

Waterford Ladies Football History 2005

At the start of 2005 Johnny Landers St Pats took over as chairman

Vice chairman:	Michael Ryan	(Ballymacarbry)
Secretary:	Catriona Breathnach	(Old Parish)
Ass Secretary:	Brendan Gallagher	(St Anne's)
Treasurer:	Peter Jordan	(Abbeyside)
Ass Treasurer:	Nora Kirwan	(Killrossanty)
Registrar:	Marian Cliffe	(Clashmore)
PRO:	Fiona Kiely	(Old Parish)
Development Officer:	George Young	(Old Parish)
Irish Language officer:	Sylvia Shanley	(Brickey Rangers)

The national league commenced in Timahoe on Sunday 30th January and Waterford beat Roscommon 3-10 to 0-11. Aoife Murphy scored 2-4 and Mary O Rourke got 1-6. On the same day the juniors beat Kerry in Old Parish, 2-10 to 3-4. A goal by Niamh Briggs gave Waterford a 1-6 to 2-1 half time lead. Four second half points by Tracey Gallagher and a goal by Clodagh Manahan secured victory.

The following Sunday Meath beat Waterford 3-10 to 0-15 at Fraher field. Mary O Rourke scored 0-8 and Michelle Ryan 0-3. In the junior curtain raiser Waterford beat Meath 4-16 to 3-5, Niamh Briggs got 2-8, Tracey Gallagher 2-1 and Sinead Ryan 0-4.

Waterford Fiona Kiely, Elaine Bennett, Nuala Hearn, Miriam Liston, Grainne Enright, Eibhlis Cooney, Andrea Walsh, Louise Ryan, Ashling O'Donnell(0-1), Lisa Prendergast, Kerry Dunphy, Mairead Wall(0-1), Sinead Ryan(0-4), Tracey Gallagher(2-1), Niamh Briggs(2-8). Subs... Niamh Mc Grath, Emma Gallagher, Aimee Martin, Kate O'Brien.

The juniors then beat Offaly 8-14 to 0-5 in Greashill. Niamh Briggs notching 5-4, Tracey Gallagher 2-0 and the other goal was scored by Lisa Prendergast. The U14 team played East Cork in a tournament and won 0-19 to 3-6, Sinead Ryan got 0-11 whilst Katie Hannon and Olivia Hennebry got 0-3 each.

On the 27th Feb Waterford beat Louth 2-10 to 1-3 in Ballylinan (Laois). Michelle Mc Grath got both goals. On the same day the juniors travelled to Newcastle (Dublin) and in terrible conditions lost 0-15 to 0-3. In U14 Munster championship Waterford beat Limerick in Ballygibblin 3-8 to 1-5. Olivia Hennebry, Katie Murphy and Nicola Mc Carthy got the goals.

In the junior league Tipp beat Waterford 1-15 to 2-7 on the 12th March in Ardfinnan. A Niamh Briggs goal helped Waterford to a three point lead in the 15th minute. Tipp then shot five consecutive points to lead at the interval, a great goal by Lenore Kirwan kept Waterford in contention, but Tipp ran out winners by a five point margin. On the same day Waterford beat Tipperary 2-12 to 2-7 in U14. Sinead Ryan got 0-7 and Niamh Ryan 2-1.

On Sunday 13th March Waterford travelled to Dublin and beat the previous years All Ireland finalists 2-11 to 0-11 at St Anne's Boherabreena. Former Dublin G.A.A. player John O'Leary was manager of the Dubs. A great first half performance saw Waterford lead 2-8 to 0-3 at

half time, and they ran out deserving winners. Mary O Rourke shot 1-5 and Aoife Murphy 1-2.

In the U14B championship Waterford beat Limerick 3-8 to 1-6 in Ballygibblin on the 5th March, then beat Tipp 2-12 to 2-7 in Ardfinnan on the 12th March. Clare then beat Waterford 7-5 to 2-5 in Tipp Town. After forty minutes Waterford led by a point but Clare cut loose and scored five goals to run out easy winners, Sinead and Niamh Ryan got Waterford's goals. On the 26th March Kerry beat Waterford 2-9 to 2-6 in a very good U16 match in Glanworth. Waterford goals came from Lenore Kirwan and Julie Buest. This qualified Waterford for the U14 A championship along with Tipp, and on Saturday April 9th Waterford beat Tipp 3-16 to 1-4 in Bushy Park. This led to a clash with Cork in the U14 A semi-final which Cork won 6-11 to 1-2 in Glanworth on the 23rd April. Waterford as beaten U14 A semi – finalists played Clare in the B final and lost 5-8 to 2-7 in Charleville on the 21st May.

Waterford then played Mayo in the league quarter final and what a game that turned out to be, Waterford won 3-8 to 2-10 after extra time. Cora Staunton shot two early Mayo points, Linda Wall replied but a Staunton point and a goal by Anelle Gallagher left Mayo five points up after 12 minutes.

Michelle Ryan shot a Waterford goal but within seconds Staunton shot to the Waterford net. Waterford moved Mary O Donnell to full back to mark Staunton and this had an instant effect and the Decies girls were right back in contention when Aoife Murphy drilled home a penalty. Two Mary O Rourke points left the team's level 2-3 each at half time.

On the resumption Waterford conceded three frees, all pointed by Staunton and when she added a 4th from play Waterford were four points down after forty minutes. In the 49th minute Aoife Murphy scored her 2nd goal and Michelle Mc Grath got the equalising point. Waterford shot two wides but Diane O Hora and Staunton missed two frees, so the game went to extra time.

Niamh Brigg. promoted from the Junior team, pointed a difficult free, then Michelle Ryan put Waterford two points clear, back came Staunton for a Mayo point and then Mary O Donnell produced a great block on Staunton. Mary O Rourke pointed and although Mayo finished strongly, a staunch Waterford defence in which Donna Frost and O Donnell were outstanding, saved the day. Marian Ryan and Fiona O Reilly gave Waterford a pull at midfield, and five of the six forwards scored in a very good win.

Waterford Mary Hayes, Donna Frost, Charlotte Rahe, Marian Troy, Lorraine Whelan, Mary O Donnell, Miriam Liston, Marian Ryan(0-1), Fiona O Reilly, Linda Wall(0-1), Michelle Ryan(1-1), Cleona O Keeffe, Michelle Mc Grath(0-1), Aoife Murphy(2-0), Mary O Rourke(0-2). Subs... Bridget Hannigan, Evelyn O Brien, Niamh Briggs (0-2).

In the Munster minor championship Waterford beat Tipperary 4-18 to 2-8, Aoife Nagle scored 3-1 and Emma Gallagher 0-6 and on Sunday 3rd April Waterford hammered Tipperary in the U16 championship 8-12 to 1-1. Lenore Kirwan, Sinead Ryan and Catherine Power got two goals each, the other goals were scored by Gillian Frewan and Kate Feeney.

Waterford then played Cork in the minor A semi-final at Rathcormac on the 23rd April and were outclassed 4-16 to 0-2.

Waterford and Cork met in the League semi-final at Fraher field on Sunday 3rd April. The teams were level after 27 minutes as Deirdre O Reilly and Fiona O Reilly swapped goals, but Cork in a devastating three minute burst scored three goals from Valerie Mulcahy, Deirdre Reilly and Caoimhe Creedon. Against the breeze in the second half Waterford played some good football and a goal by Miriam Liston reduced the margin to four points, but Cork finished stronger. Keeper Mary Hayes was sin-binned after a foul, Valerie Mulcahy drove the resultant penalty to the net and Cork ran out easy 6-11 to 2-7 winners.

In the U 16 championship Kerry beat Waterford 2-9 to 2-5 in a good game in Glanworth.

On Sunday 10th April the Waterford Junior team travelled to Dublin to play Down in the League quarter final. Waterford fielded six U16 players and were level 0-9 to 1-6 at half time. Louise Ryan (0-2), Tracey Gallagher (0-2), Sinead Ryan (0-2), Lisa Prendergast (0-2), and Deirdre Nagle getting the points. Despite early 2nd half points from Deirdre Nagle and Tracey Gallagher, a physically stronger Down team ran out winners 3-17 to 0-11.

On the 11th April the U16 team beat Limerick 3-11 to 3-5 in Kilworth. Lenore Kirwan and Sile Moynihan swapped early goals and a Clodagh Reidy goal put Limerick five points in front. Then Siobhan Enright scored a Limerick penalty to give Waterford a real uphill battle, but they duly responded. Limerick were awarded another penalty but Stephanie Ankatell effort was well saved by the Waterford keeper Kelly Moroney.

A stirring second half performance which yielded 2-6 turned the game around. A 36 minute Claire Hassett goal and a succession of points by Niamh Mc Grath (2), Sinead Ryan, Mairead Wall, Lenore Kirwan and Bronagh O Donovan put Waterford in front and the clinching score was a goal by Aimee Jordan after taken a pass from Mairead Wall, which secured a six point victory.

On April 16th Waterford played Cork in the U16 Munster semi-final and started well with a Lenore Kirwan goal. Keeper Kelly Moroney was sin-binned and Cork responded to score a 5-16 to 2-4 victory. Waterford scores coming from Lenore Kirwan (1-1), Claire Hassett (1-0), Sinead Ryan (0-2), Niamh Mc Grath (0-1). Waterford then played Clare in the Munster U16 B final at Dromina and won the title 2-20 to 1-6 with Mairead Wall winning the player of the match award.

Donna Frost and Marian Ryan were selected on the 3rd level colleges All Star team. A secondary school blitz organised by Waterford Ladies football Co Board and Waterford Sports Partnership and W.I.T. College was held on Friday 22nd April and proved a great success. The tournament included a section for girls who had never played football and the feed back was very positive.

On Sunday evening the 15th May Abbeyside defeated St Pats in the U16 B final at Fraher field; Sarah O Brien scored both Abbeyside goals. On Sunday 3rd July Waterford played a very poor Clare side in the Munster senior championship at Cappamore and won easily 4-24

to 0-3. First half goals by Michelle Mc Grath and Niamh Briggs helped Waterford to a 2-10 to 0-0 interval lead. Michelle Ryan and Mary O'Donnell both goaled in the second half as Waterford also shot 17 wides in a game that turned into target practice.

Munster lost the Interprovincial final to Leinster on 1-11 to 2-7, and Waterford were represented by Donna Frost, Marian Troy, Mary O'Donnell, Linda Wall, Aoife Murphy, Mary Hayes, Marian Ryan, Niamh Briggs and Lorraine Whelan.

On Saturday 11th July Waterford played Cork in a double header at Pairc Ui Rinn. Fr Liam Kelleher had joined the Waterford backroom team earlier in the year and regularly travelled up and down from Cork for training. In the junior game Cork won 2-13 to 1-8 after a young Waterford team played very well. The sides were level 0-5 to 1-2 after fifteen minutes, Waterford points scored by Nora Dunphy, Mairead Wall, Sinead Ryan, Lisa Mc Grath and Lisa Prendergast, but Cork hit a purple patch and led 1-9 to 0-5 at half time. On the resumption Fiona Kiely saved Ciara O'Sullivan penalty and although Sinead Ryan scored 1-2, Cork won by eight points.

Waterford: Fiona Kiely, Gillian Mc Grath, Nuala Hearn, Aileen Barron, Lisa Mc Grath, Eibhlis Cooney, Niamh Mc Grath, Lyn Marie Grant(0-1), Kerry Dunphy(0-1), Mairead Wall (0-1), Lisa Prendergast(0-1), Deirdre Nagle, Nora Dunphy(0-1), Sinead Ryan(1-3). Subs... Tracey Gallagher, Aisling O'Donnell.

In the senior game Cork came as reigning Munster champions and favourites. After 20 minutes the teams were level 0-4 each, Waterford points scored by Niamh Briggs (2), Aoife Murphy and Marion Ryan. Cork scored 5 on the trot to lead 0-9 to 0-4 at half time. New Waterford keeper Evelyn O'Brien made a couple of very good saves but Cork led 0-15 to 0-5 after 48 minutes. Waterford brought on youthful subs Lynn Marie Grant and Sinead Ryan and points by Niamh Briggs (2), Louise Ryan and a goal by Aoife Murphy reduced the deficit to 4 points. Waterford missed 2 good chances before a late Cork point sealed a 0-16 to 1-8 victory. Sinead Ryan set a record in 2005, playing championship football for Waterford U14, U16, minor, junior and senior grade.

Waterford: Evelyn O'Brien, Donna Frost, Bridget Hannigan, Marion Troy, Lorraine Whelan, Mary O'Donnell, Lenore Kirwin, Fiona O'Reilly, Marion Ryan (0-1), Louise Ryan (0-1), Michelle Ryan (0-1), Miriam Liston, Michelle Mc Grath, Niamh Briggs (0-4), Aoife Murphy (1-1). Subs: Sinead Ryan, Lynn Marie Grant.

With the Munster championship being played on a round robin Waterford had to defeat Kerry at Fraher field to qualify for the final and the sides met at Fraher field on a windy day Saturday 23rd July. Kerry played against the wind in the 1st half but Waterford got off to a terrible start and were 2 goals down after 90 seconds, Geraldine O'Se and Jackie Murnane scoring.

O'Se put Kerry 7 points up before Aoife Murphy opened Waterford's account and then added a second. Quickly Deirdre Corridan and Patrice Dennehy restored Kerry's 7 point lead. Worse was to follow as Murnane struck for Kerry's 3rd goal in the 24th minute. At last Waterford woke up, Marion Ryan pointed. Michelle Mc Grath and Michelle Ryan tacked on

further points then Michelle Ryan fielded a high ball and drove it to the net and Aoife Murphy scored a point to reduce the deficit to a more manageable 3-3 to 1-5 at half time.

Kerry had the wind advantage and kicked 2 early pints. Niamh Briggs scored a Waterford point. Aoife Murphy and Michelle Mc Grath got both pointed and with 6 minutes remaining Michelle Ryan reduced the deficit to 2 points. Geraldine O' Se edged Kerry 3 in front again but with time running out Mary O' Donnell stormed upfield and drove to the net to level the scores. Michelle Ryan was inches wide with a long range free so it was to extra time.

In the first period the only score was a Geraldine O' Se Kerry point. The games critical score was a Sarah O' Connor goal. A free by Geraldine O' Se dropped in under the Waterford crossbar for another goal and although Fiona O' Reilly scored a late consolation goal, Kerry were through on a 5-8 to 3-9 scoreline. Waterford's poor start with the wind had cost them dearly.

Waterford: Evelyn O' Brien, Donna Frost, Bridget Hannigan, Marion Troy, Lorraine Whelan, Mary O' Donnell (1-0), Lenore Kirwin, Fiona O' Reilly, Marion Ryan (0-1), Louise Ryan (0-1), Michelle Ryan (1-2), Miriam Liston, Michelle Mc Grath (0-1), Niamh Briggs (0-1), Aoife Murphy (1-4). Subs: Lynn Marie Grant and Sinead Ryan.

Ballyduff won the U14 A county title defeating Comeragh Rangers in the final 3-7 to 2-9. Comeragh had a last minute chance to win the game but the ball rebounded off the crossbar as Ballyduff turned a 2-5 to 2-4 interval deficits into a 1 point victory.

Ballymacarbry defeated Comeragh Rangers 5-9 to 2-4 in the U12 A County final at Fraher field in late August and on the 3rd September Tramore played Brickey Rangers in the intermediate final at Fraher field. The teams were level at half time but Tramore eventually won with 2 late goals on a 3-5 to 2-6 scoreline.

The junior County final was played on Friday 9th of September at Leamybrien between Ballyduff and Comeragh Rangers. Rangers had lost junior finals in 01, 02 03 and the semi final in 04. On this occasion they made no mistake and ran out 7-11 to 1-9 winners as centre forward Marie Hogan scored 4-1.

On September the 18th, Comeragh Rangers travelled to Ardfinnan to play St. Ailbes of Limerick in the Munster semi final. They led 2-9 to 0-4 at half time and won easily 6-13 to 0-8. A new senior championship cup in memory of Edith Kennedy was donated and that was the prize when Ballymacarbry and Old Parish contested the senior county final at Stradbally on 24th September. Ballymacarbry were undefeated at county level since 1981, but the reign was very much under threat on this occasion. Old Parish won the toss and played against the wind. Michelle and Marian Ryan kicked early Ballymacarbry points, but a Niamh Briggs brace levelled the scores after ten minutes. The Old Parish keeper Fiona Kiely produced a brilliant save and within a minute Sarah Hickey did likewise at the other end. Ballymacarbry shot five consecutive points per Claire Ryan (2), Sinead Ryan (2), and Marian Ryan to lead 0-7 to 0-2 after 20 minutes. Then came the games first goal as fourteen year old Sinead Ryan took a pass from Michelle Mc Grath and drove left footed to the net. Niamh Briggs and Michelle Ryan swapped points. Marian and Sinead Ryan tacked on

further Ballymacarbry points. Sarah Hickey made another great save but the ball broke to Niamh Briggs who slammed it to the Ballymacarbry net to leave a 1-10 to 1-3 half time scoreline.

Ballymacarbry made a couple of switches, moving Rebecca Hallahan to full back, Eibhlis Cooney to centre back and played Linda Wall as an extra defender against the breeze in the 2nd half. After seven scoreless minutes Evelyn O'Brien scored a super Old Parish goal and the game was now in the melting pot. Mary O'Donnell and Michelle Mc Grath were having a real battle at midfield. Then Sinead Ryan won a ball in the middle of the field and beat several defenders before kicking a great point from 30 yards. Back came Old Parish and Mary O'Donnell pointed with her left leg.

Rebecca Hallahan deflected a drive by Niamh Briggs over the bar. Fiona Kiely made a great save, Old Parish missed a couple of chances before Niamh Briggs reduced the margin to three points after 56 minutes. Old Parish piled on the pressure but the Ballymacarbry defence with Rebecca Hallahan and Linda Wall outstanding, held firm and in injury time defender Louise Ryan broke up field played a one two with Mairead Wall and kicked the insurance point in a 1-13 to 2-6 victory, at the end of a great game refereed by Maurice Condon.

Aileen Wall (Ballymacarbry) played in the mini sevens game at Croke Park. The All Ireland sevens took place in Naomh Mearnog on Sat 1st October and Ballymacarbry played Fergus Rovers in round one winning 6-7 to 2-3. They then defeated St Bridget's 4-9 to 2-4 before losing to Knockbride 8-3 to 4-5 in round 3. They followed this with a 5-5 to 4-8 draw with Glen to qualify for the quarter final of the plate competition. They drew with Mountmellick 3-6 to 4-3 to face a shoot out to decide who advanced. Sinead Ryan, Michelle Mc Grath and Rebecca Hallahan all pointed frees, Mountmellick only scored once so Ballymacarbry were through to the semi-final.

They then faced a fancied Senchalstown team, but won 5-9 to 4-5, Sinead Ryan scored 3 goals, the other goals were scored by Linda Wall and Michelle Mc Grath. In the All Ireland Shield 7-a-side final they played Donaghmoyne (Monaghan). This game turned out to be a thriller. Ballymacarbry led 0-5 to 1-1 at half time. Marian Ryan kicked three points, the other two were scored by Mairead and Linda Wall.

At the start of the 2nd half Sinead Ryan scored a vital goal and a succession of points by Marian Ryan (2), Mairead Wall, Rebecca Hallahan and Linda Wall sealed victory. For team captain Catriona Casey it was her 22nd All Ireland medal in a brilliant career dating back 19 years to Croke Park in 1986.

Ballymacarbry panel Catriona Casey, Rebecca Hallahan, Louise Ryan, Eibhlis Cooney, Marian Ryan, Michelle Mc Grath, Linda Wall, Sinead Ryan, Mairead Wall, and Michelle O'Gorman.

Comeragh Rangers first Munster club championship campaign came to an end at Kilworth on October 8th as they went under to a strong Laune Rangers side 4-14 to 2-7. Nevertheless it had been a great game for a young team.

Comeragh Rangers: Marian Hogan, Aoife Mc Grath, Michelle Hennebrey, Marie Drohan, Stacey Whelan, Edel Kirwan, Nora Dunphy, Marie Power, Nicola Cahill, Ciara Dunphy, Marie Hogan, Leanne Kirwan, Laura Power, Ruth Kirwan, Linda Drohan(Capt.). Subs: Michelle Mc Grath, Bernie Murphy, Cathy Murray, Jenny Gough, Edel Curry, Niamh Curry, Eileen Power, Ann Dunphy, Marguerite Hasset, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Emma Nugent, Catherine Flynn.

In the Munster senior club semi-final Ballymacarbry defeated Athea (Limerick) 3-24 to 1-6 in Cappamore on 15th October. Michelle Mc Grath, Linda Wall and Michelle Ryan getting the goals, however in the Munster final they were well beaten by Donoaghmore, 5-8 to 1-8 at Ardfinnan on the 22nd October. Donoaghmore led 2-3 to 0-5 at half time and ran out convincing winners with an impressive second half display.

In the Munster Intermediate club championship Tramore were well beaten by Gerald Griffins, 5-9 to 2-0 in Mallow on Saturday 24th September.

In the Junior B county final Abbeyside beat Stradbally 7-7 to 0-7 at Fraher field on the 30th October. Clodagh Mc Govern got 3-0 and Aimee Jordan scored 2-3. Mary O Donnell won her 4th ALL Star award to add to her previous awards in 2000, 2002 and 2003. Comeragh Rangers defeated Clashmore 5-17 to 1-7 in the minor B county final on Saturday 19th November. Ballymacarbry won the Minor A county final on Sunday 18th December, defeating Killrossanty 3-8 to 1-5. Mairead Wall, Sinead and Brid Ryan got the Ballymacarbry goals and Julie Buest scored the Killrossanty goal.

Michael Ryan took over as Munster President at Convention on Sunday 11th December at the Green Hills Hotel in Limerick, replacing Dan O Mahony. He had previously held a number of positions on the council, serving as Vice President, PRO and Assistant Secretary.

Honours:

Waterford Munster u16 B champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland 7 a side senior plate champions