy Park. The curtain came down on the season when Waterford defeated Tyrone 3-13 to 2-13, Kildare in the first round of the National League. Julie Torpey played in the forwards and scored 6 points, Aoife Murphy got 2-4 and Niamh Barry got 1-1.

Honours:

Waterford Munster senior champions

Waterford Munster & All Ireland champions

Ballymacarbry Munster senior club champions

All Stars: Olivia Condon Na Deise, (left corner back), Martina O'Ryan Ballymacarbry, (centre half back), Annalisa Crotty Ballymacarbry, (mid field),