

Waterford Ladies Football History 2003

The County Board officers elected for 2003 were

Chairperson:	Michael Ryan	(Ballymacarbry)
Vice-chairperson:	Johnny Landers	(St Pats)
Secretary:	Pat Toomey	(Tramore)
Ass Secretary:	Colette Cullen	(Gaultier)
Treasurer:	Eleanor Hickey	(Ballymacarbry)
Ass Treasurer:	Nuala Murphy	(Brickey Rangers)
Registrar:	Marian Cliffe	(St Oliver's)
PRO:	Brendan Gallagher	(St Anne's)
Development Officer:	George Young	(Old Parish)
Irish Language Officer:	Sylvia Shanley	(Brickey Rangers)
Accident Fund:	Peter Jordan	(Abbeyside)

The senior team began the season on the 4th Jan with a challenge game against W.I.T. which they won easily. The county board ran a first aid course on the 16th January, this was organised by George Young. Aoife Murphy was one of the nominees for the Pat Noctor Awards.

The seniors played Galway in a challenge game in Ballinasloe and won 3-16 to 1-18. On February 2nd they travelled to St Lomans Mullingar to play Donegal in round 1 of the league. The game was played in atrocious conditions as Waterford conceded 2-1 in the opening seven minutes. They gradually fought back into contention and Martina O Ryan levelled the scores in the 55th minute, but Donegal scored two late points to win 3-6 to 1-10.

The County Board organised a SAQ course for coaching in early February and Waterford travelled to Dunsany to play Meath on Feb 23rd. Meath led 1-3 to 0-0 after ten minutes. A goal by Aoife Murphy and points by Deirdre Nagle , Mary O Rourke(2), and Martina O Ryan left Waterford 1-4 to 1-3 ahead at half time. Meath equalised within 12 seconds of the restart, but Martina O Ryan and Mary O Rourke put Waterford back in front and the O Rourke chipped the Meath keeper for Waterford's second goal.

Meath were awarded a 2nd penalty and again Jackie Shields goaled, but a late goal by Martina O Ryan sealed a Waterford victory. On Friday 9th March the Waterford County board organised a function to honour all the players who won adult All Ireland medals. A crowd of almost 300 attended the superbly organised event at the Park Hotel. Sean Kelly President of the G.A.A. was guest of honour, and 54 players received a memento to honour their achievement of winning five senior and one Junior All Ireland.

The following week 15/16 March Waterford played national League fixtures on consecutive days, on Saturday 15th they lost to Dublin 2-6 to 1-7 and the following day went under to Tyrone 3-10 to 1-9.

With four teams to qualify in each section Waterford finished level with Meath and this led to a play off match at the Fraher field on Sunday 23rd March. Early goals by Deirdre Nagle (free), and Mary O'Rourke helped Waterford to a 2-3 to 0-8 lead after nineteen minutes. Referee Nicky Whyte again took centre stage and awarded Meath a controversial penalty which Jackie Shields goaled and Meath led 2-9 to 2-3 at half time. Although Aoife Murphy scored a 3rd Waterford goal Meath ran out winners and Waterford's reign as league champions was over.

Rebecca Hallahan played in the U.C.D. team that won the O'Connor cup. The Munster U16 championship began on Saturday 5th April and Waterford beat Tipperary 2-18 to 1-5 in Bushy Park. A week later they defeated Clare 5-17 to 0-1 in Solohead. Ashling Lynch, Marie Hannigan, Paula Cunningham, Ashling O'Donnell and Eibhlis Cooney got the goals. A week later they played Kerry in the semi-final in Fermoy, Kerry led 3-8 to 0-0 at half time but Waterford made a game of it in the 2nd half, Michelle Mc Grath got a goal and Kerry won 3-10 to 1-6.

Waterford got a 1st round bye in the U14 competition and defeated Clare 3-10 to 4-3 in Cappamore on May 10th. They then defeated Limerick 8-5 to 4-4 in Bansha on the 17th May. They defeated Kerry 3-10 to 3-7 in Ballyhooly on the 24th May, although they trailed 2-6 to 1-3 at half time they turned in a great second half performance and Lenore Kirwin scored 2-5 and her sister Julie got the 3rd goal. Then they defeated Tipperary 2-10 to 0-5 in Ardfinnan and Leanne Kirwin (Comeragh Rangers) got both goals.

Limerick were the opponents in the Munster semi-final in Tipp town on Saturday 7th of June and Waterford won 1-15 to 2-06. Lenore Kirwan scored 0-07 and Julie Beust 1-02.

Waterford : Amy Jordan, Niamh McGrath, Michelle O Gorman, Michaela O Grady, Kate Kirwan, Julia Kirwan, Gillian McGrath, Kate Feeney, Kerrie Dunphy, Roisin Manahan (0-01), Lenny Kirwan (0-07), Mairead Wall (0-02), Julie Best (1-02), Louise Prendergast (0-01), Shona Curran (0-01), Subs: Sinead Ryan (0-01), Bronagh Donovan, Leanne Kirwan.

Waterford played Cork in the u14 A final in Kilmallock on Saturday 28th of June and Cork won the title for the 4th year in a row on a 7-12 to 2-03 scoreline.

In the Minor championship Cork destroyed Waterford in Ballyduff 9-13 to 0-05. In the losers Group Waterford defeated Limerick 5-23 to 0-03 in Tipp Town, beat Clare 3-07 to 0-11 also in Tipp Town but the prize in the semi-final was another tilt with Cork in Ballincollig and again it was defeat by 7-12 to 2-03.

In u16 Waterford beat Tipperary in round 1 in Bushy Park by 2-18 to 1-05 before losing to Kerry in the Munster semi-final in Ballyhooley by 3-10 to 1-06 on the 18th of April.

Michael Ryan was the manager of the Munster team that won the interprovincial title defeating Ulster 2-11 to 2-04 in the final at St James Park, Mullingar. It was Munster's first title in 7 years. Mary O'Rourke and Patrice Dennehy scored the goals and Munster lined out as follows: Sarah Hickey (Waterford), Donna Frost (Waterford), Deirdre O'Rourke (Waterford), Jackie Murnane (Kerry), Annlisa Crotty (Waterford), Caroline Kelly (Kerry), Julie Torpey (Waterford), Juliette Murphy (Cork), Mary O'Donnell (0-1)(Waterford), Patrice Dennehy (1-03)(Kerry), Rebecca Hallahan (Waterford), Valerie Mulcahy (0-02)(Cork), Eimear Enright (0-01)(Limerick), Kacey O'Driscoll (0-01)(Kerry), Mary O'Rourke (1-03)(Waterford). Subs: Aoife Murphy (Waterford), Sarah O'Connor (Kerry), Ann Marie O'Shea (Kerry), Norita Kelly (Cork), Karen O'Sullivan (Cork), Jean Lucey (Cork), Tammy Hehir (Clare), Niamh Keane (Clare), Edel Hanley (Tipperary), Emma Slattery (Clare), Orla Keane (Clare).

Aine Wall returned to the Waterford senior team and the match against Kerry in round 1 of the Munster championship was her first championship game since the 1999 All Ireland final. Walsh Park was the venue and she kicked the opening point after 48 seconds. Julie Torpey soon added a 2nd and when Wall's drive came back off the crossbar and Mary O'Rourke drove to the net. Cliona O'Keefe put Waterford 6 points up but Kerry scored 4 points on the trot from Sheri Delaney, Kacey O'Driscoll and Geraldine O'Shea (2).

Mary O'Rourke and O'Driscoll swapped points, and then O'Rourke and O'Shea did likewise. Elaine Power ran the length of the pitch to set up Aoife Murphy for a goal and Aine Wall's point left Waterford 2-05 to 0-06 ahead at half-time. On the resumption Wall and Martina O'Ryan both pointed Waterford frees, Rebecca Hallahan, Wall and O'Rourke again pointed to put Waterford firmly in control. Substitute Geraldine Feeley shot a Kerry point but Martina O'Ryan replied with a long range free. Next came the best score of the game as Elaine Power took the ball out of defence, passed to Mary O'Rourke who transferred the ball to Aine Wall and back to Power who drove it over the bar. O'Rourke pointed again and Feeley goaled for Kerry as Waterford ran out winners 2-17 to 2-8.

Mary O'Rourke shot 1-5 from play and Aine Wall pointed 5 frees. Waterford: Sarah Hickey, Donna Frost, Deirdre O'Rourke, Nathalie O'Connor, Annlisa Crotty, Elaine Power (0-1), Julie Torpey (0-1), Mary O'Donnell (0-1), Deirdre Breathnach, Linda Wall (0-1), Cliona O'Keefe, Martina O'Ryan (0-1), Rebecca Hallahan (0-3), Mary O'Rourke (0-5), Aine Wall (1-5). Subs: Marie Hogan, Aoife Murphy (1-0), Michelle McGrath, Deirdre Nagle.

A week later Waterford defeated Cork 2-18 to 2-6. Cork got off to a great start with a goal by Susan Power but Aoife Murphy scored a Waterford penalty in the 12th minute and she then added a 2nd goal to give Waterford a 2-8 to 1-2 a half time lead. Aoife Murphy ended with a personal tally of 2-2, Mary O'Rourke scored 0-4 and Aine Wall 0-3 whilst Geraldine O'Flynn, Valerie Mulcahy and Juliet Murphy were Cork's best players.

Kerry then defeated Cork in the 3rd game of the round robin series and qualified to play Waterford in the Munster final on the August bank holiday Monday in Pairc Ui Rinn. Waterford were quickly out of the blocks and led by 8 points after 8 minutes. Rebecca Hallahan shot a 2nd minute goal, Annalisa Crotty and Mary O' Rourke tacked on points and Aine Wall goaled.

Geraldine O' Se and Kate Kennelly pointed for Kerry. Mary O' Donnell's shot came back off the post, Kerry broke down field as Sarah Hickey pulled off a great save but from the rebound Patrice Dennehy drove to the net. Four consecutive Geraldine O' Se points helped Kerry to a 1-8 to 2-4 interval lead.

Waterford's forwards were guilty of very poor shooting, they kicked a total of 19 wides and hit either of the posts and crossbar on 4 occasions. Geraldine O' Se scored a crucial Kerry goal in the 40th minute. The teams were level with 4 minutes to go but late points by Kate Kennelly and Geraldine O' Se from a free gave Kerry a deserved 2 point victory and their first Munster title in 10 years.

The back door system had come in so Waterford were still in the championship and they drew Mayo in the quarter final. The other ties were Kerry Vs Laois, Dublin Vs Monaghan, and Tyrone Vs Galway.

On Saturday the 30th of August, Waterford played Mayo in Cusack Park Ennis as part of a double header. The previous year the teams had met in Ennis in the league final and Waterford won. Mayo led by 6 points after 8 minutes. Cora Staunton pointed 2 early frees, Emma Mullen added a 3rd and then Staunton goaled.

Waterford's Mary O' Rourke was fouled by Mayo keeper Denise Horan and Aine Wall drilled home the penalty. Aine Wall, Mary O' Donnell and Mary O' Rourke shot points in a blistering spell, and then O' Rourke and Wall put Waterford 2 points up. Then Mayo stepped up the pace. Staunton pointed twice. Ciara McDermott added a 3rd and Marcella Heffernan shot to the net. Waterford's only reply was an Aine Wall point and Mayo led 2-7 to 1-6 at half time.

Waterford produced a great effort in the 3rd quarter and consecutive points by Mary O' Rourke, Linda Wall and Aine Wall (2) levelled the score by the 44th minute. Then Waterford lost possession and Caroline McGing shot to the net and Mayo dominated from that to the finish to score a 3-14 to 1-11 victory. Caroline's sister Aisling had been killed tragically in a car accident on her way to a game 6 weeks earlier. Aine Wall brought down the curtain in her intercounty career and ended with a tally of 1-5, 16 years after her debut against Kerry on a dazzling career that yielded 5 All-Ireland senior medals and 8 All-Star awards as she terrorised defences all around the country.

In many ways the game was to signal the end of an era for a great Waterford team and Mayo went on to win their 4th All-Ireland in 5 years defeating Dublin in the final.

In the junior county final Old Parish eventually got the better of Comeragh Rangers in Leamybrien winning 2-12 to 1-8. St. Oliver's beat Clashmore in the U16 B final. Ballyduff defeated Comeragh Rangers in the U14 B final. St. Oliver's defeated Na Deise in the U14 C final whilst a very good Killrossanty team won the U14 A title and the Noel Murray cup, proving too strong for Abbeyside.

In the U12 A final Comeragh Rangers scored a 2-4 to 0-2 victory over Kilrossanty.

Old Parish travelled to Dublin and won the All-Ireland junior 7 a side title defeating Fingallions, Cahir, Lattin (Monaghan) and Railyard (Kilkenny) along the way before scoring 2-6 to 1-5 victory over St. Pauls in the final with Lisa Prendergast scoring the winning goal. Old Parish: Fiona Kiely, Ealga Hayes, Beibhinn Neilson, Mary O Donnell (Capt.), Niamh Briggs, Michelle Power, Lorraine Whelan, Aisling Conway, Angeline Kiely, Mary Kiely, Fiona Breathnach. Manager George Young. Ballymacarbry were beaten in the senior final by a single point. Tramore and Clashmore also took part in the sevens.

In the Munster junior club championship Old Parish lost to Gabriel Rangers 4-11 to 3-9 in Ballydehob on Saturday 27th September and the same day St Anne's were hammered by Naomh Aban Cork 3-15 to 0-3 in Ballyvourney in the intermediate championship.

Ballymacarbry retained the Waterford senior championship and on Sunday 12th Oct defeated Clare representatives Kildoon Gaels 8-12 to 0-9 at Cappamore with Aine Wall scoring 3-3. Donoaghmore defeated Southern Gaels 3-11 to 3-6 in the other semi-final and retained the title defeating Ballymacarbry 3-13 to 0-5 in the final at Ardfinnan on Sunday the 19th of Oct.

In the county minor A final St Anne's defeated Ballymacarbry 3-5 to 0-4. In the primary schools final Ballyduff defeated Ballymacarbry 5-2 to 1-4, Lismore won the B final 4-5 to 1-0, Clashmore won the C final 4-1 to 2-1 and Glenbeg defeated Touraneena 5-3 to 1-0 in the D final.

Waterford won three All Star Awards, Annalisa Crotty won her 7th award (3 in defence, 3 in goal, and 1 at mid-field), Mary O Donnell won her 3rd award and Mary O Rourke her 1st award and these players were honoured at a gala function in the City West Hotel. The League resumed at Bushy Park on Sunday 23rd November and the home team defeated Laois 3-15 to 4-8. Laois led 1-8 to 1-7 at half time, Mary O Rourke and Tracey Lawlor scored the goals. Second half goals by Aoife Murphy and Deirdre Nagle secured victory; O Rourke scored 1-6.

In the U16 A final Ballymacarbry defeated Killrossanty 2-10 to 0-2 at Bushy Park. It was Ballymacarbry's 3rd U16 title in a row, Marie Hannigan and Eibhlis Cooney scored the goals.

Honours:

Old Parish All Ireland junior 7 a side cup champions

All Stars: Annlisa Crotty Ballymacarbry, (right half back), Mary O Donnell Old Parish (mid field), Mary O Rourke Clashmore (right full forward).