

## Waterford Ladies Football History 2002

The following officers were elected for 2002.

Chairperson:	Michael Ryan	(Ballymacarbry)
Vice-Chairperson:	Johnny Landers	(St Pats)
Secretary:	Pat Toomey	(Tramore)
Joint Treasurers:	Eleanor Hickey/ Terri Power	(Ballymacarbry/Tramore)
P.R.O:	Brendan Gallagher	(St Anne's)
Registrar:	Bernie Troy	(Na Deise)
Development officer:	George Young	(Old Parish)
Fixtures secretary:	Jimmy O Rourke	(Clashmore)
Accident Fund:	Katie Kiely	(Brickey Rangers)
Irish language officer:	Sylvia Shanley	(Brickey Rangers)

The national league format was changed and Division 1A and 1B were formed, both with 6 teams. So instead of being relegated under the old system, Waterford were still in Division 1 and how ironic that decision was as 6 months later Waterford were crowned Division 1 league champions.

Aoife Murphy was one of the 12 nominees for the Pat Noctor award in January and Waterford began the season with a challenge game at the Thurles Kickham GAA grounds, where they hammered Roscommon 7-17 to 2-06. Reigning all-Ireland champions Laois visited the Fraher field in round 1 of the league on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. Waterford gave the champions a guard of honour before the game but soon got down to business and led 1-11 to 1-00 at halftime. Geraldine O Ryan got the goal and Sue Ramsbottom replied for Laois.

Laois performed much better in the second half but Waterford won 2-14 to 2-07 and Aoife Murphy got the 2<sup>nd</sup> Waterford goal. On Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March Waterford travelled to play Cork at Grenagh in round 2 but Cork failed to field a team. Cork mentor Fr. Liam Kelleher took the Waterford players for a meal instead. The Minors played Laois in a challenge game in Thurles and won 7-19 to 4-03. They faced Limerick in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Munster minor championship. Limerick had beaten Waterford in the previous years u16 Munster final so Waterford were wary of their opponents but Limerick were very poor and Waterford won 5-30 to 0-03. The u14 team beat Clare in round 1-16 to 1-04 and the u16 team got a walk-over from Tipperary in Oola.

In round 3 of the league, Waterford travelled to Westmanstown (Dublin) and defeated Tyrone 0-15 to 0-12 with Rebecca Hallahan scoring (0-05) and Mary O Rourke (0-04). In the u14 championship, Waterford defeated Tipperary 3-12 to 1-09 on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April Dublin defeated Waterford in the league in Lemybrien 1-12 to 1-8 in a very poor performance. The full back line conceded the entire total of 1-12 and Rebecca Hallahan got Waterford's goal.

The team got back to winning ways on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at Fraher field. Meath were the opponents and Waterford played with a strong wind in the first half, yet only led 0-3 to 0-0 after fifteen minutes. Then in rapid succession Mary O Rourke, Aoife Murphy and Rebecca Hallahan all goaled and Waterford led 3-6 to 0-3 at half time. Early in the second half Rebecca Hallahan got Waterford's fourth goal and although Meath scored 1-6 without reply, Mary O Donnell shot a fifth Waterford goal in a 5-8 to 1-9 victory, all Waterford scores came from play.

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May Waterford played Kerry in the u16 semi-final at Fermoy and although Waterford put it up to the Kingdom in the first half Kerry ran out winners 2-18 to 1-10.

Waterford travelled to Ennis to play Clare in the league quarter final and got off to a great start as Deirdre Nagle goaled after ninety seconds. Another goal by Mary O Rourke gave Waterford a 2-3 to 0-3 interval lead. By the 45<sup>th</sup> minute Waterford were nine points up, three consecutive Aoife Healy points improved matters for Clare but Waterford were worthy winners 2-8 to 0-10. In the other quarter finals Mayo beat Tyrone 2-7 to 1-8. Kerry defeated Dublin 1-11 to 1-9 and Monaghan beat Laois 2-9 to 1-10.

Waterford travelled to the Fingallions club in Dublin on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to play Monaghan in the league semi-final and lined out without Martina O Ryan, Mary O Rourke, Marie Hogan and Cleona O Keeffe. Two quick Monaghan points by Niamh Kindlon were cancelled by Deirdre Breathnach and Geraldine O Ryan. Then Deirdre Nagle hit the post, Breathnach and Kindlon swapped points before Waterford shot six points on the trot per Aoife Murphy(3), Deirdre Nagle and Breathnach, to lead 0-9 to 0-3 at half time.

A great run by Elaine Power set up Geraldine O Ryan for a point but a Colton point and two more by Niamh Kindlon reduced the deficit to four. Then a Waterford 45 taken by Mary O Donnell found Deirdre Breathnach who passed to O Donnell on the run and she beat two defenders to pass again to Breathnach who crashed home a great goal. Geraldine O Ryan and Rebecca Hallahan added points, and then Nuala Hearne made a great save from Monaghan centre forward Diane Dempsey.

Geraldine O Ryan pointed before Monaghan got a consolation goal by Brenda Mc Anespie and Waterford were deserving winners 1-14 to 2-8. Waterford's scorers were Deirdre Breathnach (1-2), Geraldine O Ryan (0-4), Aoife Murphy (0-3), Rebecca Hallahan (0-2), Fiona O Reilly (0-1), Linda Wall (0-1), Deirdre Nagle (0-1). In the other semi-final Mayo beat Kerry 3-15 to 4-9 to qualify for another tilt with Waterford.

That league final took place on Saturday evening 29<sup>th</sup> June at Cusack Park Ennis. Mayo won the toss and played against the breeze. Waterford began with the same team that defeated Monaghan in the semi-final four weeks earlier which meant that Martina O Ryan and Mary O Rourke were left on the bench. Linda Wall kicked a left footed point in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute and Deirdre Nagle added a second two

minutes later. Then Fiona O Reilly flicked a high ball onto the path of Rebecca Hallahan and she shot to the net to put Waterford five points up.

Emma Mullen opened Mayo's account with a goal and Cora Staunton shot two points to level the scores after 20 minutes. Rebecca Hallahan and Aoife Murphy shot points but Triona Mc Nicholas pointed for Mayo to give Waterford a slender 1-4 to 1-3 lead at half time and the prospect of facing the wind in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

Waterford brought on Martina O Ryan and Mary O Rourke but Staunton shot three consecutive points and another by Christina Heffernan to a single reply by Rebecca Hallahan left a goal between the teams. Waterford switched Mary O Donnell to centre forward and brought on Cleona O Keeffe at midfield and within two minutes the move paid off. O Donnell won possession and passed to Deirdre Breathnach who went on a 50 yard solo run down the left wing before floating the ball into the centre to Mary O Rourke who drove to the Mayo net to level the scores. Staunton put Mayo ahead but Waterford finished the stronger, O Donnell landed the equaliser and Mary O Rourke nudged Waterford in front and Rebecca Hallahan pointed two difficult frees to sign seal and deliver a three point victory and land the county's 4<sup>th</sup> senior league title in ten years on a 2-8 to 1-8 scoreline.

Waterford had the full back line of Donna Frost, Ciara Prendergast, and Olivia Butler to thank for this victory as they turned in a great second half performance to hold a dangerous Mayo forward line whilst Rebecca Hallahan scored 1-4 and a Mary O Rourke goal was crucial.

Waterford: Nuala Hearn, Donna Frost, Ciara Prendergast, Olivia Butler, Elaine Power, Annalisa Crotty, Julie Torpey, Mary O Donnell(0-1), Deirdre Breathnach, Rebecca Hallahan(1-4), Aoife Murphy(0-1), Linda Wall(0-1), Fiona O Reilly, Deirdre Nagle, Geraldine O Ryan. Subs: Mary O Rourke (1-1) for Deirdre Nagle, Martina O Ryan for Linda Wall and Cleona O Keeffe for Murphy.

After the game Waterford had their first experience of the drugs test but the two players chosen, Deirdre Breathnach and Michelle Ryan passed no problem.

In the Munster u14 championship Waterford defeated Clare 1-14 to 1-4 in Oola on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and then defeated Tipperary 3-12 to 1-9 in the Fraher field on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. They lost the Munster semi-final to Kerry at Bruff by a margin of 3-10 to 1-8 on the 18<sup>th</sup> May.

The U16 team got a walk over from Tipp and lost to Kerry 2-18 to 1-10 in Fermoy on the 4<sup>th</sup> May

In the junior championship Waterford were beaten by Clare 1-13 to 2-5 in Doon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, and the minors defeated Cork 3-16 to 2-7 in Macroom in the Munster semi-final on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, the goals were scored by Mary Foley, Niamh Briggs and Lisa Palmer. Three days later the junior's beat Tipp 1-14 to 3-6 in Bushy Park. In a curtain raiser to that game the Cailini Oga team also beat Tipp 0-11 to 0-2.

Waterford played Clare in the Munster minor final on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> July in Emly. They played against a strong breeze in the opening half yet led 0-7 to 0-0 after twenty five minutes, then a long ball from Deirdre Breathnach found Mary O'Rourke and she supplied a pin point pass to Tracey Gallagher who slammed the ball to the net. Tracey scored 1-3, seven different players scored in total and Waterford romped to a 1-6 to 0-5 victory, their fourth Munster minor title in a row and the 9<sup>th</sup> since 1991.

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of July, the minors headed to Birr to play Monaghan in the All-Ireland semi final. The game was a thriller and Waterford got off to a dream start and led by 8 points after 8 minutes helped by goals from Niamh Briggs and Mary O'Rourke. Deirdre Breathnach scored a 3<sup>rd</sup> goal in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute but by half time Monaghan had recovered somewhat and trailed 3-6 to 1-5. By the 43<sup>rd</sup> minute the team were level and then Waterford scored 3 consecutive points from Evelyn O'Brien and Mary O'Rourke (2).

Poor defending allowed Orla Cullen in for the equalising goal. Mc Guinness then missed a Monaghan penalty. Tracey Gallagher pointed to give Waterford the lead but Sinead Mc Cooley scored Monaghan's 4<sup>th</sup> goal and 2 further points by Kathy McManus sealed a 4-12 to 3-11 victory.

Waterford: Mary Hayes, Maria Power, Nathalie O'Connor, Aileen Barron, Michelle Ryan, Elaine Power (0-1), Ealga Hayes, Deirdre Breathnach (1-1), Lisa Palmer, Marion Ryan, Aoife Murphy (0-1), Mary Foley, Tracey Gallagher (0-3), Niamh Briggs (1-1), Mary O'Rourke (1-3). Subs: Marie Hogan and Evelyn O'Brien (0-1).

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July Waterford travelled to Fitzgerald stadium to play Kerry in the Munster senior semi final. Kerry hadn't beaten Waterford in the championship since 1993. The Kingdom had a lethal full forward line with Sarah O'Connor, Kasey O'Driscoll and Geraldine O'Se and Waterford played with an extra defender to try and cope. The game was another thriller. O'Se kicked the opening point and Mary O'Rourke quickly equalised. Martina O'Ryan then shot 2 points for Waterford in quick succession. O'Se and Rebecca Hallahan swapped points and Waterford keeper Nuala Hearne made a brilliant save from Sarah O'Connor in the 10<sup>th</sup> minute.

Mary O'Rourke (0-2) and Geraldine O'Ryan (0-2) added Waterford points but Kasey O'Driscoll and O'Connor responded for Kerry and Waterford led 0-7 to 0-5 after 18 minutes. Then Fiona O'Reilly stole in behind the Kerry defence to side foot the ball to the Kerry net. Again Kerry responded and O'Se (2) and O'Driscoll pointed before Geraldine O'Ryan took a pass from Julie Torpey and drilled the posts to put Waterford 1-9 to 0-8 ahead at half time.

Kerry had the advantage of the wind in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and Sarah O'Connor pointed a free but then Waterford took over. Geraldine O'Ryan and Mary O'Rourke pointed, then O'Ryan fielded a high ball and passed to Deirdre Breathnach who drove it to the net. Then Annalisa Crotty received an injury and play was held up for 8 minutes as she was stretchered off.

Waterford lost the momentum and Kerry stormed back, O' Se driving inches over the bar. She then added a goal, O' Driscoll and O' Se added points and Kerry were on a roll. In a break away Cliona O' Keefe put Mary O' Rourke in for a Waterford goal but Kerry stormed back and points from O' Se (2), Patrice Dennehy and Sarah O' Connor reduced the deficit to a single point.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> minute of injury time O' Se kicked the equaliser and Waterford were on the ropes. Waterford won the kick out and moved the ball down field and Marie Hogan passed the ball to Aoife Murphy who danced round the Kerry keeper and placed the ball in the net to silence the home crowd. Sixty seconds later the final whistle sounded and Waterford had recorded a 3-13 to 1-16 victory. Kerry were absolutely devastated, Cork beat Clare in the other semi-final 3-14 to 2-12 also at Fitzgerald stadium.

In the junior championship Limerick beat Waterford 3-14 to 1-6 in New Inn on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July.

The Munster senior final was played in Emlly on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of August and turned out to be an extraordinary game. Waterford shot 3 early points but 1-1 by Amy O' Shea put the rebelletes in front. Mary O' Rourke levelled, then Waterford shot 6 consecutive points from Deirdre Breathnach (2), Mary O' Rourke (3) and a 40 yard effort from a free by Geraldine O' Ryan and Waterford led 0-10 to 1-2 at half time. Jean Lucey and Valerie Mulcahy had Cork points and a shock seemed possible. Then Waterford hit a blistering patch. Annlisa Crotty, Martina O' Ryan, Aoife Murphy and Mary O' Donnell pointed then O' Donnell's pass put Geraldine O' Ryan in for a goal and further points by O' Donnell and O' Rourke left Waterford 1-16 to 1-4 ahead after 50 minutes.

Then Jean Lucey's 30 yard shot ended up in the Waterford net. Valerie Mulcahy goaled again with a rocket and within sixty seconds Cork shot another goal by Amy O' Se and Lucey's point left just 2 points between the teams and Waterford were reeling. Mary O' Donnell and Geraldine O' Ryan combined to put Mary O' Rourke through for a vital Waterford point. Rebecca Hallahan broke up a dangerous attack and placed O' Rourke for another point. Aoife Murphy and O' Rourke added points but 3 injury time points by Geraldine O' Flynn (2) and Marie O' Neill put the game back in the melting pot once more before Mary O' Rourke shot her 9<sup>th</sup> point and sealed a 1-20 to 4-7 victory.

In the Cailini Oga game played as a curtain raiser, Cork defeated Waterford 2-8 to 2-3. Killrossanty defeated Ballymacarbry 2-6 to 1-5 in the U14 A final. Claire Hassett and Lenore Kirwin scored the goals and Abbeyside beat Na Deise in the U14 B final.

The All-Ireland senior semi final took place on September 7<sup>th</sup> in O' Moore Park Portlaoise and was televised live on TG4. Marty Duffy was the referee and booked 3 Waterford players very early on for trivial first offences. It had an unsettling effect on the team as the players were warned that another foul would lead to players being sent off.

Despite this Waterford began well. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute Mary O' Donnell passed to Mary o' Rourke out on the wing. O' Rourke had a lot to do but worked her way in and drove the ball into the bottom left hand corner of the net. Edel Byrne kicked a long range Monaghan point and then Orla Callan's pass saw Aisling Tierney shoot a Monaghan goal with the Waterford defence ball watching. In the 11<sup>th</sup> minute Waterford were caught out again as Edel Byrne's 20 metre free crept in under the bar for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Monaghan goal. Mary O' Rourke pointed but Niamh Kindlon, Diane Dempsey and Byrne pointed to edge Monaghan into a 2-4 to 1-1 lead after 19 minutes.

Martina O Ryan shot two Waterford points but Byrne (free) and Orla Callan restored Monahan's 6<sup>th</sup> lead. In the first half injury time Julie Torpey stormed up field as she had done so often in the past to reduce the margin to five. Monaghan led at half time 2-6 to 1-4 and had the wind at their backs in the second half.

The Northern side soon increased the lead with points by Callan and Kindlon (2), Orla Callan and Mary O Rourke (2) pointed to leave Waterford seven points adrift. Marie Hogan came on as a sub and goaled for Waterford and Martina O Ryan kicked her third point of the game, then Edel Byrne put Monaghan four points ahead. Five minutes from time Martina O Ryan put her twin sister Geraldine through and she rounded the keeper and slotted the ball to the net to reduce the margin to a single point after 56 minutes. Try as they did Waterford couldn't land the equalising point and Monaghan were through to the All Ireland final.

On the day Waterford didn't do enough to win although a fussy referee didn't help and corner back Donna Frost won the player of the match award.

Waterford: Nuala Hearn, Donna Frost, Olivia Butler, Elaine Power, Fiona O Reilly, Annalisa Crotty, Julie Torpey(0-1), Mary O Donnell, Deirdre Breathnach, Linda Wall, Martina O Ryan (0-3), Rebecca Hallahan, Aoife Murphy, Mary O Rourke (1-3), Geraldine O Ryan (1-0), Subs: Cleona O Keeffe and Marie Hogan (1-0).

Edel Byrne shot 1-3 and Niamh Kindlon 0-4 for Monaghan and they subsequently lost the All Ireland final to Mayo by a narrow margin. Although Waterford didn't know it that September evening as they left Portlaoise it was the end of an era and a golden decade was left behind.

In the Junior A county final Brickey Rangers beat Comeragh Rangers in Leamybrien and Killrossanty won the under 12 a final defeating Ballyduff 2-9 to 0-1 and Lenore Kirwin scored both goals. Clashmore won the All Ireland Intermediate 7-a-side title defeating Augawilliam (Leitrim) 4-8 to 0-3 in the final. Old Parish won the junior title defeating Athgarvan (Kildare) 2-10 to 1-3 in that final.

Four Waterford players won All Star awards, Donna Frost at corner back, Olivia Butler in the other corner, Julie Torpey won her fourth award at left half back, and Mary O Donnell won her second award at midfield.

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October Beara (Cork) defeated Brickey Rangers 4-11 to 1-4 in the Munster club championship in Ballincollig. On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October Rockban (Cork) defeated Tramore 9-9 to 1-7 in atrocious conditions in the Munster Intermediate club championship at Clashmore.

Ballymacarbry defeated Corca Dhuibhne 2-12 to 1-12 in a thrilling Munster senior club clash in Kilmallock, and Donoughmore defeated Cooraclare 6-17 to 3-4 in the other semi-final. In the final Donoughmore defeated Ballymacarbry 3-7 to 1-5 in terrible weather.

Ballymacarbry defeated Comeragh Rangers in a very high scoring minor A county final in Leamybrien. Both sides scored six goals but Ballymac's ability to kick points saw them through. In the Junior B county final Na Deise defeated Stradbally 1-10 to 2-6 in Old Parish.

Ballymacarbry added the U16 A final defeating St Anne's 2-12 to 2-2 also in Old Parish. Laura Whelan and Marie Hannigan got the goals. Killrossanty defeated Na Deise 4-7 to 2-4 in the U16 B final.

Round one of the '03 League was played in later November and Waterford defeated Laois 3-15 to 1-10. Mary O'Rourke shot 2-5 and Aoife Murphy got the other Waterford goal.

The County Board ran a fashion show on the 27<sup>th</sup> November. Kieran O'Connor and Nicola Beresford were the compeers'.

Honours:

Waterford Munster senior champions

Waterford Division 1 National league champions

Old Parish All Ireland junior 7 a side cup champions

Clashmore All Ireland intermediate 7 a side cup champions

Donna Frost Tramore was named Munster Footballer of the year.

All Stars: Donna Frost Tramore (right full back), Olivia Butler Na Deise (left full back), Julie Torpey St Anne's (left half back), Mary O'Donnell Old Parish (mid field).