

Waterford Ladies Football History 2008

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The year began with a Ladies All Star trip to Dubai in late January. Rebecca Hallahan, Mary O Donnell and Michael Ryan (Munster President) travelled and enjoyed a week that included a game between the 2006 and 2007 All Stars.

Waterford began the 2008 League campaign with a game against Clare in Leamybrien on the 17th February. Clare started well and scored 1-1 in the opening five minutes, Fiona Lafferty got the point and Niamh Keane played a great ball through for Aine Kelly to shoot to the net. The Waterford midfield pair of Cleona O Keeffe and Michelle Mc Grath began to dominate and the forwards found the range, Michelle Ryan(2), Michelle Mc Grath (2), Katie Hannon and Linda Wall all pointed before Emer Considine pointed to leave Waterford 0-6 to 1-2 ahead at half time. Michelle Ryan tacked on another point but Louise Henchy goaled a penalty after Tammy Hehir was fouled. Waterford responded as Linda Wall pointed and then she quickly added a goal to restore the lead, Mairead Wall, Katie Hannon (2), Marian Ryan, Cleona O Keeffe and Michelle Ryan all shot points as Waterford ran out 1-14 to 2-4 winners. Waterford: Amy Jordan, Laurissa Hogan, Donna Frost, Lorraine Whelan, Louise Ryan, Elaine Power, Grainne Kenneally, Cleona O Keeffe(0- 1), Michelle Mc Grath (0-2),Mairead Wall(0-1), Michelle Ryan(0-3), Linda Wall (1-3), Roisin Manahan, Sinead Ryan, Katie Hannon (0-3) Sub: Marian Ryan (0-1). Waterford then played Westmeath in Mullingar Shamrocks on Sunday 2nd March and recorded a 1-13 to 0-10 victory. Waterford led 0-7 to 0-3 at half time and a Cleona O Keeffe goal was the crucial score.

The following Sunday Waterford easily defeated Leitrim, 3-13 to 1-2 in Leamybrien with Michelle Ryan getting (1-4), Sinead Ryan (1-3) , Katie Hannon (1-1), Marian Ryan (0-2), Michelle McGrath (0-1), Cleona O Keeffe (0-1), and Mairead Wall (0-1).

Next up was Sligo at Fraher Field a week later, and the game ended in a draw, 0-9 each. Waterford led 0-7 to 0-5 at half time, Michelle Ryan (3), Michelle McGrath, Mairead Wall, Katie Hannon and Linda Wall got the points. However Sligo staged a comeback to force a draw Waterford second half points scored by Linda Wall and Marian Ryan.

On the 19th April the senior team played Kilkenny at Dunhill in a challenge game and won 6-15 to 3-4.

Na Deise beat Killrossanty in the U16 B county final by a margin of 3-6 to 2-3 and Kate Barry, Jessica Garvan Johnstown and Trish Kiely got the goals.

The U14 team managed by Crohan Mc Greggor, Thomas Duggan and Brendan Gallagher kicked off their campaign with a game against Clare in Ardmore on the 14th March and suffered a very heavy defeat, 17-12 to 2-6. A week later they lost to Limerick, 6-6 to 2-11 at Solohead, Rebecca Kavanagh (1-3), Hannah Lordan (0-3), Fiona Morrissey (1-3), Karen Mc Grath (0-2), and Clodagh Walsh got the scores. They bowed out of the championship after a 6-17 to 1-3 defeat at the hands of Tipperary in Kill on the 29th March.

The U16 team lost the first round to Cork in Ardmore 13-21 to 1-4 on the 5th April, and the loser's group game resulted in a 9-16 to 2-9 defeat by Tipperary on the 14th May in Aghlish. To make matters worse the minor team failed to field, so 2008 was a very poor year at under age level for Waterford Ladies Football.

The Interprovincial championship took place on Saturday 31st May in Athlone. Only three teams, Munster, Leinster, Ulster took part in a round robin series. In the final Ulster beat Munster decisively 6-10 to 1-11 and five Waterford players, Rebecca Hallahan, Michelle Mc Grath, Linda Wall, Michelle Ryan, and Elaine Power played with Munster.

Waterford played Donegal in the League semi-final at Pairc Chiarain in Athlone and lost by a single point 1-12 to 2-8. Waterford played with a gale force wind in the first half yet Donegal scored a goal in the first minute. Waterford were playing catch up all day and ultimately that first minute goal proved the decisive score.

Ballymacarbry beat Tramore in the Community games Co final.

Dungarvan scored a big win over Ballymacarbry in the U16 A Co final and Na Deise beat Killrossanty in the U16 B County final 3-6 to 2-3, Na Deise goals scored by Kate Barry, Jessica Garvan Johnstown and Trisha Kiely.

Waterford played Kerry in the Munster Senior semi-final at Kill on the 10th May. The senior provincial championship had reverted to a knock out series with Cork given a bye to the final. After fifteen minutes the scores were level, 0-4 each, but by the interval Kerry were well ahead 0-9 to 0-4. Sinead Ryan did score a Waterford goal early in the 2nd half, but had to leave the field injured. Kerry turned on the style winning easily 3-14 to 1-7 with Waterford giving a very poor performance.

Waterford scorers: Michelle Ryan (0-4), Sinead Ryan (1-0), Rebecca Hallahan (0-1), Marian Ryan (0-1), Michelle McGrath (0-1).

The qualifier system for the senior championship was changed from groups to a second bite at the cherry, similar to the G.A.A. system. Waterford drew Armagh in the qualifier. This was played at St Lomans Mullingar on the 27th July. Waterford had a very poor start, they trailed 0-6 to 0-0 after twenty minutes and a goal by Aileen Mathews left Armagh 1-8 to 0-2 ahead at half time. Waterford did improve in the second half but Armagh ran out comfortable winners 1-11 to 0-8 to end a very

disappointing season for the Waterford senior team. This left them in a relegation play off but this would not be finished until January 2009. Waterford: Aimee Jordan, Rebecca Hallahan, Donna Frost, Laurissa Hogan, Aoife Mc Govern, Eibhlis Cooney, Louise Ryan, Grainne Kenneally, Marian Ryan, Elaine Power, Michelle Ryan, Michelle Mc Grath, Aine Ryan, Sinead Ryan, Niamh Briggs. Subs. Nora Dunphy, Deirdre Fahey, Ann Dunphy.

The New York U16 Ladies Football team visited Waterford in July. They were hosted first by W.I.T. and then by the Ballymacarbry club. They played a number of games including a blitz type tournament in Ballymacarbry. Four teams Ballymacarbry, New York, Cahir, and Ballylanders took part and the tournament which was won by Ballymacarbry.

Ballymacarbry also won the 5-a-side All Ireland Pioneer title in Meagherafelt (Derry). They defeated Ballinrobe 5-7 to 2-2 in the semi-final and beat Mullahoran (Cavan) in the final with the following panel of players: Aileen Wall, Treasa McGrath, Brid Cooney, Sinead Grant, Rosie Mc Carra, Siobhan Ryan, Karen McGrath. Manager: Brigid Grant.

St Anne's and Comeragh Rangers drew the U12 A county final 2-2 to 1-5 at the Fraher Field. Comeragh Rangers won the replay 2-10 to 3-6. Killrossanty won the U12 B final defeating Ballymacarbry 9-6 to 2-6 after leading 4-4 to 2-3 at half time, Orla Hickey scored 4-1. Killrossanty also won the U14 A title defeating Ballyduff 2-9 to 3-4, the goals were scored by Niamh Behan and Emily Codd whilst Katie Whyte scored 0-4. In the senior county final Ballymacarbry beat Comeragh Rangers 3-11 to 2-4 at the Fraher Field, the goals scored by Aileen Wall, Louise and Michelle Ryan. In the junior county final Abbeyside beat Clashmore 3-9 to 2-8, their goals scored by Mary Foley, Rachel Walsh and Aimee Jordan. Ballyduff won the Intermediate championship and travelled to Glanworth to play Athea (Limerick) in the Munster Intermediate championship on the 20th September and were easily beaten 8-16 to 0-4. On the same day also at Glanworth, Abbeyside played Fr Caseys (Limerick) in the Munster Junior quarter final and won 2-12 to 1-9, after leading 1-6 to 0-2 at half time. Aimee Jordan and Clodagh Mc Govern got the goals.

Abbeyside panel: Rachel Lacey, Aine Brown, Grainne Enright, Kate O'Brien, Aoife Mc Govern, Elaine Power (0-3), Suzie Longan (0-2), Aimee Jordan (1-1), Rachel Walsh, Clodagh Mc Govern (1-1), Fiona Morrissey (0-1), Eimear Collins, Niamh Collins, Bronagh O'Donovan (0-2), Claire Cosgrove, Sarah O'Brien (0-1).

The All Ireland sevens were held on the last weekend of September. Abbeyside won the junior All Ireland sevens title winning six games in the process. They began with a 6-9 to 4-6 victory over St Colms, then beat Naomh Peregrines 6-5 to 2-9, beat Shannon Gaels 11-12 to 4-2 and won the final group game against Salthill/Knocknacarraige, 6-7 to 6-4. In the semi final they beat Shamrocks 3-9 to 3-3 and captured the All Ireland title with a 5-11 to 4-3 victory over Glenamaddy. Ballymacarbry failed in their bid to win the senior title for the 3rd year in a row, going out to Sarsfields Laois, 2-9 to 2-8, in the quarter final.

Abbeyside were back in action in the Munster Intermediate club championship semi final on the 9th Oct in Ballygibblin against Na Gael (Kerry). Na Gael led 1-2 to 0-0 after ten minutes and 1-6 to 0-3 at half time. Abbeyside turned in a good third quarter with points by Niamh Briggs (2), and Suzy Longan and when Briggs scored a goal from a penalty followed by a second goal scored by Aimee Jordan they were right back in contention. However Na Gaels Ciara O Sullivan then shot to the Abbeyside net to seal a 2-11 to 2-6 victory. Ballymacarbry played East Kerry in the Munster Senior B final at Moyle Rovers on Sunday 10th October. After twenty four minutes they led by a single point 0-8 to 0-7 but then turned on an exhibition of football to win 0-25 to 0-8 with the following team: Aine Ryan, Laurissa Hogan, Rebecca Hallahan, Brid Cooney, Louise Ryan, Eibhlis Cooney, Treasa McGrath, Michelle McGrath (0-1), Linda Wall (0-4), Mairead Wall (0-4), Michelle Ryan (0-7), Bridget Grogan, Hayley Lonergan (0-1), Sinead Ryan (0-5), Aileen Wall (0-2). Sub: Laura Gleeson (0-1). Then they faced Inch Rovers in the senior A final at Glanworth on Saturday 15th Oct and were well beaten 2-14 to 0-8. Scorers were Michelle Ryan (0-5), Linda Wall (0-1), Mairead Wall (0-1), and Sinead Ryan (0-1).

Comeragh Rangers beat Ballymacarbry in the minor A final on a 3-11 to 2-2 scoreline after trailing 1-2 to 0-4 at half time. Orla Kelly (2) and Eileen Power got the goals. It was Comeragh Rangers first time to win the Minor A title.

2008 Club roll of Honour

Grade	Winner	Runner- Up
Senior	Ballymacarbry	Comeragh Rangers
Intermediate	Ballyduff	Old Parish
Minor A	Comeragh Rangers	Ballymacarbry
Minor B	Ballyduff	Dungarvan
Minor C	Old Parish	Ardmore/Grange
Junior A	Abbeyside	Clashmore
Junior B	Dungarvan	Kilmacthomas
Junior C	Ardmore /Grange	Shamrocks
U16 A	Dungarvan	Ballymacarbry
U16 B	St Pats/Na Deise	Killrossanty
U16 C	Old Parish	Ardmore/Grange
U14 A	Killrossanty	Ballyduff
U14 B	Comeragh Rangers	St Pats /Na Deise
U14 C	Dungarvan	Stradbally
U14 D	Ardmore/Grange	Kilmacthomas
U12 A	Comeragh Rangers	St Anne's
U12 B	Killrossanty	Ballymacarbry
U12 C	Old Parish	Tramore
Mary Walsh 7-a-side Cup	Ballymacarbry	Comeragh Rangers

Honours:

Abbeyside All Ireland junior 7 a side cup champions

