

Waterford Ladies Football History 2006

Waterford began the 2006 League campaign with a game against Dublin at Leamybrien on Sunday 5th Feb. A 5th minute goal by Niamh Briggs helped Waterford to a 1-6 to 0-7 interval lead. Briggs scored her 2nd goal in the 46th minute and two minutes later Aoife Murphy got the 3rd goal from a penalty to seal a 3-11 to 0-13 victory, Briggs got 2-3 and Murphy got 1-4. On the same day the juniors were well beaten by Dublin despite the fact that Waterford keeper Aimee Jordan saved two penalties.

Two weeks later Kerry were visitors to Leamybrien for round 2. Within 30 seconds the ball was nestling in the Waterford net courtesy of Noirin Feely. Waterford replied with a Lenny Kirwan goal in the 9th minute, but Kerry struck for a 2nd goal two minutes later from Deirdre Corridan and the Kingdom led 2-7 to 1-1 at half time. Rebecca Hallahan and Mairead Wall came on as 2nd half subs, and Waterford shot three consecutive points. In the 40th minute Niamh Briggs punched the ball to the net to reduce the deficit to five points.

Waterford dominated the closing stages but found scores hard to come by, and Kerry won 2-13 to 2-8, with Niamh Briggs scoring 1-4 of Waterford's total. The following Sunday the 26th Feb Waterford travelled to Ballyboden St Endas to play Armagh. They had the benefit of a strong wind in the first half yet trailed 0-2 to 0-0 after fifteen minutes. Evelyn O'Brien opened their account in the 16th minute, Niamh Briggs added a second.

Marian Troy's 27th minute goal gave Waterford the lead and further points by Troy and Michelle Mc Grath gave them a 1-4 to 0-4 interval lead. After the restart Niamh Briggs pointed a difficult free, Michelle Mc Grath, Lyn Marie Grant and Briggs again all pointed to give Waterford a 1-8 to 0-4 lead after 45 minutes. By the fifty second minute the team were level and great defending by Rebecca Hallahan and Lenny Kirwan kept Waterford in the game.

Cleona O'Keefe scored a crucial Waterford point in the 56th minute and two further pointed frees by Briggs gave Waterford a deserved 1-11 to 1-8 victory. Mayo beat Waterford in round 4.

Brickeys won the 2005 Junior League title defeating Comeragh Rangers in the final 3-11 to 0-9, Aoife Murphy (2) and Julie Kirwan the goal scorers. The All Stars travelled to Singapore for a dream holiday with Mary O'Donnell and Michael Ryan on board. Mary O'Donnell played a key role as the 2004 team managed by Michael Ryan beat the 2005 team in a fine game. A fashion show to boost Co Board funds was held in the Park Hotel on the 29th March, with Geraldine Canning as compeer.

On the 2nd April Waterford beat Tyrone 1-14 to 2-3 at Collinstown Dublin, to qualify for the league quarter finals. The quarter final draw was Waterford V Galway, Cork V Armagh, Kerry V Meath, and Mayo V Monaghan. On Saturday 8th April Cork hammered Waterford 7-16 to 0-4 in the minor championship at Fraher field, but

three days later Waterford beat Limerick 3-11 to 2-5 in a loser's group game at Kilworth. Laura Power scored an early Waterford goal, Limerick replied with goals by Sile Moynihan and Aoife O Sullivan to lead 2-2 to 1-1 at half time. Second half goals by Sinead Ryan and Mairead Wall put Waterford in the driving seat and they ran out winners by five points, with Sinead Ryan scoring 1-7.

Waterford: Aimee Jordan, Kate Power, Gillian Mc Grath, Julie Buest, Eibhlis Cooney, Kate Kirwan, Lenny Kirwan, Louise Ryan(0-1), Mairead Wall(1-2), Kate Feeney(0-1), Michelle Norris, Sinead Ryan(1-7), Sheila Brackett, Laura Power(1-0). Subs: Michelle Allen, Sarah Kiely, Orla Hickey, Rachel Lacey, Roisin Manahan. Waterford then beat Clare in the losers group final 1-19 to 1-7 in Solohead. This win qualified them for the minor a semi final where they were beaten by Kerry, 4-10 to 1-8 at Castletownroche on the 19th April. As beaten semi-finalists in the A grade they were through to the minor B final.

ON Saturday the 15th April Waterford played Galway in the league quarter final in Mungret (Limerick). Waterford started with 2 Niamh Briggs points and a goal from a penalty by Aoife Murphy left the Deise girls 1-5 ahead 0-5 after 15 minutes. A magnificent save by Mary Hayes left Waterford 1-8 to 0-8 ahead at the interval. In the second half the Galway, All-Ireland champions in 04, came much more into the game and ran out convincing winners 0-20 to 1-10. Waterford scores were Niamh Briggs (0-7), Aoife Murphy (1-0), Sinead Ryan (0-2), Mairead Wall (0-1).

In the U14 championship Waterford defeated Tipperary in Ardfinnan in April the 22nd by a margin of 3-8 to 1-7 b, 10-13 to 0-3.

In the minor A championship Cork destroyed Waterford 7-16 to 0-4 at Fraher field which put Waterford into the losers group and on Tuesday 11th April Waterford defeated Limerick 3-11 to 2-5. Next Waterford defeated Clare 1-19 to 1-7 at Solohead and qualified to play Kerry in the semi final. Kerry won 4-10 to 1-8 at Castletownroche. This put Waterford into the Munster B final.

Waterford won the Munster minor B final at Ardfinnan, defeating Tipperary 4-12 to 3-6. Laura Power and Aimee Jordon scored early goals but Tipperary came back into contention with a brace of goals as Waterford led by 3 points at half time.

Laura Power got her 2nd goal early in the 2nd half but Tipperary remained in contention until the last quarter. Points by Louise Ryan and Mairead Wall put Waterford 3 points in front after 45 minutes. Then Sinead Ryan pointed 3 consecutive frees and Roisin Manahan scored the clinching goal. Waterford scorers were Sinead Ryan (0-6), Laura Power (2-0), Aimee Jordan (1-1), Roisin Manahan (1-1), Louise Ryan (0-2), Mairead Wall (0-2). Manager: Peter Jordan.

Munster played in the Interprovincial series and won the plate final defeating Connacht 2-17 to 1-12. Waterford were represented by the following players, Donna Frost, Rebecca Hallahan, Mary O' Donnell, Michelle Mc Grath, Linda Wall and Niamh Briggs.

Ballymacarbry won the county community games title. They travelled to UL for the Munster series and defeated Eire Og in the semi final but lost to Duagh/ Lyre (Kerry) in the final.

On the 24th of June Waterford played Cork in the senior championship in Fraher Field. Valerie Mulcahy and Niamh Briggs swapped early goals and 2 Sinead Ryan points put Waterford 1-02 to 1-00 ahead after 16 minutes. Then Caoimhe Creedon got a Cork goal and the Leesiders dominated the rest of the half and led 2-11 to 1-02 at half-time. In the 45th minute they stretched the lead to 18 points but Waterford finished strongly with points by Sinead Ryan (3) Mairead Wall, Michelle Ryan, Cliona O Keefe and Michelle McGrath but Cork ran out easy winners 3-15 to 1-11. Waterford scorers were Sinead Ryan (0-05), Niamh Briggs (1-01), Michelle Ryan (0-02), Aoife Murphy (0-01), Cliona O Keefe (0-01), Michelle McGrath (0-01).

In the junior championship Cork defeated Waterford 3-22 to 1-05 in Ballyduff. In Round 2 of the Munster Senior championship, Waterford travelled to Killorglin on Saturday 8th of July to play Kerry. Kerry led 1-06 to 0-06 at half-time, Deborah Murphy scored their goal and despite 2nd half goals by Michelle Ryan and Niamh Briggs, Kerry won by a single point 1-12 to 2-08. Waterford scorers Niamh Briggs(1-02), Michelle Ryan(1-01), Mairead Wall(0-01), Mary O Donnell(0-01), Karen Kelly(0-01).

Cork then beat Kerry to qualify for the final but Waterford and Kerry had to meet again to see who played them. This game took place on Saturday 15th of July at Fraher Field. Sinead Ryan kicked 2 early Waterford points before Kerry forward Deirdre Corridan was fouled and Mgt O Donoghue took the perfect penalty, low to the keepers left. Edel O Connell added a Kerry point. Sinead Ryan then put Mary O Donnell in for a Waterford point. Geraldine O Shea replied for Kerry after Waterford's Donna Frost did well to block a Deirdre Corridan shot. Aoife Murphy then put Michelle Ryan through for a point and Michelle Mc Grath did likewise from a Louise Ryan pass. Waterford keeper Mary Hayes made a great save but Edel O Connell drove the rebound over the bar. Patrice Dennehy added a Kerry point and the Kingdom led 1-3 to 0-5 at half time.

Within thirty seconds of the restart Waterford were ahead. Mary O Donnell won the throw in, passed to Linda Wall who ran through the Kerry defence and passed to Niamh Briggs. Briggs quickly passed to Michelle Ryan who stepped around her marker and blasted the ball to the net. Mairead Wall put Aoife Murphy through for a point, Briggs and Michelle Ryan added points and Waterford led 1-7 to 1-3 and were very much in the driving seat.

Kerry responded and points by Deirdre Corridan (2), and Patrice Dennehy reduced the deficit to two points. Kerry then kicked four consecutive wides. The Waterford defence was magnificent as Donna Frost, Rebecca Hallahan, Eibhlis Cooney, Louise Ryan, Marian Troy and Michelle Mc Grath tightly held the Kerry forwards.

Waterford then put together another great move to relieve the pressure, Donna Frost to Sinead Ryan to Niamh Briggs back to Sinead Ryan and then the ball was moved to Michelle Ryan who drove it over the bar. Geraldine O Shea replied with a Kerry point, and then Waterford full back Rebecca Hallahan was sin-binned. Mary Hayes produced a great save and the Waterford defence held firm to record a great 1-8 to 1-6 victory.

Ballymacarbry won the U14 A county title defeating Dungarvan in the final at Fraher field by 3-5 to 1-4. Aileen Wall (2) and Katie Prendergast got the goals. On Saturday the 26th July Waterford played Cork in the Munster senior final at Limericks Gaelic Grounds. Cork led 1-6 to 0-2 at half time. Caoimhe Creedon got the goal. Donna Frost retired with a leg injury and although Aoife Murphy scored 1-3, Cork were easy winners 1-17 to 1-6 and collected the 3rd consecutive Munster senior title. Waterford Rebecca Hallahan won the player of the match award.

In the U16 A championship Waterford defeated Clare 2-13 to 1-8 in Tipp Town. In the semi-final they were well beaten by Kerry 6-14 to 2-8. This put Waterford into the Munster U16 B final at Stradbally on Wednesday 2nd August against Tipperary. Waterford started well, an early goal by Lenore Kirwan and points by Elma Nugent (2), Sinead Ryan, Kate Rockett and Shona Curran gave the Decies girls a 1-5 to 0-3 lead at half time.

Tipp scored a goal just after the restart but Waterford responded well, Sinead Ryan shot 4 points, Bronagh O Donovan, Elaine Curran, Elma Nugent and Ryan again and Kate Rockett all found the range and Waterford were convincing 1-14 to 1-3 winners with Lenore Kirwan winning the player of the match award.

Waterford: Kelly Moroney, Ann Dunphy, Ciara Dunphy, Eimear Scanlan, Bronagh O Donovan(0-2), Niamh Mc Grath, Claire Gleeson, Shona Curran(0-1), Elma Nugent(0-2), Sinead Ryan(0-6), Lenore Kirwan(1-0), Katie Hannon(0-1), Helen Keating, Chloe Power, Kate Rockett(0-2). Subs Nicola Mc Carthy, Laurissa Hogan, Olivia Hennebry, Deirdre Nugent, Elaine Curran, Theresa Curran, Leanne Kirwan, Stephanie Power, Niamh Curry, Coleen Cunningham, Gillian Frewan, Orla Kelly, Kelly Dwane, Julie Buest. In the All Ireland semi final Waterford went down to Roscommon 3-6 to 1-11 at Mountmellick on Sunday 20th August.

Waterford were drawn against Armagh in the senior championship at Breffni Park Cavan on the 26th August. Armagh took the lead with a 6th minute point, but Michelle Ryan equalised in the 8th minute. Ryan then pointed a 40 metre free but Mairead Tennyson levelled it up again. A Niamh Briggs shot produced a great save by the Armagh keeper. Aoife Murphy and Aileen Matthews swapped points, then came a crucial score as Sharon Duncan drove the ball to the Waterford net. Mairead Wall scored a Waterford point but Armagh finished the half strongly as Mairead Tennyson, Aileen Matthews and Alma O Donnell all pointed to leave Armagh 1-6 to 0-4 ahead at half time.

Early in the second half Mary O Donnell and Sinead Ryan both pointed to reduce the deficit to three. Then Waterford were awarded a penalty but Aoife Murphy's shot was saved. Linda Walls shot rebounded off the inside of the post. Michelle Ryan pointed a Waterford free but Catherine O Hanlan and Alma O Donnell combined to put Maria O Donnell in for Armagh's 2nd goal to clinch victory. Waterford: Mary Hayes, Donna Frost, Rebecca Hallahan, Eibhlis Cooney, Louise Ryan, Marian Troy, Michelle Mc Grath, Mary O Donnell(0-1), Cleona O Keeffe, Linda Wall, Michelle Ryan(0-3), Mairead Wall(0-2), Sinead Ryan(0-2), Aoife Murphy(0-1), Niamh Briggs. Subs Lenore Kirwan, Marian Ryan, Lorraine Whelan.

After the game Michael Ryan stepped down as Waterford manager, a post he held since 1982. During that time Waterford had won 1 Junior All Ireland, 5 Senior All Irelands, 4 National League titles and 10 Munster senior titles. He had also managed Waterford to win 5 minor All Irelands and 2 U16 All Irelands. It was the end of an era.

On Saturday 9th September Ballymacarbry faced Old Parish in the senior County final, a repeat of the '05 final which was very close. On this occasion Ballymacarbry ran out easy winners 8-19 to 1-2. Stradbally beat Kilmacthomas in the Junior B final. Comeragh Rangers beat Brickey Rangers in the Intermediate final. Brickeys led 0-5 to 0-1 at half time. On the restart Leanne Kirwan scored a vital goal and points by Ruth Kirwin and Marie Hogan put Comeragh Rangers on the road to victory.

On Saturday 30th of September Ballymacarbry played in the All Ireland sevens in Portmarnock. In round 1 they beat Donaghmoynne 3-4 to 1-7, in round 2 they beat Dunboyne 7-9 to 2-4 and in round 3 they beat St. Bridget's 3-11 to 0-3 and in round 4 they accounted for Aodh Rua 11-8 to 0-2. In the All Ireland semi final they played Sarsfields (Laois) and drew 2-6 to 3-3, the goals scored by Michelle and Marion Ryan. This led to a shoot out. Rebecca Hallahan, Michelle, Marion and Sinead Ryan all pointed frees whilst Sarsfields missed 3 out of 4 and Ballymacarbry were through to the final against Shelmaliers (Wexford).

Shels had lost the previous 2 finals and Ballymacarbry started the final well with 2 quick points by Rebecca Hallahan and Sinead Ryan but Shels recovered to lead 2-1 to 0-6 at half time. A goal by Michelle Ryan and a succession of points by Sinead Ryan (2), Marion Ryan (2), Mairead Wall and Michelle Ryan gave Ballymacarbry a 1-12 to 3-2 victory and a 6th All Ireland club title. Ballymacarbry team and combined scorers of the tournament, Catriona Casey (Capt.), Rebecca Hallahan (0-1), Louise Ryan (0-1), Eibhlis Cooney, Michelle Mc Grath (6-2), Michelle Ryan (5-8), Marion Ryan (5-11), Hayley Lonergan (3-2), Linda Wall (2-2), Martina O' Ryan (0-1), Mairead Wall (4-8), Sinead Ryan (2-14). It was Captain Catriona Casey's 23rd All Ireland medal and brought a great end to a fantastic career.

St. Pats beat Ballyduff in the junior A County final and then played Dromcollogher/Broadford in the Munster club championship at Cashel on the 23rd of September. The Limerick champions won convincingly, 4-12 to 2-5. Comeragh Rangers were

beaten by another Limerick side Mungret/ St. Pats 3-6 to 0-7 at Kilbeheny the following day.

Stradbally won the junior B county final at Fraher field defeating Kilmacthomas by a margin of 2-12 to 4-1. Tanya Power and Fiona Barrett got the goals.

In the VHI Munster senior club championship semi final, Ballymacarbry played Athea in Lattin on Sunday 5th October. The previous year the Waterford champions had won the tie by 24 points but this was to be a different story as Athea fought all the way and Ballymacarbry eventually won 2-11 to 3-4. Michelle Ryan scored (1-4), Sinead Ryan (0-4), Linda Wall (1-0), Marion Ryan (0-2), Mairead Wall (0-1).

The Munster final was fixed for Sunday the 22nd of October but bad weather forced a postponement and it was played the following Saturday in Midleton. This was a low scoring encounter with Donoaghmore eventually winning 0-9 to 0-4 but Ballymacarbry had chances and didn't convert them. It was Donoaghmore 6th Munster title in a row.

Rebecca Hallahan and Mary O' Donnell received All Star nominations and O' Donnell was selected on the Irish Compromise rules team to play Australia. The first game was played on Tuesday 31st October in Breffini Park, Cavan and the 2nd was played at Parnell Park the following Saturday. The Irish team won the series easily.

Ballymacarbry won the minor A title at Abbeyside on the 18th November defeating Kilrossanty 3-13 to 1-1. Rebecca Hallahan won the Munster Ladies Footballer of the year award and was presented with her award at the Munster GAA Banquet in early December.

Honours:

Waterford Munster u16 B champions

Waterford Munster minor B champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland senior 7 a side cup champions

All Star: Mary O' Donnell Old Parish, (Centre Field)

Rebecca Hallahan Ballymacarbry was named Munster Footballer of the year.