

Waterford History 1970 to 2010 Micheal Ryan

1970

Although a tournament took place in Dungarvan in 1968 organised by Seamus Ahearne, all the indications are that the first serious attempt to organise ladies football came in the summer of

1970. A number of tournaments in the west Waterford South Tipperary area took place and the

original focal point seems to be Clonmel Post Office and County Council.

A number of employees of these establishments lived in the Ballymacarbry, Newcastle and Ardfinnan areas and the idea filtered back and soon games between these began to take place.

As a result of a number of challenge games Ballymacarbry ladies Gaelic football was founded on

Tuesday July 7th 1970 making it possibly the oldest club in the Country.

At a meeting in St Patrick's hall Ballymacarbry the following officers were elected
Chairperson

Winnie Hallinan Vice Chairperson Mai Lonergan Secretary Peg Kelleher Treasurer Noreen Hannigan, Captain Peg Kelleher vice Captain Veronica Mangan Selectors Marian Ryan, Winnie

Hallinan, Peg Kelleher and Trainer Frankie Connolly. Among the attendance was a youthful Michael Ryan.

It was decided to hold a church gate collection to raise funds on Sunday the 9th August. By this

time a league was taking place and Ballymacarbry won their first fixture versus Clonmel County Council.

Next up was a game against near neighbours Newcastle on Friday 25th July and Newcastle led 1-

02 to 0-01 at half time, over 500 spectators attended, and the game really came to life when Ballymacarbry scored a goal and with minutes remaining the teams were level. Then Eileen Bolger, who was a native of Ballymacarbry but playing with Newcastle, shot a goal from a 30 yard

free to clinch a thrilling victory by a margin of 2-04 to 1-04, Seargent Michael Whyte, refereed.

On the 11th August Ballymacarbry travelled to Goatenbridge to play Ardfinnan and another thrilling match ended in a draw as Ballymacarbry shot a goal and a point in the closing minutes.

The 15th August was the annual date for the Newcastle pattern day and the novel attraction was

a ladies football game between Ardfinnan and Ballymacarbry, which Ardfinnan won 0-03 to 0-02.

Ballymacarbry's season ended in early September as Newcastle defeated them 0-03 to 0-02 and

Newcastle won the group to qualify for the tournament final. Thus the first year of competitive

ladies Gaelic football ended with plenty of games but no set of clearly defined rules. Players had a habit of diving on the ball on the ground and this led to many untidy situations. The game was

crying out for proper organisation and this was to come the following year.

1971 began similarly to 1970 with lots of tournament games. In late May Ardfinnan easily defeated Ballymacarbry in the first round of the Clonmel festival tournament. It was then decided

to hold a championship between West Waterford and South Tipperary and Ballymacarbry were

drawn against Powerstown in early June. However this turned into a tournament as it was realised that it wasn't possible to hold a championship between different Counties.

By now a neighbouring parish of Ballymacarbry, Touraneena had a team and Newcastle travelled

to play them on Sunday 13th June in Kirwins field Bouravounteen. In the opening minutes Touraneena scored a goal but the greater experience of Newcastle shone through and they eventually won 6-07 to 1-00. The Touraneena side consisted of many schoolgirls who had taken

part in u14 events in the school sports earlier in the day.

Fr Percy Ahearne, a native of Colligan, called a meeting to elect a County Board and this was only

done with Fr Ahearne as Chairperson and Margaret Foley (Killrossanty) was elected secretary. It

was decided to hold a County championship and Muintir Na Tire came on board as sponsors.

Eight teams took part in that inaugural championship, Bonmahon, Ballymacarbry, Killrossanty, Kill

Fenor, Stradbally, Abbeyside and Touraneena, which was played on a losers group basis. All the

games were played in Lemybrien, a village seven miles outside Dungarvan on the road to Waterford. The first game saw Ballymacarbry defeat Killrossanty by 2 goals and they followed this

up with a victory over Bonmahon in what was a very good game on Wed 25th August.

They then played Fenor and recorded a third victory only to learn the following day that Fenor

had objected owing to the fact that Ballymacarbry were late taking the field. A refixture saw a

thrilling contest end in a draw. The third game saw Ballymacarbry win by a point to qualify for the

County final.

Meanwhile Killrossanty, in the loser's group section, had scored victories over Abbeyside and

Stradbally and had qualified for the County final. Ballymacarbry played a challenge game in Touraneena against Newcastle in preparation for the final and lost a great game 2-06 to 1-06 with

well known Affane footballer Jimmy McGrath refereeing.

The County final between Ballymacarbry and Killrossanty saw both teams line out after playing three games in a week. Killrossanty had a home venue by virtue of the game being played in Lemybrien on the 11th September and Ballymacarbry won a thriller by a couple of points, to win what was probably the first County final played in the Country. A week later Ardfinnan won the inaugural Tipperary championship. The tournament games continued, Ballymacarbry travelled to Kilurney and the following week hosted Powerstown in a medal tournament at the Mill field winning 3-01 to 0-00. The game was followed by a fund raising dance in St Patrick's hall. Fr Ahearne, John O Donovan and Jim Kennedy (Clonmel) organised what was probably the first inter county game between Tipperary and Waterford on Sunday 3rd October in Ballypatrick a village on the foothills of Slievenamon which Tipperary won by a couple of points. Right around the Country the game was taking off with tournaments and festivals taking to this novel attraction.

1972

By 1972 tournament games were playing a very important part in ladies football. There were several different tournaments up and running in the West Waterford/South Tipperary area, Ardfinnan in particular was very popular and keenly contested. In the semi final Ballymacarbry beat Newcastle 0-05 to 1-00 and collected the trophies after defeating the hosts Ardfinnan in the final on Tuesday 13th June. A couple of weeks later the Fethard festival saw Ballymacarbry have 10 points to spare over Newcastle and half an hour later they played a second game, defeating Drangan by 4 points. The 1972 Waterford championship was played on a league basis with home and away fixtures with Killrossanty and Ballymacarbry the favourites and both teams qualified for the final. On this occasion Killrossanty powered by Noreen Cunningham and the Behan sisters Joan and Bridget, Margaret Foley, Mary Dempsey, Mary Walsh and Mary Tobin ran out deserving winners by a couple of points. In October Tipperary proved far too strong for Waterford in a tournament game and despite the best efforts of Nora Cunningham, Margaret Foley, Eimear Guiry, Carmel Ryan and Ann McCarthy Waterford were well beaten.

1973

The Annual general meeting again elected Fr Ahearne as Chairman, Margaret Foley as Secretary and Ann McCarthy as treasurer. The draw for the championship was held in Lawlors Hotel, Dungarvan on the 13th of June and the following clubs affiliated: AGLISH, Ardmore, Ballymacarbry, Kill, Killrossanty, Sliabh Gcua and Stradbally.

A couple of weeks later Waterford, made up of mostly Ballymacarbry and Killrossanty players, defeated Tipperary in the "Matt the Thresher" tournament in Mullinahone. The club championship was run on a league basis, with home and away with games every week. The fixtures for July 9th were Ballymacarbry v Kill, Sliabh Gcua v Killrossanty, Stradbally v Ardmore whilst AGLISH received a bye. The championship was a bit lopsided, Ballymacarbry defeated Kill by a 7 goal margin, Killrossanty defeated Sliabh Gcua 9-06 to 0-00, a week later Killrossanty defeated AGLISH 8-11 to 0-01. Stradbally easily defeated Kill so it was very much a two tiered championship. Ballymacarbry and Killrossanty served up a thriller, Killrossanty were the reigning champions and led by 7 points at half time, and a goal at the start of the second half put them 10 points clear and seemingly in an unassailable position. However Ballymacarbry staged an amazing comeback to win 11-03 to 4-01 in a thriller. The team lined out as follows,

Ballymacarbry: Mary Lonergan, Ann McCarthy, Noirin Lonergan, Peg Kelleher, Alice Gleeson, Breda Kelleher, Carmel Ryan, Bridie Ryan, Kathleen Hogan, Josie Hogan, and Chrissie Ryan.

Killrossanty: Mary Dempsey, Patsy Donovan, Margaret Foley, Mary Walsh, Noreen Cunningham, Mary Tobin, Alice Donovan, Bridget Behan, Joan Behan, Mary Prendergast, and Bernie Daly.

Sliabh Gcua gave a walk over to Stradbally, Ballymacarbry travelled to Stradbally and drew 0-06 to 1-03. It came down to a crunch match between Killrossanty and Stradbally to see who would play Ballymacarbry in the County final and Stradbally defeated the reigning champions by a couple of points.

Stradbally took the unusual step of announcing their team a week before the County final. The game took place at the Dungarvan CBS grounds in early September before a very large attendance with referee W Walsh from Killrossanty. It was an honest to goodness game of football with neither side giving little away. The crucial period came just before half time when Ballymacarbry scored 3 quick goals, 2 by Carmel Ryan and led at the interval 3-01 to 1-01. The opening twenty minutes of the second half belonged to Stradbally but their only reward for

lots of possession was a single point and a 4th Ballymacarbry goal sealed a 4-02 to 1-02 victory.

County Board Chairman Fr Percy Ahearne presented team captain Ann McCarthy with the cup

and the winning team received their medals, whilst Stradbally received runners up medals.

On the 3rd of October Waterford travelled to Ballypatrick (South Tipperary), Waterford lined out

as follows: Mai Lonergan (Ballymacarbry) Alice O Donovan (Killrossanty) Mary Burke (Fenor) Maeve Barry (Bonmahon) Phil Crowley (Fenor) Nora Cunningham (Killrossanty) Emer Guiry (Kill)

Ann Fennell (Stradbally) Peg Kelleher (Ballymacarbry) Ann McCarthy (Ballymacarbry) Bridget Behan (Killrossanty) Mona Walsh (Kill) Margaret Phelan (Fenor) Margaret Power (Bonmahon)

Tipperary: Mary Wall (Killarney) Eileen Bolger (Newcastle) Alice Walsh (Ardfinnan) Nora Moran

(Newcastle) Tina Flynn (Ardfinnan) Ena Hackett (Newcastle) Bridget Ryan (Ardfinnan) Maura Cleary (St Lukes) Peggy Ryan (Powerstown) Eleanor Carroll (Ardfinnan) Betty Hallinan (Newcastle)

Kathleen Byrne (Ardfinnan) Carmel Moloney (Powerstown) Ann Noonan (St Lukes) Kitty Ryan

(Ardfinnan). At the end of an entertaining game Tipperary were victorious and got a set of trophies. Thus 1973 came to an end.

1974

After four years of competition in various Counties it was decided to officially set up the Ladies

Gaelic football Association in 1974. A Clonmel man, Jim Kennedy was instrumental in this. He had

played a major role in ladies Gaelic football in the South Tipperary/ West Waterford area.

A number of County boards were already up and running. A meeting was called in Killurney, a

little village in Tipperary, with a view to setting up a national association. Personnel from a number of Counties attended and a few players were in favour of a trip to America.

Offaly, Tipperary and Waterford all signalled their intention to travel. In Waterford in particular

there was great enthusiasm. Noreen Begley of Stradbally drafted a series of letters to various

companies in Waterford to try and raise funds. A letter they sent to Ann McCarthy Ballymacarbry

showed they had high hopes, she wrote" the tickets for the draw will be ready Friday. So the meeting will be on Friday night, have you all the clothes packed for America yet? Supposing we

have to walk there, we are going. I have written to all the quare fellows, hope they come up with

something".

However Jim Kennedy and John Donovan (Tipperary) were adamant that the game would have to

be organised in Ireland first and then trips could be organised. Tipperary and Offaly pulled out so

Waterford would have nobody to play and that was the end of the American trip.

On the 18th July 1974 delegates from four Counties, Offaly, Galway, Kerry and Tipperary attended

a meeting in Hayes Hotel Thurles and the Association was founded. Ninety years earlier in the

same hotel the G.A.A was founded by Davin, Croke and Co. Eight Counties, Cork, Galway, Kerry,

Laois, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary and Waterford took part in the inaugural championship.

Even in the early days Munster was prominent, four of the six Counties were from the Province.

The first President elected was Clonmel man Jim Kennedy and Mary Nevin, an employee of the

Eastern Health board in the Mater hospital but a native of Kilcormac in Offaly, was the first Secretary Marie Holland from Ballintubber was Vice President Offaly's Joe Feighery was Assistant

Secretary, Roscommon Margaret Flanagan was Treasurer and another Offaly native Brendan Martin became Assistant Treasurer and to this committee fell the task of organising the championship.

It was decided that each County would pay the modest fee of £10 to cover medals and Brendan

Martin agreed to donate a cup for the winners. It was also decided to run that championship on a

regional basis. Thus Cork, Kerry, Tipperary and Waterford played a Munster championship on a

regional basis. A set of rules was drawn up.

Round 1 in Munster saw Tipperary defeat Waterford 3-08 to 2-06 in Fethard. Kerry also defeated

Waterford which meant in effect that the Deise County was out of the running. When Kerry defeated Cork the way was clear for a Munster final in Kilsheelan, Tipperary started well with

goals by Eleanor Carroll and Mary McGrath but had to survive a nail biting finish.

Tipperary went on to win the All Ireland and became the first winners of the Brendan Martin cup

by a single point margin. With the County scene out of the way it was time to resume with the

club championship. Again the competition was to be 11 a side. A new County Secretary Noirin

Begley had taken over and the affiliation fee for a club was £2.

By now Portlaw were making a serious impression and the big 3 had become the big 4 with Portlaw, joining Ballymacarbry, Killrossanty and Stradbally and these four clubs qualified for the

County semi finals.

In the first round Ballymacarbry lost to Killrossanty but victories over Ardmore and Portlaw

brought them back into contention. In the semi final they were drawn against Killrossanty but lost a thrilling game by a couple of points. In the other semi final Stradbally played Portlaw and Killrossanty went on to win the championship and capture their second title and were level at the top of the role of honour with Ballymacarbry.

Then 1974 ended with the game on a stronger footing. Eight Counties had taken part in official competition, Ladies Gaelic football was really up and running.

1975

In the inter county Tipperary continued their domination over Waterford and by the end of the year had retained the All Ireland title, defeating Galway in the final.

Meanwhile Portlaw had been making a serious impression in the Waterford club championship.

Fr Ryan had got involved in the organisation of the club and they had some very good footballers

and it was no surprise when they qualified for their first ever County final.

Michael Ryan took over as trainer of the Ballymacarbry club and they too reached the final which

was played at the old Abbeyside club grounds. Twelve teams had competed in the championship

and National President Jim Kennedy was brought in to referee the game. There was a very large

attendance and Bridget Ormonde scored an early Ballymacarbry goal but Portlaw responded to

score three consecutive points and then Eily Walsh put them ahead with a magnificent long range

point. Ballymacarbry responded with points by Ann McCarthy (free) and Ann Lonergan and received a big boost just before half time when Ann McCarthy's long range free went all the way

to the net to give them a 2-02 to 0-04 interval lead. Portlaw began the second half well and Eily

Walsh's 40th minute goal helped level the scores 2-02 to 1-05. Ann McCarthy nudged Ballymacarbry ahead again but Mary Walsh, who was outstanding, scored the equalising point

with ten minutes left to play. Ballymacarbry finished the stronger and three consecutive points by

the outstanding Ann McCarthy secured a 2-06 to 1-06 victory the clubs 3rd since 1971. Ann McCarthy despite playing in defence scored 1-05 out of a total of 2-06 and was definitely

player of the match and Mary Walsh and Eily Walsh were outstanding for Portlaw. Ballymacarbry lined

out as follows: Mai Lonergan, Catherine Wall, Ann McCarthy (1-05), Josie Hogan, Kathleen Cliffe, Ann Lonergan (0-01), Geraldine Kelleher, Chrissie Ryan, Breda Kelleher, Carmel Ryan, Bridget Ormonde (1-00), Sub Kathleen Hogan for Kathleen Cliffe.

Fr Ahearne presented the cup to Ballymacarbry captain Ann McCarthy and Fr Ryan made a very sporting congratulatory speech on behalf of Portlaw. Although they lost, Portlaw did enough to suggest that they would be very serious contenders in the years ahead.

1976

Portlaw did enough in 1975 to suggest they would be serious contenders in 1976 and so it proved. Abbeyside, AGLISH, Ardmore, Ballinameela, Ballymacarbry, Kilmacthomas, Killrossanty,

Portlaw and Stradbally affiliated.

Ballymacarbry began with victories over Abbeyside and over AGLISH. But Portlaw scored easy wins

over Kilmacthomas and Ardmore and then Portlaw visited Ballymacarbry and scored a morale

boosting victory. The draw for the County semi finals kept Ballymacarbry and Portlaw apart.

Ballymacarbry drew Stradbally and Portlaw were paired with Abbeyside.

The Ballymacarbry v Stradbally semi final was played at Lemybrien and proved a thriller.

Stradbally led by a point at half time with Bridget Behan outstanding. In the second half the lead

changed hands several times and Stradbally keeper Eithne Hennessy kept them in the game with

a succession of fine saves. Anne Fennell, Leona Drummey, Alice Donovan and Mary Skehan were

also outstanding for the covesiders but Ballymacarbry had the best player on the pitch in Maeve

Butler and she along with Ann McCarthy were instrumental in Ballymacarbry winning by 2 points

with Mary Walsh from Portlaw as referee.

In the other semi final Portlaw easily defeated Abbeyside to set up another

Ballymacarbry/Portlaw County final. On this occasion Portlaw made no mistake, they were fitter

and faster than Ballymacarbry and ran out deserving winners to claim the County senior football

championship for the first time.

Munster won the interprovincial title defeating Leinster 1-09 to 0-06 at Littleton on the 15th May.

Waterford's representatives on the team were Mary Prendergast, Ann McCarthy and Carmel

Ryan. In the Munster senior championship Kerry defeated Cork 5-10 to 2-01 at Banteer and then

faced Waterford at Fossa. The Kingdom were far too good winning 6-11 to 0-02 and went on to

win the All Ireland title for the very first time.

1977

The late seventies saw a decline in the number of teams playing ladies Gaelic football in Waterford. In round one of the championship which was again played on a league basis,

Portlaw

travelled to Ballymacarbry and secured a deserved victory, on the 11th July they followed this up with a victory over AGLISH in Portlaw and 24 hours later Ballymacarbry defeated Killrossanty. Portlaw qualified for the County final and Ballymacarbry again faced Killrossanty in the semi final, Ballymacarbry led by a single point at half time but five second half goals sealed a surprisingly easy victory. However Portlaw once again proved too strong in the final and emerged as deserving champions by two points thus after seven years of championship action Ballymacarbry led the role of honour with 3 titles whilst Killrossanty and Portlaw had two each. In the Munster championship Waterford surprisingly beat Cork at Portlaw 4-04 to 4-02 with Maeve Butler, Eileen Hennessy, Agnes O Leary and Eily Walsh outstanding. Waterford then faced Kerry in the Munster championship in the 6th August. Ann McCarthy was ruled out due to injury and Kerry led 2-05 to 1-00 at half time and eventually won 4-09 to 2-04 in a good game. The final scoreline didn't do justice to Waterford as they had two goals disallowed and also missed a penalty. In the Interprovincial championship Munster defeated Ulster 8-11 to 0-06 in the semi final at Kilcormack (Offaly) on the 24th April. The final was played on the 23rd July in Athlone and Munster defeated Connacht 3-05 to 1-02 with the following team: Eithne Hennessy (Waterford), Bernie O Donoghue (Kerry), Helen Slattery (Kerry), Margaret Leahy (Tipperary), Jane Stapleton (Tipperary), Mai Lombard (Kerry), Eileen O Donoghue (Kerry), Mary Power (Waterford), Ann Croke (Tipperary), Sally Clohessy (Tipperary), Aggie O Leary (Waterford), Margaret Lawlor (Kerry), Eileen Walsh (Waterford), Dell McLaughlin (Kerry), Mary Geaney (Kerry)

In 1978 a new force arrived in Waterford ladies Gaelic football as Dunhill registered a team at the affiliation meeting on the 29th May. Portlaw were now the dominant force and Ballymacarbry were in decline. Several of the successful teams of 1971 and 1973 had retired and by now they struggled to field a team. Dunhill benefited from a number of transfers in particular Eithne Hennessy the interprovincial keeper who had previously played with Stradbally. Indeed Eithne was soon to forge out a very successful soccer career with top class Waterford club team Benefica. Still Ballymacarbry put it up to Dunhill in the County semi final and only lose by a point. In the County final Portlaw won 3 in a row defeating Dunhill but there was enough evidence to suggest

that Dunhill would be a strong force in the future. In the Interprovincial series Munster failed to qualify for the final which was won by Connacht who defeated Leinster in the final.

By 1979 Portlaw had a real challenge on their hands by way of a very strong Dunhill side, led by

Eithne Hennessy, Nellie McGrath, Anne Murray, Patricia and Ailish Hartley and Mary Power; they

trained very hard and began a period of domination of ladies Gaelic football in Waterford that

culminated in three County titles in a row.

1980

Tom Brown took over as County Board Chairperson, Nellie McGrath (Dunhill) was elected secretary whilst Ann McCarthy continued as treasurer. Dunhill and Stradbally contested the 1980

County final and after a thriller Dunhill won 1-05 to 2-01

1981

Ballymacarbry produced a promising crop of young players at Community games level. In 1981

Ballymacarbry defeated Brickey Rangers by 6 points and defeated Affane 3-30 to 0-01 to qualify

for the County senior final against Dunhill. This game was played at Cappoquin on the 26th of September 1981 with Jimmy McGrath as referee.

The early stages were even enough but gradually Dunhill got on top and eventually ran out easy

winners. The teams lined out as follows Dunhill: Eithne Hennessy, Mary O Loughlin, Anne Murray,

Ger Molloy, Nellie McGrath (Capt), Anne Moore Catherine Moore, Patricia Hartley, Alish Hartley,

Helen Daniels, Mary Power, Mary Drohan, Deirdre Daniels, Sally Hartley, Mary Casey, Subs Helen

Hutchinson, Anne Power & Mary Roberts. Ballymacarbry: Frances Fitzpatrick, Eileen Fitzpatrick,

Anne McCarthy (Capt), Margaret Phelan, Helen Condon, Catherine Ryan, Ann Meehan, Bernie

Ryan, Dolores Hallinan, Marie Crotty, Mari O Ryan, Eileen McGrath, Phil Murray, Patricia Butler,

Martha Coleman Subs Marie Tuohy, Mary Byrne, Bernie McCarthy, Mary Kelly & Mary O Loughlin.

The cup was on its way to Dunhill but it was clear that Ballymacarbry had a very promising crop of

young players several of whom were under 14 years of age. However nobody could predict the

success that the club would enjoy over the next 20 years. Dunhill were beaten by the Tipperary

champions Slievenamon in the Munster club championship. Stradbally defeated Kilmacthomas in

a tournament final for the Hayes cup and the following players lined out for them: J Prendergast, A Darcy, M Flynn, M Quinlan, M Hayes, P Condon, D Hayes, J Crotty, G Whelan, T Crotty, P Barry, B Whelan, G Hayes, M Dunford, C Kiely, P Barron, A Campbell, G Carroll, M Power, J Condon, M Condon, J Carroll, M Sheehy

1982

Affane, Ballymacarbry, Clashmore, Dunhill, Kilmacthomas, St Pats, The Shamrocks and Stradbally

affiliated and it was decided that all teams would play one another in a league.

Ballymacarbry

persuaded Michael Ryan to take over as Manager/Trainer/Coach and with the club being organised off the field by new Chairman Noel Murray and had a talented bunch of players, they

were soon beginning to win matches easily. They defeated St Pats 4-05 to 1-00, Stradbally 7-13 to

0-01 and had similar big wins over Affane and Clashmore. Their first real test was a trip to Ballyduff (East) to play Dunhill in the League and they won convincingly. However the championship was a different story and it was decided to run a senior and junior championship.

Just three teams Ballymacarbry, Dunhill and Stradbally played in the senior, Ballymacarbry and

Stradbally came out of the pot to play a County semi final and Dunhill getting a bye into the final.

Ballymacarbry easily defeated Stradbally to set up a County final against Dunhill, who were going

for 3 in a row. The game was fixed for Stradbally on a beautiful Saturday evening in late August.

Dunhill were a tough nut to crack and led 1-01 to 0-03 at half time. However in the second half

the fitness of Ballymacarbry told and goals by Mari O Ryan and Marie Crotty, from a penalty, sealed victory and the clubs first County senior title since 1975.

Waterford represented by Ballymacarbry played Kerry in the first round of the Munster senior

championship and were trounced 6-11 to 0-00. Meanwhile Ballymacarbry had a Munster club

championship to worry about and this wasn't meant to be played until March 1983 so Ballymacarbry had to train right through the winter.

1983

The 1983 season kicked off with a Munster club championship tie against Tipperary champions

Slievenamon and this was played at Clonmel sports field in early March. Slievenamon were favourites by virtue of the fact that they participated regularly in this competition whilst it was

Ballymacarbry's first ever Munster club tie. Played on Sunday March 20th with Willie Barrett as

referee, it was a very good game in ideal dry conditions and from an early stage it was obvious that Ballymacarbry had a distinct advantage as regards fitness and with Eileen Fitzpatrick and Dolores Hallinan dominant at midfield, the forwards had plenty of possession and Mari O Ryan and Marie Crotty notched the scores as they ran out deserving winners. Next came a Munster senior club final against Cork champions St Enda's in a farmer's field at Ballyclough (Cork). St Enda's were a decent side and try as Ballymacarbry did, the Cork champions were far too good and ran out 1-06 to 0-02 winners. Kerry beat Waterford 2-05 to 0-08 in the Munster minor championship at Ballyclough on 9th July. The Waterford senior championship was now down to two clubs, the previous year's finalists Ballymacarbry and Dunhill. The other clubs participated in the junior championship. Because of a shortage of players both championships were played as 11 a side. The junior and senior finals were played as a double header at Stradbally. Affane and Ballymacarbry (B) contested the junior final, Ballymacarbry fielded 6 players under 15 years of age and Affane had a decent side and won comfortably. The senior final was to prove a last hurrah for Dunhill, Ballymacarbry were much younger and fitter. Mari O Ryan scored two early goals and Marie Crotty notched 5 first half points and Ballymacarbry were easy 3-11 to 0-00 winners. Ballymacarbry received a bye in the first round of the Munster club championship and drew St Enda's (Cork) in the Munster semi final at Lisgoold. Ballymacarbry missed a couple of good chances early on and St Enda's led 0-03 to 0-02 at half time. An early second half goal put St Enda's on the way to victory. St Enda's were subsequently beaten by Castleisland (Kerry) in the Munster final at Castleisland. Castleisland went on to win the All Ireland club title defeating the Heath (Laois) in the final.

1984

Ballymacarbry were still representing Waterford and drew with Cork in a league game at Lisgoold in early March. Marie Crotty, Mari O Ryan and Margaret Phelan played on the Munster team that defeated Leinster 2-05 to 1-06 in Newcastle west, Munster went on to defeat Connacht in the

final and Waterford defeated Tipperary and Cork at Shanagolden in the Munster championship and then played Kerry in the Munster final and lost 5-09 to 0-03. Inter County player Marie Crotty began training the Ballymacarbry Community games team and they defeated Ballinameela in the Waterford County final, Ardfert (Kerry) and the Cork representatives to reach the Munster final. They played St Senans in the Munster final at Ballymacarbry and although they trailed 1-05 to 0-00 at half time, were inspired by a young up and coming star Aine Wall, they won the Munster title 1-06 to 1-05. They began preparing for Mosney but St Senans objected owing to a team list and Ballymacarbry were thrown out. In 1984 there was no senior club championship in Waterford. Ballymacarbry (B) won the junior championship and the A team got automatic entry into the Munster club championship where they faced the reigning All Ireland club champions Castleisland at Kilbeheny, County Limerick. Three first half points by Marie Crotty gave Ballymacarbry an interval lead. Crotty then scored a crucial goal in the 35th minute when an Anne Barron drive came back off the cross bar, further goals by Ann Meehan and Marie Crotty sealed a 3-04 to 1-02 victory. This led to a second Munster final tilt in 3 years and again St Enda's Cork were the opponents. Ballymacarbry began well with early points by Ann Barron and Marie Crotty but St Enda's led 1-02 to 0-02 at half time. Points by Eileen McGrath and Ann Barron reduced the deficit to the minimum but then the referee disallowed a goal by Brigid McGrath and St Endas went straight down field and scored a goal. Despite a further Ann Barron point and couple of great saves by Ballymacarbry's keeper Claire Maunsell, St Enda's won 2-04 to 0-05 breaking Ballymacarbry hearts for the 3rd year in a row. To make matters worse St Endas went on to win the All Ireland final defeating the Heath (Laois) in the final.

1985

Noel Murray took over as Chairperson of the County Board and Waterford made a serious effort at underage football and Michael Ryan took over as Manager of the under 16 and minor teams. The under 16 team played Cork away and won by a single point. Much to the amazement of everybody the referee declared the game a draw and the replay was scheduled for Ballymacarbry on the 6th of July. Two early points by Helen Walsh and a third from her sister Sinead gave Waterford

an early lead but Cork were level by the 15th minute. Some outstanding football was served up by both teams. Colette Whyte and Ann Fitzpatrick gradually gained control at midfield and Waterford applied the pressure, Aine Wall and Helen Walsh on four occasions pointed for Waterford and Corks only reply was a Linda Ahearn goal to leave Waterford 0-08 to 1-03 ahead at half time.

Linda Aherne landed two magnificent points to level the scores before Waterford half back line of Siobhan Quinn, Frances Wall and Jenny Maher began to get the measure of their opponents.

Waterford hit the Cork crossbar twice before the turning point came in the 50th minute Claire

Fitzgerald shot through a crowded goalmouth and into the Cork net and Waterford shot two further points to seal victory on a 1-10 to 1-06 score line. The team that scored a significant Waterford win was: Caroline Morrissey (Ballinameela), Bridget Foley (Ardmore), Helen Walsh

(Ballymacarbry), Deirdre O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Siobhan Quinn (Ballinameela), Frances Wall

(Ballymacarbry), Jenny Maher (Ballinameela), Ann Fitzpatrick (Capt), (Ballymacarbry), Colette

Whyte (Killrossanty), Regina Morrissey (Ballinameela), Mona Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry), Claire

Fitzgerald (Ballinameela), Helen Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (Ballymacarbry) Cork were the

reigning All Ireland champions and the result was a shock but Waterford had prepared well and

played well and deserved victory.

Noel Murray refereed the All Ireland senior Ladies football final at Pairc Ui Chaoimh between

Kerry and Wexford. Kerry won the title for the fourth year in a row.

For Ballymacarbry the goal was still the Munster club championship. They faced old foes St Enda's

at Rathcormack in early November and at last got the better of their great rivals on a 1-05 to 1-03

score line. There was great jubilation in the parish when the score was read out on Radio Eireann.

It was back to Rathcormack for the Munster final in late November against Castleisland.

Ballymacarbry had beaten Castleisland the previous year but the Kerry champions had a number

of the all conquering Kerry side who won 9 All Ireland senior titles in a row. Castleisland began

well and were awarded a 5th minute penalty which they shot wide.

Ballymacarbry's defence was outstanding with Margaret Phelan, Betty Ryan, Ann Fitzpatrick and

Dolores Hallinan particularly prominent and gradually they stemmed the tide. Marie Crotty

pointed a free but Castleisland equalised in the 20th minute with what was to be their only score

and Helen Walsh pointed to give Ballymacarbry a 0-02 to 0-01 interval lead. As the second half

progressed it was obvious that Ballymacarbry were the fitter side, after a series of near misses

Mona Fitzpatrick landed a magnificent point and a great passing movement saw Ann Barron add

another. With 2 minutes to go Marie Crotty pointed a free to secure a 0-05 to 0-01 victory and

Ballymacarbry at last were Munster senior club champions. The panel of players which achieved a

historic win and the start of an era was : Brigid McGrath, Betty Ryan, Margaret Phelan, Patricia

Butler, Dolores Hallinan, Frances Fitzpatrick, Ann Fitzpatrick, Bernie Ryan, Mari O Ryan, Mary

Fitzpatrick, Marie Crotty (Capt), Ann Meehan, Una McNamara, Ann Barry, Eileen McGrath, Helen

Walsh, Helen Condon, Deirdre O Ryan, Helen Walsh and Catherine Ryan.

After the game Munster ladies Gaelic President Tony Riordan, who had refereed the controversial

Munster final the previous year, presented the cup to Ballymacarbry captain Marie Crotty and

this triggered off wild celebrations which lasted until Christmas.

However Ballymacarbry still had an All Ireland series to play and that meant the training continued through the winter of 1985/1986. If the previous 4 years had been a test of character

with definite progress made, 1986 was the year in which it definitely started to all come together

as far as Waterford were concerned.

1986

Chairman: Noel Murray (Ballymacarbry)

Vice-chairman: Billy Walsh (Newtown)

Secretary: Ann O Neill (Fenor)

Ass Secretary: Brigid McGrath (Ballymacarbry)

Treasurer: Ann Mc Carthy (Ballymacarbry)

PRO: Noel Murray (Ballymacarbry)

Committee: John Joe Power (Ballinameela)

Noel Murray secured Waterford foods as team sponsors.

In 1986 Waterford decided to seek regrading to the junior grade after little success in senior during the '80's, so Noel Murray and Brigid Grant went to a Central Council meeting and succeeded in getting Waterford down a grade.

In the junior league they played Laois in Portlaoise on the 9th March and won 3-10 to 0-1.

Marie

Crotty scored 1-6, Una McNamara 2-0, and the remaining four points were scored by Patricia

Butler, Mari O Ryan, Ann Meehan and Mona Fitzpatrick.

On the 23rd March they travelled to the capital to play Dublin and again won easily, 4-17 to 1-1.

Scorers were Marie Crotty (1-7), Helena Walsh (1-2), Bernie Ryan (1-2), Eileen Mc Grath (1-1),

Mari O Ryan (0-3) Mona Fitzpatrick (0-2).

Meanwhile Ballymacarbry resumed the club championship campaign with an All Ireland semifinal

at home in the Mill field to Mayo and Connaught champions Hollymount. It was a red letter day for the village with a huge crowd and the teams paraded by the Dungarvan pipe band.

The

game itself was a stroll as Ballymacarbry shot 4-14 to Hollymounts 2-0, the scores coming from

Marie Crotty (1-7), Eileen Mc Grath 2-1 Ann Meehan (1-0), Mari O Ryan (0-2), Helen Walsh (0-2),

Bernie Ryan (1-1), Una McNamara (0-1).

Waterford then beat Kildare in a league clash and Ballymacarbry were back in action in the All

Ireland club final at Leahy Park Cashel on Sunday 4th May, against the Heath, a Laois club who

were contesting their 3rd consecutive club final, having lost the previous two. Ballymacarbry started well with the breeze behind them and helped by an Una McNamara goal, led 1-4 to 0-0 at

half time. However they conceded three early second half goals, and despite a gallant bid, lost on

a 3-2 to 1-6 score line. Ann Barron a key player in the winning of the Munster championship the

previous November had emigrated, and proved a huge loss. On the 25th May Waterford played

Laois in the Junior League final at Wexford Park and won easily 3-12 to 1-3, the first National title

to be won by a Waterford Ladies football team. Scorers: Marie Crotty (1-8), Mari O Ryan (1-0),

Eileen Mc Grath (1-0), Una Mc Namara (0-3), Helen Walsh (0-1)

Waterford played Clare in the Munster Minor championship semi-final and used the following

panel Caroline Ryan, Regina Morrissey, Claire Fitzgerald, Paula Fitzgerald, Mary O Donnell (Ballinameela), Breda Coyne, Bridget Foley,(Ardmore), Ann Marie O Neill, Ashling Lenihan, Louise

Roberts (Fenor), Colette Whyte, Claire Harney, Majella Hubbard, Noelette Walsh (Newtown),

Eibhlis O Rourke, Marguerite Casey, Catriona Casey (Clashmore), Mona Fitzpatrick, Ann Fitzpatrick, Frances Wall, Claire Walsh, Noirin Walsh, Helen Walsh, Helena Walsh, Deirdre O Ryan,

Aine Wall (Ballymacarbry). Clare won and were eventually beaten in the All Ireland final.

Ardmore and Clashmore drew 2-3 in the junior league.

Ballinameela won the primary schools (B) final, and Modeligo won the (C) final.

Waterford played Cork in the Munster Junior semi-final at Rathcormac on Sunday 13th July. Cork led 1-3 to 0-2 at half time, Waterford's points scored by Una Mc Namara and Marie Crotty. They had the advantage of the wind in the second half. Waterford were a different side in that 2nd half, quick points by Mona Fitzpatrick and Marie Crotty were followed by an Una McNamara shot which rebounded off the Cork keeper and Helen Walsh drove it to the net, to give Waterford the lead. Further points followed by Marie Crotty, Una McNamara, Helen Walsh and Marie Crotty again to put Waterford five points ahead with ten minutes left. The Munster Interprovincial player Eileen Buttimer scored two quick Cork goals, however Mari O Ryan got a late goal to help Waterford to a 2-9 to 3-3 victory. Waterford Brigid Mc Grath, Betty Ryan, Margaret Phelan, Helen Condon, Ann Fitzpatrick, Frances Fitzpatrick, Dolores Hallinan, Bernie Ryan, Mari O Ryan (1-0), Mona Fitzpatrick (0-1), Marie Crotty (0-4), Catriona Casey, Ann Meehan (0-1), Una Mc Namara (0-2), Helen Walsh (1-1) Subs: Aine Wall, Helena Walsh, Deirdre O Ryan, Frances Wall, Eileen Mc Grath. Josie Hogan a former Ballymacarbry and Waterford player played with Cork. Newtown beat Ardmore 0-8 to 0-2 in the county league final. Ballymacarbry played Newtown in the county senior final at Kilmacthomas and had to battle all the way to secure a 1-8 to 1-3 victory. As a result of this display by Newtown, June and Colette Whyte and Nora Sullivan were added to the Waterford Junior panel for the Munster final against Kerry. This game took place on Sunday 27th July at Doneraile. Waterford played against the breeze in the first half and early goals by Marie Crotty, Bernie Ryan and Una Mc Namara gave them a 3-0 to 1-3 half time lead. Kerry put on tremendous pressure in the second half and Waterford had to switch Marie Crotty back in to the defence. Crotty went into goal and saved a penalty, and turned in a player of the match performance. The crucial fourth Waterford goal came when Bernie Ryan's shot came back off the bar and Helen Walsh drove the rebound to the net to secure victory and a first ever adult provincial title. Waterford then travelled to Garrymore to take on Mayo in the All Ireland Junior semi-final on Sunday 31st August. On the way to the game the bus broke down in Clare but a replacement was found and the team made it on time. The game was a one sided affair, Waterford winning 2-12 to 0-2. An early Bernie Ryan goal helped Waterford to a six point interval

lead despite playing against the wind, and a goal from long range by Ann Meehan left no way

back for Mayo as Waterford won 2-12 to 0-2. Waterford: Brigid McGrath, Betty Ryan, Margaret

Phelan (Capt.), Frances Wall, Ann Fitzpatrick (0-1), Nora Sullivan, Dolores Hallinan, Mari O Ryan

(0-1), June Whyte, Mona Fitzpatrick, Marie Crotty (0-4), Catriona Casey (0-1), Una McNamara (0-

1), Bernie Ryan (1-2), Ann Meehan (1-1) Subs: Colette Whyte, Helen Walsh, Patricia Butler (0-1),

Helena Walsh, Deirdre O Ryan, Aine Wall.

Ardmore won the county junior final in Abbeyside defeating Fenor 3-4 to 0-1, the goals scored by

Eileen O Donnell and Josie Flynn (2), both from penalties, as Ardmore led 3-2 to 0-0 at half time.

After the game Co Board Chairman Noel Murray presented the cup to Ardmore captain Eileen O

Donnell. Ardmore lined out as follows: Mary Agnes O Mahony, Bernie Foley, Monica O Connell,

Ronnie Hennessy, Ann Phelan, Breda Coyne, Juliann McCarthy, Josie Flynn, Louise Neylon, Theresa Foley, Eileen O Donnell, Bridget Foley, Elsie Hickey, Mary Prendergast, Geraldine Codd.

Subs: Margaret Beausang, Maeve Sullivan, Marie Keane, Marie O Sullivan.

The All Ireland U16 Ladies football final was played at the Fraher field on Saturday 6th September

and Cork defeated Wexford.

Sunday 12th October was D Day for Ladies football and for Waterford. It was the first time ever

that the finals were played in Croke Park, and it was also the first time that a Waterford team

played in Croke Park in an All Ireland final since 1963. The Waterford team stayed in the West

County Hotel the night before the game and there was drama just before they left for Croke as

team captain Margaret Phelan was stuck in the lift, However a maintenance man produced a screw

driver and sorted the problem. On to Croke Park and it was a first all the way as far as Waterford

were concerned, Marie Crotty became the first ever Ladies footballer to score a point in Croke

Park, Catriona Casey became the first to score a goal and Wexford were overwhelmed. Ann Meehan goaled again and then Marie Crotty drove home the rebound as her penalty was saved.

Waterford had played against the wind yet led 3-4 to 0-0 at half time. Frances Wall left the field

injured, Helen Walsh came on and Waterford shot a further 1-9 in the second half, Bernie Ryan

getting the fourth goal and Wexford failed to score, as Waterford recorded a 4-13 to 0-0 victory.

Waterford: Brigid McGrath, Betty Ryan, Margaret Phelan, Frances Wall, Ann Fitzpatrick, Nora O

Sullivan, Dolores Hallinan, Mari O Ryan (0-1), June Whyte, Mona Fitzpatrick, Marie Crotty (1-3),

Catriona Casey(1-0), Una McNamara (0-3), Bernie Ryan (1-5), Ann Meehan (1-0). Subs. Helen Walsh, Colette Whyte (0-1), Patricia Butler, Helen Condon, Frances Fitzpatrick, Deirdre O Ryan,

Helena Walsh, Aine Wall, Sinead Walsh.

Marie Crotty became the first Waterford player to win an All Star Award. Team captain Margaret

Phelan climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand to receive the cup from National President Pat Quill,

who was also from Wexford and manager of the team. It was a disappointing day for Pat as he

also managed the senior team that lost to Kerry in the second game.

Then there was the home-coming, the Mayoral reception, the Parade into Grattan Square Dungarvan, and back to Ballymacarbry, home of Captain Margaret Phelan. The celebrations lasted till Christmas, celebrations that were to be repeated in the senior grade five times in the

'90's. However the team of 1986 had started it all.

The Ladies All Stars team played the All Ireland senior champions Kerry in Austin Stack Park Tralee

on Sunday 2nd November. The Kerry All Stars played with the Kerry team, and replacements were chosen to fill their places on the All stars team, Bernie Ryan played, Mari O Ryan was also

chosen as a replacement, but she had emigrated to England after the final. Maeve Butler a native

of Touraneena, but now playing for Cork, had an outstanding game for the All Stars.

Ballymacarbry lost the Munster senior club championship title when they were defeated by Cork

champions Ilen Rovers, 2-11 to 2-8 a week after the All Ireland final.

The A.G.M was held in late November and the following officers were elected

Chairman: Noel Murray (Ballymacarbry)

Vice chairman: Jimmy Fitzgerald (Clashmore)

Secretary: June Whyte (Killrossanty)

Ass Secretary: Brigid Mc Grath (Ballymacarbry)

Treasurer: Ann O Neill (Fenor)

PRO: Nora O Sullivan (Newtown)

Honours

Waterford Munster & All Ireland junior champions

Waterford National junior league champions

All star Marie Crotty Ballymacarbry (centre half forward), Waterford's first All Star

1987 saw Waterford back in the senior grade. They began the league campaign with 0-13 to 2-5

victory over Laois on 1 March and on the 29 March scored a 3-9 to 0-1 victory over Wexford in

Ballymacarbry. Then all Ireland champions Kerry visited Ballymacarbry and Waterford scored a 2-6 to 1-6 victory.

Noel Murray was elected as President elect defeating Christy Byrne (Westmeath) at Congress in Wexford.

For the first time the County Board decided to run 5 different competitions, i.e. Under 14, Under 16, Minor, Junior and Senior.

In May, Michael Ryan and Noel Murray accepted an invite from the Kill club and did a coaching

session. Ballymacarbry defeated Kilmacthomas in the Under 14 County final and on the 29 May

Waterford scored a hard earned 0-8 to 1-1 victory over Westmeath in Mullingar. Waterford had

qualified for the national league semi finals where they played Kerry and the Kingdom prevailed

winning an entertaining game 1-11 to 1-4 on the 7 June. 2 weeks later, Munster won the interprovincial

title at O'Toole Park, Dublin defeating Leinster 2-10 to 0-7. Frances Wall, Anne Fitzpatrick, Mari O'Ryan, June Whyte, Marie Crotty and Bernie Ryan all started the game whilst

Mona Fitzpatrick and Aine Wall came on as subs. The team was: Kathleen Curran (Kerry), Bridget

Leen (Kerry), Mari Hurley (Cork), Frances Wall (Waterford), Ann Fitzpatrick (Waterford), Mary

Lane (Kerry), Ann Corcoran (Cork), June Whyte (Waterford), Mary Jo Curran (Kerry), Marie Crotty

(Waterford) 0-5, Mary Walsh (Cork), Bernie Ryan (Waterford) 2-3, Eileen Lawlor (Kerry). Subs:

Marion O'Doherty (Kerry), Mona Fitzpatrick (Waterford), Patricia Meade (Clare), Ann Cadogan

(Cork), Aine Wall (Waterford).

On the 9 July Tipperary beat Waterford in the Under 16 championship at Clonmel. A new club

called Affane-Cappaquin-Modeligo (ACM) was formed. On the 18 July, Ballymacarbry won the

Munster community games final defeating Clare champions in Ennis by 6 points.

On the 25 July Waterford hammered Tipperary 9-10 to 0-1 at Ballymacarbry in the minor championship. This led to the Munster final at Rathcormack where Cork won a thriller 2-3 to 1-4

as Waterford missed several good chances.

In the junior league final Ballymacarbry defeated Ballinameela. On the 22 August Waterford defeated Cork 2-7 to 1-5 in Rathcormack. Cork led in the closing stages but a goal by Catriona

Casey turned the tide.

Ballymacarbry travelled to Mosney for the community games finals, trained by County player

Marie Crotty they defeated Stradbally (Laois) 2-8 to 1-9 in the semi-finals. They won the title defeating Sheelin (Cavan) 2-1 to 0-2 with the following team: Ballymacarbry: Mary Mangan, Catherine Wall, Regina Byrne, Fionnula Ryan, Ann Marie Ryan, Catherine Hallinan, Rose Phelan,

Noirin Walsh (Capt.), Deirdre Wall, Michelle Walsh, Cleona Walsh, Natasha Galvin, Claire Ryan,

Fiona Crotty, Catriona O’Gorman. Sub: Martina Fenton, Catherine McCarthy, Gillian Flynn and

Annabelle O’Donovan.

4 years later, 6 members of that Community games team, Regina, Byrne, Noirin Walsh, Michelle

Walsh, Cleona Walsh, Claire Ryan and Fiona Crotty were members of the Waterford team that

won the first senior all Ireland title.

In the junior county final, Ballymacarbry won, defeating new club ACM 3-7 to 1-0 and made it a

double in the senior final winning 2-20 to 0-1 against Newtown at Fraher Field.

On Saturday 29 August, Waterford travelled to Castleisland to take on Kerry in the Munster senior final. The game was a clash of the 1986 senior champions and the 1986 junior champions.

Waterford played well but Kerry’s experience brought them a comfortable victory 1-9 to 0-4.

Waterford lined out as follows: Patricia Butler, Ann Dunford, Margaret Phelan, Lisa Fitzpatrick,

Ann Fitzpatrick, Frances Wall, Dolores Hallinan, June Whyte, Marie Crotty, Mona Fitzpatrick, Mari

O’Ryan, Catriona Casey, Una McNamara, Bernie Ryan, Aine Wall.

Subs: Majella Hubbard, Caroline Ryan, Helena Walsh, Deirdre O’Ryan, Brigid McGrath, Sharon

Wyse.

Next both Newtown and Ballymacarbry travelled to Dublin for the All Ireland sevens. In round 1,

Ballymacarbry beat The Heath (Laois) 2-5 to 3-0. In round 2 they beat Portobello (Dublin) 6-7 to

1-2. Next came a 4-3 to 3-3 victory over Shelmaliers (Wexford) in the semi final and scoring a 1

point victory over old rivals St Endas (Cork) 1-17 to 4-7 in the final with Mona Fitzpatrick scoring

the winning point. The team was: Francis Wall, Ann Fitzpatrick, Ann Dunford, Bernie Ryan, Catriona Casey, Marie Crotty, Aine Wall, Sinead Walsh, Mona Fitzpatrick, Lisa Fitzpatrick.

Ann

Dunford captained the team.

In the first round of the Munster club championship, Ballymacarbry defeated Ardfinnan

(Tipperary) 6-11 to 0-1 in Clonmel and then travelled to Dongourney to play St Endas and this resulted in a 0-11 to 0-5 victory. All Ireland club champions, Castleisland were the Munster final

opponents but Ballymacarbry played superbly at Castletownroche on Saturday 22 October and

won convincingly 3-7 to 0-2. The following weekend saw a home venue for an All Ireland semi

final clash with Wexford champions Adamstown and Ballymacarbry won 3-7 to 0-3 but the scoreline didn't do justice to Adamstown.

The All Ireland club final was played in O'Connor Park, Tullamore on Sunday 22 November. Ballymacarbry won the toss and played with the wind and by half time the game was as good as

over and Ballymacarbry won 4-10 to 1-2 with Una McNamara, Catriona Casey, Mari O'Ryan and

Aine Wall getting the goals. Ballymacarbry: Patricia Butler, Ann Dunford, Margaret Phelan, Dolores Tyrrell (Capt.), Ann Fitzpatrick, Frances Wall, Lisa Fitzpatrick 0-1, Mari O'Ryan 1-0, Catriona Casey 1-1, Mona Fitzpatrick, Marie Crotty 0-2, Helena Walsh, Una McNamara 1-0, Bernie

Ryan 0-3, Aine Wall 1-4. Subs: Helena Walsh, Deirdre O'Ryan, Sinead Walsh, Brigid McGrath, Noirin Walsh, Sharon Wyse, Claire Walsh. Thus, Ballymacarbry had captured the All Ireland club

championship after the disappointment of losing the final to the Heath 2 years earlier.

Honours

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club Champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland u14 Community games champions

All Stars: Ann Fitzpatrick Ballymacarbry, (right half back), Marie Crotty Ballymacarbry (centre half

forward)

1988

In 1988 Jimmy McGrath (Affane) took over as county chairman succeeding Noel Murray. The full

Board was:

Chairman: Jimmy McGrath (Affane)

Vice-Chairman: Jimmy Fitzgerald (Clashmore)

Secretary: June Whyte (Kilrossanty)

Assistant Secretary & Registrar: Nellie McGrath (Dunhill)

Treasurer: Ann O'Neill (Fenor)

Committee: Fr Fitzgerald (St Oliver's)

Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Waterford opened the league campaign with a 3-6 to 0-4 defeat by Cork at Donoughmore on the

13 March and then scored a 4-5 to 1-4 victory over Laois in The heath on Sunday 10 April.

On the

24 April, Waterford defeated Westmeath 2-6 to 2-3 at Ballymacarbry. Munster defeated

Connaught 0-16 to 0-1 at Castleisland with 5 Waterford players Ann Dunford, Mari O'Ryan, Marie

Crotty, June Whyte and Bernie Ryan.

On the 21 May, Waterford travelled to Kerry and lost by a disputed point 1-7 to 1-6. Next, they

defeated Wexford by 3 points at Wexford Park on a Friday evening and 2 days later Munster defeated Leinster in the inter-provincial final at Cappaquin 2-10 to 0-4 with the following Munster

team:

Mary Keane (Clare), Bridget Leen (Kerry), Joan Shannon (Cork), June Whyte (Waterford), Marion

O'Doherty (Kerry), Mary lane (Kerry), Phil Curran (Kerry), Mari O'Ryan (Waterford), Mary Jo Curran (Kerry), Phil Curran (Kerry), Marie Crotty (Waterford), Eileen Lawlor (Kerry), Rose Buttimer

(Cork), Margaret Lawlor (Kerry), Bernie Ryan (Waterford, Ann Dunford (Waterford).

Subs included: Catriona Casey (Waterford) and Aine Wall (Waterford).

On the 18 June, Waterford played Wexford in the league semi-final at Walsh Park and won a thrilling game 2-7 to 2-6 thus qualifying for the league final for the very first time and lined out

against Kerry in that final on the 26 June at Semple Stadium. Kerry were bidding for their 8th league title in 9 years, their only blemish was in 1986 when Wexford won and the Kingdom again

proved too good with a 2-8 to 0-6 victory.

Ballymacarbry beat Kill in the Under 14 league final and on the 25th June, Kerry knocked out Waterford 0-12 to 1-6 in the Munster under 16 championship. The first of July saw Cork defeat

Waterford 7-7 to 2-5 in the minor championship at Lisgoold and the following day

Ballymacarbry

beat Kill in the Under 16 County final. Ballymacarbry retained their senior championship title defeating a group team Avonmore 12-11 to 0-1 at Cappaquin, whilst ACM won the junior league

final with a 2-6 to 1-2 victory over Ballinameela.

Ballymacarbry also retained their Munster community games title in Ardfinnan defeating Tipperary champions Clogheen 2-4 to 2-1. Waterford and Kerry were scheduled to meet in the

Munster senior final at Ballymacarbry on the 27 August but the game was called off due to the

death of Patricia Butler's father.

Naomh Brid beat Kill in the Under 14 B final and this result qualified them for an Under 14 A final

where they were beaten by Ballymacarbry.

In Community Games, Ballymacarbry again travelled to Mosney in a bid to retain the title. In the

semi-final, they scored a good 4-6 to 0-0 win over Milford (Donegal) and the following day won

the title defeating Mayo champions Cong 3-11 to 2-3.

The Munster senior final was re-scheduled for Saturday 17 September in the Mill Field Ballymacarbry. Waterford started brightly and Mona Fitzpatrick goaled after 40 seconds.

Waterford led by 1 point at half time before Kerry eventually triumphed 3-5 to 1-8 with one of

the Kerry goals hotly disputed by Waterford claiming the scorer was inside the square.

In the Junior Championship final ACM defeated Ballinameela 3-8 to 1-1.

Ballymacarbry brought 2 teams to the All Ireland sevens and the A team retained their title with

the following results:

Round 1: Ballymacarbry 5-7 Coralstown (Westmeath) 1-0

Round 2: Ballymacarbry 2-5 St Endas (Cork) 0-2

Round 3: Ballymacarbry 7-7 Shelmaliers (Wexford) 0-2

Semi-final: Ballymacarbry 4-4 Padraig pearse (Roscommon) 0-1

Final: Ballymacarbry 5-4 Adamstown 3-1

The B team gave very good accounts of themselves. In Round 1 they beat Hollymount (Mayo) 3-2

to 0-6. Round 2 Ballymacarbry 11-5, Croughan (Offaly) 0-0, and Round 3 beat Roscommon champions by 6 points whilst in the semi-final, they went under to Adamstown (Westmeath) by a

6 point margin.

On the 8 October, Ballymacarbry travelled to Kiltteely (Limerick) for the Munster club semi-final

where they destroyed the Clare champions Fergus Rovers 9-12 to 1-1. On the 30 October, they

played Beaufort (Kerry) in the Munster final scoring a 10-7 to 3-3 victory with Aine Wall scoring 6

goals. The following Sunday Ballymacarbry defeated St Grellans 2-7 to 1-2 and on the 20 November travelled to Callan (Co Kilkenny) to play Adamstown in the All Ireland club final.

On a

bitterly cold day, Ballymacarbry dominated the opening half but Adamstown stormed back after

half time to score a deserved 2-6 to 1-4 victory.

Ballymacarbry lined out as follows: Patricia Butler, Ann Dunford, Margaret Phelan, Dolores Tyrrell, Noirin Walsh, Ann Fitzpatrick, Marie Crotty (0-2), Claire Walsh (0-1), Una McNamara, Bernie Ryan, Aine Wall (1-1). Sub: Geraldine O'Ryan, Referee: Mary O'Donovan (Cork)

Remarkably after winning the All Ireland title with an excellent team, Adamstown suffered a fate

similar to The Heath a couple of years earlier and went out of existence. You would have got long

odds against that happening that evening in Callan.

The All Stars played Kerry in Tralee losing 3-7 to 0-7 with Marie Crotty scoring 6 points for the All

Stars. Dolores Tyrrell, June Whyte, Bernie Ryan started the game whilst Ann Dunford and Mari

O'Ryan came on as substitutes.

On the 12 November 1988, senior team manager, Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry) took over as

Chairman of the Waterford County Board and the other elected officers were:

Vice-Chairman: Jimmy McGrath (Affane)

Secretary: June Whyte (Kilrossanty)

Treasurer: Paddy O'Donnell (ACM)

Registrar: Brigid McGrath (Ballymacarbry)

Honours:

Ballymacarbry Munster senior club champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland u14 Community games champions

All Stars: Marie Crotty Ballymacarbry (centre half forward), Bernie Ryan Ballymacarbry (full forward), Dolores Tyrell Ballymacarbry (left full back)

1989

In 1989 the 3 principal aims were to ensure more club games, to win a provincial title and to seek

finance. It was decided to run a mayoral election to generate income and 5 candidates were selected. Bernie Ryan represented Ballymacarbry, P J Roche Na Deise, Mary O'Donnell Ballinameela, Margaret Ahern Kill and Mary Prendergast Ardmore all rowed in, the idea being to

get votes, you had to sell lines and the candidate that raised the most money would be declared the winner.

Sr. Dominic Wall presented a cup to the County Board and the Mercy Cup became the trophy for

the Under 16 A Championship and on the 5th March, Waterford kicked off the league campaign

with a 7-9 to 1-3 victory over Laois at Ballymacarbry. On Sunday 2nd April, Kerry were visitors to

Ballymacarbry and on a dreadful day the teams drew, Kerry 1-6 to Waterford's 2-3.

Meanwhile the mayoral candidates were busy selling lines and at a function in Crotty lane, Lemybrien on Sunday 9th April, Bernie Ryan was proclaimed lady mayor of Waterford ladies Football registering an incredible tally of 8,150 votes, well ahead of the other contenders.

On the 30th April Waterford defeated Cork by a single point 2-5 to 1-7 at Modeligo. Noel Buckley

put up a cup for the Under 16 B championship and Kill won their first ever county title at the Friary College, defeating Ballinameela 4-7 to 1-2. It was the first county medal won by a youthful

Julie Ann Torpey, a player who was to play a huge part in the Waterford success story in later

years. Kill as Under 16 B champions played Ballymacarbry in the Under 16 A final at Modeligo

and although they were beaten they gave a very good account of themselves.

Waterford's league fixture against Leitrim on the 16th April had been postponed because of weather conditions and was eventually played on the 21st May in the unlikely venue of Kiltegan

Co Wicklow and Waterford won on a beautiful summer's day 4-9 to 0-1. It was the 16th different

county that Waterford had played in the 5 years and also the 44th different venue to have been

visited by the Deise girls.

Munster were defeated in the inter-provincial semi-final, their first defeat since 1983 and the following team lined out: Mary Keane (Clare), Bridget Leen (Kerry), Noreen Hanley (Cork), Ann Dunford (Waterford), Marion O'Doherty (Kerry), Rose Buttimer (Cork), Catriona Casey (Waterford), Annette Walsh (Kerry), Ann Marie Minihane (Cork), Bernie Ryan (Waterford), Mary Jo Curran (Kerry), Eileen Lawlor (Kerry), Margaret Slattery (Kerry), Marie Crotty (Waterford), Aine Wall (Waterford). Subs: June Whyte and Mari O'Ryan, both Waterford.

Next on the list on the 17th June was the league semi-final at New Ross against Wexford, where Waterford defeated Wexford 2-9 to 1-5, thanks to a superb display by Marie Crotty who shot 1-8 of Waterford's total. There was to be no joy in the final on Sunday, July 2nd. That afternoon the senior hurlers were well beaten by Tipperary in the Munster final and the girls lost to Kerry 4-8 to 2-7 at Bishopstown, Kerry's 3rd league title in a row and their 9th in 10 years. Same old story for the juniors as they lost 2-12 to 2-4 in Doneraile. The Under 16 team played Clare in Cappamore and were delighted to win 2-5 to 3-1, a 2 point margin, only to be told after the game that the referee made it a draw, he had mistakenly credited a Waterford point to Clare. The Under 16 team made no mistake in the replay against Clare on the 26th July winning 3-7 to 1-2 and the following night they had to travel to Doneraile to play Kerry. In the Munster final where they recorded a 2-4 to 0-4 victory over Kerry, the first ever underage provincial title win by the county. That led to an away semi-final against Roscommon at the Pdraig Pearse grounds but the long journey proved worthwhile thanks to a 5-9 to 1-4 victory on the 12th August. Kerry had home venue for the Munster senior final at Connolly Park Tralee on Saturday the 26th August. Waterford played really well and led 0-5 to 0-3 at half time. The second half was a humdinger and Waterford seemed on course for victory as they led in the closing stages. However a move that should have brought a goal broke down 10 yards from goal and Kerry moved the ball quickly downfield to shoot a match winning goal in a 1-8 to 0-7 victory.

The Waterford team that came so close read: Patricia Butler (Ballymacarbry), Ann Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry), Dolores Tyrrell (Ballymacarbry), Colette Whyte (Kilrossanty), Ann Dunford (Ballymacarbry), June White (Killrossanty), Sinead Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Catriona Casey (Ballymacarbry), Mari O'Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (Ballymacarbry), Bernie Ryan

(Ballymacarbry 0-1), Noirin Walsh (Ballymacarbry 0-1), Una McNamara (Ballymacarbry), Margaret Phelan (Ballymacarbry), Marie Crotty (Ballymacarbry 0-3). Sub: Martina O’Ryan (Ballymacarbry).

The following Saturday brought more heartbreak in the under 16 All Ireland final in Dr Cullen park, Carlow. Dublin were in town accompanied by a noisy band of supporters. Waterford started well, led 0-4 to 0-3 at half time. Waterford got a brace of second half goals by Fiona Crotty but Dublin hung in there and at the end of a thriller, won by a single point 2-5 to 2-4. Waterford: Rachel Ahearn (Kill), Sinead Kelly (Kill), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Alison Morrissey (Kill), Honor Lonergan (Ballymacarbry), Geraldine O’Ryan 0-2 (Ballymacarbry), Martina O’Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Deirdre Wall (Ballymacarbry), Jenny Coffey (Kill), Fiona Crotty 2-1 (Ballymacarbry), Marcella Foran (Na Deise), Edel O’Regan 0-1 (Kill), Subs: Martha Cahill (Na Deise), Michelle Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Leona Guiry (Kill), Roseanne Ryan (Na Deise), Andrea Dunford (Na Deise), Lorena Mooney (Kill), Catherine Hallinan (Ballymacarbry). Newtown won the junior county final 3-4 to 0-3 against Sliabh Gcua thus capturing the new Waterford Foods Cup. Na Deise captured the Under 14 league title 0-4 to 0-2 over Ballymacarbry, but Ballymacarbry fought back in the championship to qualify for the Under 14 A final.

Ballymacarbry retained the senior title easily beating Na Deise 5-15 to 0-1 in the final. Noel Murray put up a new cup for Under 14 A competition and the Ballymacarbry club became the first holders defeating Kill 4-7 to 2-2 in the final at Modeligo on the 30 September. 1989 saw Waterford win 3 All Star awards as Ann Dunford, Bernie Ryan and Aine Wall were selected. Ballymacarbry again travelled to Dublin for the All Ireland sevens and for the first time brought 2 teams.

The Munster club championship campaign began on the 22 October, a semi-final clash between Ballymacarbry and Kerry champions, Austin Stack at Killavullen and the Kingdom girls proved no match losing 8-8 o 1-4. The following Sunday brought a Munster final clash with Glanworth and at the last moment the game was moved to Ballyporeen. Marie Crotty missed the semi-final because of a soccer cup final in Dublin and didn’t make the starting line up but Ballymacarbry coasted to a 2-14 to 0-4 victory and recorded a 4th Munster final victory in 5 years. The All Ireland semi-final saw another easy victory over London, representatives, the Kingdom in Ballymacarbry. Rochfortbridge also qualified for the all Ireland club final and the game was fixed

for Durrow, Co Laois on the 3rd December. The 'Bridge' had been serious contenders for a number of years, this was their 3rd final appearance, and they lost the 1980 final to Castleisland

and were also beaten by Galway Gaels in 1982. Several of their players were members of the

Westmeath team that lost the 1987 All Ireland senior final to Kerry. Both teams travelled to Durrow but on arrival, it was very obvious that no game would take place, visibility was down to

about 40 yards because of a severe fog.

The final was re-fixed for the Gaelic Grounds in Athy and this time parts of the pitch were waterlogged. However, the game went ahead and what a battle it proved to be. Conditions dictated that there was going to be no frills and in the end, it came down to Ballymacarbry's greater ability to kick points, 0-9 to Rochfortbridge 0-3 and the club title had been regained.

Ballymacarbry: Patricia Butler, Ann Dunford, Dolores Tyrrell, Martina O'Ryan, Noirin Walsh, Sinead Walsh, Cleona Walsh, Mari O'Ryan, Catriona Casey 0-1, Aine Wall 0-1, Bernie Ryan 0-1,

Marie Crotty 0-4, Fiona Crotty 0-1, Ann Fitzpatrick 0-1, Geraldine O'Ryan. Subs: Claire Walsh, Una

McNamara, Sharon Wyse, Deirdre Wall, Regina Byrne and Michelle Walsh.

This was a very young team, Fiona Crotty played in the Under 14 grade in 1989, Martina O'Ryan,

Noirin Walsh, Cleona Walsh and Geraldine O'Ryan were all Under 16 so the omens for the future

were good.

Honours:

Waterford Munster u16 champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland 7 a side cup champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland 7 a side plate champions

All Stars: Ann Dunford Ballymacarbry, (left full back), Bernie Ryan Ballymacarbry, (centre half

forward), Aine Wall Ballymacarbry, (right half forward)

1990

1990 saw under age leagues being played along with championships. Ann Fitzpatrick won the

Cidona award for ladies Gaelic football and was presented with her trophy at a function in the

Clonmel Arms Hotel in January.

A County Board meeting in February decided to run the following competitions:

Under 14 League & Championship

Under 15 League

Under 16A & B Championship

Under 18 Champions

Junior League & Championship

Intermediate & Senior Championship

The league campaign was late starting, it didn't commence until the 8 April, and Waterford

hammered Leitrim 5-12 to 0-0 in O'Connor Park, Tullamore. The following week Ballymacarbry travelled to London departing on a Friday playing a London selection on Sunday and returning home on Easter Monday. Round 2 of the league meant a trip to Abbeydorney on the 29 April where Kerry won easily 4-10 to 1-5 but the following Sunday Waterford scored a 4-9 to 1-2 victory over Cork at the Eire Og sports ground. In the Under 16 B final, Kill defeated Na Deise 4-5 to 3-1 and the following week both of these teams joined together to play Ballymacarbry in the Under 16 A final and scored 3-6 to 0-7 victory. Waterford then travelled to Dublin and scored an emphatic 6-11 to 1-2 at St Vincent's club grounds and the last game before the break for exams. On the 27 May was a 4-3 to 2-4 defeat by Laois at O'Moore Park, the game was played after a national hurling league game. On the 30 June Waterford and Kerry drew in the Munster minor championship 4-4 each in Doneraile and then Waterford defeated Cork by a single point, 4-6 to 5-2 in a thriller at Donoughmore. On the 4 July, Wexford were dispatched 2-11 to 2-00 at Cappoquin and 11 days later Waterford were in Rochfortbridge, scoring a 2-4 to 0-1 victory over Westmeath. The minor replay saw a good 6-14 to 3-4 victory over Kerry at Doneraile but Clare proved too strong in the Under 16 final at Monaleen winning 2-4 to 1-6 on a not to be forgotten day as the bus hit a pier on the way into the game. Clare went on to win the Under 16 All Ireland defeating Offaly in the final. The teams also met in the Munster final at Cahir. Waterford weren't too happy at the failure of the referee to award what seemed a definite penalty in the last minute as Clare triumphed 2-5 to 0-9 and went on to record an Under 16 – a minor double, defeating Dublin in the All Ireland minor final. Cork travelled to Ballymacarbry for the Munster semi-final and duly lost 2-13 to 0-8 to set up a 4th consecutive Munster senior final between Waterford and Kerry. This took place on the 29 August in Cappaquin and Kerry caused a bit of a stir before the game by failing to return the cup. Waterford went into the game confident but Kerry backed by a powerful midfield combination of Catherine Liston and Mary Jo Curran were never troubled and fully deserved a 1-11 to 0-8 victory. Someone found a shield somewhere and this was presented to the Kerry captain to prevent an embarrassing situation. Waterford: (All Ballymacarbry except where stated): Patricia

Butler, Regina Byrne, Martina O’Ryan, Ann Dunford, Noirin Walsh, Ann Fitzpatrick, Dolores Tyrrell, Catriona Casey, Mari O’Ryan 0-1, Aine Wall 0-2, Bernie Ryan 0-1, Colette Whyte (Kilrossanty), Fiona Crotty, Marie Crotty 0-4, Geraldine O’Ryan. Subs: June Whyte (Kilrossanty)

2 weeks later the same 2 teams met in the league final and this time Waterford played much

better but Kerry still won at Askeaton (Limerick) 2-11 to 4-3. Aine Wall (2), June Whyte and Sinead Walsh who moved up to attack because of injury scored Waterford’s goals. The game marked Mari O’Ryan’s last appearance in a Waterford jersey and she also won an all Star award

along with Aine Wall and Anne Fitzpatrick.

Kill defeated Sliabh Gcua on the 23rd September in the county junior final at Colligan and on the

same day, Ballymacarbry began the Munster club championship campaign with a 5-15 to 0-5 victory over Abbeydorney in Cappamore. Na Deise 3-4 to 1-0 in the minor county final at Modeligo.

Another club final beckoned and it took place on the 14th October, goals by Aine Wall and Catriona Casey paved the way for a 2-8 to 1-2 victory over Fergus Rovers (Clare).

In the All Ireland sevens, Ballymacarbry again travelled with 2 teams and repeated the performances of the previous year winning both the cup and the plate. In the cup final they scored a 7-9 to 3-1 win over Glanworth and the B team defeated Gusserane (Wexford) by 10 points to claim the shield.

On Sunday the 18th November Ballymacarbry travelled to Rochfortbridge for a very tricky All Ireland club semi-final. Again the pitch was deemed unplayable and the game was moved a couple of miles to a new pitch at Tyrrellspass. The ‘Bridge’ had high hopes but on the day were

literally blown away by a vintage Ballymacarbry performance scoring 2-13 to 1-1, Catriona Casey

and Fiona Crotty notched the goals and the other principal score getters were Marie Crotty 0-5

and Geraldine O’Ryan 0-3.

This time the venue for the final was much nearer, Semple Stadium against Galway champions St

Grellans but Ballymacarbry scored an easy 4-9 to 0-3 victory with Geraldine O’Ryan (2), Aine Wall

and Mari O’Ryan scoring the goals. Ballymacarbry: Patricia Butler, Regina Byrne, Martina O’Ryan,

Dolores Tyrrell, Noirin Walsh, Sinead Walsh, Ann Dunford, Marie Crotty (0-4), Ann Fitzpatrick,

Aine Wall (1-0), Bernie Ryan, Mari O’Ryan (1-0), Fiona Crotty (0-2), Catriona Casey (1-0),

Geraldine O’Ryan (2-0). Subs: Cleona Walsh, Deirdre Wall, Michelle Walsh, Marie Fitzpatrick, Natasha Galvin, Catriona O’Gorman, Claire Ryan. Thus Ballymacarbry became the first club to win

3 All Ireland club titles.

Honours:

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland 7 a side cup champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland 7 a side plate champions

All Stars: Ann Fitzpatrick Ballymacarbry, (centre half back), Aine Wall Ballymacarbry, (right half

forward), Mari O Ryan Ballymacarbry, (left half forward)

1991

Officers:

Chairman: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Vice-Chairman: Jimmy McGrath (Na Deise)

Secretary: Eleanor Hickey (Sliabh Gcua)

Treasurer: Paddy O'Donnell (Na Deise)

Registrar: June Whyte (Killrossanty)

PRO: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Committee: Ger Mooney (Kill)

In 1991, 10 clubs affiliated, Ballymacarbry, Na Deise, Kill Old Parish, Ardmore, Dunhill, Stradbally,

Clonea-Power, Killrossanty and St Pats.

Waterford's first senior league fixture was on the 7 April and resulted in a 5-8 to 2-6 victory over

Kerry at the Mill Field, Ballymacarbry. The format for the Under 16 club championship was that

Ballymacarbry, Kill and Na Deise were seeded whilst Old Parish, Stradbally, Clonea-Power and St

Pats played off a league competition to give them a chance to improve.

The Under 14 semi finals saw Na Deise defeat Kill 2-3 to 0-7 and Ballymacarbry overcame Killrossanty 2-5 to 0-7. Na Deise defeated Ballymacarbry in the Under 16 A final on a 1-3 to 0-4

score line. On April 20, Wexford defeated Waterford 1-6 to 3-2 at Ballymacarbry but 2 weeks

later, Waterford recovered to defeat Laois 2-10 to 2-3 and on the 19 May, followed this up with a

5-18 to 0-1 drubbing of Cork. They then beat Leitrim easily in Leitrim on the 25 May before suffering a shock 4-7 to 2-5 defeat at the hands of Westmeath in Rochfortbridge on the 2 June.

Next on the list was a 7-11 to 1-4 victory over a very weak Wicklow team.

10 players, Ann Dunford, Regina Byrne, Catriona Casey, June Whyte, Bernie Ryan, Marie Crotty,

Geraldine O'Ryan, Fiona Crotty, Patricia Butler and Aine Wall were members of the interprovincial

squad and Munster qualified for the final where they defeated Leinster to claim the provinces 10th title.

Ballymacarbry narrowly defeated Na Deise in the Under 14 final. Michael Ryan, Ger Mooney and

Jimmy McGrath were elected as Under 16 and minor selectors and Waterford won a thriller 4-6

to 4-5 against Clare in Cappamore in the Under 16 championship on the 3 July. They hammered

Kerry 3-22 to 1-1 in the minor and drew with Cork 0-7 to 1-4 in the junior championship in

Ardfinnan. Next was the Munster under 16 final in Glanworth. Waterford won easily against Kerry 6-13 to 2-2 and 4 days later the seniors strolled to a 7-23 to 1-1 victory over Dublin in the league.

The Munster minor final was a cliff hanger, a 3-10 to 5-2 victory over Clare at Cappamore, the first minor title won by the county. Cork proved no match in the senior semi-final going under 6-15 to 0-1 in Glanworth. The Under 14 team lost to Kerry 6-8 to 5-7 in Glanworth which meant a first round exit from the championship.

The juniors lost the replay to a very good Cork team. The Munster senior final brought a clash of Waterford and Kerry at Listowel on the 11 August. The grass was a shade on the long side and a very confident Waterford took the field. By the 17th minute, Kerry led 2-3 to 0-2 and Waterford were in trouble. Then Aine Wall's shot came back off the cross bar and Catriona Casey drove the rebound to the net. Aine then shot 1-2 in a 3 minute spell and Waterford had turned a 7 point deficit into a 1 point lead 2-4 to 2-3 at the interval. In the third quarter, Waterford played some dazzling football as June Whyte, Marie Crotty, Aine Wall and Bernie Ryan pointed. Kerry midfielder, Catherine Liston replied but this was quickly cancelled out by Aine Wall. Patricia Butler produced a great Waterford save but Eileen Dardis pointed the rebound. Kerry were awarded a penalty, Marie Crotty took over in goal, a ploy often used to put pressure on opposing penalty takers. Marina Barry drove the spot kick over the bar. Within seconds Crotty was down at the other end pointing a free and from the kick-out referee Johnny Hayes (Clare) blew the full time whistle to end Kerry's 10 year unbeaten run and see Waterford win the elusive Munster title.

The scenes afterwards will never be forgotten after the heart break of the 4 previous years. Marie Crotty summed it up in an interview after the game as she remarked, "for the last 4 years we came to play Kerry, today we came to win". For the record the history making Waterford team was: Patricia Butler, Regina Byrne, Martina O'Ryan, Cleona Walsh, Sinead Walsh, Ann Fitzpatrick, Ann Dunford, Bernie Ryan (0-1), Marie Crotty (0-3), Noirin Walsh, June Whyte (0-1), Catriona Casey (1-0), Fiona Crotty, Aine Wall (1-5), Geraldine O'Ryan (0-1). Sub: Olivia Condon.

Three days later the Under 16 team travelled to Wexford Park for the semi-final and won a great

game 5-11 to 5-7 and the following Saturday were off to O'Moore Park for the minor semi-final.

Laois backboned by Sue Ramsbottom and Mary Casey stood in the way but Waterford prevailed

3-13 to 3-4.

The following day it was back on the bus again and off to Enniscorthy for a league semi final and

an easy 4-7 to 0-4 win over Wexford. On the 25 August Leitrim were visitors to the Fraher Field

for the All Ireland senior semi final but were no match, Waterford winning 7-15 to 1-2 and Aine

Wall scoring 4-5.

The league final was a repeat of the Munster final, a clash with Kerry at Tullamore.

Waterford

lined out without Bernie Ryan, June Whyte and Ann Fitzpatrick but still drew a thriller 2-12 each

with Mary Jo Curran scoring the equaliser deep in injury time and Fiona Crotty scored 2-3 for

Waterford.

The games were still coming thick and fast and the minor final was played in Ennis on the 14 September against Roscommon. The westerners proved no match, Waterford led 4-2 to 1-2 at

half time and won the cup 6-17 to 1-3. Team: Deirdre Wall (Ballymacarbry), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Martina O'Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Ruth Ahearn (Kill), Michelle Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Honor Lonergan (Na Deise), Cleona Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (0-1

Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (0-2 Na Deise), Jenny Coffey (2-1 Kill), Geraldine O'Ryan (0-5 Ballymacarbry), Julie Torpey (0-4 Kill), Fiona Crotty (4-3 Ballymacarbry), Rose Fitzgerald (0-1 Kill),

Claire Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Rose Fitzgerald (0-1 Kill), Claire Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Subs: Alison

Morrissey (Kill), Marcella Foran (Na Deise), Ann Hearne (Kill), Roseanne Ryan (Na Deise), Paula

Nugent (St Pats), Lorena Mooney (Kill), Mary Walsh (Na Deise).

The following week the same counties met in the Under 16 final, again at Ennis. The result was

the same but the game was much closer at 4-4 to 2-1 win for Waterford. On the 29 September

Waterford and Kerry replayed in Fraher Field, the league final, the final part of a triple header the

other 2 games being the Waterford senior football championship semi-finals.

At the end of 60 cracking minutes the teams were level and Kerry eventually won in extra time 3-

8 to 2-10. Aine Wall scored 1-5, June Whyte 1-4 and substitute Olivia Condon scored the other

point as 4 Waterford forwards failed to score. They also picked up injuries namely Regina Byrne

and Ann Fitzpatrick with the All Ireland senior final looming. In the junior county final, Dunhill defeated St Pats 3-6 to 1-3. The 13th October brought a date with destiny, the All Ireland senior final against Laois who had lost their 3 previous final appearances in 1985, 1988 and 1990 at the hands of Kerry. Waterford had a problem, their physio was unable to travel and a frantic series of phone call on Saturday morning led to making contact with Billy Kelly (Moincoin) who was virtually kidnapped for the weekend. Waterford travelled to the capital on Saturday afternoon and the team bus came upon a bad crash near Moone in Co Kildare and this had a sobering effect on everybody. Hardly a word was spoken between there and Dublin. On Sunday morning after a fitness test, Regina Byrne and Ann Fitzpatrick were passed fit to play and Waterford headed for Croke Park. In the curtain raiser Clare defeated London in the junior final and then it was Waterford's turn in their first senior final appearance. 7 players, Patricia Butler, Ann Fitzpatrick, Bernie Ryan and Ann Dunford had all played in the 1986 junior final so Croke Park held no great fear for them and Jim Bannon, a native of Modeligo tapped on the dressing room door, it was the signal that a fit eager and confident Waterford team had been waiting for. Sue Ramsbottom opened the scoring with a Laois point, this was quickly cancelled by Aine Wall. Virtually from the kick-out, Bernie Ryan and Geraldine O'Ryan put Aine Wall in for a goal, her first of 3. Sue Ramsbottom goaled for Laois, then Marie Crotty pointed another free before Waterford split open the Laois defence again, this time Geraldine O'Ryan shooting to the net. Crotty pointed another free before Noirin Walsh after a solo run passed to Catriona Casey whose left footed drive crept inside the post. Another Aine Wall goal gave Waterford a 4-3 to 1-3 interval lead. Laois, to their credit began the second half well. Sue Ramsbottom pointed twice then Margaret Brennan goaled to reduce the lead to 4 points. Cleona Walsh took the ball out of the Waterford defence and set up Aine Wall and she crashed home her third and Waterford's 5th goal. She then pointed and Fiona Crotty tacked on another before Aine Wall had another goal disallowed as the referee brought back play for a free, which Marie Crotty pointed. Sue Ramsbottom shot 1-1 and then Marie Crotty wrapped it up with a superb point from a difficult

right wing free before climbing the steps of the Hogan Stand to become the first Waterford player to collect the Brendan Martin Cup as All Ireland senior winners.

Aine Wall was the star of the game but she got good help in a great team effort and a 5 year voyage had been completed. The homecoming on the Monday night to Dungarvan and Ballymacarbry will long live in the memory and was to be repeated 5 more times in the 90s.

That historic team was: Patricia Butler (Ballymacarbry), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Martina

O’Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Cleona Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Sinead Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Ann Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry), Ann Dunford (Ballymacarbry), Bernie Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Marie

Crotty (0-4 cap Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Geraldine O’Ryan (1-0 Ballymacarbry), Catriona Casey (1-0 Ballymacarbry), Fiona Crotty (0-1 Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall

(3-3 Ballymacarbry), June Whyte (Killrossanty). Subs: Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Michelle Walsh

(Ballymacarbry), Honor Lonergan (Na Deise), Colette Whyte (Killrossanty), Julie Torpey (Kill), Claire Ryan Ballymacarbry), Lorena Mooney (Kill), Dolores Tyrrell (Ballymacarbry), Deirdre Wall

(Ballymacarbry),

Mascots: Michelle Ryan, Louise Ryan.

Physio: Billy Kelly

Manager/Trainer/Coach: Michael Ryan

Assistant Coach: Brigid Grant

The President of Ireland, Mary Robinson sent a telegram of congratulations. But there was no

rest for the majority of the panel as the Ballymacarbry girls resumed training on the Wednesday

night to prepare for a Munster club semi-final the following Sunday, a trip to Beaufort to play the

home team. Ballymacarbry showed no ill effects, winning 7-15 to 1-4 despite the best efforts of

Mary Jo and Phil Curran.

Waterford hosted the All Stars at Dungarvan and lined out without 4 members of the All Ireland

winning team and couldn’t cope being well beaten 4-13 to 1-10. Ballymacarbry won the Munster

club title easily against Newmarket on Fergus and followed this up with a 5-8 to 1-0 win over Hollymount in the All Ireland semi final.

Kill defeated na Deise 2-10 to 3-3 to complete a minor intermediate double and Ballymacarbry

travelled to Dr Cullen Park, Carlow to play Rochfortbridge in a repeat of the 1989 All Ireland club

semi final. The easy win in the 1990 semi final wasn’t repeated and there were many anxious

moments before the Waterford champions won by the skin of their teeth, 0-9 to 1-4, thanks to

some great points from Aine Wall and Geraldine O’Ryan.

Ballymacarbry: Patricia Butler, Regina Byrne, Martina O’Ryan, Dolores Tyrrell, Sinead Walsh, Ann

Fitzpatrick, Ann Dunford, Bernie Ryan 0-1, Marie Crotty 0-2, Noirin Walsh, Geraldine O’Ryan 0-3,

Cleona Walsh, Fiona Crotty 0-2, Catriona Casey 0-1, Aine Wall 0-2. Subs: Michelle Walsh, Mari

O’Ryan, Deirdre Wall, Claire Ryan, Catriona O’Gorman.

After the game, Dolores Tyrrell (Capt in 1987) announced her retirement, this was her 4th All Ireland club medal. Fiona Crotty set a record that may never be beaten; in 1991 she played in 4

All Ireland winning teams, Under 16, minor, senior and senior club.

Michael Ryan won the Park Hotel sports star of the month award for his role as managing Waterford Ladies to win the All Ireland senior title, it was the first of three such awards.

Other

Ladies Football personalities to receive Park Hotel awards in subsequent years were Bernie Ryan

Ballymacarbry, Marie Crotty Ballymacarbry, Aine Wall Ballymacarbry, Catriona Casey Ballymacarbry and Mary O Rourke Clashmore

Honours:

Waterford Senior Munster & All Ireland Champions

Waterford Minor Munster & All Ireland

Waterford U16 Munster & All Ireland champions

Waterford Division 1 National league Champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

All Stars: Ann Dunford Ballymacarbry, (left full back), Ann Fitzpatrick Ballymacarbry, (left half back), Martina O Ryan Ballymacarbry, (full back), Marie Crotty Ballymacarbry, (mid field), Aine

Wall Ballymacarbry, (full forward)

Fiona Crotty created a record by playing on four All Ireland winning teams, u16, minor, senior & club

1992

In 1992 the test was to try and retain the All Ireland senior title. There was no doubt but that

Kerry would make a serious attempt to revenge the ’91 result. By the New Year the celebrations

had died down. The AGM returned the following officers:

Chairman: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Vice-Chairman: Paul Mooney (Stradbally)

Secretary: Eleanor Hickey (Na Deise)

Ass. Secretary: Ann Dunford (Ballymacarbry)

Treasurer: Mary Mooney (Kill)

Registrar: June Whyte (Killrossanty)

PRO: Sean Foley (Rathgormack)

Inter county mentors for 1992:

Under 14: Mary Mooney (Kill)

June Whyte (Killrossanty)

Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry)
Under 16 & Minor: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)
Ger Mooney (Kill)
Jimmy McGrath (Affane)
Junior: Sean Foley (Rathgormack)
Ger Mooney (Kill)
Senior: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)
Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry)

Bridige Terries (The Pike) took over as sponsors of the Waterford ladies football teams. 4 new clubs affiliated, St Oliver's, St Garbhans, Abbeyside, Ballincourty and Clashmore, along with

Ballymacarbry, Butlerstown, Faha, Na Deise, St Pats, Old Parish, Killrossanty, Rathgormack, Dunhill, Brickey Rangers, Dungarvan and Kill brought to 16, the number of clubs registered in 1992.

A new club was founded in Dungarvan with Noel Buckley as Chairman and Dan Murphy as Secretary. Noel Murray, who was living in the town, also gave a help out. By the 7 March, Brickey Rangers were also up and running with Carmel Hennebry as Chairperson, Siobhan Cullinan as Secretary and Kay O'Connell as Treasurer.

Waterford opened the league campaign with a 6-7 to 1-3 victory over Laois at Ballylinan on the

12 April but the following Sunday were soundly beaten by Kerry 5-4 to 0-8 at Connolly Park, a

wake up call in earnest. On the 3 May, Westmeath proved no match, the score being 4-20 to 0-1

and 2 weeks later, Wexford came to Ballymacarbry and lost 4-19 to 1-1.

In the Under 16 B final St Garbhans, in their first year scored a great 0-13 to 1-6 victory over Killrossanty. The Under 16 A final at the Friary College was a tremendous game,

Ballymacarbry defeated Kill 6-8 to 4-8.

On the 24 May, Waterford travelled to Lucan Sarsfields ground and defeated Dublin 10-10 to 0-9.

Then came the break for exams and on the 13 June, Leinster defeated Munster 2-8 to 1-9 in the

inter-provincial final. In round 6 of the league, Clare, the 1991 All Ireland junior champions, came

to Ballymacarbry and put in a fine performance before going under 0-13 to 0-8.

In the Munster minor championship, Waterford earned it against Clare 3-9 to 2-7 and then knocked Limerick out of the junior championship 2-12 to 1-5 at Mallow on the 12 July. On the 25

July, they overcame Kerry 5-11 to 4-4, again at Mallow to retain the Munster minor crown and as

part of a double header defeated Kerry in an inaugural Under 14 tournament by 5-12 to 5-4.

Kerry were also the opponents in the under 16 final but proved no match, Waterford winning 7-

13 to 1-7, also at Mallow. Then the Munster under 16, minor double of 1991 had been retained.

On the 26 July Waterford travelled to O'Moore Park, Portlaoise to play newcomers Monaghan in the league Under 14 final. Monaghan proved to be a real test, Waterford winning 0-10 to 1-4 but at a price. Aine Wall attempting to block down a shot broke a bone in her wrist and the following day had her hand put in plaster and was told she was out of the Munster final. On 1 August, Cork won the junior final in Ardfinnan 1-10 to 0-4 and Ballymacarbry, again trained by Marie Crotty won the Munster Community Games title defeating Blennerville (Kerry) 7-11 to 1-1 in the final. Mayo travelled to Dungarvan for the Under 16 All Ireland semi-final and scored 5 goals but were still beaten by Waterford's ability to kick points 1-18 to 5-3. One week later, Roscommon travelled to Cappaquin and played well but lost 1-11 to 0-8 on the 15 August. The following day the senior team travelled to Newmarket on Fergus to play Clare and took the game very serious especially as Clare ran them close in the league at Ballymacarbry in late June. Over the intervening 2 months, Waterford had stepped up the training considerably and it showed in a 2-17 to 2-2 victory. Na Deise defeated Kill 2-6 to 1-7 in the intermediate county final and Amelia Ryan played in the Croke Park mini sevens. The third trip to Mosney in 6 seasons again brought All Ireland success as Ballymacarbry defeated Headford (Galway) 5-8 to 1-6 in the semi-final and Carbury (Kildare) 1-10 to 0-2 in the All Ireland final. The successful teams in 1987, 88 and 92 were all trained by county senior player Marie Crotty, a feat even more remarkable for the fact that during the entire time she was working and living in Dublin and travelled up and down every weekend. On Saturday evening the 29 August, Kerry arrived in Dungarvan for a Munster final clash with Waterford, the 6th consecutive final between the teams. Aine Wall had a dilemma, her hand was in plaster since the Monaghan league game and she had strict instructions not to take it off for another week, not to mention play a game. On the Thursday before the game, Mary Wall (mother) walked into her sitting room and found Aine dissolving the plaster in a bucket of water. The matter of a broken bone in her wrist wasn't going to stop Aine Wall playing in a Munster final. The weather before and during the game was dreadful, the rain teaming down and Kerry struck

for an early goal. Waterford fought back to lead at half time by a single point and went on to win

a very tense affair, 0-8 to 1-1. Julie Torpey made her championship debut as a second half substitute and the same Aine Wall was Waterford's leading scorer notching 0-4.

The All Ireland minor final was fixed for Dr Cullen Park on Saturday, the 12 September against

Laois. Claire Ryan was a notable and significant absentee though injury sustained at a basketball

match and again the weather conditions were dreadful. The Dr Cullen Park committee refused to

let the game go ahead on the pitch and there was a discussion during which the idea of playing

the match on the adjoining training pitch was mooted.

After a while Waterford fatally agreed to this. The small tight pitch definitely suited Laois who

scored 3 early goals and were more committed all over the field. A Lorena Mooney goal brought

Waterford back into contention after half time but try as they did, they still went under to a very

good Laois team despite a very good second half performance and lost their minor crown, Laois

4-5 Waterford 2-8.

Waterford: Deirdre Wall (Ballymacarbry), Ann Hearne (Kill), Honor Lonergan (Na Deise), Jennifer

Coffey (Kill), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Michelle Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Cleona Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Julie Torpey (Kill), Ruth

Aherne (0-1 Kill), Rosie Fitzgerald (Kill), Fiona Crotty (0-1 Ballymacarbry), Lorena Mooney (1-3

Kill), Catherine Walsh (0-2 St Pats). Subs: Roseanne Ryan (1-1 Na Deise), Leah Murphy (Old Parish).

A week later came the Under 16 final against Wexford at Walsh Park. Claire Ryan was back after

injury and Wexford started like a hurricane and led by 6 points after 5 minutes. Evelyn Mooney

goaled for Waterford but Wexford went straight down field and scored a 3rd goal and quickly added 2 points to go into an 8 point lead. Waterford rang the changes including putting

outfield player Denise Nugent back into goal.

Claire Ryan shot 2-2 in a blistering 5 minute spell. Catherine Walsh 0-2, Martina Beresford and

Deirdre O'Rourke all adding points and incredibly Waterford led 3-6 to 3-3 at half time.

Youthful

Annlisa Crotty came on as a substitute and had a stormer. Wexford had a decent team and proved it by leading by a point after 50 minutes and it would have been more only for Julie Torpey at centre back. Again, Waterford took over and Claire Ryan shot 4 consecutive points to

sign, sealed and deliver a 3-10 to 4-4 victory with Claire Ryan scoring an incredible tally of 3-6 out of 3-10.

Waterford: Mary Walsh (Na Deise), Sinead Hennessy (Kill), Karen Denn (Na Deise), Edel Lonergan (Na Deise), Denise Nugent (St Pats), Julie Torpey (Kill), Ann Harney (Kilrossanty), Catherine Walsh (0-2 St Pats), Rebecca Hallahan (Ballymacarbry), Martina Beresford (0-1 St Pats), Ruth Ahern (Kill), Leah Murphy (Old Parish), Deirdre O'Rourke (0-1 Clashmore), Claire Ryan (3-6 Ballymacarbry), Evelyn Mooney (1-0 Kill). Subs: Annlisa Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Josephine Terry (St Garbhans), Gillian Denn (Na Deise), Suzy Kennedy (Kill), Sarah Hickey (Brickey Rangers), Naomi Flynn (Dunhill), Jenny Hallahan (Kilrossanty), Noelle Sheehan, (Abbeyside), Caroline Ahearn (Kill), Triona Whyte (Kilrossanty), Rachel Kiely (Kill), Siobhan O'Ryan (Ballymacarbry).

Waterford defeated Monaghan in the All Ireland Under 14 blitz 3-7 to 3-2 and Old Parish defeated St pats 3-4 to 2-4 in the junior county final. Paula Walsh travelled to Croke Park on All

Ireland GAA final day to play in the mini sevens.

On Sunday the 4 October, Waterford ran on to Croke Park as warm favourites against Laois. Having defeated the O'Moore County the previous year, they fancied their chances. But didn't

realise this was a much better prepared Laois team. Waterford had the win in the opening half.

Catriona Casey opened the scoring with a point, then Bernie Ryan hit a precision 50 yard pass

over the Laois full back line and Aine Wall buried the ball in the back of the net.

Everything was going according to plan but Laois had other ideas and Linda Brennan goaled.

Then Kathleen Murphy scored a second Laois goal and Waterford were in trouble. Noirin Walsh,

Geraldine O'Ryan and Marie Crotty kicked points but Laois hung in there and left the field at half

time level, 2-3 to Waterford's 1-6 with wind advantage to come in the second half.

Waterford seemed in dire straits, Regina Byrne retired injured and was replaced by Honor Lonergan as referee Johnny Hayes threw in the ball for the second half, the wind had got stronger. But Waterford answered the challenge with a super second half performance with the

back particularly outstanding. Bernie Ryan's long pass found Geraldine O'Ryan and a quick pass

put Aine Wall in, and the Laois net bulged, a crucial goal and a mortal wound for Laois.

Marie

Crotty kicked 3 great points, Claire Ryan made her debut when she came on as a substitute and

Aine Wall had the final say to secure a memorable 2-10 to 3-4 victory.

Waterford line out as follows: Patricia Butler (Ballymacarbry), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry),

Martina O’Ryan (Ballymacarbry), June Whyte (Kilrossanty), Sinead Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Ann Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry), Cleona Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Bernie Ryan (cap. Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (0-1 Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Geraldine O’Ryan (0-2 Ballymacarbry), Catriona Casey (0-2 Ballymacarbry), Fiona Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (2-2 Ballymacarbry), Marie Crotty (0-4 Ballymacarbry), Subs: Claire Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Michelle Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Rose Donnelly (Dunhill), Lorena Mooney (Kill), Julie Torpey (Kill), Colette Whyte (Kilrossanty), Deirdre Wall (Ballymacarbry).

Mascots: Michelle Ryan, Louise Ryan

Manager/Coach/Trainer: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Assistant coach: Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry)

Sunday 11 October, Waterford travelled to Kerry for the league semi-final and earned a 0-12 to 2-

2 victory and 7 days later another trip, this time to O’Moore Park, Portlaoise for the league final,

and a repeat of the All Ireland final v Laois. This was a thriller and it took a brilliant save from Patricia Butler late in the game to keep Waterford in front and register a 1-8 to 2-3 victory thus

winning the league for the first time after losing 4 consecutive league finals. So Waterford headed home from Portlaoise as double winners.

There was no rest for the Ballymacarbry players and the following Sunday they lined out again

Fergus rovers in the Munster club semi-final at Mallow. The 4th consecutive Sunday playing matches. This time there was no cliff hanger only a comfortable 3-17 to 1-2 victory. 2 weeks later, Glanworth travelled to the Mill Field Ballymacarbry for the Munster club final. But Ballymacarbry proved far too strong winning 3-14 to 1-3. It was the club’s 7th provincial and they

were on course for a 4th consecutive club title.

On Saturday, the 14 November, there was a short trip to Ardfinnan for the All Ireland club semifinal

against Wembley Gaels (London) which resulted in a 6-12 to 0-1 victory. The following day, Waterford defeated the All Stars 3-7 to 3-3 at Dungarvan club grounds. Again

Rochfortbridge

were the opponents in the All Ireland club final and the venue was the Gaelic Grounds in Athy.

Conditions were terrible, the field was a quagmire of mud.

Ballymacarbry had 13 of the Waterford senior team that started the all Ireland final 2 months

earlier, the exceptions being Michelle Walsh and Claire Ryan who came on as a substitute at Croke Park.

Again, scores were scarce in the second half, Aine Wall’s point, the only score in the 3rd quarter

before the game was decided. The Rochfortbridge keeper blocked down by Catriona Casey and

Aine Wall slammed the rebound to the net to end the contest. Marie Crotty pointed a free and

although Ann Marie Curran did get a consolation goal for the Bridge, player of the match Aine

Wall had the final say blasting home her 3rd goal of the game to seal victory, Ballymacarbry 3-8 to

Rochfortbridge 1-2 at the final whistle.

Team captain Bernie Ryan completed a unique record, she had received the Munster senior, the

All Ireland senior, the National league, the Munster and All Ireland club cups, 5 in total, the first

person to do so – a remarkable achievement.

Ballymacarbry: Patricia Butler, Regina Byrne, Martina O’Ryan, Cleona Walsh, Michelle Walsh, Ann

Fitzpatrick, Sinead Walsh, Bernie Ryan (cap), Noirin Walsh (0-1), Marie Crotty (0-4), Geraldine

O’Ryan, Catriona Casey, Fiona Crotty, Aine Wall (3-3), Claire Ryan.

Manager/Coach/trainer: Michael Ryan Ballymacarbry

Assistant Coach: Brigid Grant Ballymacarbry

Honours:

Waterford Munster & All Ireland senior champions

Waterford National league Division 1 champions

Waterford U16 Munster & All Ireland champions

Waterford All Ireland u14 Blitz champions

Waterford Munster minor champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

Ballymacarbry u14 All Ireland Community games champions

All Stars: Bernie Ryan Ballymacarbry, (mid field), Martina O’Ryan Ballymacarbry, (full back), June

Whyte Killrossanty, (left full back), Geraldine O’Ryan Ballymacarbry, (centre half forward), Aine

Wall Ballymacarbry (full forward).

Bernie Ryan created history by captaining her club to win County, Munster & All Ireland titles as

well as Captain of the Waterford team that won Munster, All Ireland and National league titles.

1993

Officers:

Chairman: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Vice Chairman: Dan Murphy (St.Garbhans)

Secretary: Eleanor Hickey (Na Deise)

Assistant Secretary: Carmel Hennebry (Na Deise)

Treasurer/Registrar: Mary Mooney (Kill)

Accident Fund: June Whyte (Kilrossanty)

P.R.O.: Siobhan Cullinan (Brickey Rangers)

Lawlors Hotel took over as sponsors of the Waterford ladies football teams.

18 clubs registered: Abbeyside/Ballincourty, Ardmore, Ballymacarbry, Brickey Rangers,

Butlerstown, Cappaquin, Clashmore/Kinsalebeg, Dungarvan, Dunhill, Faha, Kill, Killrossanty, Na

Deise, Old Parish, St Garbhans, St.Oliver's, St.Pat's, Rathgormack.

Waterford opened the league campaign with a trip to Caulry where they defeated Westmeath 4-

13 to 3-06 on the 28 March and the following Sunday drew with Laois at the Mill field on a 2-10

to 3-07 (Laois) score line. On the 14 April St.Pat's scored a 4-01 to 0-07 victory over Clashmore in the minor B final.

Michael Ryan and Noel Murray attended Congress in Monaghan where a significant rule change

was made in that the kick out could be taken from the hand. In round 3 of the national league

Waterford defeated Clare 2-10 to 0-03 at Newmarket- on –Fergus on the 24th of April and two

weeks later hammered Kerry 5-13 to 3-01 at Ballymacarbry. St Garbhans qualified for the U16 A

final but were well beaten by Ballymacarbry at Modeligo on a 6-06 to 0-02 score line and Waterford then headed to Kiltimagh where they defeated Mayo 6-10 to 2-11 in the league.

The County board held a fashion show as a fund raiser, ran by June Whyte, Siobhan Cullinan and

Sylvia Murray at Lawlor's Hotel and it was a great success. In the County Community games final

K.C.K defeated Ballymacarbry 2-04 to 0-02. With the exams over Waterford began the Munster

championship campaign with a double header in Mallow, both games against Kerry. In the u14

Waterford were well beaten 5-06 to 2-08, whilst in the minor won 6-18 to 3-11.

In the County B final Killrossanty defeated Clashmore 4-08 to 3-00 and in the league quarter final

Waterford travelled to Glanworth where they suffered a shock 3-12 to 2-10 defeat at the hands

of Cork on the 26th June. Noel Murray organised a first aid course given by Dr.Tom Higgins. A ladies Gaelic football summer camp was organised in Dunhill for the 5/10th July and this was a

great success the first of its kind for ladies Gaelic football in Waterford. On the 7 July Kerry defeated Waterford in the u16 championship, the first defeat in the grade for three years and St

Garbhans defeated Dungarvan 3-04 to 1-04 in a local derby junior league final. In the minor semi

final Waterford defeated Cork 6-16 to 2-02 at Glanworth on the 14th July. George Young, Noel

Murray, Sylvia Murray, June Whyte and Siobhan Cullinan organised a successful Golf classic at

West Waterford Golf club as a fund raiser. On Sunday the 18 of July there was a double header in

Cappamore, in junior Waterford defeated Clare 5-14 to 4-06 and completed a double in the senior also against the Banner girls 2-12 to 2-06 with Julie Torpey and Claire Ryan outstanding.

Cork defeated Waterford 1-14 to 2-07 in the Munster junior final at Ardfinnan on Sunday 1 August the senior's travelled to Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney to take on Kerry in the Munster senior final, bidding for 3 in a row. This was a thriller in every sense of the word. Waterford trailed by four points with six minutes left but got back to level, but on the stroke of time a youthful Emily Woods got the winning point for Kerry and they went onto win the All Ireland final, defeating Laois in Croke Park in a game that proved a swansong for such greats as Mary Jo and Phil Curran, Eileen Lawlor, Margaret Slattery and the great Kerry team of the previous decade.

On the 28th July in the Munster minor final Waterford defeated Clare 5-16 to 4-03 in Churchtown

and then travelled to Monaghan for the All Ireland semi final. In Rockcorry they defeated Monaghan easily 7-16 to 0-03. This led to an All Ireland minor final clash with Wexford at O Kennedy Park, New Ross on the 11th September. These Counties had produced a thriller in the

u16 final twelve months earlier but this time it was a different story as Waterford played superbly

to win the title 4-09 to 1-05 and make up for the disappointment against Laois in 1992.

Catherine

Walsh scored 2 goals, Lorena Mooney and team captain Fiona Crotty also goaled in a great team

performance. Waterford: Denise Nugent (St Pats), Triona Wall (St Pats), Honor Lonergan (Na Deise), Siobhan O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Annalisa Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Julie Torpey (Kill), Ann

Harney (Killrossanty), Catherine Walsh (2-00, St Pats), Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Fiona Crotty (1-

01, Captain, Ballymacarbry), Ruth Ahearn (Kill), Leah Murphy (0-01, Old Parish), Rebecca Hallahan

(0-02, Ballymacarbry), Lorena Mooney (1-02, Kill), Claire Ryan (0-03, Ballymacarbry), Subs: Evelyn

Mooney (Kill), Karen Denn (Na Deise), Naomi Flynn (Dunhill), Roseanne Ryan (Na Deise), Jackie

Young (Old Parish), Deirdre Nagle (Dungarvan), Mary Walsh (Na Deise), Noirin Harty (Ardmore),

Deirdre O Rourke (Clashmore), Angela Power (Old Parish), Sinead Byrne (Dungarvan), Margaret

Quinn (Na Deise), Manager/Coach/Trainer Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Selectors Ger Mooney

(Kill), Martin Curran (Old Parish).

Ballymacarbry and Kill met in the u14 A final at Modeligo on the 25 September and Ballymacarbry

won an exciting game and Ballymacarbry also defeated Kill narrowly in the minor A final. In the

junior league final St Pats defeated Dungarvan 2-08 to 3-02 and in the u16 B final Dungarvan

Killrossanty 4-02 to 0-05.

Ballymacarbry lost a great player on the 31st October when Dolores Tyrell passed away after an

illness. Dolores had captained the club when they won the first All Ireland club championship in O

Connor Park, Tullamore in 1997. For the rest of the club championship, the club didn't use the

number 7 jersey as a mark of respect.

Ballymacarbry travelled to Michael O Hehir Park in Cratloe to play Fergus Rovers in the Munster

club final on the 7 November and won easily 7-11 to 0-04 and the following Sunday travelled to

Galway for an All Ireland quarter final clash with St Grellans, again it resulted in a comfortable 4-

19 to 0-04 win.

The All Ireland semi final resulted in a trip to London to play Parnell's at the Parnell club grounds

where the London representatives proved no match and Ballymacarbry overwhelmed them, 6-28

to 0-03.

Semple Stadium Thurles, just a short distance from Hayes Hotel, birth place of the ladies Gaelic

football Association, was the venue for the 1993 All Ireland club final against Crettyard (Laois),

Crettyard were appearing in their first final, Ballymacarbry in their eight.

Goals by Geraldine O Ryan and Claire Ryan and 3 points from Fiona Crotty put Ballymacarbry in

the driving seat and on a perfect playing surface they ran out 2-12 to 1-02 winners to claim their

6th title and their 5th in row. Ballymacarbry: Patricia Butler, Regina Byrne, Martina O Ryan, Cleona

Walsh, Ann Dunford, Noirin Walsh, Sinead Walsh, Bernie Ryan (0-01), Catriona Casey (0-02), Rebecca Hallahan, Geraldine O Ryan (1-02), Marie Crotty (0-01), Fiona Crotty (0-03), Claire Ryan

(1-02), Aine Wall (0-01) Subs: Michelle Walsh, Annalisa Crotty, Siobhan O Ryan, Helen Fitzpatrick

& Ann Walsh.

The County board produced a calendar with adverts being sold for the New Year in a bid to generate more finance as the cost of transport was increasing annually and although 1993 didn't

see 3 in a row, the great form shown by the minor team gave plenty of room for optimism for

1994.

Honours:

Waterford Munster & All Ireland minor champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

Waterford's sole All Star award winner was Aine Wall Ballymacarbry at left half forward and the

All stars were defeated by Kerry, 1-17 to 1-11.

1994

Officers:

Chairperson Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Vice Chairperson Joe Cleary (Abbeyside)

Secretary Eleanor Hickey (Na Deise)

Assistant Secretary Declan Whelan (Old Parish)

Treasurer Mary Mooney (Kill)

Registrar Dan Murphy (St. Garvans)

PRO Declan Whelan (Ardmore)

Irish Lang Officer Martin Curran (Old Parish)

Noel Murray (Ballymacarbry) was elected as Munster President and round 1 of the league saw

Westmeath travel to Ballymacarbry where they were well beaten 6-14 to 0-05.

The County selectors of 1994 were u14/16 Johnny Landers, Jimmy O Rourke and Noel Murray,

u18/junior Michael Ryan, Ger Mooney & Declan Whelan. Senior, Michael Ryan. Lawlors Hotel

continued as team sponsor for the year. Michael Ryan and Noel Murray attended congress in

Wexford. On the 27th of March Waterford scored a 4-12 to 2-06 victory over Mayo. A fixtures

committee of Declan Whelan, Eleanor Hickey and Dan Murphy was set up to organise club fixtures.

The next league game was at home to Dublin at Kill on the 17 April, Waterford won comfortably

6-14 to 4-02 and in the secondary schools final St.Agustines defeated Ard Scoil 3-05 to 1-06.

Ballymacarbry club decided to donate a cup in memory of Dolores Tyrell to Central Council, and

fund raising began to raise finance among the ideas used was a sponsored walk in the Comeragh

Mountains which ended with refreshments in Bridgre Terries. In the u16 B final St. Coleman's, a

new underage team comprising of Old Parish and Ardmore players, defeated Abbeyside 3-11 to

1-04 in the County final.

The Fraher field had been refurbished including the building of a new stand, the official opening

was on Sunday 15 May and a ladies Gaelic football game was part of the programme of events.

Kerry travelled to play a national league game which Waterford won easily 6-12 to 1-05. Ardmore

defeated Rathgormack in the schools C final with a girl who was to emerge as an outstanding

player of the future, Mary O Donnell as captain.

On the 22 May Clare travelled to Ballymacarbry for a league fixture which turned out to be a thriller, Waterford winning 3-19 to 4-15 and the following Saturday evening Laois, under a new

manager Sean "Goggy" Delaney defeated Waterford in Stradbally (Co. Laois) 3-14 to 0-12.

After a break for the exams Waterford faced Donegal for the first time in Tullamore on Sunday

the 26 June and as part of a bonding exercise, stayed in the Killshelin Hotel, Portlaoise on the

Saturday night before travelling on to Tullamore, where they won 4-23 to 3-00.

In the school's A final Ballymacarbry defeated Coolnasmear/Kilbrien 6-04 to 1-01 and Bushy Park

staged an u14/minor double header v Tipperary on 1st July. Tipperary won the u14 game 2-03 to

1-05 while Waterford won the minor, 7-22 to 0-00. Mary Walsh (Na Deise) came on as a substitute in the last five minutes for Waterford but tragedy struck the following week as Mary

died suddenly. Waterford refused to travel for a league semi final against Mayo later that week

owing to the funeral and were eventually were thrown out of the league because of this.

The

Walsh family were soon to donate a magnificent trophy to the County board in Mary's honour

and this was subsequently played annually as a 7 a side competition.

Waterford were very unhappy at Central Council's decision not to refix the game against Mayo

and nobody in the Decies was disappointed when Monaghan beat Mayo in the 1994 league final

after Mayo's walkover against Waterford.

On the 17 July Waterford blitzed Limerick 11-10 to 5-02 in the junior championship and defeat of

Cork in the senior meant a Munster final against Kerry who defeated Clare in the other semi final.

Another easy win over Limerick in the u16 by 3-19 to 0-01.

Old Parish/Ring/Ardmore won the County Community games title and followed this up by winning the Munster title with Sean Wade as trainer.

On the 24th of July Cork confirmed their superiority over Waterford in the junior winning the Munster final 5-16 to 3-04.

Clare beat Waterford in the Munster u16 final and the minor final, between the same teams was

another thriller Clare winning by a single point 3-10 to 3-09.

On the club scene St. Anne's won the u14 A title defeating St Coleman's 8-06 to 3-06 in the County final and Kill defeated Na Deise 4-16 to 4-09 in the u14 B final. On the 31 July Kerry were

visitors to the Fraher field as defending champions for the Munster senior final but this time Waterford made no mistake winning easily 1-16 to 2-02.

Sean Foley sponsored a shield for the junior B league.

Laois travelled to Dungarvan for the All Ireland senior semi final on Sunday the 28 August. The curtain raiser to the game was a G.A.A match (senior football) between local rivals Abbeyside/Ballincourty and Dungarvan and the admission price set by National were 3 pounds for adults and 2 pounds for students. The ladies match turned out to be a real cracker, Laois always looked dangerous, Sue Ramsbottom was on fire and Waterford struggled to cope. At the end of 60 pulsating minutes the teams were level and heading into extra time, with time almost up Waterford were awarded a penalty and Marie Crotty tapped it over the bar. The referee played 15 additional minutes of injury time and Laois had one last chance, a 25 yard free which Sue Ramsbottom drove inches wide and Waterford were through by the skin of their teeth. Laois were devastated, the fact that Sue Ramsbottom won player of the match was no consolation, and they had lost to Waterford 3 times in 4 seasons. In the junior A County final Brickey Rangers defeated Clashmore 5-05 to 3-05 and Dunhill Fenor defeated St.Oliver's, 7-11 to 3-07. At a special function at Lawlors Hotel, Dungarvan Ballymacarbry handed over the magnificent Dolores Tyrell memorial cup to National President Helen O Rourke. This cup was the prize for the All Ireland senior club championship, a competition that Ballymacarbry had dominated in recent times. The County board organised a fundraiser called the personality of ladies football, the idea being that part of the money raised would go back to the club. Killrossanty put in a tremendous effort and club member Sinead Kirwin was declared the winner and Mairead McGrath Brickey Rangers was second, Waterford crystal sponsored the event. A flag day was also organised and this raised further funds for the trip to Croke Park. Sunday the 9th October was All Ireland senior final against Monaghan. W.L.R broadcast the game live and Waterford went in as overwhelming favourites. Monaghan had won the junior All Ireland in 1992 and although they won the national league Waterford were still expected to win. What a game it turned out to be, early goals from Catriona Casey and Aine Wall put Waterford ahead but Monaghan weren't one bit overawed by the occasion. With Jenny Greenan outstanding they ran at Waterford at every opportunity and a crucial moment was a Monaghan penalty which was saved by 16 year old Waterford keeper Annalisa Crotty. Olivia Condon was

sent off for a second bookable offence which seemed a bit harsh and Waterford were hanging on for dear life. Aine Wall was the star of the game shooting 1-05 all from play and the final whistle saw the County win the Brendan Martin cup for the 3rd time in 4 years with Geraldine O Ryan as captain. Waterford: Annalisa Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Martina O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Sinead Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Julie Torpey (Kill), Bernie Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Marie Crotty (0-02, Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Geraldine O Ryan (0-01, Captain, Ballymacarbry), Catriona Casey (1-00, Ballymacarbry), Fiona Crotty (0-01, Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (1-05, Ballymacarbry), Claire Ryan (0-01, Ballymacarbry)
Subs: Siobhan O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Michelle Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Ann Dunford (Ballymacarbry), Patricia Butler (Ballymacarbry), Rebecca Hallahan (Ballymacarbry), Catherine Walsh,(St Pats) Ruth Ahearn, (Kill).
Manager/ Coach/Trainer Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Assistant coach Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), Physio Billy Kelly, Masseur Bidy Butler, Mascots Michelle Ryan, Louise Ryan & Sinead Ryan.

And so another memorable homecoming to Dungarvan brilliantly organised by Tom Keith, the by now familiar open top bus, band and speeches to a huge crowd in Grattan square Dungarvan.

Aine Wall won the Independent (Newspaper) sports star of the week and the (October) Park Hotel award and 5 Waterford players, Martina O Ryan, Catriona Casey, Noirin Walsh, Fiona Crotty and Aine Wall won All Star awards. Waterford played the All Stars on Sunday the 30 October at Fraher field and lost a good game 4-12 to 4-06.

The Inter County season over the Ballymacarbry players had the by now familiar club championship to contend with. In the minor A championship final they beat St Anne's and defeated Killrossanty in the u16 A final. For the first time the club selected separate captains for club and inter county. Geraldine O Ryan captained Waterford whilst Catriona Casey captained the club. In the Munster club final at Abbeydorney they defeated the home club 2-18 to 0-03 to record an eight successive Munster title and then defeated the Neale (Mayo) at Cappaquinn in the all Ireland semi final. The old foe Rochfortbridge were the opponents in the club final at Semple Stadium, after epic battles in 1989, 1990, 1991 finals they were taking nothing for granted.

However on this occasion the margin was much wider. Rochfortbridge played against a strong wind in the first half and got a tonic start as Ann Marie Curran scored a goal after just 20 seconds. Edel Clarke kicked a magnificent point from the kick out and the "Bridge" was 4 points to the good. Aine Wall opened Ballymacarbry's account with an 8th minute point and 2 minutes later she was brought down in the square. Marie Crotty buried the resultant penalty to level the scores after 10 minutes. Fiona Crotty shot 2 points but these were cancelled out by Patricia Reynolds and Ann Marie Curran. Twenty minutes gone and the team's level despite Ballymacarbry playing with the wind and the new Dolores Tyrrell cup at stake, the pressure was really on. Suddenly Ballymacarbry upped a gear as Fiona Crotty, Marie Crotty (2), Geraldine O Ryan and Claire Ryan pointed to leave Ballymacarbry 1-08 to 1-03 ahead at the interval. The second half would surely be a real test, but when the questions were asked Ballymacarbry had the answers. With Noirin Walsh outstanding at centre back Ballymacarbry pulled out all the stops. In the 35th minute Geraldine O Ryan put Aine Wall through for a goal and now Rochfortbridge had a mountain to climb. Incredibly against the wind Marie Crotty pointed a 40 yard free, Claire Ryan added another and Aine Wall got on the end of a great move and crashed home her second goal. Wall and Claire Ryan added points to sign seal and deliver the Dolores Tyrrell cup back to Ballymacarbry. There were emotional scenes as team captain Catriona Casey received the trophy from national President Helen O Rourke. With the prize in memory of a great friend and colleague there was no way Ballymacarbry could lose this final and the second half performance of every single one of the team would have made the late Dolores very proud.

Ballymacarbry: Annlisa Crotty, Regina Byrne, Martina O Ryan, Cleona Walsh, Sinead Walsh, Noirin Walsh, Michelle Walsh, Bernie Ryan, Catriona Casey (Captain), Fiona Crotty (0-03), Geraldine O Ryan (0-01), Marie Crotty (1-04), Ann Dunford, Aine Wall (2-02), Claire Ryan (0-02).
Subs: Siobhan O Ryan, Rebecca Hallahan, Patricia Butler, Marie Fitzpatrick, Ann Walsh, Paula Walsh, Mairead Ryan, Rose Power.
Manager/coach Michael Ryan, assistant coach Brigid Grant
It was Ballymacarbry's 6th All Ireland club title in a row.

Honours;

Waterford Munster & All Ireland senior champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

All Stars: Noirin Walsh Ballymacarbry, (left full back), Martina O Ryan Ballymacarbry, (full back),

Catriona Casey Ballymacarbry, (left half forward), Fiona Crotty Ballymacarbry, (right half forward),

Aine Wall Ballymacarbry, (full forward).

1995

Officers:

Chairman Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Vice Chairman Johnny Landers (St.Pat's)

Secretary Sylvia Murray (Brickey Rangers)

Assistant Secretary Marguerite Ryan (Na Deise)

Treasurer Mary Mooney (Kill)

PRO Margaret Fleming (Dungarvan)

Registrar Dan Murphy (St.Garbhans)

Irish Lang. Officer Catriona Casey (Ballymacarbry)

Finance committee: Michael Ryan, George Young (Old Parish), June Whyte (Killrossanty), Noel

Murray (Ballymacarbry), Siobhan Cullinan (Brickey Rangers), Eleanor Hickey (Na Deise)

Inter County managements: U14 Joe Flynn (Dunhill), Joe Cashman (Na Deise), Declan Whelan (Old

Parish), U16 June Whyte (Killrossanty), Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), Nicky Sheehan (Dungarvan),

Minor Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Ger Mooney (Kill), Declan Whelan (Old Parish), Junior

Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Ger Mooney (Kill), John Mullarkey (Brickey Rangers), Senior

Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry) Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry).

Congress was held in Dungarvan on the weekend of the 3/5th March and a special committee

under the Chairmanship of Noel Murray organised the event which included a cabaret show in

the hotel on Saturday night and this was well received by delegates.

Waterford began the league campaign on the 19 March at O Moore Park Portlaoise with a 2-14 to

3-04 victory over Laois and followed this up a week later, defeating Cork 5-16 to 1-07 at

Lemybrien. On the 2 April a trip to Newmarket on Fergus brought a 4 point win, 3-09 to 3-05

over

Clare.

Killrossanty defeated Clashmore 5-11 to 1-06 in the Minor B final and on Sunday 8 April the

Deise girls travelled to Kerins O Rahilly's club grounds in Tralee to play Kerry. On arriving they

found one of Kerry all time greats Seanie Walsh jogging around the pitch. The game itself resulted

in a 2-11 to 2-05 victory for Waterford. The following Sunday Monaghan were visitors a repeat

of the

1994 All Ireland final and another cliff hanger resulted, in a single point victory for Waterford, 1-11 to 2-07.

Two weeks later Waterford were in Rochfortbridge to record a 6-14 to 0-06 victory over Westmeath and 2 weeks later travelled to Rockcorry for a league semi final against Monaghan, a tremendous goal by Catriona Casey clinched a 2-14 to 2-11 victory. In u14 Waterford easily defeated Tipperary 7-16 to -02 in Ardfinnan and seemed to have the makings of a good team.

Waterford County Board decided to buy a Fax machine to help with running of fixtures. On Sunday 25 June Waterford and Mayo met in the league final at Cusack Park in Ennis and the game ended in a draw, Waterford 3-11 Mayo 4-08. Munster won the Interprovincial title with 6

Waterford players, Marie & Fiona Crotty, Siobhan O Ryan, Catriona Casey, Geraldine O Ryan and Aine Wall featuring.

In the junior championship a strong Clare team defeated Waterford 6-13 to 2-08. Waterford then

travelled to Newmarket on Fergus for the league final replay with Mayo and again there was very

little between the teams, Waterford winning the league title for the 2nd time, 2-13 to 3-08.

On

Wednesday 5th of July Waterford defeated Kerry 2-09 to 3-05 in the Munster u16 championship.

The seniors were drawn against Clare in the Munster senior final, Clare had home venue and took

the game to Quilty on the Atlantic seaboard. Waterford were taking no chances and travelled up

overnight staying in Miltown Malbay. The game itself was a tough affair, Waterford winning 3-09

to 1-06.

Progress continued in the u16 championship with a 4-12 to 0-06 victory over Tipperary but the

minors campaign ended at the hands of Clare, 3-09 to 1-06. The u14 team destroyed Limerick 5-

13 to 1-02 in Clogheen and the u16 team won the Munster championship and travelled to Stradbally (Laois) for an All Ireland semi final clash with Roscommon where they won comfortably

3-12 to 2-04. Martina O Ryan and Olivia Condon formed a new midfield and on Sunday July 30 the

senior team headed to Fitzgerald stadium for the Munster final and had to battle all the way before winning 2-12 to 3-07. Lawlors Hotel were still the main sponsor of the senior team and the

Dublin branch of the Waterford supporters club were also giving much appreciated help with Ann

Ryan representing them at most games.

In the u14 B final Killrossanty defeated St.Pat's 3-08 to 2-00. On Saturday the 9th September the u16 team won the All Ireland final in Cashel defeating Monaghan 4-03 to 0-08, the ability to get goals proved crucial, Brid Breathnach, Triona Whyte and Breda Morrissey all found the net in the first half as Waterford led 3-03 to 0-04 at half time and Triona scored the second goal with 10 minutes remaining to seal a 4-03 to 0-08 victory.

Waterford: Nuala Hearn (St.Anne's), Catriona Hanley (Dungarvan), Honor O'Brien (St.Pat's), Martina McCarthy (Killrossanty), Brigid Hannigan (St.Anne's), Sarah Hickey (Brickey Rangers),

Sarah Gleeson (Na Deise), Sharon Foley (Abbeyside), Catriona Beresford (Kill), Triona Whyte (Killrossanty), Mairead Ryan (Captain, Ballymacarbry), Mary O'Donnell (Old Parish), Breda Morrissey (Na Deise), Paula Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Brid Breathnach (Old Parish)

Management: Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), June Whyte (Killrossanty), Nicky Sheehan (Dungarvan)

The senior team attended the game and after the final whistle travelled to Castlebar to play Mayo the following day. The conversation on the bus on the way up centred on Steve Collins's

world championship title fight that evening.

Waterford were very concerned as they took the field in McHale Park the following day. It had

taken a replay to defeat Mayo by just two points a couple of weeks earlier and the fact that Mayo

were at home left plenty of cause for concern.

Waterford got two early points by Catriona Casey and Aine Wall. Mayo hit back and Marcella

Heffernan slammed home a goal. There was little between the teams, a switch which saw Catriona Casey move to midfield helped matters considerably and 2 points by Rebecca Hallahan

gave Waterford to an 0-08 to 1-03 half time lead. Mayo got the first score of the second half but

incredibly were not to score again. Annalisa Crotty pulled off a great save and Waterford suddenly moved up several gears and blitzed Mayo. Points by Claire Ryan, Marie Crotty and Aine

Wall quickly followed and then a quick Catriona Casey pass caught Mayo napping and Aine Wall

blasted the ball to the net. Waterford were flying and kicked a succession of points to score a

1-19 to 1-04 victory with Aine Wall scoring 1-05 and Marie Crotty notching 0-05 whilst Regina

Byrne, Cleona and Sinead Walsh were outstanding in defence.

Monaghan defeated Waterford in the All Ireland u14 final in Navan to balance matters after the

u16 final and Sunday October 1st the senior final was the 3rd All Ireland clash between the Counties in 1995. The Country awaited a thriller. A gale force wind blew down towards the

Railway goal and the toss was going to be crucial and team captain Noirin Walsh called it right

and elected to play with the wind in the first half.

By the 13th minute Waterford were 6 points up including a massive long range effort by Aine Wall. Then a defence mix up between Monaghan keeper Ann Gavan and a defender saw Geraldine O Ryan shoot to the net. A minute later Rebecca Hallahan pounced on another error

and goaled again and then Claire Ryan fed Geraldine O Ryan who blasted to the net and Waterford led 3-10 to 0-01 at half time.

Within minutes of the restart Olivia Condon finished this contest with a 4th goal. Angela Larkin

scored a fine Monaghan goal in the 44th minute but this only served to cut the deficit to 14 points. Monaghan were not to score in the closing 14 minutes as Waterford tacked on 4 consecutive points to win by a huge margin of 18 points 4-14 to 1-05. This game was a continuation of the second half display against Mayo in the semi final as Sarah Hickey, Fiona Crotty, Catherine Walsh and Lorena Mooney came on as second half substitutes.

Waterford: Annlisa Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (Captain,

Ballymacarbry), Cleona Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Sinead Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Siobhan O Ryan

(Ballymacarbry), Julie Torpey (Kill), Martina O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Olivia Condon (1-00, Na Deise), Geraldine O Ryan (2-01, Ballymacarbry), Marie Crotty (0-06, Ballymacarbry), Catriona Casey (Ballymacarbry), Rebecca Hallahan (1-00, Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (0-05, Ballymacarbry),

Claire Ryan (0-02, Ballymacarbry). Subs: Sarah Hickey (Brickey Rangers), Fiona Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Catherine Walsh (St.Pat's), Lorena Mooney (Kill), Patricia Butler (Ballymacarbry),

Deirdre O Rourke (Clashmore), Helen Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry), Marguerite Casey (Clashmore),

Mascots Louise Ryan & Sinead Ryan, Manager/coach/trainer Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Assistant coach/trainer Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), Physio Billy Kelly Masseur Biddy Butler.

Noirin Walsh climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand to collect the Brendan Martin Cup, Waterford's 4th in five years and completed the league championship double for the second time

in 3 years, her clenched fist salute showed exactly what it meant.

Another memorable Monday night in Dungarvan, Tom Keith again doing the honours and on to

Ballymacarbry. In the intermediate County final Kill defeated Old Parish, Dunhill/Fenor won the

junior defeating Clashmore 3-02 to 0-07. St.Anne's won the minor A title defeating Ballymacarbry

1-07 to 1-06.

By now Ballymacarbry were given a bye into the Munster club final and hammered Glanworth 3-

29 to 0-02 to claim the 9th successive Munster club title. The All Stars took on Waterford in Dungarvan the game ended in a draw, Waterford 4-06 All Stars 2-12 which meant Waterford had

gone the entire year unbeaten. Seven Waterford players, Annalisa Crotty, Regina Byrne, Cleona Walsh, Julie Torpey, Marie Crotty, Catriona Casey and Geraldine O Ryan won All Star awards in 1995.

Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry) became the first person from ladies Gaelic football to be honoured as the Philips Manager of the month and Ballymacarbry faced a trip to far away Aghabog for the

All Ireland club quarter final against Monaghan champions Aghabog and recorded a convincing 2-

18 to 1-05 victory as a large home crowd showed their admiration.

Two weeks later they had home venue for the semi final and played Shelmaliers (Wexford) in

Cappoquin where they won 3-12 to 2-02. Another home venue for the club final, this time the

Fraher field, with Parnell's (London) as visitors. Early goals by Aine Wall and Geraldine O Ryan

helped Ballymacarbry to a 2-06 to 1-02 half time lead, Parnell's goal was scored by Debbie McCooey. Further goals by Rebecca Hallahan and Aine Wall with Marie Crotty (0-04)

Catriona

Casey and Claire Ryan all pointing meant a comfortable 4-12 to 1-04 victory, the Dolores Tyrell

cup was safe and sound as Ballymacarbry won the All Ireland senior club title for the 7th year in a

row. Former club player Michelle Walsh then living in London played with Parnell's who were

managed by Galway man Tommy O Donoghue.

Ballymacarbry: Annalisa Crotty, Regina Byrne, Noirin Walsh, Helen Fitzpatrick, Sinead Walsh (Captain), Martina O Ryan (0-01), Catriona Casey (0-02), Rebecca Hallahan (1-00), Marie Crotty (0-

04), Geraldine O Ryan (1-02), Paula Walsh, Aine Wall (2-01), Claire Ryan (0-02)

Manager/coach/trainer Michael Ryan, Brigid Grant

Thus the year ended with 3 All Ireland titles captured in u16, senior and club whilst the u14 team

also got to the All Ireland final. Waterford's dominance of ladies Gaelic football continued.

Honours:

Waterford Munster & All Ireland senior champions

Waterford Division 1 National league champions

Waterford Munster & All Ireland u16 champions

Waterford Munster u14 champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

All Stars: Annalisa Crotty Ballymacarbry, (goalkeeper), Regina Byrne Ballymacarbry, (right full back), Cleona Walsh Ballymacarbry, (left full back), Marie Crotty Ballymacarbry, (centre half forward), Catriona Casey Ballymacarbry, (left half forward), Geraldine O Ryan Ballymacarbry, (right full forward).

1996

Officers:

Chairman Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Vice Chair Johnny Landers (St.Pat's)

Secretary Sylvia Shanley (Brickey Rangers)

Assistant Secretary Brigid Dalton (St.Pat's)

Treasurer Mary Mooney (Kill)

PRO Jackie Murphy (Dungarvan)

Registrar Dan Murphy (St.Garbhans)

Irish Lang. Officer Sylvia Shanley (Brickey Rangers)

Inter County mentors u14 Pat Tobin (St.Oliver's), Joe Flynn (Dunhill/Fenor), Declan Whelan (Old

Parish). U16 Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), June Whyte (Killrossanty), Nicky Sheehan (Dungarvan),

minor Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Ger Mooney (Kill), junior Joe Flynn (Dunhill/Fenor), Jimmy O

Rourke (Clashmore), senior Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry)

A new club Ballyduff Upper joined with delegates at a meeting, Theresa Noonan and Paddy Jim

Feeney. The league began on the 10th March at Wexford Park where Waterford defeated the home team 4-11 to 1-06 with Catherine Walsh Martina O Ryan, Marie Crotty and Geraldine O

Ryan getting the goals. At Congress Noel Murray was elected as President elect defeating Mary

Wheatley, Liam Forde and Marie McGovern. Noel had served as County Board Chairman from

1985 to '87 and also did a term as Munster President.

In round 2 of the league Laois were the visitors and because of weather conditions the game was

played in Old Parish and Waterford chalked up a 3-10 to 0-06 victory. On the 24 March Monaghan made the long journey to the Fraher Field, it was a much improved team from the

previous years All Ireland final, Waterford had just 2 points to spare and Waterford goals were

scored by Catherine Walsh and Martina O Ryan.

Ballymacarbry won the minor A title for the third time in four years, defeating Kilrossanty 1-16 to

1-06. In the minor B final St Garbhans and Clashmore drew 2-06 each but St.Garbhans won the

replay 3-06 to 3-04. On the 14 April Waterford headed to Connolly Park, Tralee and defeated

Kerry 5-07 to 0-15.

In the u16 A championship final St.Anne's beat Na Deise in a thriller by 2 points 2-07 to 3-02, whilst Ballymacarbry won the u16 B final in Colligan, defeating St. Pats 2-10 to 2-05. On the 12

May Mayo beat Waterford in the league at Tyrrellspass, 4-10 to 2-11, a result that ended a 24

match unbeaten run going back to May 1994.

The County Board ran an u16C championship and St.Oliver's won it, defeating Kilmacthomas 1-04

to 1-03 in the final and in the senior league final Ballymacarbry beat the Intermediate division, 8-

10 to 2-07. Meanwhile the senior team got back to winning ways defeating Meath 2-15 to 4-05 in

Dunshaughlin.

Coillte came on board as sponsor for both the Waterford U14 and u16 teams. The Inter Provisional championship was played in Portlaoise as a blitz and because of late with draws Munster travelled with just 16 players including 2 who weren't even on the Waterford senior

panel, Mairead Ryan and Ann Walsh. However Munster made light of the small panel, defeating

Leinster 1-09 to 2-04 in round 1, Ulster 1-13 to 0-04 in the semi and proving too good for a fancied combined college's team 4-09 to 0-10 in the final with goalkeeper Annalisa Crotty playing

outfield.

Munster: Gretta Burchill (Cork), Sarah Hickey (Waterford), Siobhan O Ryan (Waterford), Annalisa

Crotty (Waterford), Mary Kelleher (Cork), Catherine O Loughlin (Clare), Hanora Kelleher (Cork),

Marie Fitzgerald (Kerry), Olivia Condon (Waterford), Rebecca Hallahan (Waterford), Marie Crotty

(Waterford), Ann Walsh (Waterford), Fiona Crotty (Waterford), Fiona O Driscoll (Cork), Theresa

Moloney (Clare), Sub: Mairead Ryan (Waterford)

In the minor championship Waterford easily beat Tipperary in Clogheen. The u14 team travelled

to Carlow for a blitz and won it out defeating Mayo 3-03 to 0-03 in the final. In the u16 semi final

they defeated Clare 11-10 to 2-01 at Cappamore. Breda Morrissey scored 5 goals and Niamh Barry shot 2-04.

The junior B league final the newly formed Ballyduff scored 1-08 to 2-03 victory over Dunhill/Fenor, 2 late points by Catherine Quirke sealed victory. In the junior championship Waterford were drawn against Limerick, the game was originally fixed for the Gaelic Grounds but

was eventually played in Ardfinnan on the 13th July, where Limericks ability to get goals proved

decisive in a 5-05 to 1-14 victory.

Mary O Donnell Old Parish won the All Ireland feile skills competition and Waterford bowed out

of the u14 championship at Ballyhea, a missed penalty proved crucial as Limerick won 2-02 to 0-

06. The minors defeated Kerry in the Munster semi final and then beat Clare in the final 3-09 to 1-

09 at Cahir. On Saturday evening the 27 July the u16 team retained the Munster title defeating

Cork 4-08 to 1-08 at Pairc Ui Rinn.
Cork won the All Ireland junior championship in '95 but got a rude awakening in the Munster senior semi final as Waterford ran riot at the Fraher field, winning 6-15 to 1-05, as Aine Wall shot 4-03 the other goals scored by Rebecca Hallahan and Claire Ryan. This set up a Munster senior final with Clare also at the Fraher field on the 28 July and resulted in a 2-19 to 1-06 victory. The u16 team faced Monaghan in the semi final at O Moore Park Portlaoise. Monaghan led 2-03 to 0-03 at half time but a Mary O Donnell pointed free in the 33rd minute triggered a succession of points from Niamh Barry, Marion Troy and O Donnell again before Troy scored a superb goal to edge Waterford in front. Aine Ryan scored a second goal to clinch victory, 2-12 to 3-06. In the junior league final Brickey Rangers, defeated Ballymacarbry 4-06 to 1-06. The Na Deise club organised the seven a side competition and Ballymacarbry won the Mary Walsh cup. Kill won the 7 a side plate competition. The Waterford minor team also played Monaghan in the All Ireland semi final at O Connor Park Tullamore on 24 of August and won 3-10 to 0-08. On Saturday the 7 September Waterford played Mayo in the u16 All Ireland final at Moate and won a thriller, 3-08 to 1-11. With the All Ireland u16 title secured Waterford headed for Monaghan, staying in Cavan town on Saturday night for an All Ireland senior semi final the following day. The 3 in a row was at stake at Aghabog. Monaghan playing very well got off to a great start and goals by Pauline Woods and Angela Larkin gave them a 6 point interval lead. A goal by Aine Wall reduced the deficit to just two points after 40 minutes, but there was no stopping Monaghan and they went on to record a deserved 2-14 to 1-08 victory. In the final they defeated Laois after a replay to win their first senior title. This game marked the last championship appearance for Marie Crotty and Cleona Walsh, Crotty was to sustain a serious leg injury at training the following March and never played senior Inter County championship football again. She was one of the outstanding players ever to have played the game. Out of the senior championship there was still the minor to look forward to. Again Mayo were the opponents and they were coached by former Mayo footballer Willie Joe Padden. This was a great game of football Waterford led 2-06 to 0-05 at half time the goals scored by Rebecca Hallahan and Monica Power. Waterford keeper Nuala Hearn pulled off 2 great saves in the early stages of the 2nd half and further goals by Deirdre Nagle and Monica Power sealed a memorable win.

Waterford: Nuala Hearn (Kill), Karen Barry (Dunhill/Fenor), Helen Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry),
Annalisa Crotty (Captain, Ballymacarbry), Triona Whyte (Killrossanty), Sarah Hickey (Brickey Rangers), Siobhan O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Catriona Beresford (Kill), Deirdre O Rourke (0-01, Clashmore), Paula Walsh (0-01, Ballymacarbry), Ann Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Deirdre Nagle (1-03, Brickey Rangers), Rebecca Hallahan (1-03, Ballymacarbry), Monica Power (2-03, Killrossanty), Subs: Carolyn Ahern (Kill), Sharon Foley (Brickey Rangers), Sarah Gleeson (Na Deise), Louise Enright (Brickey Rangers), Fionnula Barrett (Kill), Angie Walsh (Na Deise), Martina McCarthy (Killrossanty), Regina Power (Old Parish), Breda Morrissey (Na Deise).
Manager Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Selector Ger Mooney (Kill)
In the 7 a side Ballymacarbry won the Mary Walsh cup whilst Kill won the plate and Kilmacthomas won the u16 C championship, beating Dungarvan in the final. This year there was no trip to Croke Park but Ballymacarbry travelled to Dublin for the All Ireland sevens and maintained their incredible record in the competition by winning it out, defeating Fergus Rovers (Clare) 6-05 to 2-03 in the final. Thus on the five occasions that Ballymacarbry had entered the sevens since 1987 they won it on every occasion. They lined out as follows: Annalisa Crotty, Helen Fitzpatrick, Regina Byrne (Captain), Siobhan O Ryan, Rebecca Hallahan, Marie Crotty, Aine Wall, Noirin Walsh, Catriona Casey and Ann Dunford.
The All Ireland senior final the following day saw Laois and Monaghan draw, Monaghan went on to win the replay. Waterford won 4 All Star awards, Annalisa Crotty (Goalkeeper), Noirin Walsh (full back), Julie Torpey (left half back), and Aine Wall (left corner forward).
In the intermediate County final Brickey Rangers defeated Dunhill/Fenor 0-14 to 1-04. As Ballymacarbry still had no competitive game in Waterford their first competitive game was again the Munster club final. The final against Cooraclare (Clare) was postponed and was refixed for Sunday November 10th. There was a problem as Waterford were to play Monaghan in the league semi final. Cooraclare would only agree to play on the Saturday if they had home advantage. Ballymacarbry had no choice and to make matters worse playing on Saturday meant they would be short 3 players through injury and work commitments.
Playing at home, Cooraclare drew a huge crowd and at the end of 60 minutes the teams were level. After 30 minutes of extra time Cooraclare won by a single point 4-10 to 2-15 and Ballymacarbry's unbeaten run stretching back to the bitterly cold day in Callan 8 years previous December 1988, was gone, Shelmaliers (Wexford) subsequently knocked out Cooraclare in the semi final.

The Munster club final over and several Ballymacarbry players got in to their cars and drove to

Dublin, the following day Waterford had a league semi final in Clones against Monaghan. Monaghan were the new All Ireland senior champions and in buoyant form and were deserving

winner 3-17 to 3-06.

The journey home was long, Waterford after 10 years on the road were a tired team. Could they

battle back, time would tell.

In the County Post Primary final St. Agustines made it 4 in a row defeating Ard Scoil Na Deise and

scored 2-12 to 2-02 in the final

Honours:

Waterford Munster senior champions

Waterford Munster & All Ireland champions

Waterford Munster & All Ireland Minor champions

Waterford All Ireland u14 Blitz champions

Ballymacarbry Munster senior club champions

Ballymacarbry All Ireland 7 a side cup champions

Mary O Donnell Old Parish All Ireland u14 Feile skills champion

All stars: Annlisa Crotty, Ballymacarbry (Goalkeeper), Noirin Walsh Ballymacarbry (full back), Julie

Torpey Kill, (left half back), and Aine Wall Ballymacarbry, (left corner forward)

1997 began with a league clash with Laois in Cappoquin and in very poor conditions Laois scored

a 1-06 to 2-02 victory. Incredibly Waterford failed to score in the first half and Laois led by 3 points. Waterford were level with a minute of the restart with a Rebecca Hallahan goal and despite an Aine Wall goal Laois prevailed. Next up was Kerry and a much improved performance

brought a 5-08 to 1-04 victory with Fiona Crotty scoring 3 goals.

At congress in Fermanagh Noel Murray took over as National President the 1st Waterford person

to do so. Waterford then scored an easy 7-19 to 1-04 victory over Carlow with Aine Wall scoring

4-05. Next came a trip to Moyle Park, Clondalkin to play All Ireland champions Monaghan.

Waterford lined out without Aine Wall, Marie Crotty and Claire Ryan but made light of the handicap and scored a deserved 3-10 to 1-08 victory with Catherine Walsh, a youthful Mary O

Donnell and substitute Sarah Hickey scoring the goals.

In the minor A County final Na Deise beat St. Anne's 2-05 to 2-04 and Killrossanty won the minor B

defeating Clashmore 4-11 to 2-05. On Sunday the 27 April Waterford defeated Clare in Walsh

Park, the game was played as a curtain raiser to a national hurling league game between Waterford and Dublin.

The u14 team bowed out of the Munster championship at Fraher field going under to Tipperary

2-07 to 2-06. A trip to Gracefield (Offaly) brought a 5-11 to 1-13 victory over Mayo as Claire Ryan returned for the first time since the cruciate injury she sustained the previous July against Cork.

By now Waterford were in the league quarter final, a home game to Meath where they really

turned on the style, trashing Meath 10-14 to 1-05 with Aine Wall shooting 2-06 and Geraldine O

Ryan scoring 3-00. Na Deise won a thrilling u16 A final defeating St. Anne's 3-02 to 1-07, the margin just a single point, the same victory they enjoyed in the Minor A final. Ballymacarbry beat

Clashmore 6-14 to 3-05 in the u16 B final.

The league semi final was in Duggan Park, Ballinasloe against Mayo. Early points by Cora Staunton

and Christina Heffernan gave Mayo the lead but Aine Wall was on fire, she shot 1-02 in 3 minutes

and ended with a personal tally of 2-06, Waterford won 3-20 to 1-10 the third goal scored by

Sarah Hickey. On the same day Monaghan scored a late goal to defeat Clare 3-06 to 1-09 in the

other semi final to set up an appetising league final. Jackie Murphy (Waterford) refereed the u14

championship game between Cork and Tipperary.

In the u16 championship Waterford began the defence of their All Ireland title with a 2-13 to 0-01

victory over Tipperary in Cahir and then defeated Clare 5-11 to 1-03 in junior. The u16 team then

defeated Kerry comfortably 3-13 to 1-07 in the semi final and hammered Cork in the final, 4-12 to

1-01. On the 6th of July it was back to Duggan Park, Ballinasloe for the league final and what a

game that turned out to be. Waterford had the wind in the first half but only led 0-09 to 2-02 at

half time, Monaghan goals scored by u16 players Niamh Kindlon and Edel Byrne. A Sarah Hickey

goal in the 34th minute gave Waterford a boost and they led 1-12 to 2-04 after 47 minutes, however an Edel Byrne goal and a succession of points left Monaghan 2 points ahead after 58

minutes but late points from 15 year old Mary O Donnell and Claire Ryan made it a draw.

This meant fixture congestion, Waterford appealed to put back the league, but as usual with Waterford appeals it was unsuccessful so some players had to play 6 games in 16 days between

adult and underage. Kerry were visitors to the Fraher field for the Munster semi final, Catriona

Casey and Noirin Walsh were left on the bench but it made little difference as Waterford strolled

to victory, 5-16 to 1-04 with Geraldine O Ryan scoring 2-04 and Aine Wall 2-03.

The following Sunday July 20th and back to Ballinasloe again for the league final replay and another thriller. A total of 35 scores, this time Monaghan had the wind in the first half and led 3-11 to 0-02 at half time, there seemed no way back. With 38 minutes gone there was still 18 points between the teams, Geraldine O Ryan pointed, and Catriona Casey's penalty was tipped over the bar by Martina Grey. Martina O Ryan, Aine Wall and Geraldine O Ryan all pointed before Wall hammered home a 47th minute goal. Then Martina O Ryan goaled and Monaghan were on the rack despite an Angela Larkin point, Aine Wall goaled again, Martina O Ryan, Julie Torpey and Claire Ryan pointed. Then Claire Ryan goaled but the referee gave a free out and Edel Byrne sealed a Monaghan victory with an injury time goal 4-15 to 3-13. Waterford almost pulled off the impossible and it certainly whet the appetite for the championship, where even more drama was about to unfold.

In the minor semi final Waterford beat Cork and the juniors faced Limerick in the Munster final at Bansha. Former senior players Ann Dunford and June Whyte were very prominent. Sinead Kirwin shot Waterford's 1st goal and there was no stopping them. Paula Walsh added a 2nd and the Deise girls led 2-04 to 0-02 at half time. A third goal by Breda Morrissey sealed a 3-11 to 1-08 victory, Limericks goal scored by Carmel Kirby, wife of intercounty hurler Gary Kirby who was present at the match.

Waterford lined out as follows: Nuala Hearn (Kill), June Whyte (Killrossanty), Denise Nugent (St.Pat's), Triona Whyte (Killrossanty), Helen Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry), Ann Dunford (Ballymacarbry), Sinead Kirwin (1-03, Killrossanty), Tanya Kirwin (Killrossanty), Paula Walsh (1-02, Ballymacarbry), Carolyn Ahern (0-02, Kill), Marion Troy (Na Deise), Breda Morrissey (1-00, Na Deise), Lorena Mooney (0-01, Kill), Monica Power (0-03, Brickey Rangers), Subs: Angie Walsh (Na Deise), Shirley Condon (Ballymacarbry), Martina Walsh (Killrossanty), Helen O Neill (Clashmore), Fiona Power (Killrossanty)

Mentors: Johnny Kirwin (Killrossanty), Ger Mooney (Kill) & Nicky Sheehan (Dungarvan). This was

the 1st of 4 successive Munster junior titles for Waterford.

The u16 team then played Longford in the All Ireland semi final at Stradbally Laois and had to fight hard to get a 6-11 to 5-04 victory, Niamh Barry (2), Annette Raheer (2) and Noeleen Crowley

scored the goals. A couple of days later several of the players lined out in the Munster minor final against Clare in Cappamore and they won comfortably with Niamh Barry and Sharon Foley scoring first half goals. The Munster senior final saw Waterford travel to Cusack Park, Ennis, in truth this game shouldn't have been played the pitch was covered in water was definitely dangerous. Why Clare didn't win this match they will never know and the fact that they didn't had much to do with a brilliant display by Waterford keeper Annalisa Crotty. The game had just 9 scores in total but 2 were goals, both scored by Waterford. In fact only 1 Waterford forward Geraldine O Ryan, scored, the other goal scored by defender Julie Torpey. The teams were level at half time 0-02 each. Clare were awarded a penalty in the 32nd minute but Annalisa Crotty saved brilliantly from Claire Daly's risen shot. Clare had the wind and rain at their back, Carmel Bohannon gave Clare the lead. Martina O Ryan and Eithne Morrissey were having a real battle at midfield. Fiona Crotty moved to wing forward and had much to do with this victory. A defence splitting pass by Mary O Donnell picked out Geraldine O Ryan and she drove a ferocious shot past Clare keeper Mary Keane. In the 50th minute Morrissey shot the equalising point and Waterford were under intense pressure. Three consecutive saves by Crotty proved decisive. A rare break out of defence saw Julie Torpey move up field and she calmly lobbed the ball over Clare keeper Keane to give Waterford a 3 point lead in the dying moments. Clare had the last chance but a great late ditch tackle by Regina Byrne saved the day and Waterford completed the great escape. In the Mary Walsh 7 a side tournament Ballymacarbry A team won the cup and the B team won the plate. In the minor All Ireland semi final Waterford played Laois in Tipperary Town and this was another thriller. Breda Morrissey shot 3 Waterford goals but Laois battled on, indeed the Leinster champions missed a second half penalty and after that and it took a super save by keeper Nuala Hearn to secure a 3 point victory, 3-06 to 2-06. The junior team were away to Longford in the All Ireland semi final and this game was fixed for Pearse Park, Longford. Longford played with the wind in the first half and led 0-03 to 0-00 after 10minutes. A Monica Power point and a Lorena Mooney goal gave Waterford the lead but the

Waterford defence were caught napping in the 25th minute and Longford corner forward Kate O'Brien goal and they led 1-05 to 1-02 at half time. Waterford had the breeze in the second half but never got going and despite late points by Monica Power, Paula Walsh and Sinead Kirwin, Longford won deservedly 2-10 to 1-07. The u16 All Ireland final brought another clash with Monaghan on the 6th of September at Hogan Park, Moate. Waterford were bidding for 3 in a row, rain fell throughout the game and early points by Niamh Barry and Mary O'Donnell gave them the lead but senior players Niamh Kindlon and Edel Byrne levelled it up for Monaghan. Another O'Donnell point and Niamh Barry shot to the net after taking a pass from Annette Raheer and a point by Noeleen Crowley gave Waterford a 1-04 to 0-02 interval lead. The first 20 minutes of the second half were scoreless then Ciara McGuinness got a Monaghan goal and a Niamh Kindlon point reduced the deficit to the minimum. Then team captain Marion Troy took the game by the scruff of the neck when she raced through the Monaghan defence and blazed the ball to the back of the net. Mary O'Donnell added two points and Julie Mai Keane made the game safe when she poached a goal. Monaghan did score 1-01 late in injury time but Waterford were home and though not exactly dry and were deserving All Ireland u16 champions.

Team: Leigh Mulhearn (Killrossanty), Bridget Hannigan (Kill), Karen Barry (Dunhill/Fenor), Catherine Fitzgerald (Na Deise), Ann Morrissey (St.Pat's), Tanya Kirwin (Killrossanty), Melissa Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Mary O'Donnell (0-04, Old Parish), Marion Troy (1-00, Captain, Na Deise), Niamh Barry (1-01, Dunhill/Fenor), Angie Walsh (Na Deise), Julie Mai Keane (1-00, Kill), Aine Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Noeleen Crowley (0-01, Kill), Annette Raheer (Dunhill/Fenor), Subs: Deirdre Power (Killrossanty), Sari Flynn (Dunhill/Fenor), Grace O'Brien (Old Parish), Karen Kelly (Kill), Christine Keating (Killrossanty), Ciara Power (Clashmore), Lisa Prendergast (Old Parish), Kate O'Sullivan (Kilmacthomas)

Mentors: Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), Nicky Sheehan (Dungarvan), Brian Wall (Dungarvan)

National President Noel Murray presented the cup to Waterford captain Marion Troy. The All Ireland senior semi final saw Waterford draw away to Meath. At a challenge match at Lismore v Dublin two weeks before the game Aine Wall picked up an injury that ruled her out of the semi final on the 31st August. On the morning of the game the news broke that Lady Diane Spencer had been killed in a road accident in France. The game was played in Pairc Tailtean

(Navan) in heavy rain, after ten minutes the teams were level, as Catriona Casey and Christine O'Brien (Meath) swapped points, Casey and Mary O'Donnell (2) added points before Julie Torpey made a great run through the Meath defence and placed Rebecca Hallahan for a goal. Claire Ryan and Catriona Casey edged Waterford into a 1-06 to 0-01 lead after 20 minutes before Noirin Walsh carried the ball over her own goal line to give Meath a lifeline. A brace of points by Mary O'Donnell gave Waterford an 8 point interval lead. Any hopes of a Meath comeback were dashed in the 32nd minute when Catriona Casey broke through and drew a defender before placing Geraldine O'Ryan for a goal. Within 3 minutes wing back Sarah Hickey was fouled and Catriona Casey drove home the resultant penalty and further goals by Martina O'Ryan and Rebecca Hallahan sealed a 5-11 to 2-06 victory.

On Saturday the 21 September the minors travelled to Moneygall (Tipperary) to play Mayo in the All Ireland semi final. Mayo had a bad record against Waterford but seemed set to rectify this with a great first half display. Cora Staunton goaled and the westerners led 1-05 to 0-02 at the stroke of half time, and then against the run of play Breda Morrissey scored her customary goal and completely changed the course of the game. An early second half goal by Annette Raheer and a defensive switch which saw Sarah Hickey move to corner back to mark Cora Staunton curbed Mayo and a succession of points brought a surprisingly easy second half victory 2-14 to 1-06.

Waterford: Nuala Hearn (Kill), Bridget Hannigan (Kill), Sarah Hickey (Brickey Rangers), Honor O'Brien (St.Pat's), Ann Morrissey (St.Pat's), Tanya Kirwin (Killrossanty), Margaret Foley (Clashmore), Mary O'Donnell (Old Parish), Marion Troy (Na Deise), Niamh Barry (Dunhill/Fenor), Paula Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Margaret Foley (Clashmore), Angie Walsh (Na Deise), Breda Morrissey (Na Deise), Annette Raheer (1-02, Dunhill/Fenor) Subs: Sharon Foley (0-01, Brickey Rangers), Julie Mai Keane (Kill), Catherine Fitzgerald (Na Deise), Karen Barry (Dunhill/Fenor), Aine Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Helen O'Neill (Clashmore), Martina Walsh (Killrossanty), Claire Dee (Killrossanty), Fiona Power (Killrossanty), Claire Morrissey (St.Garbhans)

Management: Jimmy O'Rourke (Clashmore), Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry)

Now that the u16 and minor double had been captured Waterford went in search of the treble. Aine Wall was slowly recovering from injury and the All Ireland senior final was fixed for Croke

Park on Sunday 12 October. This time the roles of previous years was reversed, Monaghan were the reigning champions, Waterford the challengers. For the first time Waterford would have to line out with out Marie Crotty whose career was cut short by injury. For years the Dublin based players were trained by Bidy Butler but in 1997 Marie took over the role and also joined the Waterford back room team.

Monaghan included a pair of 15 year olds Edel Byrne and Niamh Kindlon in attack and it was these two young ladies that took the game by the scruff of the neck. Diane Dempsey kicked a lovely Monaghan point and then Byrne crashed home a goal and a point. Waterford were struggling but Geraldine O Ryan took a pass from Olivia Condon and scored a goal.

Monaghan's reply was instant and Niamh Kindlon scored the goal of the year to help Monaghan to a 9 point interval lead. Some harsh words were said in the Waterford dressing room at half time and the players responded. Bit by bit they whittled down the lead Catriona Casey shot points and Aine

Wall, Claire Ryan, Geraldine O Ryan and Fiona Crotty were all on target and by the 50th minute the teams were level.

Thus Geraldine O Ryan put Waterford into the lead and Catriona Casey gave them a two point cushion. The game went into injury time but the battle went on. Monaghan hit back with a point with 4 minutes of injury time played out then Jenny Greenan shot the equaliser. There was 36 minutes on the clock when Monaghan took the lead with an Edel Byrne point. Time played there was a premature pitch invasion but referee Finbar O Driscoll played on and Byrne shot another point before O Driscoll finally called time after 11 ½ minutes of added time.

To say that Waterford were furious was an under statement particularly with O Driscoll attempting to justify his actions. The newspaper headlines the following day read – Heartbreak at

Croke Park- Holders Monaghan steal epic- Edel (15) star of the show for Monaghan. Con Houlihan

wrote "Ladies reach untold heights, last weeks final was the best yet"

Waterford: Annlisa Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Regina Byrne (Ballymacarbry), Siobhan O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Deirdre O Rourke (Clashmore), Sarah Hickey (Brickey Rangers), Olivia Condon

(Na Deise), Julie Torpey (Kill), Martina O Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (Ballymacarbry),

Fiona Crotty (0-02, Ballymacarbry), Rebecca Hallahan (0-02, Ballymacarbry), Catriona Casey (0-02, Ballymacarbry), Geraldine O Ryan (1-03, Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (0-01, Ballymacarbry), Claire Ryan (0-03, Ballymacarbry), Subs: Sinead Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Catherine Walsh (St.Pat's), Mary O Donnell (Old Parish), Deirdre Nagle (Brickey Rangers), Paula Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Helen Fitzpatrick (Ballymacarbry), Lorena Mooney (Kill)
Management: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Brigid Grant (Ballymacarbry), Marie Crotty (Ballymacarbry).

Monaghan's Margaret Kerins commented after the game "I said after last years win that the only challenge left was to beat Waterford in a Croke Park final, before the game I thought it might have been my last. But winning is such a great feeling I'll probably stick around for another year".

The Association realised that there was a problem with time keeping and after much debate it was decided to introduce the clock to look after same. Finbar O Driscoll's controversial decision led to a mile stone in the Association.

Ballymacarbry still had a club championship to play, Donoughmore, an up and coming Cork club were the Munster final opponents at Ballyhooly. Ballymacarbry started well and Rebecca Hallahan goal in the 13th minute gave them a five point interval lead, leading 1-07 to 0-03. Aine Wall's 43rd minute goal put them on the way to a 2-13 to 0-09 victory and regained the Munster club title.

Five Waterford players won All Star awards, Annalisa Crotty 3rd award in Goal, Siobhan O Ryan 1st award at full back, Julie Torpey 3rd award at left half back, while Catriona Casey and Geraldine O Ryan won their 3rd awards in the corner forward positions. Fund raising began for a team holiday in the Canary Islands.

The All Ireland club semi final saw Ballymacarbry travel to the Blackrock club grounds in Cork City where they recorded a 4-20 to 1-04 victory over Parnell's (London) Former Waterford minor Ann Harney played at centre back for Parnell's, Michelle Walsh who won several adult club medals with Ballymacarbry played at wing back for Parnell's whilst Helen Fitzpatrick played at left corner back for Ballymacarbry and her sister Marie was at left corner back for Parnell's. Another Waterford girl Suzanne Nagle was a sub on the Parnell's team. Aine Wall scored 3-03, Catriona

Casey 0-05 and Ballymacarbry's fourth goal was scored by substitute Shirley Condon. A mock wedding, to help fund a team holiday, was held at the Hidden Inn, Kilmanahan on the 28 November. Tipperary Inter County hurlers Paul Shelley and John Leahy acted as groom and best man and the huge crowd enjoyed a great night and raised fifteen hundred pounds for the holiday fund.

Kill beat Brickey Rangers 2-06 to 0-10 in the intermediate County final at Lemybrien. Another fund raiser was to produce a ladies Gaelic football calendar. A Leinster firm had tried to bring out a Waterford calendar at the same time without compensating Waterford but this was nipped in the bud. A league fixture was played on the 30th of November and Waterford beat Clare 5-11 to 4-03 at Cusack Park, Ennis, Aine Wall (2), Catriona Casey, Claire Ryan and Julie Torpey got the goals.

On Sunday the 7th December Ballymacarbry travelled to O Kennedy Park, New Ross and took on Shelmaliers, the reigning champions in the All Ireland club final. A huge crowd turned up in anticipation. Both teams and their subs paraded behind the local pipe band the first quarter was even then Aine Wall crashed home a goal, Catriona Casey tacked on two points and a Mairead

Ryan goal in the 30th minute saw Ballymacarbry lead 2-03 to 0-01 at half time. Within two minutes of the restart the game was over, Mairead Ryan pointed then Aine Wall and Rebecca Hallahan shot goals. Ballymacarbry tacked on the points, and Mairead Ryan goaled again in the 46th minute as the Waterford and Munster champions ran out easy 5-10 to 0-03 winners.

Claire Ryan won player of the final and Shelmaliers sportingly formed a guard of honour as the Ballymacarbry players left the pitch.

Ballymacarbry: Annalisa Crotty, Ann Dunford, Siobhan O Ryan, Helen Fitzpatrick, Sinead Walsh, Noirin Walsh, Paula Walsh, Catriona Casey (0-04), Rebecca Hallahan (1-00), Fiona Crotty, Aine Wall (2-02), Geraldine O Ryan (0-01), Mairead Ryan (2-01), Claire Ryan (0-02), Aine Ryan
Subs:

Martina O Ryan, Amy Fahey, Shirley Condon, Melissa Walsh, Patricia Butler
Management: Manager/Trainer/Coach Michael Ryan, Assistant Coach Brigid Grant,

Honours:

Waterford Munster senior champions
Waterford Munster & All Ireland u16 champions

Waterford Munster & All Ireland minor champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

All Stars: Annalisa Crotty, Ballymacarbry (Goalkeeper), Siobhan O Ryan Ballymacarbry, (full back),

Julie Torpey Kill, (left half back), while Catriona Casey and Geraldine O Ryan both

Ballymacarbry,

took the corner forward positions

1998

In 1998, Michael Ryan returned as County Board Chairman and former Waterford player Marie

Crotty took up a position as Manager of the Westmeath ladies Gaelic football team. The Waterford senior team began the year with a team holiday in Gran Canaria in late January and

this played a major part in team bonding and building team spirit.

Ironically Waterford's first league clash was a game against Westmeath at the Fraher field on 22nd

of February which Waterford won and they followed this up with victory over Wexford with an

incredible 8-13 to 0-05 score line, Aine Wall shot 3-02, Catriona Casey got 2-04 and Claire Ryan

notched 1-03.

In a positional switch from the previous year goalkeeper, Annalisa Crotty and wingback Sarah

Hickey had switched positions. Waterford Crystal provided valuable sponsorship to help teams

prepare for the championship, this was organised by Senan Cooke, although Lawlors Hotel continued as the main sponsor. Waterford travelled to Graigcullen to play Laois and won, 4-12 to

2-04 Geraldine O Ryan (2), Mary O Donnell and Claire Ryan got the goals.

Ballymacarbry organised a function to present the previous years all Ireland club medals on the

28th March at the Hidden Inn, Kilmanahan and Kerry's all Ireland winning goal keeper Declan O

Keeffe presented the medals. Waterford defeated Donegal 5-27 to 0-01 in a league game and

followed this up with another big win over Monaghan.

In the minor B County final Clashmore defeated Ballymacarbry 4-09 to 0-04 and in the minor C

final Tramore defeated Ardmore 3-05 to 3-02. By the 10th of May Waterford had qualified for the

league final and they travelled to Naomh Barrog in Dublin and decisively beat Monaghan 3-17 to

1-05. Monaghan were the league champions in '96 & '97. Olivia Condon, who had an outstanding

game at midfield, burst through and kicked the opening point in the fifth minute, Claire Ryan

tacked on another but Margaret Kerins and Niamh Kindlon levelled it up. Claire Ryan and Julie Torpey nudged Waterford 2 points in front by the 16th minute. Then a blistering drive came back off the crossbar, Rebecca Hallahan reacted quicker than anybody else and deposited the ball in the Monaghan net. It triggered a vintage Waterford spell Claire Ryan (twice), Aine Wall, Fiona Crotty, Geraldine O Ryan and Olivia Condon larded a succession of points and at half time Waterford led 1-10 to 0-03, the opposite scenario to last years league final. Margaret Kerins and Geraldine O Ryan swapped points then Orla O Reilly drove a loose ball to the Waterford net but then Waterford took over Aine Wall goaled in the 39th minute then Olivia Condon lashed home another, Geraldine O Ryan, Mary O Donnell, Claire Ryan, Catriona Casey, O Donnell again and Julie Torpey all weighed in with points, to complete a rout and ensure an 18 point victory. The league final took place 2 weeks later, on the 24th May at Tipperary Town. Waterford started where they finished against Monaghan Geraldine O Ryan shot 3 consecutive points, then Clare broke away and scored a good goal but Waterford recovered quickly, Aine Wall (2) and Catriona Casey points. With Olivia Condon and Catriona Casey outstanding at midfield, the forwards got a good supply of the ball and a Geraldine O Ryan goal helped Waterford to a 1-08 to 1-01 interval lead. Clare had a strong wind in the second half but Waterford continued to dominate, Mary O Donnell pointed and Geraldine O Ryan got a brilliant goal. Claire Ryan and Martina O Ryan tacked on points and Geraldine O Ryan after a great run set up Mary O Donnell for a goal and Waterford were 15 points ahead with 50 minutes played. The next 13 minutes (including injury time) was incredible as Clare inspired by Eithne Morrissey and Annie Ryan stormed into the game and shot 3-04 without reply to reduce the deficit to a single point. Indeed their last point was a brilliant save as Sarah Hickey diverted a pile driver inches over the bar and the kick out brought the final whistle, relief for Waterford and a third league title since 1992. Waterford: Sarah Hickey (Brickey Rangers), Paula Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Siobhan O Ryan (Captain, Ballymacarbry), Noirin Walsh (Ballymacarbry), Annalisa Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Deirdre O'Rourke (Clashmore), Julie Torpey (Kill), Olivia Condon (Na Deise), Catriona Casey(0-01, Ballymacarbry), Rebecca Hallahan (Ballymacarbry), Mary O Donnell (1-01, Old Parish), Fiona

Crotty (Ballymacarbry), Aine Wall (0-02, Ballymacarbry), Claire Ryan (0-01, Ballymacarbry), Geraldine O Ryan (2-04, Ballymacarbry), Subs: Martina O Ryan (0-01, Ballymacarbry), Deirdre Nagle.

In the Munster under 14 semi final Waterford defeated Cork 3-12 to 1-06 at Carrignavar and then

played Kerry in the final at Buttevant. The game ended in a draw Waterford 1-11 Kerry 2-08. The

reply was another thriller Waterford eventually winners 4-11 to 4-07, Kerry led 3-05 to 3-03 at

the interval Waterford's goals scored by Mary O Rourke (2) and Noirin O Donnell. On the resumption, two O Rourke points levelled the scores and further goals by Marian Ryan and O

Rourke again sealed victory. In the Community games, County final Stradbally defeated Ballymacarbry at Stradbally.

Waterford then played Galway in the U14 All Ireland semi final at Newmarket on Fergus and won

an incredible game 11-10 to 7-01. On the 30th June, Ardmore beat St.Oliver's 5-11 to 4-06 in the

u16 A County final. Old Parish scored 4-12 to 2-06 victory over Kilrossanty whilst St.Anne's won

the minor A County final defeating Na Deise 2-06 to 1-05.

On Saturday July 18th the u14 team travelled to Dr.Cullen Park, Carlow for the All Ireland final and

trailed at half time 2-04 to 0-05 with Mary O Rourke scoring all Waterford five points whilst Meath goals scored by Jackie Shields and Geraldine Doherty. Meath shot a quick point in the 31st

minute but goals by Mary O Rourke and Marian Ryan levelled the game. Waterford had a penalty

taken by Mary O Rourke saved by Meath Goalkeeper Lisa Moroney. Meath then lost key defender

Mary Sheridan (injured) Waterford were awarded a second penalty which Aoife Murphy goaled.

But a late goal by Meath's Susan Sullivan levelled the game deep in injury time. Elaine Power shot

the winning Waterford point and a first ever u14 title.

Waterford: Eimer Power, Natalie O Connor, Elaine McGrath, Sandy Walsh, Brid Hearn, Una Leahy,

Aileen Barron, Mairead Hogan, Deirdre Breathnach (Captain), Karen Kelly, Aoife Murphy (1-00),

Elaine Power (0-01), Mary Foley, Mary O Rourke (1-07), Marian Ryan (1-00).

The u14 All Ireland title safely in the bag there was a quick dash to Pairc Ui Rinn for a double header, in the Munster junior championship. Waterford scored a 6-13 to 2-06 victory over Cork

helped by a hat trick of goals by Breda Morrissey. Playing at wing back, for the juniors was Triona

Whyte a player who was to have a big say in the senior final 3 months later. In the senior match, Waterford destroyed Cork 3-18 to 1-00 with Aine Wall notching 2-05 and Catriona Casey 1-05.

The u16 team defeated Kerry 7-08 to 5-06 to claim a fourth Provincial final in a row and on the 25th July, the juniors also won the Munster title defeating Clare 3-11 to 3-07 at Cooraclare. However, the minors narrowly lost to Kerry in the semi final by a single point, 2-07 to 1-09, their first defeat in the grade since 1995 and the chance of a 3rd successive minor and u16 double was gone.

On the 8th August, Waterford travelled to Birr to play Mayo in the u16 All Ireland semi final and they destroyed the Western champions 10-15 to 2-05 with full forward Lisa Prendergast scoring five goals and a week later the seniors played Clare in the Munster final at Fraher field. After the previous years cliff-hanger much was expected from the Banner but Waterford took the game by the scruff of the neck. Early goals by Geraldine O Ryan and Rebecca Hallahan put Waterford in the driving seat. Clare midfielder Annie Ryan hit the bar in the 14th minute a couple of minutes later Rebecca Hallahan struck the upright but Aine Wall drove the rebound to the net and Waterford led 3-07 to 0-04 at half time.

Annie Ryan goaled for Clare in the 35th minute but Waterford settled with a Geraldine O Ryan goal. Aoife Healy shot two late Clare goals but Waterford were deserving 4-11 to 3-07 winners and secured a 5th Munster senior title in a row. The junior team were present at the match and then jumped on a bus and headed for Roscommon for an All Ireland quarter final the following day.

In Ballyleague Roscommon eventually got the better of stubborn Waterford resistance, Regina Carley and Lorraine Connon scored 2-02 each. Waterford had led 0-09 to 2-02 at half time the points coming from Deirdre Nagle (3), Lorena Mooney (3), Aine Ryan (2) and Marion Troy but despite second half goals by Marion Troy and Brigid Hannigan Roscommon won by 4 points, 4-08 to 2-10.

The u16 team then played old rivals Monaghan in the All Ireland final at Cashel. The Deise girls

were going for an incredible four in a row. The old “Sean focal tosach maith leath na hoibre” was

never seen to greater effect as Waterford went for the jugular. The team were fired up by the

previous years “long count” and Niamh Barry cracked home 3 goals in the opening ten minutes.

Monaghan were reeling and just when they began to stage a comeback Mary O Donnell goaled

again. The game was over as a contest when O Donnell shot her second goal in the 32nd minute

and although she left the field injured shortly afterwards Waterford ran out easy winners 6-08 to

3-06 whilst Kate O Sullivan outstanding in goal and team captain Brigid Hannigan winning the

player of the match award. Waterford: Kate O Sullivan, Ciara Prendergast, Christine Keating, Donna Frost, Brigid Hannigan (Captain), Melissa Walsh, Fiona O Reilly, Mary O Donnell, Miriam

Liston, Marion Troy, Cleona O Keeffe, Aine Ryan, Lisa Prendergast, Niamh Barry, Subs: Grace O

Brien, Kate Maher, Mairead Liston, Amy Kiely, Leanne Walsh, Dolores Condon, Grainne Curran,

Julie O Donnell, Helen Cliffe. Mentors: Johnny Kirwan, Sean Foley, June Whyte

The following day the seniors played Mayo in the All Ireland semi final at Fraher field. Mayo Keeper Denise Horan denied Aine Wall with a brilliant save in the 11th minute but 2 minutes later

wing back Julie Torpey began a move deep in defence and half a dozen passes later Torpey was at

the end of the move to crack home a great goal. By half time Waterford led 1-07 to 0-04 but were

not impressive.

Mayo had a strong wind in the second half but Waterford put in a storming 32nd quarter and points by Catriona Casey (3) Aine Wall (2) and Claire Ryan put them in the driving seat. With Martina O Ryan and Olivia Condon outstanding at midfield and Deirdre O Rourke having a fine

game at centre back. Mayo ran out of ideas and Waterford won 1-15 to 1-04, with Catriona Casey

shooting 6 points.

In the other semi final also on the same day, Monaghan kept on course for three in a row overcoming a 1-06 to 0-02 interval deficit. The western side succeeded in missing 2 penalties but

Edel Byrne hit 5 points as they eventually won 0-13 to set up the final the entire Country had

been waiting for since the '97 overtime saga. When the news filtered through to the Fraher field

that Monaghan had won, the Waterford players were happy, they really wanted to play

Monaghan in the final, and time would tell if they could overturn the previous years result.

The round up to the final was electric, Waterford were flying in training but suffered a serious set back a week before the final when Annlisa Crotty twisted her ankle in training and was very unlikely to make the final. Waterford kept the injury quiet, sent Crotty for daily treatment and named her on the team to give her every chance. A fitness test was organised for the morning of the game at the St.Vincents G.A.A Grounds at Marino. Hard as she tried, she failed the test and both she and the team were devastated. Minutes before the game 16-year-old Mary O Donnell was told she was playing, Rebecca Hallahan moved back to wingback and O Donnell came in at wing forward. Waterford got off to a disastrous start in front of an attendance of 16,421 spectators. The game was televised live for the first time by R.T.E and the clock was introduced for the first time, after the previous year's controversy it was decided to take time keeping out of the referee's hands. Hardly a vote of confidence in the previous years referee and certainly Waterford had no complaints. The idea was that the clock would count down from 30 minutes and would be stopped for breaks in play. Waterford began with 13 of the '97 team, the newcomers being Mary O Donnell and Paula Walsh replacing Regina Byrne and the injured Crotty. Against the breeze Catriona Casey opened Waterford's account with a point but the first warning that all was not well in the Waterford defence came 2 minutes later when Edel Byrnes drive went over the bar off the cross bar and Niamh Kindlon 13th minute goal gave Monaghan a 2-03 to 0-04 lead. Brenda McAnespie produced a fantastic 24th minute save to deny Aine Wall but three successive points reduced the deficit to manageable proportions, 3-04 to 0-07 with Waterford to have the wind at their backs in the second half. Waterford came out like a team inspired in the second half, two quick Catriona Casey points two more from Geraldine O Ryan, and Aine Wall reduced the deficit to 2 points with 34 minutes played. Waterford continued to dominate and it was no surprise when Rebecca Hallahan scored a great goal to edge them into the lead. The introduction of Triona Whyte and Deirdre Nagle was paying off. With the game slipping away from Monaghan they introduced Ciara McGuinness and then a high lob came back off the Waterford bar and Ciara McGuinness stepped around keeper Sarah Hickey

and slotted the equalising goal. Now the momentum was with Monaghan. Waterford keeper

Hickey produced a great save from Kindlon and with the clock ticking down Martina O Ryan's

drive drifted wide of the upright. A draw, "Beidh la eile"

The following day's headings paid tribute to two gallant teams. Ladies Gaelic football the real

winner, the mother of all battles, archrivals cannot be separated. Ladies day is a Croker thriller,

Byrne runs out of luck, Monaghan saved by goal rush, pulsating all Ireland football final, to name

but a few.

But the real question was who would win the replay. Waterford left headquarters a very happy

band despite having victory snatched from them. The news that the replay could not take place

for three weeks was a major boost. It meant that Annalisa Crotty would almost certainly be fit for

the replay. Crotty was a huge loss and would certainly improve a porous defence.

Meanwhile there was club matches to be played, Clashmore qualified for the Munster junior club

final on Sunday the 11th of October they played Naomh Abán at Ovens (Cork) but were well beaten 5-11 to 1-05, their goal punched to the net by Helen O Neill. They fielded a very young

team and although they fought to the end, were well beaten.

Clashmore: B. Lombard, C. Power, S. O Rourke, A. Barron, M. Casey, H. O Neill, D. O Rourke, M.

Foley, A. M Casey, M. O Rourke, M Casey, L. O Brien, A. Beresford, C. O Keeffe, M Beausang, Subs:

A Sweeney, L. Hallah, F. O Rourke, M Hickey.

On the same day, Ballymacarbry took on Donoughmore (Cork) in the Munster senior club championship final. The sides had met in the previous years final and Ballymacarbry won by 10

points, this time the signs were different. By virtue of the system of the time the champions of

the other five Counties played a B championship with the winner to play Ballymacarbry in the A

final. Donoughmore club won that B competition and the omens looked good when the Cork

champions led 2-06 to 0-10 at half time. However, Ballymacarbry stepped up several gears in the

second half and scored an incredible 1-21 in 30 minutes. Aine Wall ended with a total of 0-10,

Catriona Casey and Fiona Crotty both scored 0-04 each whilst Rebecca Hallahan shot 1-02 as Ballymacarbry ran out winners 1-31 to 3-09.

In the intermediate league, final Brickey Rangers defeated Kill 3-12 to 0-10.

Meanwhile Annlisa Crotty continued to undergo extensive treatment on her leg injury, Physio Billy Kelly treated her virtually every day. Brother Lennon (St.Agustines) played a big part in the fitness preparations and on the Saturday evening week before the match the team did a light training session at St.Agustines followed by Mass in the college and a video analysis session to round off a great evening.

Morale was high for the rest of the week and by Thursday Annlisa Crotty was declared fit. Triona

Whyte did enough when coming on as a second half substitute in the drawn game and held her place. Waterford headed for Dublin on the Saturday evening and on the morning of the replay

trained at the St.Vincents club grounds. After a light session Br Lennon declared "I can't see them

being beaten" The replay Sunday October 25th attracted a crowd of 13,551 spectators, over 3,000

down on the drawn game. The newspapers had different opinions on the out come. "Expect the unexpected"

"They have a lot to live up to" declared Sean McGoldrick. Jackie Cahill wrote "Crotty

can win it for Waterford" Kevin Carney wrote in the Hogan Stand "An improved defence display

should see Waterford through" celebrated journalist Tom O Riordan wrote "Waterford have the

final edge" David Kelly worded "can their possibly be any more drama left as we arrive at this

latest instalment between these two teams" and noted that 7 different players had scored for

each side in the drawn game.

The game was again televised live and Colm O Rourke declared that Monaghan would win because of their greater ability to score goals. Waterford made positional switches, indeed only

two defenders started in the same position this time round, Annlisa Crotty started at number 2,

Noirin Walsh at full back and team captain Siobhan O Ryan moved to number 4 to mark Edel Byrne, whilst Triona Whyte started at number 5.

The referee again was Christy Haughney (Carlow). A bitter chilly wind blew down towards the

railway goal but Monaghan started well and Waterford seemed in trouble after 20 minutes as

they had failed to take advantage of the wind. Then they had a stroke of good fortune as Mary O

Donnell's lob from out near the Hogan Stand dropped in under the crossbar to raise the green

flag. Further points by Julie Torpey and Martina O Ryan gave Waterford a 1-08 to 0-05 interval lead, exactly the same margin that Monaghan enjoyed 3 weeks previously. The second half was going to be a real test for Waterford's defence, the Deise girls began the second half with a bang as Aine Wall, Catriona Casey, and Rebecca Hallahan pointed. The Brendan Martin cup seemed destined for Suirside after 45 minutes when the O Ryan twins combined to put attacking wing back Julie Torpey through and she lobbed the ball over Brenda McAnespie to give Waterford what seemed an unassailable lead. However there was to be another twist in the tale, Jenny Greenan and Angela Larkin combined and Linda Farrelly squeezed home a goal. Margaret Kerins pointed from the kick out. Geraldine O Ryan popped over a welcome point and back came Monaghan and Diane Dempsey goaled from Larkin's pass. Now Waterford were on the rack and after a fine Sarah Hickey save, Niamh Kindlon blasted to the net to reduce the deficit to a single point with 10 minutes left. With the wind behind them Monaghan seemed certain winners but incredibly they were not to score again. In those final 10 minutes the Waterford defence was absolutely magnificent Deirdre O Rourke got the better of Larkin, Claire Ryan moved back as an extra defender and Waterford had a little bit of the luck that deserted them in '97. For the umpteenth time Julie Torpey broke from defence to kick a priceless point and Catriona Casey kicked a difficult right wing free into the teeth of the breeze for a three point cushion. Still Monaghan came forward, Sarah Hickey with two great saves and both the post and crossbar denied them before the hooter sounded. Waterford were champions and what was the possibly the greatest final that was ever played. National President Noel Murray a native of Waterford delivered the speech, ironically he lived next door to Waterford captain Siobhan O Ryan but just as he prepared to lift the cup to make the presentation, O Ryan grabbed it much to the amazement of Bertie Ahern and G.A.A president Joe McDonagh. There was one final act and Deirdre Nagle who came on as a second half substitute rendered "Dungarvan my home town", the perfect end to a great game and a fantastic day. Waterford woke up to the following newspaper headlines on Monday morning. "Wonders of Waterford", "Can't beat the blues", "Waterford make a thrilling point", "Torpey's a Deise

delight”, “Ladies day a Croker thriller”, “Waterford show their girl power”, “Waterford crowned champions after a classic”.

Wingback Julie Torpey won both the player of the match award and the Irish Independent sport

star of the week award. The homecoming was memorable as a crowd of estimated 5.000 people

packed into Grattan Square in Dungarvan on Monday. The donor of the cup Brendan Martin travelled down to be part of the celebrations as the All Ireland winning teams at Senior, U16, U14

and the Munster junior champions were driven into the town centre on an open top bus with

Tom Keith, along with Council officials, again the organisers of a superb event.

For Ballymacarbry there was still a club championship to be played St. Eunans of Letterkenny

were visitors to the Mill field a week later. The Donegal side were out of their depth a Geraldine

O Ryan goal gave Ballymacarbry a 1-06 to 0-02 interval lead, they eventually ran out 3-15 to 0-02

winner and Geraldine O Ryan shooting 2-05.

Next up was a tricky senior final away to Carnacon deep in west Mayo. Carnacon requested that

Ballymacarbry bring the Brendan Martin cup with them which they did and for the first time the

All Ireland senior cup was in Mayo territory. Within twelve months, the cup was to be back again

as Mayo won the title at Waterford’s expense.

Ballymacarbry scored an easy 4-21 to 0-03 victory over Carnacon and on Sunday the 29th November travelled to Birr to play Dublin champions Portobello in the All Ireland club final.

Ballymacarbry had a new Manager, Bridget Grant had taken over from Michael Ryan and she did

a great job getting the players focused after the victory over Monaghan.

Claire Ryan opened the scoring with a point but former Kerry player Fionnula Ruane equalised for

Portobello. In the 11th minute, Annalisa Crotty put Geraldine O Ryan in for a goal. Claire Ryan (2),

Aine Wall and Fiona Crotty pointed before Ballymacarbry struck a mortal blow in the 18th minute

as Annalisa Crotty goaled. Further points by Aine Wall (2), Claire Ryan and Fiona Crotty to a single

reply by Christine McGinnitty left Ballymacarbry virtually out of sight leaders 2-09 to 0-03 at the

interval.

The second half saw Portobello make a determined effort with 5 consecutive points by Marie

Gallagher (2), McGinnitty, Mary Brennan and Marie Breheny, but the Waterford champions

finished strongly and reeled off 6 further points by Rebecca Hallahan (3), Claire Ryan, Catriona Casey and Geraldine O Ryan to win the All Ireland senior club title for an incredible 10th time in 12 seasons.

Ballymacarbry: Aine Ryan, Paula Walsh, Siobhan O Ryan, Helen Fitzpatrick, Sinead Walsh, Noirin

Walsh, Regina Byrne, Martina O Ryan (0-01), Catriona Casey (0-02), Annlisa Crotty (1-00), Rebecca

Hallahan (0-03), Fiona Crotty (0-01), Aine Wall (0-03), Claire Ryan (0-05), Geraldine O Ryan (1-01),

Subs: Amy Fahey, Ann Dunford, Melissa Walsh, Leanne Walsh, Linda Wall, Shirley Condon, Patricia Butler.

For County players the season still wasn't finished as Waterford played Laois in the opening round of the '99 league at Ballymacarbry the following Sunday December 6th Waterford scored an

incredible 15-24 to 1-01 victory with Corner forward Aine Wall scoring 7-06, full forward Claire

Ryan shot 1-06 and the other corner forward Geraldine O Ryan notched 3-03 giving a combined

total of 11-15 for the full forward line.

Tracy Lawlor got Laois total 1-01 also playing that day were Margaret Phelan, Mary Kirwin, Claire

and Mary Casey and within three years the team that lost by 65 points at the Mill field were All

Ireland senior champions whilst Waterford haven't since reached the dizzy heights of 1998.

Honours:

Waterford Munster & All Ireland senior champions

Waterford Division 1 National league champions

Waterford Munster & All Ireland u16 champions

Waterford Munster & All Ireland u14 champions

Ballymacarbry Munster & All Ireland senior club champions

Deirdre Breathnach Old Parish All Ireland u14 Feile skills champion

Aine Wall Ballymacarbry was named Munster Footballer of the year.

All Stars: Siobhan O' Ryan, Ballymacarbry, (Full Back), Noirin Walsh, Ballymacarbry, (Left Corner

Back), Annlisa Crotty, Ballymacarbry, (Right Half Back), Rebecca Hallahan, Ballymacarbry, (Right

Corner forward), Aine Wall, Ballymacarbry, (Full Forward), Geraldine O Ryan Ballymacarbry at

(Left Corner Forward)

Waterford played the All Star selection at Lemybrien and won easily 6-14 to 3-10.

1999. When the euphoria that surrounded the incredible previous year died down, fund raising

began for a team holiday. Noel Murray organised the annual calendar which brought in good

revenue and amongst the other events organised was an auction in the 'Gabh Maloney's Pub' in Dungarvan.

The team flew to Tenerife in late January and enjoyed a good week in the sun. Then it was back

to training and the league kicked off Sunday the 28th of February away to Meath in St. Ultans Park, Martry. It was business as usual with a 6-8 to 5-2 win. Aine Wall scored 4-0, Deirdre Nagle

and Claire Ryan also found the net and newcomer Aine Ryan played in goal while Angie Walsh,

Marion Troy and Sarah Gleeson came on as subs.

The following week saw Congress held in Cork chaired by Noel Murray. On Sunday the 14th March

Waterford played Monaghan in round 2 of the league. The teams were level 0-7 each at half time

but Waterford ran out convincing winners 3-13 to 1-9. Rebecca Hallahan scored 2-0, Aine Wall 1-

1, Claire Ryan 0-3 and Geraldine O' Ryan 0-3.

It was announced that for the first time RTE would now televise the All-Ireland semi-finals.

Three

new clubs Abbeyside, Cappaquinn and Rathgormac registered and Mary O' Donnell won one of the

Examiner young sports star of the year awards.

Next up was a league clash with Longford at the Fraher field, which brought an easy 4-22 to 1-5

victory. Geraldine O' Ryan shot 1-6, Claire Ryan 0-5, Rebecca Hallahan 1-2 and Deirdre Nagle got

the 4th goal. Newcomers Donna Frost, Tanya Kirwin, Fiona O' Reilly and Grace O' Brien all played

in this game. Waterford travelled to Castledaly in Westmeath to play Mayo on the 11th of April

and won a tough game 2-15 to 1-9 with mid fielder Martina O' Ryan in outstanding form, scoring

0-6, Deirdre Nagle and Rebecca Hallahan got the goals and Cora Staunton was particularly prominent for Mayo.

In the U16 A final Tramore beat Old Parish 0-10 to 1-5 at Fraher field and on the 18th of April.

Waterford beat Tyrone in the League and the following Sunday travelled to Pairc Gorman to play

Wexford and had to fight hard to secure a 2-6 to 2-2 victory. Claire Ryan and Aine Wall got the

goals.

Thirteen Waterford players played with Munster in the interprovincial series which was won by

Ulster and on the 5th of May Waterford played Cork in the Munster U14 championship at Fraher

field. Waterford led at half time 1-6 to 0-2 but Cork with the wind at their backs in the second

half won 3-10 to 2-6. Emma Wall and Rachel Ahern got the goals but Waterford had lost their hard earned U14 All-Ireland title.

On Sunday the 23rd of May Mayo played Waterford in the league semi final and the game gave a

clear indication that Mayo were a coming force. Mayo led 0-6 to 0-4 at half time and the situation

could have been worse only from a super save by Sarah Hickey. The teams finished level and it

was then on to extra time and a Diane O' Hora goal gave Mayo and 1-8 to 0-10 lead after 72 minutes.

However Geraldine O' Ryan came on as a sub and kicked 4 great points. Rebecca Hallahan got a

goal and Waterford ran out 1-16 to 1-8 winners. But the scoreline didn't do justice to Mayo's

efforts. Deirdre Nagle shot 0-4 and Claire Ryan 0-3.

The league final was played at Parnell Park on Sunday the 27th of June and Monaghan turned on

the style, winning 4-6 to 0-12 with Edel Byrne (2-0), Angela Larkin (1-3) and Catriona mc Guinness (1-0) doing the damage. The Waterford defence was in serious trouble all day.

St. Anne's defeated Ballymacarbry in the U14 A county final at Bushy Park. On Sunday the 11th of

July Waterford defeated Clare 3-9 to 3-4 at Fraher field in the Munster junior championship, Julie

Mai Keane got 2-0, 1 from a penalty, Lorena Mooney scored 0-4 and Breda Morrissey got the

3rd goal.

Mount Sion registered another new Ladies Football club and Brickey Rangers won the Mary Walsh seven a side cup, defeating Tramore 2-10 to 2-3. The Brickey 2nd team won the

Marine Bar

shield with a 2-6 to 2-4 win over St. Pats, thus completing the double.

On the 14th of July the Waterford minors beat Kerry 3-11 to 1-9 in Fermoy. Marion Troy scored 2-

1, Niamh Barry 1-2 and Julie Mai Keane notched 0-5. The seniors were due to play Clare on the

18th of July at Fraher field but Clare unexpectedly pulled out and conceded a walk over, incredible

when you consider that they pushed Waterford all the way in both the league and championship

in 98.

Waterford beat Cork 3-13 to 2-6 in the Munster Junior final to complete 3 in a row. Marion Troy

and Niamh Briggs first half goals proving decisive. The minors destroyed Tipperary 7-23 to 0-2 and

then faced Cork in the final and won 2-18 to 4-9 in a great game.

The Munster senior final took place on the 15th of August at Fraher field. Within 25 seconds Aine

Wall shot the opening goal, Geraldine O' Ryan got another in the 2nd minute and Aine Wall scored a 3rd with a pile driver in the 23rd minute. Cork replied with a goal from a well from a well taken penalty by Susan Power and Mary O' Donnell's 29th minute goal gave Waterford a 4-6 to 1-2 lead at the interval. Within 20 seconds of the restart Claire Ryan had the ball nestling in the Cork net and then Aine Wall put Niamh Barry in for a 6th goal. Cork battled away and scored 1-2 in the closing stages, Mary O' Connor getting a goal but Waterford won easily 6-12 to 2-8 and Claire

Ryan won the player of the match award.

The minors travelled to Birr to play Monaghan in the All-Ireland semi final in a game that turned out to be a classic. The Munster champions were flying but a nasty injury to Niamh Barry in an incident that Waterford weren't happy about changed the game and Monaghan playing some great football in the second half ran out winners 5-10 to 5-8.

It added a bit of spice to the meeting of the counties in the All-Ireland Senior semi final at Parnell

Park on the 4th of September after the 3 epic games in 97 and 98. The nation held its breath and was not dissatisfied.

Waterford travelled up the night before and stayed in Bray. They had the usual kick around in St.

Vincent's Club grounds. The game was preceded by the other semi final between Meath and Mayo which Mayo won. Waterford started well, Rebecca Hallahan and Mary O' Donnell shot early points, Edel Byrne replied for Monaghan. Annalisa Crotty and Aine Wall tacked on further

Waterford points.

Angela Larkin pointed a Monaghan free and then Waterford keeper Sarah Hickey make 2 great

saves. Annalisa Crotty put Geraldine O' Ryan in for a goal. Aine Wall left the field injured and 2

further Rebecca Hallahan points left Waterford 1-6 to 0-6 ahead at half time.

Waterford led 1-10 to 0-8 after 40 minutes then Margaret Kearns shot a Monaghan goal to bring

the crowd to life. Then all hell broke loose as Rebecca Hallahan was sent off for a tackle on Edel

Byrne and within 2 minutes Catriona Casey left the field with a broken leg. Short Rebecca Hallahan, Catriona Casey and Aine Wall with 15 minutes to go Waterford goose seemed well and

truly cooked.

It was then this Waterford team donned the mantle of greatness and for the last quarter they

absolutely dominated and the point's flowed. Geraldine O' Ryan, Olivia Condon, Geraldine O'

Ryan again, Marion Troy and Deirdre Nagle all pointed and Monaghan simply didn't have an answer. Waterford 1-15 Monaghan 1-9 was the final score in the latest chapter between 2 outstanding teams, Olivia Condon won the R.T.E player of the match award and Waterford were

back in the All-Ireland final.

It was good news also in the primary game as Waterford defeated Monaghan 1-1 to 0-1, Emma

Gallagher got Waterford's goal and Grace O'Brien shot the point. As Waterford left Parnell Park

there were two major problems that were eventually to prove crucial. Firstly the imminent suspension of Rebecca Hallahan and secondly the loss of Catriona Casey, whose injury was diagnosed as a fracture that evening in a Dublin hospital.

The following Saturday the 11th Sept Waterford took on New York in the All Ireland junior semi

final in Summerhill (Meath). New York led 0-8 to 0-1 at half time, Waterford's only score, and a

Breda Morrissey point. Waterford began the second half with a succession of points from Aine

Ryan, Julie May Keane, Mary O'Rourke, Breda Morrissey and Keane again to reduce the deficit to

2 points. New York pointed then Mary O'Rourke got a goal to level the scores. A succession of

New York points put them three points ahead but points by Julie May Keane, Carmel Kissane and

Elaine Power levelled it up again then Mary O'Rourke pointed to put Waterford ahead for the

first time. Then with the finishing post in sight Waterford gave away possession, New York broke

and scored a goal. Julie May Keane landed her 4th point but the count down clock beat Waterford and New York were in the All Ireland junior final by a single point margin, 1-12 to 1-11.

Waterford: Nuala Hearne, Donna Frost, Sinead Kirwin, Bridget Hannigan, Aine Ryan(0-1), Tanya

Kirwin, Ciara Prendergast, Angie Walsh, Fiona O'Reilly, Julie May Keane(0-4), Carmel Kissane(0-1),

Ann Morrissey, Mary O'Rourke(1-2), Lorena Mooney, Breda Morrissey(0-2), Subs.. Cleona O'Keefe, Elaine Power (0-1).

There was still an All Ireland senior final and Waterford ran out on to Croke Park to take on Mayo

on Sunday 3rd Oct. Just prior to the game the Mayo mentors approached the Waterford manager

Michael Ryan and informed him that Cora Staunton had a back injury and would start the game

as a token and would be replaced at the first opportunity and asked the Waterford players to

ensure that she wasn't tackled. Staunton duly left the field and was a big loss but Waterford lined

out without Rebecca Hallahan (as an appeal against her suspension failed) and Catriona Casey

and the loss of this experienced duo was to prove costly.

Mary O'Donnell also went into the game with a dislocated finger and the team never produced

the semi-final form, obviously the battles with Monaghan over the previous three years had taken

some of the edge off them and in fairness Mayo played very well.

Claire Ryan and Geraldine O'Ryan edged Waterford into a 2-point lead but two goal chances were missed and by the time Christine Heffernan levelled the scores with a brace of pointed frees by the 18th minute Mayo were flying, their confidence sky high. Diane O'Hara, Heffernan

and Sathrina Bailey edged the Westerners into a three-point lead, but Geraldine O'Ryan and Julie

Torpey replied to leave Mayo 0-5 to 0-4 ahead at half-time.

The damage had now been done and Mayo produced a marvellous second-half performance. Points by O'Hara (2), Christina Heffernan and Imelda Mullarkey put them five points clear by the 35th minute. Waterford battled away and points by Claire Ryan, Geraldine O

Ryan and Niamh Barry reduced the deficit to two points. There came 12 scoreless minutes before

Barry reduced it to the minimum, but Waterford couldn't find that extra gear and Mayo kicked

on again, O'Hara twice and Sinead Costello kicked match-winning points to rewrite the history

books and seal a deserved victory.

The following day the Examiner newspaper summed it up 'Waterford were like an athlete asked

to peak too often, players had invested too much in the classic semi-final victory over Monaghan'. The Brendan Martin Cup was on its way across the Shannon for the first time since 1978.

Waterford: Sarah Hickey, Triona Whyte, Noreen Walsh, Marion Troy, Olivia Condon, Siobhan O

Ryan. Julie Torpey(0-1), Martina O'Ryan, Annalisa Crotty, Claire Ryan(0-2), Mary O'Donnell, Fiona

Crotty, Niamh Barry(0-2), Geraldine O'Ryan(0-3), Aine Wall. Subs: Deirdre Nagle, Paula Walsh. Diane O'Hara won the player of the match award.

The following Sunday the Ballymacarbry players were back in action in the Munster club final and

somehow found the energy to record a 4-18 to 2-1 over Donoughmore, Geraldine O'Ryan (2), and

Aine Wall (2) were the goal scorers. Marie Crotty returned for her first game since her cruciate

leg injury in 1996 and scored 1-8. In the under 12 A county final Ballymacarbry, coached by Aine

Wall and Patricia Butler, defeated Rathgormac 2-10 to 2-3 in what was the first ever championship to be played in Waterford in this grade.

Brickey Rangers defeated Crusheen (Clare) in the Munster junior club championship semi final, 4-

17 to 2-2. In the final Rockchapel (Cork) defeated the Brickeys 3-17 to 2-7.

On Sunday 3rd October Shelmaliers defeated Ballymacarbry in the All Ireland club semi final in

Cappoquin on a score line of 3-5 to 3-3. Two Kate Kelly goals helped Shels to an eight point lead

after 15 minutes. Marie Crotty replied with a Ballymacarbry goal and when Geraldine O Ryan

punched another it looked game on. Noreen Walsh went off early in the second half. Laura Corrigan goaled a penalty for Shelmaliers, Shirley Condon scored a late Ballymacarbry goal but

Shels held on for a two point victory, and a couple of weeks later defeated Hollymount of Mayo

to win the Dolores Tyrrell cup for the second time.

Waterford still had a league game to play and fielded just eight members of the championship

team against Laois. In all nine minors played and Waterford won 2-12 to 1-7, with Geraldine O

Ryan getting (1-5) and Claire Ryan (1-4). Elaine Power, Aoife Murphy, Fiona O Reilly and Deirdre

Breathnach came on as subs in this game.

Honours:

Waterford Munster senior champions

All Stars: Siobhan O Ryan Ballymacarbry, (full back), Annalisa Crotty Ballymacarbry, (right half back)

Catriona Casey Ballymacarbry, (left half forward), Geraldine O Ryan Ballymacarbry, (left full forward)

The A.G.M. in November elected the following officer's for the new Millennium.

Chairperson: Michael Ryan, (Ballymacarbry)

Vice chairperson: Dan Murphy, (St Garvans)

Secretary: Katie Kiely, (Brickey Rangers)

Ass Secretary: Jackie Murphy, (Dungarvan)

Treasurer: Brendan Gallagher, (St Anne's)

PRO: Kevin Gallagher, (Ardmore)

Registrar: Bernie Troy, (Old Parish)

Development Officer: George Young, (Old Parish)

Irish language officer: Sylvia Shanley, (Brickey Rangers)

And so the 1990's ended.

2000

Michael Ryan a native of Kilgobnet, and a Dublin based business man, and his company Salten

Properties came on board as sponsors of Waterford Ladies football, a practice he generously

continued for the rest of the decade.

2000 the year of the new Millennium in a blaze of publicity but it was business as usual for the

Waterford Ladies Footballers. Marion Troy was selected as one of the nominees for the Pat Noctor young sports star of the year awards.

Brendan Gallagher was appointed team manager for the U14 team; Johnny Kirwin was in charge

of U16 while Michael Ryan continued as Minor and senior team manager.

The National league commenced with a home game to Wexford. Wexford had already beaten

league champions Monaghan and were top of the table. Waterford won a close encounter 2-8 to

1-8; Rebecca Hallahan scored a lovely goal. Waterford led 1-6 to 0-2 at half time and a late goal

by Aoife Murphy clinched victory.

On the 19th of March, Waterford played Monaghan in Westmanstown (Dublin) and played well to

win 1-12 to 0-5. They led 0-4 to 0-3 at half time but began the 2nd half well on top as Claire Ryan,

Rebecca Hallahan and Geraldine O' Ryan kicked points and a superb move saw Niamh Barry score

a goal. Claire Ryan was the leading scorer with (0-5) in a convincing victory.

On the 27th of April Waterford flew to London to play the home side in Ruislip the following day

and fielding virtually a full strength side, the game was a mismatch 7-28 to 0-2. Mary O' Rourke

scored 3-1, Geraldine O' Ryan scored 1-5, Rebecca Hallahan 1-3 and Claire Ryan 2-1.

The U14 team lost to Limerick 1-9 to 2-4. Rachel Wall and Emma Gallagher scored Waterford's

goal. Senior team manager Michael Ryan took over as coach of the Waterford (men's) U21 footballers and after a draw with Kerry in Dungarvan, travelled to Killarney and defeated the Kingdom. They subsequently lost to Limerick in the Munster Final.

On the 16th of April Waterford played Meath in Walsh Park as a curtain raiser to a National League hurling game between Waterford and Tipperary. Again Waterford won 4-19 to 1-7.

Mary

O' Rourke scored 2-0, Niamh Barry and Geraldine O' Ryan got the other goals.

On the 14th of May Waterford played Mayo in Pairc Chiarain in Athlone and won, decisively 5-17

to 3-10. The Deise girls led 2-14 to 1-2 at half time. Mary O' Rourke got both Waterford goals and

Diane O' Hora replied for Mayo within 30 seconds of the restart and Aoife Murphy quickly added

a 4th and Mayo scored 1-2 in injury time.

A week later Tyrone was the opposition and the unbeaten run continued with 3-10 to 2-9 victory.

Deirdre Breathnach got a great goal in the 27th minute, Niamh Barry added a 2nd in the

45th minute and Julie Mai Keane scored the 3rd by flicking the ball into the corner of the net in the 58th minute.

The following Sunday the 28th of May it was Mayo again in the League semi final at Ballinasloe

and Mayo reversed that defeat 2 weeks earlier with a 2-9 to 1-10 victory. Waterford led by 8 points after 43 minutes yet lost by 2. Aoife Murphy's goal gave Waterford a 1-5 to 0-2 interval

lead but Mayo had a strong wind behind them after the restart.

Two Geraldine O' Ryan points and another by Rebecca Hallahan put the blues in control but Mayo

responded well and really kicked into gears in the final quarter. Assumpta Bohan goaled and a

2nd goal by Deirdre Mc Donagh put Mayo in front and despite two late points by substitute Catriona Casey in her first game since her serious leg injury, Mayo were deserving winners.

Meanwhile, at the club scene St. Anne's beat Clashmore 4-10 to 2-7 in the U16 A club final in Old

Parish and Ballymacarbry beat Rathgormack 1-9 to 0-1 in the schools A final. Kill beat Kilbrien/Coolnasmeer 5-11 to 0-3 in the schools B final.

In the U16, Waterford beat Tipperary 8-27 to 0-1 on the 28th of June in Ardfinnan and on July

1st the juniors beat Clare 5-11 to 1-7 at Cappamore. Elaine Power got 2-1, Mary O' Rourke got 1-2,

Aoife Murphy 1-1 and Sharon Foley 1-0.

On the 8th July Waterford travelled to Midleton to take on Cork in the senior championship. After

an even 1st quarter Geraldine O' Ryan goaled and Mary O' Rourke got another in the 24th minute

to leave Waterford 2-6 to 0-4 ahead at half time. In the second half Waterford turned on the style

and further goals by Niamh Barry (2) and Rebecca Hallahan and 5 great points by Geraldine O'

Ryan signed sealed and delivered a 5-13 to 0-11 victory. Deirdre O' Reilly who scored 0-6 was

Cork's outstanding player and she got good support from Juliet Murphy and Mary O' Connor.

The following day, Sunday the 9th of July Waterford beat Limerick 1-20 to 0-7 at Bansha in the

Munster junior championship, Teresa Mollohan scored 0-12 and Ann Morrissey got the goal. In

the U16 Championship Waterford played very well to defeat Kerry 1-14 to 1-3 in Cappamore and

Elaine Power got the goal. On the 12th of July Waterford played Limerick in the U16 A final at Tipperary town and Limerick won a thriller 2-12 to 2-10, the winning goal coming late in

injury

time.

In the Mary Walsh 7 aside tournament in Modeligo and up and coming Tramore side beat

Ballymacarbry in the final.

The Munster Junior and Senior finals were scheduled for Bruff on the 30th of July. In the junior

final Kerry played Waterford and this was a very even affair and the crucial Waterford goal was

scored in the 36th minute when Julie Cunningham took a pass from Elaine Power and hammered

the ball to the net. Teresa Mollohan kicked 5 excellent points, Sharon Foley and substitute Miriam Liston each got 2 while Elaine Power and Julie Mai Keane got 1 each, completing the scoring as Waterford were the Munster Junior champions for the 4th successive year.

In the senior grade Clare had regrouped and came into the final very confident. Claire Ryan kicked

an early point and Mary O' Rourke drove to the net when the ball rebounded off the cross bar.

Claire Ryan then hit 3 consecutive points and another by Rebecca Hallahan gave Waterford a 7

point lead after 7 minutes.

Majella Griffin brought Clare back into contention and by half time the margin was reduced to 3

points, 1-6 to 0-6 in Waterford's favour. The reigning champions had to play against a strong wind

in the 2nd half and Claire Ryan quickly pointed. However a Majella Griffin point and an Aoife Healy

goal levelled the scores by the 35th minute and Clare were flying. Ten scoreless minutes followed

and then came the match winning goal. Rebecca Hallahan floated a free into the Clare goalmouth

and Annalisa Crotty rose high and punched the ball to the Clare net.

Fifteen minutes remained and Waterford didn't score again. Clare tacked on 2 points but a resolute Waterford defence held firm thanks to a great Sarah Hickey save and some great tackling

and Waterford held on for a 2-9 to 1-11 victory over a defensive gallant Banner side once again.

Waterford scores were Claire Ryan 0-7, Mary O' Rourke 1-0, Annalisa Crotty 1-0, Geraldine O'

Ryan 0-2. Thus for the 4th consecutive year Waterford recorded a Munster Senior and Junior Championship double.

On the 9th of August Waterford played Kerry in the Munster minor final in Fermoy and won 2-19

to 2-6 to win the title for the 7th time in 10 years. Mary O' Rourke scored 8 points, Aoife Murphy

and Marie Hogan got the goals and Aine Ryan marked ace Kerry forward Sarah O' Connor out of

the game.

In the Waterford Senior county final Ballymacarbry, managed by Marie Crotty who travelled up

and down from Dublin twice a week, beat an East Waterford selection 2-23 to 2-3 at Fraher field

and in the junior final Tramore defeated Clashmore 5-18 to 2-6.

On Sunday the 20th of August Waterford travelled to Stradbally (Laois) to play Meath in the All-

Ireland minor semi final and what a game that turned out to be. They led 1-7 to 1-4 at half time,

Mary O' Rourke scoring the goal. Waterford keeper Mary Hayes collided with the post and had to

go off. Corner back Aine Ryan took over in the goal. Aoife Murphy goaled in the 48th minute to

put Waterford 2-10 to 2-7 in front, Meath battled away and Elaine Duffy shot to the Waterford

net to put the royal county into the lead. Then came the crucial moment, Aine Ryan made a brilliant save and Waterford quickly broke down field and Mary O' Rourke scored the match winning goal to leave Meath devastated.

The junior team travelled to Manchester to play Lancashire in a game that turned out to be a

mismatch and won 8-40 to 0-0.

The All-Ireland Junior and Senior semi finals were a double header at Parnell Park on the 9th Sept.

The juniors played Galway and the Westerners began with a flurry of points. Sharon Foley scored

a Waterford goal to keep the game alive and points from Elaine Power, Teresa Mollohan, Julie

Mai Keane and Fiona O' Reilly reduced the deficit to the minimum by half time.

Galway edged three points in front by the 35th minute, Marie Hogan pulled on a loose ball which

flew inches over the bar. Sinead Kirwin was outstanding at full back and Teresa Mollohan levelled

the scores but Galway tacked on two quick points and it was an uphill battle for Waterford again.

Sharon Foley drove a penalty over the bar. Further points by Teresa Mollohan and Elaine Power

levelled the scores by the 56th minute, but two late Galway points won the day and Waterford

faced junior heartbreak for the second year in a row. Waterford: Nuala Hearne, Ciara Prendergast, Sinead Kirwin, Denise Nugent, Donna Frost, Carmel Kissane, Aine Ryan, Deirdre Breathnach, Fiona O Reilly (0-1), Julie May Keane (0-1), Marie Hogan (0-1), Julie Cunningham,

Teresa Mollohan (0-3), Sharon Foley (1-1), Elaine Power (0-2), Subs: Miriam Liston, Niamh O Connell, Cleona O Keeffe, Ann Morrissey.

The senior game was a different story, Waterford made a blistering start, Geraldine O Ryan, Catriona Casey, Claire Ryan and Casey again all pointed in the first five minutes and Niamh Barry

goaled. Claire Ryan pointed again and Meath were in serious trouble. It took all of 20 minutes for

Jackie Shields to score the first Meath point and by half time Waterford were out of sight 1-12 to 0-2 ahead.

They eventually won 1-17 to 0-8. Geraldine O Ryan scored 0-5, Catriona Casey, back at the venue

where she broke her leg twelve months earlier, scored four points and Niamh Barry got 1-1.

The following Saturday Waterford were off to Ballinasloe for the All Ireland minor final against

Tyrone. Waterford were raging favourites and fully justified that in the opening quarter as they

absolutely blitzed Tyrone. The full forward line shot 7-7 between them in a 7-12 to 1-6 victory. Mary O Rourke got 4-2, Aoife Murphy 2-4, Niamh Barry 1-1. In the desire to rest senior

players Waterford made six substitutions and this eventually led to Central Council awarding the

game to Tyrone. Imagine losing an All Ireland final 7-12 to 1-6, the opposition taking off their

best six players to prevent a massacre and the Association awarded the game to the losers. Thankfully the rules have been changed since to prevent a recurrence. This was the second time

an injustice to Waterford led to a radical change of policy. In 1998 the clock was brought in after

the fiasco of 11 minutes and 32 seconds additional time was added on the previous year.

For the record the Waterford team that won the 2000 All Ireland minor title was: Mary Hayes,

Donna Frost, Ciara Prendergast, Aine Ryan, Bridget Hannigan(Capt.), Marion Troy, Elaine Power,

Mary O Donnell (0-1), Deirdre Breathnach, Miriam Liston, Marie Hogan(0-1), Fiona O Reilly(0-

1), Aoife Murphy(2-4), Niamh Barry(1-1), Mary O Rourke(4-2), Subs: Cliona O Keeffe, Linda Wall

(0-1), Marian Ryan (0-1), Michelle Ryan, Natalie O Connor, Ealga Hayes, Aileen Barron.

On Sunday 19th Sept Brickey Rangers defeated Crusheen (Clare) in the Munster junior club championship on a 4-17 to 2-2 scoreline in Cappamore. In the final at Rathkeale four weeks later

Rockchapel defeated the Brickeys 3-17 to 2-7.

Sunday 1st Oct was All Ireland final, a repeat of the 1999 final between Waterford and Mayo. This

time Mayo were favourites. Mary O Donnell's shot was given as a point although it was clearly

wide in the 2nd minute but that was the only break that Waterford got all day long. Shortly after

Mary O Donnell caught Sarah Hickeys kick and just inside her own 20 metre line, the referee correctly ordered a free to Mayo, which Cora Staunton pointed. It was tit for tat early on, Geraldine O Ryan and Catriona Casey (free) both pointed for Waterford and Diane O Hora replied

for Mayo, 0-3 to 0-2 after twenty minutes.

In the 24th minute Cora Staunton danced through the Waterford defence and planted the ball in the back of the net. An Assumpta Bohan and Catriona Casey (free) swapped points and another

Casey free left Mayo 1-3 to 0-5 ahead at the break.

Aoife Murphy came on as a sub for Catriona Casey and made a definite impression. Marcella Heffernan pointed for Mayo, then Waterford hit a purple patch as Murphy, Annalisa Crotty, Claire

Ryan (free) and Geraldine O Ryan landed four points on the trot to put Waterford into the lead. Then came a decisive moment Mayo broke down field and Marie Staunton won possession

in the Waterford square, she was shielded by Waterford keeper Sarah Hickey but the ref awarded

a penalty and Yvonne Byrne took a brilliant spot kick and scored in the right hand corner and Mayo led 2-4 to 0-9. Rebecca Hallahan equalised and eight scoreless minutes followed. Then Christine Heffernan edged Mayo ahead but Waterford wing back Julie Torpey kicked the equaliser. Mary O Donnell had been moved to full back to mark Cora Staunton and was doing

well, but Staunton won possession out in the left corner forward position, got away with hopping

the ball twice and drove a high ball goal wards and it deceived Waterford keeper Sarah Hickey

and crept in under the cross-bar, a goal reminiscent of Mary O Donnell's lob on Brenda Mc Anespie in 1998.

Mayo pointed again and Mayo were four points up. Undaunted Waterford fought back, Mary O

Rourke, Geraldine O Ryan and Aoife Murphy landed three points on the trot and it was a single

point game. Mayo were hanging on and there was one more chance, Waterford broke from defence and were awarded a free. A quick exchange of passes put Marion Troy through but she

drove inches wide with five seconds left on the clock. The hooter brought devastation and Mayo

had retained the title.

Waterford had players much better than 1999 against a very good Mayo side but two major decisions had been given against them. Then again these things balance out over the years; Waterford got a few breaks in 1998. Waterford: Sarah Hickey, Marion Troy, Angie Walsh, Olivia

Condon, Bridget Hannigan, Martina O Ryan, Julie Torpey (0-1), Annalisa Crotty (0-1), Mary O Donnell (0-1), Rebecca Hallahan Capt. (0-1), Claire Ryan (0-1), Catriona Casey (0-3), Mary O Rourke (0-1), Niamh Barry, Geraldine O Ryan (0-3), Subs: Aoife Murphy (0-2), Triona Whyte. Mary O Donnell, Olivia Condon and Geraldine O Ryan were Waterford's best players on a team

that came so close to reversing the 1999 result. Cora Staunton who missed the '99 final scored 2-

2 for Mayo.

In the Munster Junior club championship St Vals (Cork) defeated Tramore.

Two weeks later Ballymacarbry played the Munster club final against Donoughmore in Glanworth. They led 3-6 to 0-6 at half time and the ability to score goals proved decisive in a 6-12

to 3-12 victory. Linda Wall scored (2-2), Fiona Crotty (2-1), Geraldine O Ryan (1-3), Martina O

Ryan (1-0); Aine Wall came on as a sub and scored (0-3).

Three weeks later they played Mayo champions Carnacon at Fraher field in the All Ireland quarter

final. Carnacon fielded Mayo players Maria Staunton, Cora Staunton, Claire Egan and Niamh Lally,

but Ballymacarbry, inspired by player/manager Marie Crotty, were deserving winners, 0-13 to 0-

7.

On the 12th Nov Ballymacarbry travelled to Laois to play Timahoe in the All Ireland club semifinal.

They led 1-6 to 1-3 at half time, thanks to a Claire Ryan goal, Sue Ramsbottom got Timahoe's goal. Late in the match Marie Crotty's free went all the way to the net, but Lulu Carroll

shot the equalising goal. So it was on to extra time and although Marie Crotty scored 1-9 in total

the loss of Geraldine O Ryan, who got injured against Carnacon, proved decisive and Timahoe had

a historic win 3-11 to 2-13. They subsequently lost the final to Monaghan champions Monaghan

Harps. It was only Ballymacarbry's second defeat in 14 All Ireland senior club semi finals.

Ballymacarbry: Shirley Condon, Ann Dunford, Noreen Walsh, Paula Walsh, Aine Ryan, Martina O

Ryan, Michelle Ryan, Annalisa Crotty, Catriona Casey, Rebecca Hallahan, Claire Ryan(1-1), Linda

Wall(0-2), Marian Ryan(0-1), Marie Crotty(1-9), Marie Hannigan. Sub: Aine Wall.

Ballymacarbry won the under 12 title for the 2nd successive year defeating Comeragh Rangers 3-2

to 0-3 at Bushy Park. The curtain came down on the season when Waterford defeated Tyrone 3-

13 to 2-13, Kildare in the first round of the National League. Julie Torpey played in the forwards

and scored 6 points, Aoife Murphy got 2-4 and Niamh Barry got 1-1.

Honours:

Waterford Munster senior champions

Waterford Munster & All Ireland champions

Ballymacarbry Munster senior club champions

All Stars: Olivia Condon Na Deise, (left corner back), Martina O Ryan Ballymacarbry, (centre half

back), Annalisa Crotty Ballymacarbry, (mid field),

2001

After coming so close in 2000 and after winning 4 U16 All-Irelands in a row 1995-1998 and 3

minor titles 1996,1997 and 2000, Waterford seemed to be in the ideal position to mount a very serious bid for the 2001 All-Ireland senior title. A good mixture of underage and experienced players seemed the perfect blend. The senior team began training at the Dunhill centre in mid

January. Julie Torpey devised a circuit training programme.

Then the wheels came off the wagon. The news broke that several players were going away for

the summer to the U.S and other parts and the heart of the team was ripped open. In fact by

Championship time Waterford lost 9 of the 2000 starting lineout and 16 of the panel. It was a

mortal wound.

The 1st round of the league was played on the 25th of February at Kilmacud Crokes and Monaghan

defeated a very young Waterford team 4-12 to 1-8. Aoife Murphy got 1-6. Monaghan scored 2-4

in the last 10 minutes and overwhelmed Waterford.

A new club was formed in Tallow. Pat Tobin took over as county U14 manager, Brendan Gallagher

took the U16 team and Johnny Kirwin was in charge of the juniors, with Michael Ryan continuing

as minor and senior manager. Dublin travelled to Waterford and won 1-11 to 2-7 and on the 1st April Waterford travelled to Longford Slashers ground to play Longford. The team were level

at half time 0-5 each but Longford pulled away in the 2nd half winning 0-14 to 0-8 with Aoife Murphy scoring 0-5.

The following Sunday April 8th Waterford travelled to Dunboyne to play Meath in atrocious conditions. Helped by a Julie Torpey goal Waterford led 1-3 to 0-4 at half time. Within seconds of

the restart Jackie Shields goaled for Meath but then Mary O' Rourke lobbed the Meath goalkeeper for a second goal to leave Waterford winners by a margin of 2-8 to 1-7. However the

victory came at a cost as Geraldine O'Ryan broke her leg in an accidental challenge and the limited resources were stretched even further.

The U14 and U16 team played Clare as a double header at Solohead. The U14 team won on a

scoreline of 2-7 to 2-6 and the U16 team also won 6-18 to 1-1. The county board organised a fashion show to raise funds. On the 29th April the seniors travelled to Moate to play Mayo.

They

fielded just 5 of the previous year's starting line up named Julie Torpey, Olivia Condon, Mary O'

Rourke, Annalisa Crotty and Rebecca Hallahan and led 0-5 to 0-1 at half time. They had to face

the breeze in the 2nd half and lost Annalisa Crotty to a heavy tackle and were beaten 3-8 to 1-7.

Aoife Murphy shot 1-2.

The U14 team began the championship against Cork in Midleton on Saturday 7th April and were hammered 5-21 to 0-1. The following week they beat Clare 2-7 to 2-6 in Solohead. On Saturday 21st April they defeated Tipperary 6-3 to 1-3 at Fraher field and a week later they played Kerry in a very close game which ended up Kerry 2-8 to Waterford 2-5 in Glanworth. On the 5th May the U14 team beat Limerick 5-14 to 2-5 in Bansha. Marie Hannigan got 2-2, Louise Ryan got 1-6 while Gillian Mc Grath and Ruth Kirwin got the other goals. The U14 team then contested the U14 B final but lost to Limerick by a single point 3-9 to 4-5 in Bruff on the 19th May. Cork defeated Waterford 5-18 to 0-8 in the U16 semi final at Grenagh. The following day the senior team played Clare at Fraher field in the national league and were hammered 4-9 to 0-7. Eithne Morrissey, Claire Daly, and Majella Griffin scored first half goals as Clare led 3-2 to 0-7 at half time, and; with the wind behind them in the second half, Clare, ran out easy winners. Waterford then faced Dublin in a relegation play off at Parnell Park on the 13th May and again were well beaten 4-14 to 1-5 with Aoife Murphy getting the Waterford goal. Ard Scoil won the Munster senior schools B title defeating the Pres Dingle 4-19 to 1-3. Mary Foley got 3-1, Aoife Murphy 0-5, and Cleona O Keeffe 0-4. Ard Scoil: Mary Hayes, Ashling Mc Grath, Sinead Walsh, Angeline Kiely, Ealga Hayes, Anna Dunford, Deirdre Breathnach, Cleona O Keeffe, Aoife Mc Govern, Aoife Murphy (Capt.), Gillian Wall, Mary Foley, Grace O Brien, Lisa Mc Grath. Subs: Evelyn O Brien, Edel Harney, Karen Cliff, Lynsey Kearns. An Rinn won the primary schools A final and Tallow won the B competition. Waterford defeated Kerry 4-8 to 3-5 in the Munster junior championship in Ballyhooley. Marie Hogan, Elaine Power, Deirdre Nagle and Niamh Briggs got the goals. On Saturday evening 7th July the Fraher field staged a double header in junior and senior v Cork. Several of the junior team had to step up to the senior grade, and a very young junior team were well beaten 6-9 to 0-5. The Cork senior team must have fancied their chances against a young inexperienced Waterford team. Waterford showed ten changes from '00, seven players made senior championship debuts and the team also included seven minors. Waterford started with a blitz, scoring 7 points in the trot and Niamh Barry's 14th minute goal gave Waterford a 1-7 to 0-1 lead. Aimee O Shea goaled for Cork but Aoife Murphy replied with a Waterford goal and the Deices girls led 2-12 to 2-3 at half time. Martina O Ryan shot 2-3 in the second half and twin sister Geraldine comes on as a sub. It was

her first action since breaking her leg against Meath in April and Waterford turned in a dazzling display to win 4-23 to 3-7. Cork were shell shocked but they had no answer to the speed of the youthful Waterford side. In the other semi-final Clare defeated Kerry 4-15 to 2-9. On 11th July Waterford defeated Clare 4-22 to 0-2 in the minor championship. Niamh Briggs got 2-2 whilst Lisa Prendergast and Mary O Rourke each scored 1-4 and two nights later Waterford trounced Tipperary 5-24 to 0-7 in the Munster minor semi final. In the Mary Walsh 7-a-side cup final Ballymacarbry beat Tramore in a thrilling game. Old Parish won the Marine Bar 7-a-side plate competition defeating St Pats. The Munster minor final was played on the 18th July in Ballyhooley against Kerry and again Waterford started well. Marian Ryan and Aoife Murphy combined to put Mary O Rourke in for an early goal, Waterford led 1-8 to 0-0 after twenty four minutes and 1-10 to 0-3 at half time. A goal by Sarah O Connor sparked a Kerry come back and a piledriver by Patrice Dennehy reduced the deficit to three points after fifty minutes. In a thrilling finish points by Marian Ryan and Aoife Murphy secured a 1-15 to 2-10 victory for Waterford. On the 28th July Waterford headed for Newmarket-on-Fergus for the All Ireland minor semi final against Galway. On a blistering hot day the Waterford team bus was held up in a traffic jam for ninety minutes and the team ran off the bus and straight on to the field. Subsequently they got off to a sluggish start, and Emer O Flaherty's goal put Galway ahead. By half time the team were level, Waterford 0-7, Galway 1-4, and Rebecca Mc Philbin's point put Galway ahead in the 41st minute. Waterford then hit blistering form in the last nineteen minutes, scoring 1-9 without reply. Aoife Murphy, Marie Hogan, Mary Foley, Linda Wall all pointed and Mary O Rourke's goal sealed a 1-18 to 1-7 victory. On Saturday 25th July the Waterford Junior team played Tipperary in Cahir. Tipp got off to a great start and were 7 points up after ten minutes. Edel Hanley got 1-1 to leave them 3-3 to 0-7 ahead at half time. Waterford had a stroke of luck in the 40th minute when Julie May Keane's shot hit the cross bar and rebounded into the net of the keepers back. Tipp quickly replied with a goal but then Michelle Ryan's forty yard drive went all the way to the net.

Tipp led by two points after 58 minutes but Sharon Foley shot a late goal to secure a single point victory, 3-9 to 4-5, that left the home side shell shocked. Theresa Molohan scored 0-6 in a victory that was achieved pretty much against the run of play.

On the 5th August the Waterford senior and junior teams headed for Bruff for an Annual event, the Munster finals. The juniors played Limerick and the game was almost identical to the Tipp match. Inspired by Dymphna O'Brien Limerick led 3-3 to 0-1 after twenty four minutes, and led by thirteen points 4-6 to 0-5 after forty five minutes. Then the Waterford come back began, Julie May Keane (2), Theresa Molohan (2), and Lisa Prendergast all shot points. Limerick tacked on a couple of points and still led by ten points after 54 minutes. Then the incredible happened, Julie May Keane, Ealga Hayes and Lisa Prendergast all goaled and with the second last kick of the game Sinead Kirwan shot the equalising point to leave both teams tied at 4-11 each. Limerick were stunned and in truth so were Waterford.

Then came the senior game with Clare bidding to win the Munster crown for the first time and they went into the game as warm favourites. Claire Daly scored a Clare point in the 3rd minute, but in Waterford's first attack Deirdre Breathnach put Mary O'Rourke through for a goal. Aoife Murphy and Claire Daly swapped points before Linda Wall carved open the Clare defence and put Mary O'Rourke for her second goal. Minutes later Niamh Barry missed a good goal chance. Slowly but surely Clare got back into the game. Waterford keeper Nuala Hearne saved a penalty and 3 points by Majella Griffin closed the gap. In the 29th minute a Griffin shot was deflected past Nuala Hearne and Clare led at half time 1-7 to 2-2.

In the 32nd minute Clare were awarded another penalty and this time Aoife Healy scored and further points by Diane Kelly and Griffin left Clare ahead, 2-9 to 2-2, after 43 minutes. Aoife Murphy got a Waterford point then Clare was awarded then a 3rd penalty of the day but Nuala Hearne again saved.

Martina O'Ryan sent a rasper over the bar. Majella Griffin and Aoife Murphy swapped points before Geraldine O'Ryan put Marie Hogan in for a Waterford goal. Clare held on in the closing 4 minutes to score a deserved 2-12 to 3-5 victory and ended Waterford's 8 year unbeaten run in the

Munster championship. Waterford: Nuala Hearne, Donna Frost, Olivia Butler, Siobhan O' Ryan, Fiona O' Reilly, Elaine Power, Julie Torpey, Deirdre Breathnach, Marie Hogan (1-0), Niamh Barry, Martina O' Ryan (0-1), Linda Wall, Aoife Murphy (0-3), Deirdre Nagle, Mary O' Rourke (2-1). Sub Geraldine O' Ryan.

Seven of that senior team started on the minor team that played Meath in the All-Ireland minor

final at Dr. Cullen Park Carlow on Saturday the 18th August. Waterford meant business and Aoife

Murphy reeled off 3 points on the trot. Marie Hogan pointed and then Meath goaled when Michelle Dunne's shot went into the net off the post. Waterford quickly replied and goals by Aoife Murphy and Lisa Prendergast put them 2-4 to 1-1 ahead after 18 minutes. Waterford led 2-

5 to 1-2 at half time. Aoife Murphy, having the game of her life, scored 1-1 and although Nulty,

Shelly and Kate O' Brien shot Meath points, a Cliona O' Keefe goal put Waterford in the driving

seat. A 60 yard run by Linda Wall put Murphy in for her 2nd goal. Lisa Prendergast also added her

2nd goal as Waterford strolled to victory and substitute Niamh Briggs added a 6th goal. Final score

Waterford 6-12 Meath 2-6.

Aoife Murphy scored 2-9 and deservedly won the player of the match award in a perfect performance. From 1 to 15 Waterford were outstanding and continued their domination over

Meath in all grades. For the record the team that won Waterford's 6th minor title in 10 years was:

Mary Hayes, Nathalie O' Connor, Ciara Prendergast, Ealga Hayes, Fiona O' Reilly, Elaine Power,

Michelle Ryan, Marie Hogan (0-1), Deirdre Breathnach, Marion Ryan, Cliona O' Keefe (1-0), Linda

Wall (0-1), Aoife Murphy (2-9), Lisa Prendergast (2-0), Mary O' Rourke (0-1). Subs: Niamh Briggs

(1-0), Mary Foley, Anna Dunford.

The junior team were well beaten by Limerick in the Munster final replay at Ballyhooley on a scoreline of 3-12 to 1-7. In the senior county final Ballymacarbry got a fright from St. Anne's before winning 3-14 to 3-12. St. Anne's hammered Tramore 10-12 to 0-10 in the intermediate

final whilst Clashmore beat Comeragh Rangers by a single point in the junior county final. In the

junior B final Stradbally beat Kilmacthomas 2-4 to 2-3.

In the Munster junior championship Clashmore's Mary O' Rourke went on a scoring spree. In their 1st round victory she scored 1-16 in a 2-18 to 2-8 victory over Mungret (Limerick) at Ardfinnan. She shot 4-9 in the 2nd round in a 4-15 to 4-4 defeat by Aherlow. In the

intermediate

championship also in Ardfinnan, St. Anne's were defeated by St. Vals Cork 3-16 to 1-4. On Sunday the 28th October again in Ardfinnan, Donoaghmore of Cork took on Ballymacarbry in the Munster senior club final and after losing 4 successive finals, the Cork champions at last got the better of Ballymacarbry winning a thriller 2-9 to 1-10. Aoife Murphy won the August sports star of the month award. They also won the U16 A title again defeating St. Anne's, this time the margin was 1-16 to 0-2 at Old-Parish and in the U16 B final, Old Parish defeated Ballyduff 1-12 to 1-8 at Bushy Park. Ardmore defeated Mount Sion in the junior B County final. Laois Manager Sean 'Goggy' Delaney asked Waterford manager Michael Ryan to give a hand with coaching Laois when Waterford were knocked out of the championship. Michael travelled to Laois for training sessions and assisted the O' Moore county as they defeated Mayo in the All-Ireland senior final to claim the Brendan Martin cup for the 1st time in a thrilling final. It was ironic that Ryan, who was manager of the Waterford team that defeated Laois in both the 1991 and 1992 finals, was part of the back room team in Croke Park as Laois at last succeeded after losing 7 previous finals.

Honours:

Waterford Munster & All Ireland minor champions

2002

The following officers were elected for 2002.

Chairperson: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Vice-Chairperson: Johnny Landers (St Pats)

Secretary: Pat Toomey (Tramore)

Joint Treasurers: Eleanor Hickey/ Terri Power (Ballymacarbry/Tramore)

P.R.O: Brendan Gallagher (St Anne's)

Registrar: Bernie Troy (Na Deise)

Development officer: George Young (Old Parish)

Fixtures secretary: Jimmy O'Rourke (Clashmore)

Accident Fund: Katie Kiely (Brickey Rangers)

Irish language officer: Sylvia Shanley (Brickey Rangers)

The national league format was changed and Division 1A and 1B were formed, both with 6 teams.

So instead of being relegated under the old system, Waterford were still in Division 1 and how

ironic that decision was as 6 months later Waterford were crowned Division 1 league champions.

Aoife Murphy was one of the 12 nominees for the Pat Noctor award in January and Waterford

began the season with a challenge game at the Thurles Kickham GAA grounds, where they hammered Roscommon 7-17 to 2-06. Reigning all-Ireland champions Laois visited the Fraher field

in round 1 of the league on Sunday the 24th of February. Waterford gave the champions a guard of honour before the game but soon got down to business and led 1-11 to 1-00 at halftime. Geraldine O Ryan got the goal and Sue Ramsbottom replied for Laois. Laois performed much better in the second half but Waterford won 2-14 to 2-07 and Aoife Murphy got the 2nd Waterford goal. On Sunday the 10th of March Waterford travelled to play Cork at Grenagh in round 2 but Cork failed to field a team. Cork mentor Fr. Liam Kelleher took the Waterford players for a meal instead. The Minors played Laois in a challenge game in Thurles and won 7-19 to 4-03. They faced Limerick in the 1st round of the Munster minor championship. Limerick had beaten Waterford in the previous years u16 Munster final so Waterford were wary of their opponents but Limerick were very poor and Waterford won 5-30 to 0-03. The u14 team beat Clare in round 1-16 to 1-04 and the u16 team got a walk-over from Tipperary in Oola. In round 3 of the league, Waterford travelled to Westmanstown (Dublin) and defeated Tyrone 0-15 to 0-12 with Rebecca Hallahan scoring (0-05) and Mary O Rourke (0-04). In the u14 championship, Waterford defeated Tipperary 3-12 to 1-09 on the 13th of April. On Sunday 14th April Dublin defeated Waterford in the league in Lemybrien 1-12 to 1-8 in a very poor performance. The full back line conceded the entire total of 1-12 and Rebecca Hallahan got Waterford's goal. The team got back to winning ways on Sunday 28th April at Fraher field. Meath were the opponents and Waterford played with a strong wind in the first half, yet only led 0-3 to 0-0 after fifteen minutes. Then in rapid succession Mary O Rourke, Aoife Murphy and Rebecca Hallahan all goaled and Waterford led 3-6 to 0-3 at half time. Early in the second half Rebecca Hallahan got Waterford's fourth goal and although Meath scored 1-6 without reply, Mary O Donnell shot a fifth Waterford goal in a 5-8 to 1-9 victory, all Waterford scores came from play. On Saturday 4th May Waterford played Kerry in the u16 semi-final at Fermoy and although Waterford put it up to the Kingdom in the first half Kerry ran out winners 2-18 to 1-10. Waterford travelled to Ennis to play Clare in the league quarter final and got off to a great start as Deirdre Nagle goaled after ninety seconds. Another goal by Mary O Rourke gave Waterford a 2-3 to 0-3 interval lead. By the 45th minute Waterford were nine points up, three consecutive Aoife Healy points improved matters for Clare but Waterford were worthy winners 2-8 to 0-10. In the other quarter finals Mayo beat Tyrone 2-7 to 1-8. Kerry defeated Dublin 1-11 to 1-9 and Monaghan beat Laois 2-9 to 1-10. Waterford travelled to the Fingallions club in Dublin on June 2nd to play Monaghan in the league

semi-final and lined out without Martina O Ryan, Mary O Rourke, Marie Hogan and Cleona O Keeffe. Two quick Monaghan points by Niamh Kindlon were cancelled by Deirdre Breathnach

and Geraldine O Ryan. Then Deirdre Nagle hit the post, Breathnach and Kindlon swapped points

before Waterford shot six points on the trot per Aoife Murphy(3), Deirdre Nagle and Breathnach,

to lead 0-9 to 0-3 at half time.

A great run by Elaine Power set up Geraldine O Ryan for a point but a Colton point and two more

by Niamh Kindlon reduced the deficit to four. Then a Waterford 45 taken by Mary O Donnell found Deirdre Breathnach who passed to O Donnell on the run and she beat two defenders to pass again to Breathnach who crashed home a great goal. Geraldine O Ryan and

Rebecca Hallahan added points, and then Nuala Hearne made a great save from Monaghan centre forward Diane Dempsey.

Geraldine O Ryan pointed before Monaghan got a consolation goal by Brenda Mc Anespie and

Waterford were deserving winners 1-14 to 2-8. Waterford's scorers were Deirdre Breathnach

(1-2), Geraldine O Ryan (0-4), Aoife Murphy (0-3), Rebecca Hallahan (0-2), Fiona O Reilly (0-1),

Linda Wall (0-1), Deirdre Nagle (0-1). In the other semi-final Mayo beat Kerry 3-15 to 4-9 to qualify for another tilt with Waterford.

That league final took place on Saturday evening 29th June at Cusack Park Ennis. Mayo won the

toss and played against the breeze. Waterford began with the same team that defeated Monaghan in the semi-final four weeks earlier which meant that Martina O Ryan and Mary O

Rourke were left on the bench. Linda Wall kicked a left footed point in the 2nd minute and Deirdre Nagle added a second two minutes later. Then Fiona O Reilly flicked a high ball onto the

path of Rebecca Hallahan and she shot to the net to put Waterford five points up.

Emma Mullen opened Mayo's account with a goal and Cora Staunton shot two points to level the

scores after 20 minutes. Rebecca Hallahan and Aoife Murphy shot points but Triona Mc Nicholas

pointed for Mayo to give Waterford a slender 1-4 to 1-3 lead at half time and the prospect of

facing the wind in the 2nd half.

Waterford brought on Martina O Ryan and Mary O Rourke but Staunton shot three consecutive

points and another by Christina Heffernan to a single reply by Rebecca Hallahan left a goal between the teams. Waterford switched Mary O Donnell to centre forward and brought on Cleona O Keeffe at midfield and within two minutes the move paid off. O Donnell won

possession and passed to Deirdre Breathnach who went on a 50 yard solo run down the left wing

before floating the ball into the centre to Mary O Rourke who drove to the Mayo net to level the scores. Staunton put Mayo ahead but Waterford finished the stronger, O Donnell landed the equaliser and Mary O Rourke nudged Waterford in front and Rebecca Hallahan pointed two difficult frees to sign seal and deliver a three point victory and land the county's 4th senior league title in ten years on a 2-8 to 1-8 scoreline.

Waterford had the full back line of Donna Frost, Ciara Prendergast, and Olivia Butler to thank for this victory as they turned in a great second half performance to hold a dangerous Mayo forward

line whilst Rebecca Hallahan scored 1-4 and a Mary O Rourke goal was crucial.

Waterford: Nuala Hearn, Donna Frost, Ciara Prendergast, Olivia Butler, Elaine Power, Annlisa Crotty, Julie Torpey, Mary O Donnell(0-1), Deirdre Breathnach, Rebecca Hallahan(1-4), Aoife Murphy(0-1), Linda Wall(0-1), Fiona O Reilly, Deirdre Nagle, Geraldine O Ryan. Subs: Mary O Rourke (1-1) for Deirdre Nagle, Martina O Ryan for Linda Wall and Cleona O Keeffe for Murphy.

After the game Waterford had their first experience of the drugs test but the two players chosen,

Deirdre Breathnach and Michelle Ryan passed no problem.

In the Munster u14 championship Waterford defeated Clare 1-14 to 1-4 in Oola on the 23rd March and then defeated Tipperary 3-12 to 1-9 in the Fraher field on the 13th April. They lost

the Munster semi-final to Kerry at Bruff by a margin of 3-10 to 1-8 on the 18th May.

The U16 team got a walk over from Tipp and lost to Kerry 2-18 to 1-10 in Fermoy on the 4th May

In the junior championship Waterford were beaten by Clare 1-13 to 2-5 in Doon on the 23rd June,

and the minors defeated Cork 3-16 to 2-7 in Macroom in the Munster semi-final on the 3rd July,

the goals were scored by Mary Foley, Niamh Briggs and Lisa Palmer. Three days later the junior's

beat Tipp 1-14 to 3-6 in Bushy Park. In a curtain raiser to that game the Cailini Oga team also beat Tipp 0-11 to 0-2.

Waterford played Clare in the Munster minor final on Wed 10th July in Emly. They played against

a strong breeze in the opening half yet led 0-7 to 0-0 after twenty five minutes, then a long ball

from Deirdre Breathnach found Mary O Rourke and she supplied a pin point pass to Tracey Gallagher who slammed the ball to the net. Tracey scored 1-3, seven different players scored in

total and Waterford romped to a 1-6 to 0-5 victory, their fourth Munster minor title in a row and

the 9th since 1991.

On Saturday 20th of July, the minors headed to Birr to play Monaghan in the All-Ireland semi final.

The game was a thriller and Waterford got off to a dream start and led by 8 points after 8

minutes helped by goals from Niamh Briggs and Mary O' Rourke. Deirdre Breathnach scored a 3rd goal in the 18th minute but by half time Monaghan had recovered somewhat and trailed 3-6 to

1-5. By the 43rd minute the team were level and then Waterford scored 3 consecutive points from

Evelyn O' Brien and Mary O' Rourke (2).

Poor defending allowed Orla Cullen in for the equalising goal. Mc Guinness then missed a Monaghan penalty. Tracey Gallagher pointed to give Waterford the lead but Sinead Mc Cooley

scored Monaghan's 4th goal and 2 further points by Kathy McManus sealed a 4-12 to 3-11 victory.

Waterford: Mary Hayes, Maria Power, Nathalie O' Connor, Aileen Barron, Michelle Ryan, Elaine

Power (0-1), Ealga Hayes, Deirdre Breathnach (1-1), Lisa Palmer, Marion Ryan, Aoife Murphy (0-

1), Mary Foley, Tracey Gallagher (0-3), Niamh Briggs (1-1), Mary O' Rourke (1-3). Subs: Marie Hogan and Evelyn O' Brien (0-1).

On Sunday 28th July Waterford travelled to Fitzgerald stadium to play Kerry in the Munster senior

semi final. Kerry hadn't beaten Waterford in the championship since 1993. The Kingdom had a

lethal full forward line with Sarah O' Connor, Kasey O' Driscoll and Geraldine O' Se and Waterford

played with an extra defender to try and cope. The game was another thriller. O' Se kicked the

opening point and Mary O' Rourke quickly equalised. Martina O' Ryan then shot 2 points for Waterford in quick succession. O' Se and Rebecca Hallahan swapped points and Waterford keeper Nuala Hearne made a brilliant save from Sarah O' Connor in the 10th minute.

Mary O' Rourke (0-2) and Geraldine O' Ryan (0-2) added Waterford points but Kasey o' Driscoll

and O' Connor responded for Kerry and Waterford led 0-7 to 0-5 after 18 minutes. Then Fiona O'

Reilly stole in behind the Kerry defence to side foot the ball to the Kerry net. Again Kerry responded and O' Se (2) and O' Driscoll pointed before Geraldine O' Ryan took a pass from Julie

Torpey and drilled the posts to put Waterford 1-9 to 0-8 ahead at half time.

Kerry had the advantage of the wind in the 2nd half and Sarah O' Connor pointed a free but then

Waterford took over. Geraldine O' Ryan and Mary O' Rourke pointed, then O' Ryan fielded a high

ball and passed to Deirdre Breathnach who drove it to the net. Then Annlisa Crotty received an

injury and play was held up for 8 minutes as she was stretchered off.

Waterford lost the momentum and Kerry stormed back, O' Se driving inches over the bar. She

then added a goal, O' Driscoll and O' Se added points and Kerry were on a roll. In a break away

Cliona O' Keefe put Mary O' Rourke in for a Waterford goal but Kerry stormed back and points

from O' Se (2), Patrice Dennehy and Sarah O' Connor reduced the deficit to a single point.

In the 6th minute of injury time O' Se kicked the equaliser and Waterford were on the ropes. Waterford won the kick out and moved the ball down field and Marie Hogan passed the

ball to Aoife Murphy who danced round the Kerry keeper and placed the ball in the net to silence

the home crowd. Sixty seconds later the final whistle sounded and Waterford had recorded a 3-

13 to 1-16 victory. Kerry were absolutely devastated, Cork beat Clare in the other semi-final 3-14

to 2-12 also at Fitzgerald stadium.

In the junior championship Limerick beat Waterford 3-14 to 1-6 in New Inn on Wednesday 31st July.

The Munster senior final was played in Emly on Saturday 10th of August and turned out to be an

extraordinary game. Waterford shot 3 early points but 1-1 by Amy O' Shea put the rebelletes in

front. Mary O' Rourke levelled, then Waterford shot 6 consecutive points from Deirdre Breathnach (2), Mary O' Rourke (3) and a 40 yard effort from a free by Geraldine O' Ryan and

Waterford led 0-10 to 1-2 at half time. Jean Lucey and Valerie Mulcahy had Cork points and a

shock seemed possible. Then Waterford hit a blistering patch. Annalisa Crotty, Martina O' Ryan,

Aoife Murphy and Mary O' Donnell pointed then O' Donnell's pass put Geraldine O' Ryan in for a

goal and further points by O' Donnell and O' Rourke left Waterford 1-16 to 1-4 ahead after 50

minutes.

Then Jean Lucey's 30 yard shot ended up in the Waterford net. Valerie Mulcahy goaled again

with a rocket and within sixty seconds Cork shot another goal by Amy O Se and Lucey's point left

just 2 points between the teams and Waterford were reeling. Mary O Donnell and Geraldine O

Ryan combined to put Mary O Rourke through for a vital Waterford point. Rebecca Hallahan broke up a dangerous attack and placed O Rourke for another point. Aoife Murphy and O' Rourke added points but 3 injury time points by Geraldine O' Flynn (2) and Marie O' Neill put the

game back in the melting pot once more before Mary O' Rourke shot her 9th point and sealed a 1-

20 to 4-7 victory.

In the Cailini Oga game played as a curtain raiser, Cork defeated Waterford 2-8 to 2-3. Killrossanty defeated Ballymacarbry 2-6 to 1-5 in the U14 A final. Claire Hassett and Lenore Kirwin scored the goals and Abbeyside beat Na Deise in the U14 B final. The All-Ireland senior semi final took place on September 7th in O' Moore Park Portlaoise and was televised live on TG4. Marty Duffy was the referee and booked 3 Waterford players very early on for trivial first offences. It had an unsettling effect on the team as the players were warned that another foul would lead to players being sent off. Despite this Waterford began well. In the 2nd minute Mary O' Donnell passed to Mary o' Rourke out on the wing. O' Rourke had a lot to do but worked her way in and drove the ball into the bottom left hand corner of the net. Edel Byrne kicked a long range Monaghan point and then Orla Callen's pass saw Aisling Tierney shoot a Monaghan goal with the Waterford defence ball watching. In the 11th minute Waterford were caught out again as Edel Byrne's 20 metre free crept in under the bar for a 2nd Monaghan goal. Mary O' Rourke pointed but Niamh Kindlon, Diane Dempsey and Byrne pointed to edge Monaghan into a 2-4 to 1-1 lead after 19 minutes. Martina O Ryan shot two Waterford points but Byrne (free) and Orla Callan restored Monahan's 6th lead. In the first half injury time Julie Torpey stormed up field as she had done so often in the past to reduce the margin to five. Monaghan led at half time 2-6 to 1-4 and had the wind at their backs in the second half. The Northern side soon increased the lead with points by Callan and Kindlon (2), Orla Callan and Mary O Rourke (2) pointed to leave Waterford seven points adrift. Marie Hogan came on as a sub and goaled for Waterford and Martina O Ryan kicked her third point of the game, then Edel Byrne put Monaghan four points ahead. Five minutes from time Martina O Ryan put her twin sister Geraldine through and she rounded the keeper and slotted the ball to the net to reduce the margin to a single point after 56 minutes. Try as they did Waterford couldn't land the equalising point and Monaghan were through to the All Ireland final. On the day Waterford didn't do enough to win although a fussy referee didn't help and corner back Donna Frost won the player of the match award. Waterford: Nuala Hearn, Donna Frost, Olivia Butler, Elaine Power, Fiona O Reilly, Annalisa Crotty,

Julie Torpey(0-1), Mary O Donnell, Deirdre Breathnach, Linda Wall, Martina O Ryan (0-3), Rebecca

Hallahan, Aoife Murphy, Mary O Rourke (1-3), Geraldine O Ryan (1-0), Subs: Cleona O Keeffe and

Marie Hogan (1-0).

Edel Byrne shot 1-3 and Niamh Kindlon 0-4 for Monaghan and they subsequently lost the All Ireland final to Mayo by a narrow margin. Although Waterford didn't know it that September

evening as they left Portlaoise it was the end of an era and a golden decade was left behind.

In the Junior A county final Brickey Rangers beat Comeragh Rangers in Leamybrien and Killrossanty won the under 12 a final defeating Ballyduff 2-9 to 0-1 and Lenore Kirwin scored both goals. Clashmore won the All Ireland Intermediate 7-a-side title defeating Augawilliam (Leitrim) 4-8 to 0-3 in the final. Old Parish won the junior title defeating Athgarvan (Kildare) 2-10

to 1-3 in that final.

Four Waterford players won All Star awards, Donna Frost at corner back, Olivia Butler in the other

corner, Julie Torpey won her fourth award at left half back, and Mary O Donnell won her second

award at midfield.

On Saturday 3rd October Beara (Cork) defeated Brickey Rangers 4-11 to 1-4 in the Munster club

championship in Ballincollig. On Sunday 20th October Rockban (Cork) defeated Tramore 9-9 to 1-7

in atrocious conditions in the Munster Intermediate club championship at Clashmore.

Ballymacarbry defeated Corca Dhuibhne 2-12 to 1-12 in a thrilling Munster senior club clash in

Kilmallock, and Donoughmore defeated Cooraclare 6-17 to 3-4 in the other semi-final. In the final

Donoaghmore defeated Ballymacarbry 3-7 to 1-5 in terrible weather.

Ballymacarbry defeated Comeragh Rangers in a very high scoring minor A county final in Leamybrien. Both sides scored six goals but Ballymac's ability to kick points saw them

through. In the Junior B county final Na Deice defeated Stradbally 1-10 to 2-6 in Old Parish.

Ballymacarbry added the U16 A final defeating St Anne's 2-12 to 2-2 also in Old Parish. Laura Whelan and Marie Hannigan got the goals. Killrossanty defeated Na Deise 4-7 to 2-4 in the U16 B

final.

Round one of the '03 League was played in later November and Waterford defeated Laois 3-15 to

1-10. Mary O Rourke shot 2-5 and Aoife Murphy got the other Waterford goal.

The County Board ran a fashion show on the 27th November. Kieran O Connor and Nicola Beresford were the compeers'.

Honours:

Waterford Munster senior champions

Waterford Division 1 National league champions

Old Parish All Ireland junior 7 a side cup champions

Clashmore All Ireland intermediate 7 a side cup champions

Donna Frost Tramore was named Munster Footballer of the year.

All Stars: Donna Frost Tramore (right full back), Olivia Butler Na Deise (left full back), Julie Torpey

St Anne's (left half back), Mary O'Donnell Old Parish (mid field).

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 Donavan, 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 Keeffe 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, Annalisa 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 Mc Grath, 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 aside 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 27thSeptember 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. Donoghmore 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, Annlisa 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).

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

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), Brieghe 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 hilt 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

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 Annelle 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 Raher, 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 Donaghmoynne (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

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

all 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 Donaghmoyne 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.

2007

Tom Cronin (Ardmore) took over as county board chairman replacing Johnny Landers. The County board ran a fundamental course organised by George Young and six clubs attended namely Abbeyside, Ardmore, Comeragh Rangers, Dungarvan, Old Parish and St Pats. Sinead Ryan

was one of the twelve nominees for the Pat Noctor young sports stars of the year award.

Michael Guiry took over as manager of the Senior Ladies football team and the first match was a

trip to Tralee (Kieran's O Rahilly's) to play Kerry in round 1 of the League on Sunday 11th February. After ten minutes Kerry were 2-4 to 0-1 ahead. By half time Kerry lead 4-9 to 2-2,

Waterford's goals scored by Michelle Ryan and Linda Wall. Marie Hogan did score a 3rd Waterford goal in the 2nd half but Kerry ran out easy winners 4-15 to 3-7.

Waterford: Evelyn O'Brien, Eibhlis Cooney, Nuala Hearn, Louise Ryan, Deirdre Breathnach, Marian

Troy, Michelle Mc Grath, Mary O'Donnell, Fiona O'Reilly, Mairead Wall, Michelle Ryan (1-4), Grainne Kenneally (0-1), Karen Kelly, Deirdre Breathnach, Aoife Murphy, Linda Wall (1-2). Subs: Michelle Allen, Lisa McGrath, Marian Ryan, Marie Hogan (1-0).

Round 2 took place a week later as Waterford travelled to St Lomans Park Mullingar to play Tyrone. Waterford had a bright start as Michelle Ryan kicked two points, but the following 20

minutes belonged to Tyrone. Newcomer at full forward Sarah Connolly caused Waterford lots of

problems, scoring the first goal and making the second for Katrina Murphy and by half time Tyrone led 2-6 to 0-5. Michelle Ryan scored four consecutive Waterford points in the second half

but Tyrone were always in control and won 2-11 to 0-12.

Ard Scoil na Deise won the Munster Senior C schools title defeating Boherbue compressive School

after extra time at Glanworth on Monday 12th February 1-6 to 1-5, with Shona Curran named

player of the match. Olivia Hennebry got the goal.

Ard Scoil Na Deise: Coleen Power, Aoife Dunford, Gillian Mc Grath(Capt.), Emer Scanlan, Elma

Nugent, Roisin Fahey, Niamh Mc Grath, Shauna Curran(0-4), Kelly Dwane, Aoife Nagle, Bronagh O

Donovan, Olivia Hennebry(1-1), Aine Breathnach, Deirdre Fahey(0-1), Aimee O Se. Subs: Elaine

Flavin, Deirdre Nugent, Niamh Looby, Ann Marie Tutty, Nancy Ryan.

Ard Scoil then defeated Holy Trinity College Cookstown 3-5 to 2-4 in Mullingar on 23rd March, but

lost the All Ireland final in Ennis to St Josephs, Castlebar by 3-8 to 2-4.

Round 3 of the League was against Mayo on Feb 25th and the Westerners were far too good winning 5-14 to 2-5. Cora Staunton scored 3-7 and fifteen year old Lisa Cafferky also caused

Waterford lots of problems scoring 2-2. Within ten minutes Mayo had scored 3-2 without reply

and they had 4-3 on the board before Waterford opened their account with a Rebecca Hallahan

point. Waterford hit 2-4 in the second quarter to leave the score a much more respectable 4-4 to

2-4 at half time. But Mayo upped a gear in the second half and Waterford had no answer.

Round 5 was against Laois at Ballylinan on Sunday 22nd March. This was a much better Waterford

performance, Linda Wall pointed in the first minute, Martha Kirwan equalised, and Michelle Ryan

put Waterford back in front. Tracey Lawlor and Aoife Murphy swapped points. Linda Wall then

pointed twice but Tracey Lawlor did likewise for Laois and Waterford led 0-5 to 0-4 at half time.

Aimee Jordan made a great save at the start of the 2nd half from Laois forward Charlotte Delaney. Then Mary O Donnell made a great run and pointed, but Noirin Kirwan and Lawlor levelled for Laois. Tracey Lawlor tacked on five further points to a single reply from Mairead Wall

as Laois won 0-11 to 0-7.

Waterford: Aimee Jordan, Lorraine Whelan, Rebecca Hallahan, Michelle Allen, Grainne Kenneally,

Eibhlis Cooney, Michelle McGrath, Fiona O Reilly, Cliona O Keeffe, Linda Wall (0-3), Mary O Donnell (0-1), Michelle Ryan (0-1), Mairead Wall (0-1), Marian Ryan, Aoife Murphy (0-1). Subs: Evelyn O Brien, Aoife McGovern, Nuala Hearn.

In the Munster minor championship Kerry beat Waterford 6-19 to 3-10 at Donaghmore on Saturday 24th March. This left Waterford to play Limerick in the losers group at Ballygibblin on

Tuesday April 3rd and Waterford won a cliff hanger 4-10 to 4-9. The following Wednesday Waterford beat Clare at Ballylanders 3-10 to 1-10, Waterford were now in the semi-final against

Cork at Carrigtwohill on April 11th and Cork were run away winners 7-23 to 0-3. This meant that

Waterford played Tipp in the Minor B final and Tipp won 3-10 to 1-5.

In the U14 A Tipp beat Waterford in Dungarvan on Saturday April 23rd 2-9 to 2-3. The sides met

later on in the Munster U 14 B final and Tipp won 4-10 to 2-2 at Ardfinnan on the 16th June.

In U 16 Waterford beat Limerick at Ballygibblin on Wednesday 4th July by a single point 2-9 to 1-

11, but the following week Tipp beat Waterford 3-7 to 1-3 at Bansha.

Waterford's other League game was against Armagh at O Toole Park. Armagh were All Ireland

Senior finalists in '06 but fielded several newcomers, they led 1-3 to 0-1 at half time, the goal

scored by Mags Mc Alindan and eventually won 1-5 to 0-4 to leave Waterford in a relegation play

off. Michelle Ryan (0-3 and Linda Wall (0-1), were Waterford scorers.

In the Munster senior championship Waterford travelled to Blennerville to play Kerry on Saturday 12th May. Kerry looked good after ten minutes, 1-3 to 0-0 ahead although playing against the breeze. Two Geraldine O Shea points, another from Kacey O Driscoll and a Katie Kennelly goal had Waterford in all sorts of trouble. Then they woke up, Michelle Ryan pointed after twenty minutes, Mary O Rourke and Mairead Wall added two more but Kerry still led 1-5 to 0-3 at half time, with the wind advantage to come in the 2nd half. The second half was just 90 seconds old when Michelle Ryan took a pass from Mairead Wall and goaled. Linda Wall pointed. Waterford hit the post but O Se (2), and O Driscoll shot Kerry points to put the home side back in control. Waterford then took over, Mary O Donnell stormed into the game, Fiona O Reilly and Cleona O Keefe took control of midfield. Mairead Wall pointed, Michelle Ryan took a pass from Mary O Donnell and crashed home her second goal. Aoife Murphy then skipped past two tackles and goaled, again O Se pointed for Kerry, and then Aimee Jordan made a brilliant save from Emer Murphy and the clock ran down as Waterford won 3-5 to 1-9 to leave Kerry absolutely shocked and Waterford through to the Munster final. Eight Waterford players played with Munster in the Interprovincial series. Rebecca Hallahan, Deirdre Breathnach, Mary O Donnell, Linda Wall, Aimee Jordan, Mary O Rourke, Michelle Mc Grath, and Michelle Ryan all played a part as Munster won the title. Munster managed by Maire Halvey defeated Connacht in round 1, 3-10 to 1-7 with Mary O Donnell, Kacey O Driscoll and Mary O Rourke getting the goals. In round 2 Munster defeated Leinster 3-9 to 2-7, and in round 3 they defeated Ulster 3-8 to 2-9, Mary O Rourke got one of the goals. The top two teams qualified for the final the following day and Munster defeated Ulster in a thriller 2-13 to 2-11 to win the Mick Talbot cup. Linda Wall and Dymphna O Brien got the goals and Linda Wall was named player of the tournament. Michael Ryan, who managed the Munster Ladies to win several Interprovincial titles, was manager of the Munster hurling team that won the title defeating Connacht in the first game of hurling ever to be played under lights in Croke Park. Aoife Mc Govern Abbesside was a member of the under-dogs team that travelled to the U.S. to play New York.

The Munster senior final against Cork took place in Kilmallock on Saturday 30th June. This was a game in which Waterford had plenty of possession, but didn't convert it into scores. Cork started well. In the 4th minute Geraldine O Flynn goaled and Deirdre O Reilly pointed. Waterford keeper Aimee Jordan made a great save from Mary O Connor before Mary O Donnell went on a long run to open Waterford's account with a point. In the 23rd minute Mary O Donnell gave a peach of a pass to Mary O Rourke and she shot to the net. Despite further points by O Rourke and Mairead Wall, Cork led 2-4 to 1-3 at half time. In the 33rd minute Cork keeper Elaine Harte made a brilliant save from Mary O Rourke. Laura Mc Mahon availed of loose marking in the Waterford defence to shoot Cork's 3rd goal. Waterford kicked 7 wides, Mary O Rourke pointed two frees but they were cancelled out by Geraldine O Flynn and Deirdre O Reilly. Niamh Briggs came on as a sub and pointed but Nollaig Cleary replied for Cork who won 3-7 to 1-6. Waterford scores came from Mary O Rourke (1-3), Mary O Donnell, Mairead Wall and Niamh Briggs 0-1 each. This put Waterford into a group with Dublin, Mayo and Kerry. The first game was televised live from Limerick Gaelic Grounds on Saturday 21st July. Mayo were far superior, winning 1-19 to 0-8 with Cora Staunton scoring 1-10, Waterford's scores were by Mary O Rourke (0-6), Aoife Murphy and Marian Ryan (0-1) each. This led to a game against Dublin at Dr Cullen Park the following week, a game that Waterford had to win. Dublin led 0-5 to 0-1 after fourteen minutes with points by Karen Hopkins (2), Louise Kelly and Mary Nevin (2), to a single reply from Michelle Ryan. Fiona O Reilly got a second Waterford point, but they then conceded two goals in quick succession scored by Sinead Ahearne and Karen Hopkins. Then Rebecca Hallahan was fouled and the incident deserved a red card but an incredible referee saw otherwise. This seemed to galvanise Waterford as Niamh Briggs (2) and Rebecca Hallahan scored points. Michelle Ryan then missed a penalty and Dublin led 2-6 to 0-5 at half time. Mary O Rourke pointed a Waterford free but Dublin replied with points by Ann Marie Murphy and Sinead Ahearn. Murphy's goal in the 45th minute meant Dublin led by 11 points. Mairead

Wall and Nevin swapped points. Cleona O Keeffe was outstanding at midfield for Waterford. Rebecca Hallahan moved up field and her drive hit the cross-bar. Mary O Rourke got a 50th minute goal. Aoife Murphy got a second after 56 minutes and two minutes later Niamh Briggs got a third. Aoife Murphy shot a point to reduce the deficit to 1 and Dublin were hanging on. Time ran out and Dublin won a thriller 3-9 to 3-8. Grainne Kenneally, Rebecca Hallahan and Cleona O Keeffe were Waterford best performers. Waterford: Aimee Jordan, Grainne Kenneally, Rebecca Hallahan(0-1), Eibhlis Cooney, Lorraine Whelan, Mary O Donnell, Michelle Mc Grath, Cleona O Keeffe, Fiona O Reilly (0-1), Karen Kelly, Michelle Ryan (0-1) Linda Wall, Mairead Wall (0-1), Mary O Rourke (1-1), Niamh Briggs (1-2). Subs Aoife Murphy (1-1), Evelyn O Brien, Marian Ryan, Louise Ryan, Niamh Mc Grath. This result meant Waterford were out of the championship although they still had Kerry to play. This game was played the following Saturday in Killorglin and Kerry duly won 2-11 to 1-6, to leave Waterford in a relegation play off with Donegal to maintain their senior status. Waterford scorers were Michelle Ryan (1-2), Evelyn O Brien (0-2), Mary O Rourke (0-2). The 2006 U 12 final wasn't played until 14th September 2007. Ballymacarbry and Killrossanty met at the Fraher field and the game turned out to be a thriller with Ballymacarbry winning 3-6 to 3-3, their goals scored by Rosie McCarra (2), and Hayley McCarthy, Killrossanty goals were scored by Niamh Behan (2) and Claire Whyte. On Sunday 15th September Ballymacarbry retained the county senior title with a 6-24 to 1-2 victory over St Anne's at the Fraher field. They then travelled to Dublin to compete in the All Ireland Sevens. They began the defence of the title they won the previous year with a 7-9 to 5-8 victory over Donaghmoyne (Monaghan), St Brendan's (Galway) 8-10 to 3-1, and followed that with a 7-9 to 3-9 victory over Shanahoe (Laois). In the semi-final they overcame a strong challenge from another Laois side Timahoe, before eventually winning 1-11 to 2-5, Linda Wall got the goal. In the All Ireland Senior Sevens final they played Corofin (Galway), early goals by Linda Wall and Marian Ryan put them in control and a 3rd goal by team captain Sinead Ryan secured a 3-5 to 2-2 victory, and record a 7th All Ireland Senior Sevens title. Ballymacarbry: Aine Ryan, Rebecca Hallahan, Louise Ryan, Eibhlis Cooney, Laurissa Hogan, Michelle Ryan, Michelle Mc Grath, Linda Wall, Sinead Ryan (Capt.), Hayley Lonergan, Mairead Wall. St Anne's won the U 12 A title and the newly donated Roberta Beresford Memorial Cup, defeating Comeragh Rangers 6-5 to 0-6 in the final. Rebecca Kavanagh scored 4-0. Ballyduff won the Junior A title. Na Deise won the Junior B, and St Pats won the Intermediate. Abbeyside won the U 16 C title defeating Ardmore 11-15 to 1-3 in the final.

Ballymacarbry won the All Ireland U 15 Pioneer 5-a-side title. Brigid Grant was manager with the following panel of players: Hayley Lonergan, Karen McGrath, Brid Cooney, Aileen Wall, Sinead

Grant, Treasa McGrath, and Siobhan Ryan.

Ballymacarbry played Athea (Limerick) in the Munster Senior semi-final at Ballygibblin on Saturday 29th September. They led 1-8 to 0-4 at half time; Michelle O Gorman got the goal and

won comfortably 1-15 to 1-6. Hayley Lonergan and Sinead Ryan scored 0-4 each.

In the U 12 B final Killrossanty easily beat Ballymacarbry 3-13 to 0-1 and Orla Hickey scored 2-6,

at the Fraher field on Monday Oct 1st. In the minor C final Clashmore defeated Ardmore.

On the 13th October Ballymacarbry held a special function at the Park Hotel to honour their All

Ireland winning teams and celebrate the 37 years since the club was founded. 10 All Ireland club

titles, and 53 All Star awards were celebrated, and a special presentation was made to former

manager Michael Ryan. Earlier that day the senior team played Southern Gaels (Kerry) in the Munster (B) club championship final at Donoughmore and the Kerry champions won 1-15 to 3-

6. Ballyduff defeated Fr Caseys (Limerick) 3-9 to 2-7 in Glanworth on Sunday September 29th, but

the following week Ballyduff were beaten by Castleisland Desmonds in Ballydesmond 1-15 to 0-6.

In the Munster Intermediate club championship Laune Rangers defeated St Pats (Waterford) in

the quarter final by 6-11 to 5-5 in Glanworth on Saturday 29th September.

Ballymacarbry beat Killrossanty in the County minor A final.

Honours:

Ballymacarbry All Ireland senior 7 a side cup champions

Ard Scoil Na Deise Munster Post Primary senior C champions

All Star: Rebecca Hallahan Ballymacarbry (right corner back)

The A.G.M. was held in November and elected the following officers for

2008

Chairperson: Brendan Gallagher (St Anne's)

Vice Chairperson: Michael Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

Secretary: T r i s h Fitzgerald (Clashmore)

Ass Secretary: Grainne Flynn (Shamrocks)

Treasurer's: C laire Hannon/Margaret Cashell (Ballyduff)

Development Officer: George Young (Old Parish)

Child Welfare Officer: Nuala Murphy (Brickey Rangers)

Registrar: Marian Cliffe (Clashmore)

Irish Language Officer: Michelle Ryan (Ballymacarbry)

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 Abbesside 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,

Abbesside 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.

Abbesside 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

2009

On the 16th January 2009 the county board held a work-shop for players organised by George

Young in Lawlors Hotel. Marie Delahunty was one of the nominees for the Pat Noctor Young Sports Stars of the year Awards.

Waterford's first adult game of the year was a relegation play-off with Meath to decide which

county retained the senior status, and this took place in Newtownmountkennedy on 25th January.

Waterford failed to score in the first half and trailed by ten points at half time. They registered

their only score, a goal by Aoife Mc Govern after thirty five minutes and after a very poor performance Meath won 0-15 to 1-0, to relegate Waterford to a lower grade for the first time

since 1985.

They began the League campaign the following Sunday at Gusserane in Wexford. Wexford won

the toss and played with a strong wind in the first half yet Waterford goaled in the 1st minute

when Michelle Ryan drove to the net. Within a minute the teams were level as Natasha Martin

shot past Aimee Jordan and this set the scene for a ding dong battle. A great save by the Waterford keeper Aimee Jordan from Fiona Rochford and a goal by Elaine Power gave Waterford

a 2-3 to 1-4 interval lead. A 3rd goal by Louise Ryan helped Waterford to a 3-8 to 1-4 lead but Wexford finished strongly and goals by Lisa Gough and Natasha Martin reduced the margin to

three points as Waterford won 3-9 to 3-6. Waterford. Aimee Jordan, Nora Dunphy, Eibhlis Cooney, Laurissa Hogan, Ann Dunphy, Mary Foley, Aoife Mc Govern, Louise Ryan (1-0), Michelle

Mc Grath, Mairead Wall (0-1), Elaine Power(1-0), Linda Wall (0-3), Roisin Manahan, Michelle Ryan (1-4), Grainne Kenneally (0-1).

Waterford then played Leitrim away at the Leitrim Gaels grounds and won a cliff hanger by a single point, 0-12 to 1-8. After fifteen minutes Waterford led 0-5 to 0-3, Michelle Ryan scoring 4

points. By the 43rd minute Leitrim were ahead as 2006 All Star Sarah Mc Loughlin pulled on a loose ball and drove it to the net. Another Mc Loughlin point put Leitrim firmly in the driving seat

but Waterford responded well and points by Michelle Mc Grath and Michelle Ryan levelled it up.

In the 3rd minute of additional time Waterford sub Ruth Kirwin slotted over the winning point.

Waterford's scores came from Michelle Ryan (0-8), Michelle Mc Grath (0-2), and Linda Wall (0-2).

Next up Tipperary were visitors to Leamybrien, a blistering start resulted in a Linda Wall goal in

the 6th minute and points by Michelle and Sinead Ryan gave Waterford a five point lead after 11

minutes. Tipperary's first score came in the 18th minute, a Gillian O'Brien point and the full forward Patricia Hickey engineered a penalty which she scored herself. Waterford began the 2nd

half well with points by Mairead Wall and Michelle Ryan, but failed badly in the last quarter and

two points by Edel Hanley gave Tipp a 1-9 to 1-8 victory. Waterford scorers: Michelle Ryan (0-5),

Linda Wall (1-0), Mairead Wall, Roisin Manahan, Sinead Ryan 0-1 each. A week later on Feb 28th

Waterford were back in Leamybrien to play Westmeath in round 4 and won 1-15 to 2-9. By half

time Waterford led 1-11 to 0-4, the goal scored by Sinead Ryan in the 8th minute when the ball

came back off the post. Second half goals by Katie Sommers and Johanne Maher left Waterford

glad to hear the final whistle. Waterford scorers were Michelle Ryan (0-7), Sinead Ryan (1-2),

Linda Wall (0-3), Louise Ryan (0-2), Elaine Power (0-1). The last game in the group stages was a

trip to Sligo's Markievicz Park to play the home team and this resulted in a decisive defeat, 2-14

to 0-9 on the 15th March.

The U14 team managed by Michael Kavanagh, Katie Barry and Sarah Walsh played Tipperary in

the first round of the Munster Championship in Cahir on Saturday 14th March and won a thriller

5-5 to 4-7 with the following panel: Lucy O'Brien (Ballyduff), Angela McIntosh (Old Parish), Ciara

Mullaney (Stradbally), Ashling Hahessy (Comeragh Rangers), Susan Gleeson (Ballyduff), Eimear Fennell (Abbeyside), Mary Kate Morrissey (St Pats), Aoife Landers (St Pats), Sinead Cummins (St Anne's), Orla Hickey (Killrossanty), Hannah Landers (Ballyduff), Shannon Dunford (St Pats), Rebecca Kavanagh (St Anne's), Lynn O Mahony (Abbeyside), Catherine Geoghan (Abbeyside), Caroline Murphy (Comeragh Rangers), Leah Fagan (Abbeyside), Clodagh Keane (Comeragh Rangers), Laura Barry (Na Deise), Jessica Troy (St Pats), Roisin O Flynn (St Pats), Ciara Cronin (Kilmacthomas), Laura Whelan (St Anne's), Mairead Power (Comeragh Rangers), Nuala Landers (Ballyduff), Caoimhe Cotter (Ballyduff), Donna Sheehan (Ballyduff), Rachel Keane (Ballyduff). A week later it was back down to earth as Clare inflicted a 7-11 to 0-7 defeat at Doorra/Barfield.

On Sat 11th April Waterford travelled to Kerry and almost caused an upset before eventually going down 2-10 to 2-6 in a very good display. This meant a second game in the A competition against Cork at Fraher field on Saturday 18th April and Cork romped home, 6-17 to 1-4. There was still the U14 B final to be played at Ballyduff on Tuesday 19th May, and Clare repeated the first round win, this time by 4-17 to 1-5.

The senior team travelled to Pairc Tailteann (Navan), to play Meath in the league quarter final on Sunday 5th April. Meath led 0-4 to 0-0 after twelve minutes. Elaine Power then shot a goal but was called back for a penalty which Michelle Ryan duly slotted home. Ryan pointed again but Meath led 0-8 to 1-1 at half time and a repeat of the easy relegation play-off win in January seemed on the cards. Second half points by Niamh Briggs (3), Michelle McGrath and Ruth Kirwin kept Waterford in touch and they trailed by three points in the dying moments, then Linda Wall goaled to bring the game to extra time. Waterford played superbly in extra time and out-scored Meath 0-7 to 0-2 with a succession of points from Niamh Briggs (2), Michelle Ryan, Michelle Mc Grath, Elaine Power, Louise Ryan and Linda Wall (0-1) each. Waterford were deserving 2-13 to 0-14 winners. The League semi-final against Tipperary took place in Bansha on Sunday 19th April in ideal conditions. Waterford played with the wind in the first half and by half time it was obvious that they were in trouble as they trailed 1-6 to 1-4. Tipperary pulled away in the 2nd half and ran out convincing 3-12 to 1-8 winners. Only two Waterford players scored, Michelle Ryan got 0-8 and Niamh Briggs, who came on as a substitute, got the goal. Waterford.

Aimee Jordan, Nora Dunphy, Ann Dunphy, Aoife Mc Govern, Roisin Manahan, Mary Foley, Louise

Ryan, Michelle Mc Grath, Grainne Enright, Mairead Wall, Elaine Power, Linda Wall, Ruth Kirwan,

Michelle Ryan(0-8), Eileen Power, subs Eibhlis Cooney, Margaret Foley, Edel Wilson, Stephanie

Power, Aileen Barron, Sinead Ryan, Grainne Kenneally, Marie Delahunty, Laurissa Hogan.

The 2008 Eastern U14 final wasn't played until April '09 and Killrossanty scored a 6-2 to 2-4 victory over St Anne's.

In the Munster U16 championship Waterford travelled to Limerick for round 1 and scored a facile

11-10 to 2-1 victory. Then they lost to Tipperary by 9-16 to 1-7 in Ardfinnan. There was to be an

incredible turn around two months later when the same two teams met in the Munster U16 B

final in Cappoquin on July 8th. Tipp won a cliff hanger 3-12 to 5-5, Waterford hit the post or crossbar four times and Aileen Wall was named player of the match.

In the minor championship Waterford, who did not field a minor team in 2008, returned to the

fold and lost round 1 to Tipperary 2-14 to 3-6 on the 8th April. In round 2 they played Limerick at

the Fraher field on Saturday 11th April and won 3-13 to 0-3, the scores coming from Katie Hannon

(2-2), Lorna Walsh (0-3), Stephanie Power (1-0), Marie Delahunty (0-2), Olivia Hennebry (0-2), and

Fiona Morrissey (0-2). The Munster minor B final was another clash between Waterford and Tipperary. Waterford had home venue but the weather was so bad that they travelled to Newcastle on Thursday 30th April, and after a very entertaining game Tipperary won 4-12 to 3-10.

Waterford played Limerick in the Munster Intermediate semi final at Fraher field and won 1-12 to

0-8. They played against a strong wind in the first half and led at the interval 0-7 to 0-6. They eventually won through, but a seven point victory flattered them as Limerick missed several chances, and the only goal of the game, scored by Niamh Briggs, was a crucial score.

Waterford

scorers were Niamh Briggs (1-3), Linda Wall (0-4), Michelle Ryan (0-2), Sinead Ryan (0-2), Elaine

Power (0-1).

In the Interprovincial series in Kinnegad Munster defeated Ulster in round 1 0-8 to 0-6, and then

easily beat Connacht 5-10 to 0-2. This cleared the way for a Munster v Leinster final and Munster

duly regained the Mick Talbot Cup on a 2-6 to 0-8 scoreline. Michelle Ryan was the only Waterford player to play for the province in '09, and won her 2nd Interprovincial medal.

Waterford began the Intermediate championship campaign with a home game to Westmeath at

Ballymacarbry on Sunday 28th June. Waterford kicked three early points but Fiona Clafferty

goaled for Westmeath and Sarah Dolan shot Westmeath's second goal in the 26th minute and

Waterford trailed 2-6 to 0-6 at half time. They were a different proposition in the 2nd half. Niamh

Briggs, Mairead Wall, Michelle Ryan, Sinead Ryan and Linda Wall all shot points within five minutes to narrow the deficit to a single point. Leavy and Rogers pointed for Westmeath but Michelle Ryan and Niamh Briggs cancelled these out. Then there was further drama, referee Gerry Guinan (Galway) retired injured and Keith Delahunty (Tipperary), who was acting as umpire, took over. Then Niamh Briggs was fouled and Michelle Ryan goaled the resulting penalty. Four minutes later Briggs got on the end of an excellent move involving Michelle Mc

Grath and Mairead Wall and shot Waterford's 2nd goal. Briggs and Michelle Ryan shot further

points. However Westmeath finished strong and a goal from a penalty by Jenny Rodgers left Waterford hanging on for a 2-15 to 3-11 victory.

The following week Waterford travelled to Bruff to play the Munster Intermediate final against

Clare. After a poor start Waterford came back into contention and trailed by a single point 1-6 to

1-5 at half time, Niamh Briggs got the goal. In the 3rd quarter Waterford out scored Clare 1-7 to 0-

2, Niamh Briggs scoring 1-2 and Michelle Ryan got 0-3, the other points were scored by Louise

and Sinead Ryan. With seven minutes left Waterford were 7 points up, Eimear Considine then

scored a Clare goal but a point by Linda Wall shaded a 2-14 to 2-10 victory and a first ever Munster Intermediate title for Waterford. Afterwards Munster president Dan O Mahony presented the cup to team captain Michelle Ryan. Waterford: Aimee Jordan, Grainne Enright,

Ann Dunphy, Nora Dunphy, Aoife Mc Govern, Grainne Kenneally, Mary Foley, Michelle Mc Grath,

Elaine Power, Mairead Wall, Michelle Ryan(0-5), Linda Wall(0-2), Louise Ryan (0-1), Sinead Ryan

(0-3), Niamh Briggs (2-3), Subs: Eileen Power, Ruth Kirwan, Edel Wilson, Stephanie Power, Margaret Foley, Laurissa Hogan, Aileen Barron, Marie Delahunty, Eibhlis Cooney. Michelle McGrath won the player of the match award.

Abbeyside won the Mary Walsh 7-a-side cup, defeating Ballymacarbry in the final, 5-10 to 2-15.

In the minor B All Ireland semi-final Waterford defeated Wexford 1-13 to 2-6 in Wexford park on

July 15th, and a week later travelled to Ballinasloe to play Sligo in the All Ireland minor B shield

final. After ten minutes the sides were level 0-2 each, Sinead Ryan and Ann Dunphy getting the

Waterford points. Then Sinead Ryan shot three consecutive points, Derbhla Hayes got another

but it took a super save by Waterford keeper Ciara Kearney to keep Waterford in control as she

pushed a pile driver over the bar for a point. A goal by Kate Hannon and further points by Sinead

Ryan (2), Deirdre Fahey and Marie Delahunty left Waterford 1-10 to 0-5 ahead at half time. Both

teams got 0-3 each in the 3rd quarter, Waterford's scores coming from Deirdre Fahey, Marie Delahunty, and Sinead Ryan, and then Ryan and Delahunty combined to put Kate Hannon in for

the clinching goal in a 2-15 to 1-10 Waterford victory. Waterford: Ciara Kearney, Kate Rockett,

Laurissa Hogan, Kelly Dwane, Karen Mc Grath, Claire Gleeson, Eileen Power, Marie Delahunty,

Ann Dunphy (0-1), Deirdre Fahey (1-2), Sinead Ryan(0-8), Derbhla Hayes (0-1), Clodagh Walsh,

Kate Hannon (1-2), Olivia Hennebry. Subs. Fiona Morrissey (0-1) for C Walsh, Aileen Wall for D

Hayes, Lisa Tobin for O Hennebry, Roisin Tobin for K McGrath, Stephanie Power for K Hannon,

Kelly Sheehan for C Walsh, Niamh Power, Lorna Walsh, Rhiona Ni Dhonnacha, Trish Kiely, Shelly

O'Brien, Siobhan Murray, Aoife Hannon. Management: Dave Gleeson, Nicky Sheehan, Mary Walsh & John Frewan.

In the Intermediate championship Waterford's next opponents were Longford in Ballymacarbry

on July 12th. Waterford played with a strong breeze in the first half yet Longford led 0-10 to 0-4

at half time. By the 33rd minute Longford were seven points ahead when Waterford woke up. A

brace of pointed frees by Michelle Ryan and another effort by Linda Wall reduced the margin to a

goal. Despite further Waterford points by Michelle Ryan, Elaine Power, and Niamh Briggs two

more points by Denise Murtagh gave Longford a 0-17 to 0-14 win. Waterford scorers Michelle

Ryan (0-7), Elaine Power (0-2), Linda Wall (0-2), Mairead Wall, Sinead Ryan, Niamh Briggs (0-1)

each. Waterford then played Kilkenny in Mullinavat on the 2nd August. Again Waterford were not

very impressive although winning 0-17 to 1-7, The scores coming from Michelle Ryan (0-8), Elaine Power (0-2), Linda Wall (0-3), Niamh Briggs (0-2), Mairead Wall, Michelle Mc Grath and

Sinead Ryan (0-1) each. The final group game was against Roscommon in Dr Hyde Park. This time

Waterford started well and led 4-7 to 1-4 at half time, the goals scored by Sinead Ryan (2), Linda

Wall and Elaine Power. Waterford won 4-15 to 2-12, the scores coming from Sinead Ryan (2-3),

Michelle Ryan (0-8), Linda Wall (1-1), Elaine Power (1-0), Michelle Mc Grath (0-1), Niamh Briggs

(0-1). That qualified Waterford for the All Ireland Intermediate semi-final in Nenagh against Clare

on Saturday 28th August. Despite first half goals from Louise Ryan and Aoife Mc Govern Waterford trailed at half time 1-11 to 2-5. In the second half they missed several chances including a penalty. Michelle Ryan did score a 3rd goal but Clare ran out convincing and deserving

winner 3-17 to 3-9. The inconsistency that had dogged Waterford in recent years surfaced again.

In the U16 All Ireland Shield semi-final Waterford played Louth at Banagher on the 25th July. Waterford won 4-17 to 3-6. The All Ireland shield final was played at St Lomans Mullingar on Saturday 8th August. Fermanagh were the opponents, Waterford won 4-9 to 1-9 with Aoife Hannon scoring 3-3 and Aileen Wall getting the 4th goal. Waterford: Kelly Sheehan

(Ballyduff),

Aoife Landers (St Pats), Brid Cooney (Ballymacarbry), Siobhan Ryan (Ballymacarbry), Roisin Tobin

(Abbeyside), Claire Whyte (Killrossanty), Karen McGrath (Ballymacarbry), Clodagh Behan (Capt.)

(Dungarvan), Fiona Morrissey (Abbeyside), Rioghnach Nic Dhonnacha (0-1) (Old Parish), Clodagh

Walsh (0-2) (Ballyduff), Aoife Hannon (3-3) (Ballyduff), Aileen Wall (1-1) (Ballymacarbry), Hannah

Landers (0-2) (Ballyduff), Kate Whyte (Killrossanty), Subs: Alison Keane (Ballyduff), Niamh Power

(Comeragh Rangers), Shelly O'Brien (Clashmore), Clodagh Ryan (Na Deise), Ashling Morrissey

(Comeragh Rangers), Helen Power (Comeragh Rangers), Fiona Fitzpatrick (Comeragh Rangers),

Sinead Hogan (Old Parish), Susan Gleeson (Ballyduff), Martha Cosgrove (Abbeyside), Catherine

Power (Comeragh Rangers), Orla Finnegan (Comeragh Rangers).

Management: John Frewen, Johnny Landers, Nora Kirwan, Sharon Nugent, Anna Landers.

In the U14 A county final Comeragh Rangers defeated Killrossanty 2-9 to 4-1 in Kilmacthomas.

Abbeyside defeated Na Deise 4-7 to 3-3 in the U14 B county final, Eimear Fennell and Karen Delahunty got two goals each. The U14 C county final Ardmore/Grange beat Tramore 5-5 to 2-2

in Fews. In the U12 A county final Comeragh Rangers defeated Dungarvan 7-6 to 3-3 in Kilmacthomas, Aoife Murray scored 3-1 for Comeragh Rangers. In the Junior A county final Dungarvan defeated Clashmore 1-10 to 1-8, the Intermediate final Abbeyside easily won defeating St Anne's. Abbeyside also entered the senior championship and qualified for the senior

county final against Ballymacarbry at Kilmacthomas on the 20th September. Abbeysides Marie

Delahunty gave an exhibition of free taking, but a more experienced Ballymacarbry side proved too strong and won 7-16 to 2-13.

Dungarvan had a tough assignment in the Munster Junior club championship, a trip to Pairc Ui

Rinn on the 4th October to play Clonakilty. A very strong Cork side won easily, 6-25 to 0-2.

They

went all the way winning the All Ireland Junior club championship. Abbeyside played Limerick

champions Athea in Ballyclough in the Munster semi-final on the 3rd October and lost 2-10 to 1-7.

On Saturday October 10th Ballymacarbry played Southern Gaels (Kerry) in the Munster B club

championship at Glantane (Cork) and were well beaten 4-17 to 1-8. Southern Gaels subsequently

lost the A final to Donoughmore 1-16 to 0-11 the following Saturday.

Ballymacarbry won the U16 A county title defeating Comeragh Rangers.

Abbeyside won the U16 B final defeating Ballyduff.

2009 Club Roll of Honour

Grade Winner Runner-up

Senior Ballymacarbry Abbeyside

Intermediate Abbeyside St Anne's

Junior A Dungarvan Clashmore

Junior B Tramore Shamrocks

Minor A Ballymacarbry Ballyduff

Minor B Abbeyside St Pats

U 16 A Ballymacarbry Comeragh Rangers

U 16 B Abbeyside Ballyduff

U 16 C Old Parish Ardmore

U 14 A Comeragh Rangers Killrossanty

U 14 B Abbeyside Na Deise

U 14 C Ardmore Tramore

U 12 A Comeragh Rangers Dungarvan

U 12 B Killrossanty Stradbally

U 12 C St Anne's Old Parish

11 –a-side Div 1 Ballymacarbry Ballyduff

11-a-side Div 2 St Anne's Dungarvan

11-a –side Div 3 Shamrocks Kilmacthomas

7-a-side Div 1 Abbeyside Ballymacarbry

7-a-side Div 2 Tramore St Anne's

7-a-side Div 3 Dungarvan Shamrocks A

Honours:

Waterford Munster intermediate champions

Waterford All Ireland u16 B shield winners

Waterford All Ireland minor B shield winners

2010

The Waterford Ladies County board held a function at Lawlors Hotel on Saturday 2nd January to honour the 2009 championship winning teams.

The A.G.M. was held at Lawlors Hotel, Dungarvan on Monday 18th January and returned the following officers for the year.

Chairperson: Brendan Gallagher, (St.Anne's)

Vice Chairperson: Conor O'Riordan, (Clashmore)

Secretary: Gráinne Flynn, (Shamrocks)

Assistant Secretary: Trish Fitzgerald, (Clashmore)

PRO: Peter Jordan, (Abbeyside)

Treasurer: Lisa Cronin, (Kilmacthomas)

Assistant Treasurer: Johnny Landers, (St Pats)

Registrar: Marianne Cliffe, (Clashmore)

Development Officer; George Young, (Old Parish)

Cultural & Language Officer: Deirdre Nagle, (Shamrocks)

Fixtures Secretary: Peter Jordan, (Abbeyside)

Children's Officer: Breda Cronin, (Ardmore)

Integration Officer: Ann Hogan, (Old Parish)

School Liaison Officer: Ann Dunford, (St Pats)

Waterford roll of honour:

Senior All Ireland: 5 (1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1998)

Junior All Ireland: 1 (1986)

Minor All Ireland: 6 (1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001)

Minor All Ireland B Shield: 1 (2009)

U16 All Ireland: 6 (1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998)

U16 All Ireland B Shield: 1 (2009)

U14 All Ireland: 1 (1998)

U14 All Ireland Blitz: 2 (1992, 1996)

National League Division 1: 4 (1992, 1995, 1998, 2002)

National junior League: 1 (1986)

Munster senior Championship: 10 (1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002)

Munster Minor: 8 (1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001,2002)

Munster U16: 7 (1989, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998)

Munster U14: 2 (1995, 1998)

Munster Minor B: 1 (2006)

Munster u16 B: 2 (2005, 2006)

Munster u14 B: 1 (2004)

Clubs roll of honour:

Ballymacarbry:

All Ireland senior 10: (1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998) a record

All Ireland senior 7 a side cup; 7 (1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1996, 2006, 2007) a record

All Ireland senior 7 a side plate: 3 (1989, 1990, 2005)

All Ireland Community games: 3 (1987, 1988, 1992)

Munster senior: 14 (1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998,

1999, 2000) a record

Clashmore: All Ireland intermediate 7 a side cup: 1 (2002)

Old Parish: All Ireland junior 7 a side cup: 2 (2002, 2003)

Abbeyside: All Ireland junior 7 a side cup: 1 (2008)

All Stars: 67

Ballymacarbry: 53 (a record) – Aine Wall 8, Annlisa Crotty 7, Marie Crotty 5, Geraldine O Ryan 5,

Martina O Ryan 4, Catriona Casey 4, Noirin Walsh 3, Bernie Ryan 3, Ann Fitzpatrick 3, Siobhan O

Ryan 2, Ann Dunford 2, Rebecca Hallahan 2, Dolores Tyrell 1, Regina Byrne 1, Mari O Ryan 1, Cleona Walsh 1, Fiona Crotty 1,

Kill: 4, Julie Torpey

Old Parish: 4, Mary O Donnell

Kilrossanty: 2, June Whyte

Na Deise: 2, Olivia Condon

Tramore: 1, Donna Frost

Clashmore: 1, Mary O Rourke

Waterford player have a won a total of 67 All Star awards