

Waterford Ladies Football History 2004

The Waterford County Board appointed the following managers for 2004

Senior, Minor:	Michael Ryan	(Ballymacarbry)
Junior:	Michelle Power	(Old Parish)
U16:	Johnny Kirwan	(Killrossanty)
U14:	John Frewen	(Ballyduff)
Cailini Oga:	Sean Curry	(Comeragh Rangers)

Round 2 of the National League took place at a neutral venue in Timahoe and Waterford defeated Roscommon 8-15 to 4-9. Deirdre Breathnach, Martina O Ryan and Michelle Mc Grath got 2 goals each. Mary O Donnell and Cleona O Keeffe got the other goals in an easy win.

On the 22nd Feb the junior team lost to Kerry 1-8 to 2-3 and on the same day the seniors travelled to the Clan Na Gael grounds in Dublin and lost to Tyrone 1-14 to 2-7. Miriam Liston and Mary O Rourke got the goals. The following week end Waterford played two challenge games, on Friday night they defeated U.L. 4-18 to 2-4 under lights in Ballymacarbry and on the Sunday defeated Kildare 3-15 to 2-8 in Slieverue (Kilkenny). Sean "Goggy" Delaney the former Laois manager had taken over as manager of Kildare a few weeks earlier.

On the 7th March Waterford played Meath in Dunsany and lost 1-13 to 1-5 after playing poorly. Mary O Rourke scored the goal. The following Sunday Dublin travelled to Kill and won 2-7 to 0-7. This result meant that Waterford and Tyrone were level on points and the following Sunday the sides met in a play off to decide who contested the quarter final of the league. When the sides met five weeks earlier Tyrone had won comfortably but this time at the Clan na Gael grounds in Dublin Waterford made all the early running and Mary O Rourkes 18th minute goal gave Waterford a 1-6 to 0-1 lead and her second goal on the stroke of half time put Waterford 2-7 to 0-1 ahead at the interval. They eventually ran out 3-15 to 0-9 winners. Aoife Murphy scored the 3rd goal.

That same day the juniors lost to Dublin 2-8 to 2-5 at Kill.

On Sunday 4th April Waterford travelled to Beaufort to play Kerry in the league quarter final. They were forced to line out without the injured pair of Deirdre O Rourke and Annlisa Crotty and lost Brigid Hannigan (leg) after twenty minutes. Geraldine O Se kicked an early Kerry point but Rebecca Hallahan set up Mary O Rourke for the equaliser in the 8th minute, less than a minute later Martina O Ryan goaled. Mary O Rourke point and Aoife Murphy goal put Waterford in control. They were flying, points by O Ryan and Murphy (2) put Waterford firmly in control and although Kacey O Driscoll got a Kerry goal, Waterford led 2-6 to 1-2 at half time.

Kerry began the second half well, O Se (2), and O Driscoll (2) kicked points but Waterford lifted the siege and Mary O Rourke pointed twice in a minute. O Rourke

then hit the Kerry cross-bar. O Se (2) and a Deirdre Corridan point left just one between the teams and then Geraldine O Se kicked the equalising point. In injury time Rebecca Hallahan and Michelle Ryan combined to set up Michelle Mc Grath for the match winning point in a great Waterford performance. Final score Waterford 2-9, Kerry 1-11. Waterford: Mary Hayes, Donna Frost, Elaine Power, Bridget Hannigan, Julie Torpey, Marian Troy, Deirdre Breathnach, Mary O Donnell, Cleona O Keeffe, Rebecca Hallahan, Martina O Ryan (1-1) Michelle McGrath (0-1), Aoife Murphy (1-1) Michelle Ryan Mary O Rourke (0-6). Subs: Miriam Liston & Marie Hogan.

On Saturday 10th April Waterford defeated Clare 5-13 to 2-2 in the Munster U16 championship in Solohead. The game was part of a double header, and Waterford beat Clare 4-15 to 1-1 in the U14 championship.

On Sunday 18th April Waterford played Mayo in Moate in the league semi-final. Waterford played some great football in the first half and led 0-7 to 0-3; Mary O Donnell tightly marked Cora Staunton.

Mayo began the second half well and Diane O Hora's 37th minute goal levelled the scores. Michelle McGrath restored Waterford's lead, but by the 52nd minute Mayo were two points to the good. Michelle McGrath and Mary O Rourke both pointed to level the scores. Mayo responded and points by Triona McNicholas and O Hora regained the lead and a 63rd minute injury time goal gave them a flattering 2-9 to 0-10 win and a place in the league final.

On the 24th April Waterford beat Limerick 3-16 to 4-5 in the U16 championship with team captain Louise Ryan scoring 0-8 and Clodagh McGovern got 3-1. Waterford also beat Limerick in the minor championship 1-13 to 0-6 in Oola. Louise Ryan shot 0-7 and Edel Curran got the games only goal. In the U14 championship Waterford beat Clare 4-15 to 1-6 in round 1 at Solohead, then beat Tipp 5-5 to 0-3 in Cappoquin, lost to Limerick 5-7 to 5-6 in Tipp Town and went under to Kerry 9-7 to 3-13 in Kilworth and were also beaten by Cork 2-17 to 1-6 in Ballyduff. This meant that they played in the Munster U14 B final when they deservedly beat Limerick 1-15 to 0-3 with Lenore Kirwin named player of the match.

In U16 Waterford beat Clare 5-13 to 2-2 in Solohead. In the semi-final they were too good for Limerick with a 3-16 to 4-5 win at Kilworth. This qualified them for the Munster A final at Fraher Field on Wednesday 12th May. Once again Cork were too strong winning 2-18 to 1-4.

In minor Kerry beat Waterford 5-18 to 3-9 in Doon. Waterford then beat Limerick 1-13 to 0-6 in the losers group in Oola, but lost heavily to Cork in the semi-final 4-20 to 1-5 in Ballyduff on the 3rd May.

On the 30th May Munster managed by Michael Ryan won the Interprovincial title in Mullingar. The competition was run in a blitz style over two days. On Saturday they defeated Leinster, Ulster, and Connaught, and the fact that the top two teams met in the final meant that they played Leinster on the Sunday.

A very good team performance resulted in a 1-16 to 1-7 victory, and 10 Waterford players were members of the panel, Munster: Elaine Harte (Cork), Donna Frost (Waterford), Katie Gleeson (Kerry), Jackie Murnane (Kerry), Elaine Power (Waterford, 0-3), Deirdre O'Rourke (Waterford), Angelia Walsh (Cork), Mary O'Donnell (Waterford), Rena Buckley (0-1, Cork), Valerie Mulcahy (0-3, Cork), Rebecca Hallahan (0-1, Waterford), Briega Corkery (Cork), Patrice Dennehy (0-3, Kerry), Mary O'Rourke (1-4, Waterford), Catriona Ambrose (0-1, Limerick), Marian Troy (Waterford), Mary Hayes (Waterford), Edel Hanley (Tipp), Deirdre Corridon (Kerry), Bridget Hannigan (Waterford), Geraldine O'Flynn (Cork), Michelle McGrath (Waterford), Management: Michael Ryan Maire Halvey Jerry O'Mahoney.

On Saturday 18th July Tipp defeated Waterford in the Junior championship 3-9 to 1-13 at Bushy Park, and the following week Waterford defeated Kerry 0-12 to 0-7 at Austin Stack park Tralee with the following team: Fiona Kiely, Ashling Conway, Charlotte Raheer, Aileen Barron, Lisa Mc Grath, Marie Power, Mary Foley, Steffi Hallahan, Louise Ryan (0-2), Niamh Briggs (0-4), Marie Hannigan (0-2), Julie May Keane (0-3), Emma Donovan (0-1), Lorraine Whelan, Sub: Elaine Bennett.

The junior game was played as a curtain raiser to Waterford v Kerry in the senior championship. Kerry began the game as favourites as the reigning Munster champions. Linda Wall kicked the opening point, Geraldine O'Se equalised, Michelle Ryan put Waterford ahead again, but O'Se levelled it up after ten minutes. Marian Ryan and Sheri Delaney swapped points and after a 12 minute scoreless spell Julie Torpey pointed a free to leave Waterford 0-4 to 0-3 ahead at half time. Waterford began the second half brilliantly, Michelle Ryan crashed home a goal, Miriam Liston pointed, Rebecca Hallahan and Kacey O'Driscoll swapped points and then Mary Hayes produced a brilliant save in the Waterford goal, Waterford raced down field and Marie Hogan pointed. Kerry pointed and Marian Ryan replied for Waterford. Michelle McGrath scored a superb Waterford goal in the 51st minute followed by points from Michelle Ryan and Julie Torpey free and Waterford ran out 2-10 to 1-6 victors. In the Munster Junior semi-final Cork defeated Waterford 2-13 to 1-11, Julie May Keane got Waterford's goal.

G.A.A President Sean Kelly initiated awards to honour people who had given tremendous service to all facets of the Gaelic scene. Michael Ryan was one of those chosen and thus became the first person in Ladies Gaelic to receive the Presidents award and he was presented with his award at Croke Park in July

Cork faced Waterford in the Munster senior final at Fraher field.

Julie Torpey pointed an early Waterford free but Geraldine O'Flynn got behind the Waterford defence and goaled in the 6th minute. The game was a tight low scoring affair. Martina O'Ryan and Valerie Mulcahy swapped points. Mulcahy pointed twice to put Cork four points clear but five consecutive Waterford points from Mary O'Donnell, Mary O'Rourke, Michelle Mc Grath and Julie Torpey (2) gave the home side a 0-7 to 1-3 interval lead.

Cork had the wind at their backs in the second half and by the 50th minute they were 5 points clear. Aoife Murphy and Donna Frost shot Waterford points and then came the defining moment as Mary O'Rourke hit the Cork post in the 54th minute. Aisling O'Connor and O'Rourke swapped points before Mary O'Connor hit the clinching point in a 1-11 to 0-10 Cork victory, their first over Waterford in senior championship in 16 years and lead to a huge Cork roar at the final whistle. Two weeks later they defeated Kerry in the final to win the Munster Senior championship for the first time.

Killrossanty won the U16 A championship and added the U14 title, their 3rd in a row, defeating Comeragh Rangers 5-8 to 1-1 in the final. At the August County Board meeting Michael Ryan announced that he was stepping down as Co Board chairman at the end of the year, after holding the position for 15 of the previous 16 years.

The junior county finals were played as a double header at the Fraher field. Abbeyside defeated Na Deise in the B final and Brickeys beat St Pats in the A final. Brickeys led 1-6 to 0-2 at half time. Honor O'Brien reduced the deficit with a St Pats goal after 40 minutes but Brickeys shot five consecutive points, three of these by 14 years old Lenore Kirwan to seal 1-12 to 1-4 victory.

Ballymacarbry won the Mary Walsh 7-a-side cup defeating Old Parish by 6 points in the final and Na Deise beat Abbeyside 4-8 to 5-2 in a thrilling Marine Bar plate 7-a-side final

Ballymacarbry retained the senior county title defeating St Anne's in the final.

On the 26th September Brickey Rangers played Wolfe Tones (Clare) in the Munster Junior club championship at Cashel and the Clare side led 3-4 to 0-1 at half time. Brickeys staged a storming come back in the 2nd half. A brace of goals by Lenore Kirwan and a 3rd by Julie Buest along with three Niamh Mc Grath points brought them back into contention. They had a late goal disallowed and Wolfe Tones hung on for a 5-4 to 3-8 victory.

Brickeys: K Murphy, A Mc Grath, T Kirwan, M O Grady, N Mc Grath, S Kirwan(Capt.), K Kirwan, E Nugent, G Enright Downey, L Kirwan, J Buest, P Cunningham, C Longman, F Kiely. Subs: J Kirwan, N McCarthy, K Power, M Tobin, C Hasselt, C Kiely, F Flavin, D Nugent, N Hasset, C Kirwan, J Whyte.

Dungarvan won the U14 B championship. Kill beat St Anne's in the U16 A championship and they also won the minor B championship defeating Abbeyside in the final, 2-12 to 3-2, Deirdre Nugent and Julie Kirwan got the goals.

In the Munster Intermediate club championship Athea narrowly beat Old Parish by 2-8 to 1-8 in Tipp Town on the 25th September. Donoughmore beat Ballymacarbry in the senior semi-final by 3-17 to 1-4 in Ballyduff. Donoughmore went all the way to the All Ireland final, where they lost by a single point to Ballyboden St Endas (Dublin).

Honours:

Waterford Munster u14 B champions