

An Cumann Camogíochta Comhairle Laighean

Convention 2014



Glennaglass, Mountrath, Portlaoise, Laois. <u>Secretary.leinster.camogie@gaa.ie</u> 087 7940483.

A Chara,

Leinster Camogie Council Convention takes place on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2015, in Áras Laighean Offices Portlaoise Co. Laois at 1 pm.

Each County is entitled to have 2 voting Delegates present.

Is Mise le Meas,

Sarah Conroy

Runaí.



# Agenda

- 1. Attendance
- 2. Chairperson's Address
- 3. Adoption of Standing Orders
- 4. Minutes of 2013 Convention
- 5. Matters arising
- 6. Secretary's Report
- 7. Treasurer's Report
- 8. Serva Sport and Camogie 2015 by Croke Park Official
- 9. Development Report
- 10. Registrar's Report
- 11. P.R.O's Report
- 12. Appointment of Tellers
- 13. Motions/Bye Laws
- 14. Election of Officers
- 15. Fixtures Draw
- 16. A.O.B
- 17. Date of 2015 Convention.



## **Buanordaithe (Standing Orders)**

The Proposer of a resolution or an amendment may speak for five minutes.

A delegate speaking to a resolution or an amendment may not exceed three minutes.

The proposer of a resolution or an amendment may speak a second time for three minutes before a vote is taken. No other delegate may speak a second time to the same resolution or amendment.

An Cathaoirleach may, at any time she/he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on the proposer for a reply. When that has been given, a vote must be taken.

An Cathaoirleach may consider any subject not on An Clár provided she/he receives the consent of the majority of the delegates present.

Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on An Clár except with the consent of a majority equal to two-thirds of those present, entitled to vote, and voting.



# Secretary's Report 2014.

2014 was yet again another successful year for Leinster County's and players, although we got off to a bad start. In February Mullinavat were defeated by Ardrahan Galway in the A.I.B All Ireland Club Championship semi final. Ballyhale Shamrocks took it a step further and made it to the A.I.B All Ireland Intermediate final only to be defeated by Lismore of Waterford in Croke Park. Well done to both teams and Club's for representing your Province so well.

In May our Leinster Senior team retained their All Ireland Gael Linn title defeating Munster after extra time in a trilling match in Rathleague Portlaoise, captained by Mag's D'Arcy Wexford. Congratulations to Laois' Sarah Ann Fitzgerald on winning player of the tournament. I want to thank Niall William's, Graham Dillan, Colum King, Adian Franks, Mick Ward and Hilda Breslin for looking after our Senior team on the day.

Also on that day in May in Rathleague we held our Provincial Under 14 Blitz and I want to thank Pat Martin for once again providing the fixtures ad schedules and running the Blitz with such professionalism. I would also like to thank the R.D.O's and Officers who volunteered their time on the day.

Puc Fáda was once again run on the Curragh in Kildare and I would like to thank Nat Pearson and Margaret Condell for mapping out the course again this year and to Patsy, Hilda and Linda for assisting me on the day. Congratulations to all who represented their County's with pride and to the outright winners on the day,

Under 14: Danielle Morrissey Kilkenny

Senior: Stephanie Carthy Dublin.

Perhaps for 2015 we can come in line with the Gaa and also run an Under 16 competition.

# Leinster Roll of Honour 2014.

Senior – Wexford Intermediate – Kildare Junior – Laois Minor A Championship – Wexford Minor A Shield – Dublin Minor B Championship – Kildare Minor B Shield – Laois Under 16 A Championship – Offaly Under 16 A Shield – Wexford Under 16 B Championship – Dublin Under 16 B Shield – Westmeath Senior Club Championship – Oulart The Ballagh, Wexford Intermediate Club Championship – Piltown, Kilkenny Junior Club Championship – Kilmessan, Meath.

Congratulations to all the winners especially Kilmessan Meath who went on to win the A.I.B All Ireland Junior Club Championship Final in November defeating Four Roads of Roscommon. Thanks to Laois, Carlow, Naas, Edenderry and Clane Gaa's for the use of their facilities to host our finals. I would like to thank Hilda for all her work with the fixtures and my fellow Officers, Nat, Linda and Breda for all their work on Final's day's doing the gates and any other job's needing done, none of these people here are afraid of a bit of hard work and it's an honour to work alongside them. To all our referee's for doing such a great job providing us with a service without which we would have no games thank you and we look forward to working with you in 2015.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Officers, people who are not afraid to get their hands dirty and turned out no matter what the weather to help out. Thanks to our T.H.D.C committee of Richard Mulholland, Joan Dunphy, Breda Donnelly, Eileen Hughes, Margaret Sexton and Linda Kenny and our fixtures committee of Rachel Hogan, Hilda Breslin, Pat Martin, Catherine Neary and late addition Linda Kenny, without whom we couldn't function. Thanks to Martina McGillaway for all her photography and brightening up Facebook and Twitter. Thanks to Gerry for finally getting our website up and running and keeping us informed. Thanks to all the County Secretary's for putting up with me over the past year and to those of you who went above and beyond to help me out in the background, I look forward to working with you all in 2015.

Commiserations to those who lost All Ireland Finals in 2014 may 2015 be your year and maybe it will be third time lucky for Laois and Kilkenny.

Sincere sympathy to any member who suffered bereavement in 2014.

Sarah Conroy, Runai.

# WICKLOW COUNTY CAMOGIE CONVENTION 30th November, 2014 GAA Complex, Aughrim Secretary's Report 2014

Wicklow started the year with no county secretary. A meeting was held with Club delegates and Leinster Council to try and resolve the situation as Wicklow could not function as a county board without a secretary. Members of Leinster Council explained to the clubs that they would take over camogie in wicklow, they would also take over the finances of the county board and with the present workload of the Leinster Council they would not have much time for running fixtures. With this in mind I agreed to take on the role again if there was efforts made to improve policy and procedures and fixtures in Wicklow.

Fixtures was the main concern. The did not work well in 2013, we have to have fixtures that we can fulfill, we have to have competition structures that we agree to at the beginning of the year. And we have to have a Fixtures Committee reporting to the County Board at monthly meetings. For 2014 we did not always have Fixtures Committee representation at county board meetings. We met on a cold night in February and agreed the structures for our competitions and did something totally different. Clubs got a few hours notice of venues, dates of fixtures were changed, Why do clubs accept this ? Why do clubs pay for a service and not get it. Clubs it is up to you to run camogie in your county the way it is run in other counties you owe it to your members.

Wicklow ran a very successful Development Squad at U14 and U15. Also an U16 Team who carved the way for an improved U16 team next year and a young but a more experienced minor team. I travelled with these squads at different stages during the year and am proud to be associated with them, all representing their county and clubs impecably. I wish the very best for these girls in their camogie careers. I hope that wicklow county board will nurture these girls and I hope that someday every young camogie player in wicklow will want to play for her county.

Congratulations to all the winning teams and all the teams who participated in camogie in Wicklow for 2014. To all the people in clubs who are promoting the game within their communities and schools well done and keep up the good work. To all our tireless workers and endless promotors of the game keep it going and a big thank you without you it wont happen.

2014 Winners Championship Senior Donard-Glen Intermediate Avondale U16 Knockananna U14 Knockananna U13 Donard-Glen U18 Bray Emmetts B Cup Senior Ballinacor

# Intermediate -U16 Donard-Glen U14 Bray Emmetts U13 Knockananna Shield Senior Kilcoole Intermediate -U16 Bray Emmetts U14 Aughrim U13 Kiltegan League Senior Donard Intermediate Avondale U16 Glenealy U14 Knockananna

Congratulations to Knockananna & Carnew who represented us at the National Feile nGael for 2014.

Well done to Donard-Glen who got to a Leinster Club Semi-Final only to be beaten by eventual winners Kilmessan. Congratulations to them, Wicklow should be very proud of them. Congratulations to Liz Fahy of Avoca our 2013 Player of the year.

I would like take this opportunity to thank my fellow officers who have helped me during the year. I would also like to thank Eve Talbot our RDO and the support services at Croke Park who have always been at the end of the phone line.

To the outgoing committee I wish them the best and thank them for their efforts in 2014, and to the new committee I wish you every success for 2015.

To all involved in Wicklow Camogie I wish you all a very happy christmas and I wish you all the best for 2015.

Tracy McCabe.

# **OFFALY CAMOGIE COUNTY BOARD**

#### Secretary's Report 2014

2014 started with the welcome news that a new club, Brosna Gaels would be affiliating this year and they were welcomed to Offaly Camogie.

Inter-County fixtures played a big part in Offaly Camogie in so far as most weekends were taken up with scheduled inter-county games leaving little scope for club championship. The restructuring of the Leinster Minor Championship to a Round Robin series in particular caused difficulties with our club fixtures.

16 referee's took part in a referee course held for existing and new referee's to bring them up to date with camogie rules.

A successful Code of Ethics Course for all those involved with underage players was held in October.

Offaly's Féile winners were Tullamore who came Runner Up in their division of the All Ireland Féile competition. Runners Up, Kinnitty were also invited to take part in the All Ireland Féile and a great experience was had by both teams in Northern Ireland both in the competitions and by the welcome afforded them by their host clubs.

Our Féile Skills representative Dara Hanamy came 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the competition.

County Development ran a workshop for mentors involved with underage girls and a great programme of events was held for U8's and U10's and a Festival of Camogie for U12's under the guidance of Co Development Officer Brendan Hanamy and RDO Lizzie Flynn. The emphasis was on fun and participation for all.

U14'S took place in number of organised blitzes during the year and won the Leinster A blitz in Laois, culminating in the Leinster Blitz in Croke Park the Saturday before the Camogie All Ireland.

36 girls took part in our own organised Camogie Camp in Kinnitty and was very successful with coaching by some of our inter-county players.

The new registration system was a learning curve for all involved and was not without its hiccups in the beginning but is running smoothly since.

A new Minor Cup was commissioned by the St Rynagh's Club in memory of the late Emily Horan, a former player who passed away and the inaugural recipients were Tullamore who beat St Cillian's by the narrowest of margins to take the Minor A title.

#### Offaly Roll of Honour 2014

Senior:	Birr
Intermediate:	Tullamore
Junior:	Naomh Bríd
Minor A:	Tullamore
Minor B:	Birr
U16A:	St Cillian's
U16B:	Birr

Birr were crowned Senior County Champions for the first time in the club's history and went on to meet Pilltown of Kilkenny in the first round of the Leinster Club championship but were unfortunately beaten by a stronger side.

Tullamore were Intermediate winners and Naomh Bríd took the Junior title. St Cillians were crowned U16 champions (15 aside). Tullamore once again took the honours at U14A and Birr were county champions at U14B.

The lowest point for Offaly Camogie came when we could not field a Minor team to compete in the Minor Final against Dublin due to girls not being released from clubs and other commitments.

I would also like to thank our local media, Midlands 103 and Tullamore Tribune for their extensive coverage of all our games. Particular thanks go to our own PRO Damian Moran who instigated all the coverage and kept our local media and social media forums up to date with happenings in Offaly Camogie. Also thanks to Damian for his excellent match programmes.

Sincere thanks are extended to all our mentors for their time and commitment to our girls and Offaly Camogie and to all the girls who represented their clubs and county proudly.

Thanks also to RDO Lizzie Flynn for her assistance during the year.

Thanks to my fellow committee members Robbie, Damian M , Damian K, Brendan, Owen and Breda and Mark for all their co-operation and help during the year and to all clubs and secretaries for their co-operation also.

Finally, thanks to our two gate collectors, Carmel and Frances for collecting gates all year.

Happy Christmas and a healthy new year to all.

Mary Spollan.

# Louth Camogie Board

# **Convention**

26<sup>th</sup> November 2014

# 7.30 Philipstown

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to present you with the 2014 annual report.

For 2014 Louth Competitions included U8, U10 Blitz, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U18 League and for senior we had the Senior League, 9Aside League and Senior Championship. At the beginning it was decided with a majority vote to allow two clubs from Monaghan to join our competitions. These two clubs were Inniskeen and Castleblayney. Clontibert was not invited in this year as we felt they were too strong for Louth. Castleblayney took part in the U13, U14, U16 and U18 Leagues. Inniskeen took part in the U15 and Senior League. Inniskeen did enter the U13 League but had to pull out.

Unfortunately 2014 saw one of our senior teams Cooley unable to field in the Senior League or the Senior Championship. This was a setback for Louth Camogie with so few clubs in Louth and the girls having so few games. I hope to see Cooley back on the pitch in all competitions next year.

There were numerous U8, U10, U12 Blitz's held in Louth throughout the year.

The Feile was won by St Brides, who went on to represent Louth in the feile. Feile was changed slightly this year which allowed a second team from some counties to enter as a result St kevins were also able to represent Louth. Both clubs did really well.

U12 League was won by St Kevins U13 League was won by Castleblayney U14 League was won by St Brides U15 League was won by St Brides U16 League was won by Castleblayney U18 League was won by Casleblayney Senior League Plate – No Final Senior League Shield was won by St Anne's Senior League Cup Final was won by Inniskeen Senior 9Aside Final was won by Collon Senior Championship was won by St Kevin's

St Kevin's went on to Play Wicklow in the Lenister Club Champinship.

Well done to all the teams involved in all the competitions all clubs were represented very well.

We had a fundraising bag pack in the neighbourhood Dunnes Stores in Dundalk in May. This was a success.

Niamh Mackin went to represent Louth in the Poc Fada

Louth was well represented at the Lenister Convention, Congress and lenister Meetings throughout the year. Thanks to all members that travelled to these meetings.

Louth Nominated Ann Harrington from St Anne's as Volunteer of the year.

Louth Nominated Connie Crehan from St Anne's as player of the decade.

There was a Coaching and Tackle Workshop held in Mattock Rangers Camogie Club in November. 9 coaches from 4 clubs attended this workshop. Thanks to Mattock Rangers for hosting this workshop.

Louth went to the U14 Blitz in May, Thanks to Claire and Lorcan who went with the team on the day.

Although this year was filled with mainly positive events there were a number of challenges that arose. We were short on referees from last year so this felt like I was using the same referees for all matches. As like last year it was suggested we use an outside referee for Senior Finals. This left some of our Louth referees far from happy. Kevin Brady and Brain Brady have retired from refereeing Camogie. I would like to thank them for their time over the last few years.

There were a number of difficulties trying to book a pitch or a referee for games due to double booking, weather etc. On a number of occasions I was left with short notice to arrange a referee for a match. To help with this it is important to stick to the 5 day rule. If you are due to play games make sure you let the incoming secretary know 5-7 days in advance.

Unfortunately there were two red card offences in a Senior Championship match this year. As there was no THDC set up by Louth at the start of the year this matter hand to be heard by Lenister. The offences were thrown out as the referee's report was not filled in correctly. To prevent this from happening again every club has to nominate a member from their club to be on the THDC on the nomination papers.

There were two fines from Croke Park carried over from the previous year for not competing in the U16 and U18 competitions. By the end of the year both fines had been done away with for helping out with two finals throughout the year.

I would like to thank Knockbridge and philipstown for the use of their facilities for county board meetings throughout the year. I would like to thank all the clubs who let us use their facilities for our final days. I would like to thank all our committee members for the work they have done for Louth Camogie this Year. I would especially like to thank Sinead Duffy and Nuala Hoey and my own club St Anne's for all their support, advice and guidance throughout this year.

Lastly I would like to wish our incoming committee all the best for 2015.

ls Mise

Lorraine Young

Runai

# Wexford Camogie Secretary's Report 2014

As I sit down to write this report I feel a little sad as most of you know I am stepping down as County Secretary for Loch Garman Camogie at this meeting.

I feel now that I have been in this position for the past number of years and I feel this is long enough to be in any post.

In no way is this a reflection on any of the people I have worked with or got to know in one way or another through Camogie ,the people associated with Wexford Camogie are the most wonderful group of people you could ever wish to meet.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my years as secretary and what more could anyone ask for than all the silverware that Wexford Camogie has brought home to our county in a time that we all needed a little lift in our lives.

I feel very privileged to be part of Wexford Camogie for the past number of years. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of been part of you association.

I'm not leaving Camogie altogether I would like to stay involved in one way or another if you will have me ,I'm just stepping down as County Secretary.

Now is the time for me to thank all of the people that had to put up with me over the past year ,the executive committee ,the numerous club personnel all the sub committee's the county management teams and the county players who I worked with it was a pleasure

Our County players were the best ambassadors for our sport that you could wish for they all went out to represent our county with honour and pride and they sure done us proud, the whole way up from U14/U16/Minor/Intermediate and Senior. Congratulations to Craanford for represented us in the Feile and gave a fantastic account of themselves also to the other clubs representing us in the regional blitzs as feile was run in a

different format this year,

well done to Grainne McCabe who represented us in the skills competition.

Sponsorship is very important to any organisation and we have the best sponsors in Ireland.if there was an all Ireland competition for sponsors Wexford Camogie sponsors would collect this title every year "Hands down" Thank you.

Congratulation's to all the girls who were nominated for all-stars and congratulations to Oulart/Ballagh on being so successful in the Inter- County club championship well done.

To anyone who suffered bereavement over the past year my deepest sympathy, I hope you and your family have a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

Mise le Meas Marie Ni Raghallaigh Runai Chontae.

# Meath Camogie Secretary's Report 2014

In the last days of January 2014 I got a phone call from Martin Heneghan Chairman, he had a hard luck story, `the Co. Board had no secretary and was in trouble` and in a moment of weakness I said OK and here I am. We had 10 monthly meetings since then

Date of Meetings 2014			
4 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	11 <sup>th</sup> August		
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	1 <sup>st</sup> September		
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	6 <sup>th</sup> October		
6 <sup>th</sup> May	3 <sup>rd</sup> November		
3rd June			
7 <sup>th</sup> July			

Number of Meetings attended by Clubs in 2014

Club	No of Meetings attended	Club	No of Meetingsattended
Boardsmill	9	Killyon	9
Blackhall Gaels	10	Kilmessan	10
Clan Na Gael	9	Kiltale	10
Donaghmore/Ashbourne	10	Na Fianna	10
Drumree	9	Navan	10
Dunboyne	10	Ratoath	9
Dunderry	10	Trim	7
Kildalkey	10		

Congratulations to all who took part in the competitions during the year The following are the winners and runners up Minor and 1 Adult League still to be played

Competition	Winners	Runners-Up
U13 A	Na Fianna	Clan na Gael
U13 B	Kiltale	Drumree
U14A	Na Fianna	Kilmessan
U14B	Kildalkey	Dunderry
U14 Shield	Trim	Don/Ash
U15A	Na Fianna	Ratoath
U15B	Boardsmill	Navan
U16A	Ratoath	Na fianna
U16B	Boardsmill	Dunderry
Minor		
DIV 3 League		
	Boardsmill	Dunderry
DIV 2 League		
DIV 1 League	Kilmessan	Dunboyne
Junior Championship	Don/Ash	Drumree
Intermediate Championship	Kildalkey	Boardsmill
Senior Championship	Kilmessan	Dunboyne

Kilmessan won the Senior Championship in Meath and went on to represent Meath in Junior club all Ireland Championship culminating in the All Ireland final in Edenderry on

the 23/11/14.against a strong and determined Four Roads Roscommon, but the team spirit and hard work of Kilmessan in mucky conditions won it for them on the day, helped by the player of the match Megan Thynne.Captain Albhie Lynch accepted the cup from President Aileen Lawlor.It was a great day for Kilmessan, a great day for Meath camogie and above all a great day for CAMOGIE

I would like to thank the Fixtures Committee for all their work compiling fixtures, organising games referees etc during the year. Their work is invaluable.

#### **County Teams**

The Intermediate team trained and played in Rathmolyon and Kilmessan during the year, many thanks to and Rathmolyon Hurling Club and Kilmessan Hurling club for facilitating this and keeping their pitches in excellent order.

The Junior B team and the Minor team trained mainly in Drumree pitch and many thanks to them for their facilities

The U/16 Team trained in Navan O`Mahoney`s and Drumree. Many thanks for the use of their facilities.

The U/14 Team trained in Navan O`Mahoney`s agains thanks to them for the use of their pitch

#### Intermediate Team

The Meath Intermediate team played in Division 2 of the National League and got to final of Leinster Championship v kildare where they were level after extra time on the 1<sup>st</sup> day ,Unfortunately they lost to Kildare on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day in extra time .They also participated in the All Ireland Championship

Many thanks to John Davis Tom Walsh Sharon Raleigh John Davis (Jnr)

#### Junior A Team

Meath had a difficult year as it was their 1<sup>st</sup> to play at this level. They fulfilled all their fixtures in league and championship

Many thanks to GT Troy, Brian Coughlan, Richie McCabe and Mary Andrews

#### **Minor Team**

The Meath minor team had a very successful year . They fulfilled all their fixtures, they were in all Ireland Minor C Championship which they won against Armagh in Down. They were also in the Leinster League Competition , they reached the final in this but unfortunately lost against Kildare in Naas

I would like to congratulate all involved in a very successful year for this Minor Team Many thanks to Teresa Clinch. Ed O`Riordan Mary Keegan and GT Troy

#### Under 16 Team

Meath had Under 16 B team and Under 16 C. The under 16 B got through to the Leinster Final but was beaten by Dublin . the under 16 C was an all Ireland Competition , it was made up of the younger members of the under 16 panel they played Wicklow and Carlow and unfortunately failed to field against Kerry

Thanks to Richie O'Donnell, Martin Heneghan, Ed.O'Riordan, Cora Heneghan, Tom Byrne Caroline Feeney and Aishling Carroll

#### **Under 15 Development Team**

Under 15 went to all Ireland Blitz in Portlaoise, they won one and lost two of their group games but they had a good day and a good experience was had by all

Thanks to Richie O'Donnell, Martin Heneghan, Ed.O'Riordan Cora Heneghan, Tom Byrne Caroline Feeney and Aishling Carroll

#### Under 14 Team

Had a big panel of girls made up 2 teams A and B They went to Limerick Blitz and the A team won They went to Portlaoise Leinster Blitz and the B team won the shield .They went to all Ireland Blitz in Dublin B team got to semi final and lost.

They went to Croke Park o all Ireland day and paraded around the pitch .they also participate in the Wicklow non competitive blitz and they went to Thurles where the B team were runners up in the final.

Many thanks to Vinny Kavanagh, Linda Ryall, Frances O'Regan, Mattie Lynch, Tommy McLoughlin, Nuala O'Brien, Linda Flaherty, Brian O'Regan, Donie Mooney.

#### Feile Na Gael

Feile organizing Committee looked for 2 Teams from a lot of Counties in 2014 Na Fianna and Ratoath represented Meath at Feile in Down

#### Leinster Puc Fada

Well done to Aishling Carroll who represented Meath in the Long puck Competition

I would like to thank our Sub Committees: Fixtures, Transfer Hearings & Disciplinary Committee, Development & Fundraising Committee and to all our Referees for giving up of their time

I want to thank the Club Secretaries for all your help and assistance throughout the year and to my fellow officers of the Meath Camogie County Board for all your hard work and patience during the year. And finally to wish all clubs and county teams continued success in 2015

Aine Ni Cofaigh Secretary Meath Camogie

# Kilkenny Camogie Convention 2014, Secretary's Address

2014 has been a very exciting year for Kilkenny Camogie at all grades.

At County level, we had representatives in all grades from u14 up to Senior competing in Leinster and National Competitions. This year's u14 squads enjoyed huge success, with either the A or the B squad emerging victorious at almost every blitz they attended. Under the guidance of Damien O Donohoe and Jer O Donovan, they had a very enjoyable and successful year culminating in the All Ireland Blitz on the 13<sup>th</sup> September. There are some national issues surrounding grading at this level as there are a few counties which are not really strong enough to be graded as A counties but tend to be stronger than all counties B squads. This is being examined by the national development committee to see if there is a solution to this problem.

Our u16s were in a very strong group in the All Ireland series and struggled to get results. Likewise, the Minors failed to emerge from their group but did contest the Leinster final against Wexford. However, Wexford proved stronger on the day

It was at adult level where we enjoyed a period of dominance throughout the year. The senior team won the Irish Daily Star National League division 1 and also appeared in the Leinster final but lost out to Wexford. Both teams stormed their way through to the Liberty All Ireland Championship finals. Unfortunately again, this was not to be their day. Huge congratulations to Catherine Foley, Windgap who received an Intermediate Soaring Star award and also to Ann Dalton, St. Lachtains, Colette Dormer, Paulstown and Michelle Quilty, Mullinavat who all recently received All Star awards. Thanks to Niall Williams, Graham Dillon, John Joe Aylward , Liz Dempsey and Orla Curran who all put huge time and effort into these two teams all year.

I want to thank all those people who gave freely of their time and their expertise to all the County Squads this year. It is a huge commitment to give and we are very lucky in Kilkenny to have so many willing and able to do this.

### Clubs

We registered thirty three clubs in Kilkenny in 2014. I am aware that there are a number of these in difficulty at the moment. I have been in contact with Patrick Mullaney, the Regional Development Officer, about these clubs and we hope to work with them over the coming months to see if we can help them out.

I want to congratulate any club that won a county title this year, but also well done to every club who manages to field teams, many from u6 right through to adult. There are so many other attractions and distractions, all vying for the same pool of players, that it really is success in itself to be able to maintain an active club. I want to thank all the administrators of these clubs. Many times, you are the forgotten minority, but without you, no club will survive.

On a personal note, I want to thank all my fellow officers. 2014 has been a pleasure with all officers maintaining a common goal for the betterment of Camogie in Kilkenny. I want to give a special mention to Martin, who took on a huge workload in preparation for the All Ireland Finals. He also, single handily, organised the KCLR quiz. Thanks also to Kilkenny GAA and all involved with Nowlan Park. From dealing with other counties, we know how lucky we are to receive the support that we do from Ned Quinn, Jimmy Walsh and all the GAA board.

Sheila Norris, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014

# Laois Secretary's Report 2014

The year got off to a shaky start with several Officers positions not filled after reconvening several times. I took up the roll as secretary in January, further taking on the Treasurer's roll in May. I feel that this is far too much work for 1 person to have had to had taken upon themselves when we have many others who were more than happy to give their opinion at meetings.

I sincerely hope the Executive of 2015 work as a unit for the betterment of Laois Camogie and learn from the mistakes of this year.

#### **County Teams:**

The year got off to a flying start with the return of Mark Gorman, Kayne Kavanagh and Helen Collier to the Minor and Under 16 squad's and the new appointment of David Cuddy as Senior Manager with Selection team of Mary Dunne, Martin Moore and Ber Fitzpatrick.

On the 22nd of February the Minor Team were to start their year with a win at home to Cavan, 2 - 4 to 0 -3, they followed through with that success and beat a weak Roscommon team in round 2 by 7 - 20 to 1 - 0. This put them in a semi final where they were to be defeated by old rival's Meath on a score-line of Meath 3 - 8 Laois 1 - 7. Having not even reached a final in 2014 Árd Coimhairle deemed this team too strong for the C Championship for 2015 and promoted Laois to B grade, which was a surprise as beaten finalist's Armagh managed to fly below the radar and remain in C.

The Senior team having won Division 3 of the league in 2013 were promoted to Division 2 for 2014 and knew they had an uphill battle ahead of them. They surprised everyone by beating Wexford at home in the first round 4 - 12 to 0 -1. They went on to only lose 1 game in this league to Down 2 - 7 to 2 - 4, beating Antrim 0 - 13 to 1 - 8, Galway 0 - 13 to 1 - 5, and Kilkenny 1 - 10 to 0 -12. This put them into a semi - final against Cork in The Ragg Tipperary on the 20th of April where they put in a big fight on the day but were out classed by the bigger County 2 - 6 to 0 - 8.

In March the Under 16's started their campaign in Leinster beating Carlow convincingly at home in The Heath 8 - 20 to no score. They were defeated by Dublin and having received a bye from Louth this put them into a Leinster semi - final against Meath but they were unlucky on the day not to progress any further.

May saw the unexpected call up to the Leinster Senior Gael Linn team for Sarah Ann Fitzgerald who standing shoulder to shoulder with the senior playing in Leinster showed that Laois Camogie is right up there with the best. Sarah Ann not only received an all Ireland medal that day when Leinster retained their Senior title but she also received Player of the Tournament presented by President Aileen Lawlor. On behalf of Laois I want to thank Sarah Ann for representing her County and once again bestowing honours on Laois Camogie.

On the 17th of May Laois took on a weak Carlow team in the Leinster Junior Championship and had no problem securing their place in the Leinster Final in O'Moore Park on the 8th of June. Laois started off a 3 match line up on the day with a great victory over Offaly and the National championship and a place back in Croke Park for the girl's was now within their reach. Congratulations to Niamh Dollard Camross who received Player of the Match for the Leinster Junior Final another player along with Sarah Ann who has proved her worth while playing for her County. On the 10th of July Laura Dunne represented her County in the Leinster Poc Fáda competition in the Curragh after Laois Champion Alison Mc Evoy was unable to travel on the day. Thanks to Laura for stepping in and coming in 3rd in the competition between 10 Leinster County's.

On the 5th of July the Under 16's started their campaign in the All Ireland series with a big win at home over Kerry 8 - 9 to 1 - 4. They followed up this winning streak by beating Wicklow 7 - 14 to 1 - 2, Carlow 4 - 8 to 3 - 3 and received a walkover from Meath. The semi - final against Roscommon in Shinrone County Offaly saw an excellent display from a team who just seemed to get better by the game, final score Laois 4 - 6 to Roscommon 0 -2. The final which was played in Athy against a strong Kildare side showed the supporters the strength and bond that these girls had formed along the way and secured a famous victory over the home side 2 - 8 to 1 - 4. Laois' Aisling O'Dea on received the Under 16 C All Ireland Player of the Match on the day, yet another player to watch for the future.

July also saw the start to the Junior's campaign to regain their stop in Croke park with a narrow defeat to Dublin 0 - 15 to 0 - 11. What some people may have considered a bad start to the Championship our players took this as advise that they needed to work harder and put their heads down and went all guns blazing into the rest of the Championship. Beating Westmeath 1 - 15 to 0-10, Down 3 - 12 to 1 - 17, Armagh 6 - 20 to 0 - 7 and Roscommon 2 - 17 to 0 - 5 racking up a combined score of 12 - 75 along the way. After a tie for 1st spot on the table with Down Laois conceded the play - off game and focused on the All Ireland semi - final against Dublin. After having witnessed our Under 16's winning an All Ireland Title in Athy the Junior's were then to take the field against Dublin who had in recent games been struggling. Laois came out on top and secured their place in Croke Park on the 14th of September on a score-line of 3 - 12 to 3 - 4. All the hard work was not to be after Down defeated us in the All Ireland Final on a score-line of 1 -12 to 1 - 8. No one could have foreseen the devastation that would be bestowed on that group of players that day in Croke Park and I have no doubt that they can find the strength and determination to turn around this bad fortune in 2015. Congratulations to Niamh Dollard Camross on her second Player of the Match award for 2014, she along with Laura Dunne, Sarah Ann Fitzgerald and Eimear Delaney were honoured in November by received Laois' 4 soaring star awards. Niamh and Laura receiving their 2nd soaring star and Sarah Ann getting her remarkable 4th award was small consolation to the girls.

The Minors finished off the season with the Leinster Championship, with having lost to Meath and Carlow in the Championship qualified for the Shield final against Dublin and in Naas on the 27th of September. They secured the last piece of Sliver ware for Laois in 2014 beating Dublin 5 - 14 to 2 - 7 and it gave me great pleasure to present the Shield to Laois captain Niamh Gleeson.

The Development squads once again did our County proud and I want to thank Mary Donohue for all her work with Laois Development over the past 5 yrs. Laois Under 14's won the Leinster B shield. They were narrowly beaten in the National Blitz group stages in September. The under 15's under the management of Mark Gorman played in a couple of Blitz's in the last part of the year and were beaten in a shield final by a strong Carlow outfit in Rathleague in October. Thanks to Fint Duff and his management team, Mark Gorman and his 3 management teams and to David Cuddy and his management team for all the blood sweat and tears shred getting our County to the level it now enjoys playing at. Thanks to Sean Brophy and Trumera Gaa and all the Gaa Club's through-out the County who gave us a home in 2014. A special thanks to all our sponsors especially De Brún's and Sean Mortimer who provided gear for the All Ireland final. Without these people giving so generously to us we would not be able to function as a County. i wish to thank Pat Delaney and all the media people who have worked with me for the past number of years.

# Laois Roll of Honour 2014:

Senior: Camross defeated O'Moores Minor: O'Moore's defeated Camross Under 16 A: Camross defeated O'Moores Under 16 B: St Brigid's defeated Clonad/Portlaoise Under 14 A: Camross defeated St Brigid's Under 14 B: Clonad defeated Portlaoise Under 12 League: Portlaoise defeated Camross.

Congratulations to all the Under 8's and 10's who completed in blitz's all through the spring and summer and had their final's day in Rathleague Portlaoise in September where they all received a medal. Thanks to Portlaoise for hosting the final's day and Rebecca Forde who helped me out in the preparation. Thanks to all the club's who hosted Blitz's through-out the year and looked after the kid's with goodie's after the games. These are the day's that our young players will remember and be thankful for in the future.

To Camross Camogie Club who were narrowly defeated in your second Leinster Club Championship final by Piltown Kilkenny, I have no doubt like Laois you will come back as strong and make 2015 your year. Best of luck in the Carlow league final.

On my own behalf i want to thank the club's who provided help to me through - out the past year doing gates, making refreshments after games and were patient with me when I was struggling to get through the workload bestowed on to me this year. Thanks to Bróchan O'Reilly who looked after the appointment of referees for the 2014 season. I would like to thank all our referees especially Bróchan O'Reilly, Michael Ward and Alan Doheny who not only refereed in Laois but also represented our County refereeing in Leinster and Nationally without these people involved we wouldn't have games to such high standard

This year saw the start of the new Registration System and i want to thank all Club's for getting through the change over so efficiently, keep up the good work for 2015.

I have now done 3 years as Secretary of Laois and on a whole enjoyed my time with Laois Camogie, I have made and lost good friends along the way but it's a part of my life that I will never forget as a learning curb.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the incoming committee the best of luck in 2015.

Sincere sympathy to any member who suffered bereavement in the past year.

Sarah Conroy. Runaí.

# **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2014**

A Chairde,

### **INTRODUCTION:**

As the end of 2014 rapidly approaches it is my pleasant duty as Secretary of An Cumann Camógaíochta Ceatharlach to present my report for adoption at Annual Convention tonight detailing the activities that took place under the auspicious of the Board during the year. Tonight we look back with much pride and satisfaction on another successful year for Carlow Camogie reaching three All Ireland Finals on the playing fields, winning one at Under 15 level and unfortunately losing at Junior and Under 14 level. Our registration figures show we now have more playing members than ever before which all shows well for the future of camogie in the county.

#### **INTERCOUNTY FIXTURES / TEAMS**

The girls who are part of our county teams merit all our support and they must be treated regally and with respect. These girls who give their time to join our panels make a definite commitment to our game and our county. I, as does all members of the Executive appreciate the time, energy and commitment given by so many girls who were part of our county panels in 2014 and I appeal to every club to bring a positive message to your clubs and encourage every player of county standard to be available to our county teams come January, 2015.

#### JUNIOR

In mid January following an interview process of candidates put forward for the position Seamus Kelly was appointed Manager of the Junior County team for 2014. He had previously worked in the capacity as physical coach with the team for the previous two seasons. Seamus brought with him a huge energy to change things for the better for the county adult camogie team and his commitment and dedication was to be admired. Seamus appointed the following back room team Ger Power, Selector and goalkeeping coach, Kelly Tracey and Kate Kelly as physical coaches. Nuala Quirke was later added as a selector and Linda Kenny as Liaison Officer.

### **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

Having won the National League Division 4 in 2013 Carlow were promoted to Division 3 for the 2014 season. This was a new playing field for many of the girls on the panel and in total over 33 players wore the Carlow jersey during the League campaign. While we failed to record a win in our four games the team acquitted themselves well in the new grade and were probably unfortunate in one or two of the games not to win. I would confidently predict that we will challenge strongly for honours in this league in 2015 and that must be our aim.

Date	Round	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score	Venue
23/02/2014	1	Carlow	0.6	Westmeath	1.11	O'Hanrahans
09/03/2014	2	Carlow	3.4	Roscommon	3.9	P Pearses
16/03/2014	3	Carlow	1.8	Armagh	0.14	Carlow GAA Training Centre
23/03/2014	4	Carlow	0.2	Dublin	3.10	Croabh Chiarain

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP**

After a disappointing championship season in 2013 we were all anxious that our county junior team would put the season previous behind them and work towards winning the All Ireland Junior "A" Championship. With the aid of strong competitive games in the National League and a number of additional young players coming into the panel we felt coming into the championship in June we were in a good place. In the Leinster Championship despite been hampered by injuries and girls sitting state and third level examinations we recorded a good victory over Dublin in the quarter final but lost heavily to eventually winners Laois in the semi final. The All Ireland campaign began with victory over old rivals Kerry in Abbeydorney followed by a hard fought win over Dublin in O'Toole Park, Crumlin setting up a semi final spot against Offaly. Eight points down after ten minutes in this game played at St. Conleth's Park, Newbridge and it looked like this wasn't going to be our day. However a complete transformation in the team's general performance combined with one of two astute management decisions saw Carlow blow Offaly of the field in the <u>consert half airing</u> a parformance.

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Many people including officers of our board, clubs representatives, members of the media and supporters who travelled to Moneygall expressed their disappointment at the choice of venue and facilities in Moneygall. Our concerns and disappointment over a number of issues where expressed to the Camogie Association through official correspondence and an apology was given by Joan O'Flynn, Ard Stiúrthoir to some of the issues raised at the recent Chairs and Secretary Network Meeting in Croke Park.

Date	Round	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score	Venue
22/06/2013	1	Carlow	2.10	Kerry	1.9	Abbeydorney
07/07/2014	2	Carlow	3.9	Dublin	1.4	O'Toole Park
20/07/2014	Semi Final	Carlow	5.15	Offaly	3.8	Conleth's Park
20/07/2014	Final	Carlow	1.6	Limerick	2.8	Moneygall

#### MINOR

Our Minor team went into action in 2014 when they drew with Armagh away in the All Ireland "C" Championship. This was followed up by an outstanding victory against Kerry at home. In their final game of the group against Meath victory or a draw would have been sufficient to see us through to the

All Ireland semi final. While missing two key players on the day Carlow came close to defeating a physically strong Meath side at the Carlow GAA Training Centre, Fenagh.

Our Leinster campaign saw us produce two fine performances against Dublin and Westmeath to advance to the semi final against Kildare. Unfortunately in the semi final again played at the Carlow GAA Training Centre in Fenagh under lights Carlow never produced the form shown in the earlier rounds and their Leinster campaign came to an end. Many thanks to Ger Power (Muinebheag), Elaine Kavanagh (Mount Leinster Rangers), Breda O'Dwyer (Mount Leinster Rangers), Kate Nolan (Myshall) and Mary Coady (St. Mullins) for giving their time and energy to this group of girls during the year.

Date	Round	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score	Venue
22/02/201	1	Carlow	2.1	Armagh	2.1	Sherry Fields
15/03/2014	2	Carlow	3.12	Kerry	0.5	Carlow GAA Training Centre
22/03/2014	3	Meath	3.4	Carlow	1.6	Carlow GAA Training Centre

# ALL IRELAND C CHAMPIONSHIP

# **LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP**

Date	Round	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score	Venue
31/08/2014	1	Carlow	5.4	Dublin	2.4	Croabh Chiaran
07/09/2014	2	Carlow	6.5	Westmeath	1.6	Carlow GAA Training Centre
18/09/2014	Semi Final	Carlow	2.4	Kildare	1.12	Carlow GAA Training Centre

# **UNDER 16**

Having fulfilled all their fixtures in the Leinster Under 16 Championship Carlow qualified for the Leinster "B" Shield Final against Westmeath which was held at the Carlow GAA Training Centre in Fenagh along with all the Leinster Under 16 finals in late April. On the day Carlow were an equal match for Westmeath put just could not find their scores to achieve victory. In the All Ireland C Championship the team showed some flashes of brilliance along the way despite coming up against some very strong sides along the way. A great performance in a teak tough game against Meath in the opening round saw the Carlow girls grind out an excellent victory. Our Round 2 game was against

neighbours Wicklow which Carlow won comfortably. In Round 3 Laois were the opposition. Despite a poor first half performance Carlow gave an immense second half and were unfortunate not to be closer to Laois at the final whistle. The highlight of the season was their outstanding performance away to Kerry when victory secured them a place in the All Ireland semi final. In the semi final Kildare were the stronger team and deserving winners on the day. With many of this group of girls under age in 2015 hopes will be high for a championship victory either at Provincial or National level. The commitment shown by this group of girls and their families over the year must be highly commended with some girls and families rearranging holidays, travelling from Irish colleges and family occasions to play matches. Many thanks to Ger Power (Muinebheag), Elaine Kavanagh (Mount Leinster Rangers), Breda O'Dwyer (Mount Leinster Rangers) and Linda Kenny (Burren Rangers) for all their commitment and dedication to the players over the year.

### UNDER 15

Carlow reached the Shield Final of the Phase II All Ireland Under 15 Championship Blitz in October defeating Kildare in the final after an outstanding performance. Many thanks to Ger Power (Muinebheag), Elaine Kavanagh (Mount Leinster Rangers) and Linda Kenny (Burren Rangers) who looked after the team on the day and were involved in preparations prior to the blitz.

Date	Round	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score	Venue
28/06/2014	1	Carlow	2.7	Meath	2.4	Navan
05/07/2014	2	Carlow	11.19	Wicklow	0.0	McGrath Park
19/07/2014	3	Carlow	3.3	Laois	4.8	Carlow GAA Training Centre
26/07/2014	4	Carlow	2.10	Kerry	3.5	Abbeydorney
09/08/2014	Semi Final	Carlow	1.4	Kildare	8.12	Shinrone

#### **ALL IRELAND "C" CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP**

Date	Round	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score	Venue
16/02/2014	1	Carlow	1;0	Dublin	6:6	Carlow GAA Training Centre
03/03/2014	2	Carlow	0.0	Laois	8.13	The Heath
26/04/2014	"B" Shield Final	Carlow	1.5	Westmeath	1.8	Carlow GAA Training Centre

### <u>UNDER 14</u>

Along with their successes on the playing fields I feel it is very important to say these girls have been wonderful ambassadors for our county on many more levels. Their commitment to training and

matches, their willingness to co-operate with their coaches and mentors and their camaraderie and support for each other all through the year has set them out as a really fantastic group of girls. They have been an absolute credit to their county, clubs, families and to themselves. Carlow reached the final in Division 3 of the All Ireland Championship Blitz for the first time this year following on from outstanding performances in both South Leinster and Leinster Blitz competitions. Added to this they won the South Leinster Blitz hosted by Carlow in late July defeating Laois in the final. Huge gratitude is due to Mary Nolan (Myshall), Elaine Kavanagh (Mount Leinster Rangers), Barbara Jordan (Burren Rangers) and Christine Thompson (Naomh Brid) for their commitment to this group during the year. Ger Power as County Development Officer (Muinebheag) over saw the Development Model 2014/2015 for our Under 14 Development Squad. In total 33 girls from eight clubs were represented on this squad during the year and if these girls remain together and continue to work hard on their camogie it is very likely that they will be in Croke Park one day competing for All-Ireland glory.

At this point I would like to acknowledge and thank most sincerely Mary Coady, Intercounty Secretary for the endless hours she has given during the past year arranging matches, pitches, buses, catering for all our Intercounty teams. Mary works in a very efficient manner with her love and passion for Carlow Camogie always paramount. CLUB FIXTURES

#### **JUVENILE**

**U-6 & U-8:** Firstly we catered for the Under 6s and Under 8s in nine of our juvenile clubs (Ballinkillen, Burren Rangers, Carlow Town, Kildavin Clonegal, Mount Leinster Rangers, Muinebheag, Myshall, Naomh Brid, and Setanta) with Go Games every second week in a blitz format from April to August hosted by three different clubs on each occasion. Participation was the key in these games with full Go Games rules applied with 7 and 8 a side games played. Two full county blitzes were held in June and August with over 150 young girls taking part. Our final Go Games blitz was incorporated in with a Meet and Greet evening with the county junior panel prior to their All Ireland final.

**U-10 & U-12:** At U-10 and U-12 level in 2014 all clubs played in Go Games Leagues from mid April to the middle of June. Each club played each other which meant most clubs played 9 games. We held two final evenings for these grades in Dr. Cullen Park in mid June. Close to 400 young girls competed in these finals with fine camogie skills evident over the two evenings.

U-14: At Under 14 level championship games were played from early April with eight of our ten clubs participating. Games were competitive and thankfully all games were played to the fixtures plan. When all rounds of the championship were complete Myshall and Mount Leinster Rangers met in the "A" Final with Myshall the winners on the night. The "B" Championship final was between Muinebheag and Naomh Brid and after another entertaining game Naomh Brid ran out winners. In the "C" final good rivals Ballinkillen and Burren Rangers met and victory went to Ballinkillen. Finally in the "D" final Setanta fielding for the second time in the Under 14 grade showed huge progress all year but came up against a strong St. Mullins team in the final. On the May Bank Holiday the Carlow Feile Competition was held at the Carlow GAA Training Centre in Fenagh. Four clubs participated Mount Leinster Rangers, Muinebheag, Myshall and Naomh Brid. Myshall were victorious on the day and went on to represent Carlow at Feile champions at the National Feile na nGael in Armagh in July. Muinebheag as the third place team were selected by the National Feile na nGael Committee to take part in Division 4 at the National Feile and they did their club and county proud by reaching the Division 4 final losing by a narrow margin in the final. Emily Doyle from St. Mullins once again represented Carlow at the All Ireland Feile Skills competition while Tish Murphy from Ballinkillen represented Carlow at the Leinster Long Puck.

**U-16:** In 2014 we had six teams in the U-16 championship – Ballinkillen, Burren Rangers, Mount Leinster Rangers, Muinebheag and Naomh Brid. A new format championship was agreed at last year's convention with the idea of more games for all clubs. However with the county Under 16 team progressing well combined with some clubs having difficulties fielding teams during the summer months the new format had to be revised mid season. However some outstanding camogie was played during the league stages of the competition. Naomh Brid and Mount Leinster Rangers produced an epic Under 16 "A" final with Naomh Brid taking the honours on the night. In the "B" final Myshall proved too strong for Muinebheag who were competing in the Under 16 grade for the first time ever while in the Shield Final Ballinkillen overcame Burren Rangers in a competitive final.

**U11 & U13 Blitzes:** It was decided to run an one off U11 and U13 Autumn Blitz in September which 7 clubs competing in both blitz days. Many thanks to the Myshall and Naomh Brid clubs for hosting these blitz days and for having the pitches marked and in prime condition. Thanks also to all our young whistlers who refereed at these blitz days.

**Meet & Greet Evening:** Close on 300 girls from all clubs ranging in age from Under 6 to Under 12 gathered at the Carlow GAA Training Centre on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> for a meet and greet evening with the county junior team members ahead of their All Ireland Junior "A" Final appearance. This was a wonderful occasion with county players giving demonstrations of skills while also playing fun games. Many thanks to all members of the county junior team who made themselves available for this very worthwhile promotional evening and to Ger and Laura Power for their work on the night.

**Juvenile Presentation Night:** The Juvenile Presentation Night was held in Ballinabranna Clubhouse on Saturday 22nd of November. There was a huge crowd in attendance and all clubs were very well represented. The County U14 Development Squad were presented with Leinster and All Ireland Blitz medals while the county Under 15 Team were presented with All Ireland Under 15 Shield Medals. There was a great atmosphere at this well organised event. Many thanks to the Naomh Brid Club for organising especially Margaret Condell (Chairperson) and Kathleen Thompson (Secretary) and all the parents who assisted.

### ADULT

**Senior Championship:** This year saw four teams enter in the senior championship in Carlow. It was very disappointing the number of walkovers given at various stages of the competition including at the semi final stages. Ballinkillen showed huge progress in 2014 having won the shield final the previous year. They advanced to the championship final following their semi final victory over Mount Leinster Rangers. In the championship final Myshall won their 15<sup>th</sup> Senior title in a row showing all their class after a competitive final. Since then they have represented Carlow in the Leinster Intermediate Club Championship giving a very good performance against Piltown in their semi final clash. Their performance on the day shows they can compete at this level following the decision of Ard Comhairle to grade Carlow as Intermediate for club championship early in 2014.

Senior 11 A Side: Ballinkillen, Mount Leinster Rangers, Naomh Brid and St. Mullins entered the 11 a side competition and thankfully all clubs fielded teams and girls that played in this competition really enjoyed it and in turn gave these clubs some more meaningful games. Mount Leinster Rangers won the "A" final and St. Mullins won the "B" final.

**Senior Club Camogie – The Future:** As the playing season drew to a close a number of the County Executive Officers expressed concern for the future of adult club camogie in the county taking into account the numbers registered in 2014, the number of girls not playing who had played the previous

two years and the number of walk overs conceded in the Senior Championship. Contact was made with a number of individuals at both Provincial and National Level at how best to address the issue. I eventually made contact with Mary O'Connor, Director of Camogie who agreed to facilitate a meeting / forum on the issue. This meeting took place on Friday, October, 10<sup>th</sup> and it was very well attended with a lot of very positive and constructive feedback coming forth. At this meeting Mary O'Connor offered her continued assistance to the County Board and indeed the clubs so please consider her offer. Clubs must now be prepared to work to address this important issue and ensure we have all championship games fulfilled in 2015.

**Minor:** Mount Leinster Rangers had a good victory over Myshall in the championship final. Unfortuately only three teams entered the Minor Championship which is worrying. We need to ensure as many clubs as possible promote this important age group. Even if numbers are small we need to keep girls at this age group playing and enjoying our game.

U-21: At the time of writing this report competition / blitz not completed.

A huge thank you must be extended to the fixtures committee who put in an immense amount of work to organise the fixtures for the year. We salute Nuala Quirke, Chairperson, Elaine Kavanagh (Secretary) who produced an excellent fixtures book while also appointing referees and venues for games and Kathleen Thompson for their work all year.

**Long Puck:** A very enjoyable evening was had by all competitors at the 2014 Carlow Long Puck Competition. Carlow Camogie were very kindly invited to take part in the competition by the Carlow GAA Board and we accepted the invitation. The competition was held over a course at the Carlow GAA Training Centre in Fenagh. All five adult camogie clubs sent representatives – Niamh Canavan (Ballinkillen), Eimear Byrne (Mount Leinster Rangers), Ciara Quirke (Myshall), Tracey Condell McNally (Naomh Brid), Mary Coady (St. Mullins). With a lot of fun along the way and a few lost sliotars Tracey Condell McNally (Naomh Brid) was declared the winner. Tracey in turn represented Carlow at the Leinster Long Puck in the Curragh and finished in second position.

**Adult Presentation Night:** This year's event is planned for Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> in Reddy's of Carlow when medals will be presented to the winning clubs in our various competitions.

#### AWARDS

Congratulations to Ciara Mullins (Myshall) on winning the Carlow GAA Camogie Award for 2013 and to Ger Power (Muinebheag) on receiving the Carlow GAA Service Award. Congratulations to Ciara Quirke (Myshall) on been selected as the Nationalist Camogie Sports Star Award recipient for 2013.

As part of the Camogie Association 110 Year Celebrations a national initiative was launched with each county asked to select a County Player of Decade. The award referred to the seasons in the period 2005 to 2014 and recognises sportsmanship, longevity and excellence of playing career at club and county level, contribution to county both as a player and administrator and attributes of a role model. Following a voting process among our adult clubs Mary Coady (St. Mullins) was selected as the Carlow winner of the award. As a county we owe her a huge debt of gratitude and it was lovely to see her recognised in Croke Park on All Ireland final Sunday. The county intend to recognise Mary along with the other nominees Nuala Quirke (Myshall) and Valerie Crean (Naomh Brid) at our Annual Presentation Night in December.



#### **DEVELOPMENT**

We are fortunate to have such a very hardworking Development Officer in Ger Power working in the county at present. Ger is always prepared to go beyond the call of duty to enhance, develop and progress camogie in Carlow at all levels. Ger has a special way with our young camogie players and the esteem in which he is held by our county players at all levels speaks volumes for his contribution over the past year.

A Development Report is included in this report so please ensure you read and circulate in your clubs.

#### **FINANCE**

Without adequate finance this Board can not function with increased costs involved in buses, training equipment, gear, food, promotion of our games to mention but a few. We are all totally aware of the difficult financial circumstances we find ourselves in but we need more financial support if this board is to survive. Our Annual Flag Weekend was a good success this year and I would like to thank all those who did their allocated rota including our county players. Earlier in the year before registrations fees came in we sold tickets for the National GAA Club Draw and prior to the All Ireland Junior "A" Final we held another draw. In October we held a "Fun Table Quiz" and more recently we held our "Fashion Show". Both of these events were socially enjoyable and financially successful on a small scale. However going forward we as a County Board need to look at a major fundraiser which will be bring in funds of between  $\epsilon7,500$  to  $\epsilon10,000$  to ensure we can be the best in terms of success of the playing fields and in ensure our future development plans are carried out. Thanks also to all those who helped with gates at various venues over the year. Revenue from gates is very important and we thank all patrons for their contributions.

I wish to acknowledge the work done by our Treasurer, David O'Brien in managing and working miracles with our limited funds.

#### **SUPPORTERS CLUB**

In mid February steered by Treasurer, David O'Brien the seeds were sown for the formation of a Carlow Camogie Supporters Club. The potential for this club to raise much needed funds for the promotion and development of Carlow Camogie was immense. The club was officially launched by An tUachtarán Aileen Lawlor in March at a well attended function in Reddy's of Carlow. I wish to thank those thirty members who joined the club showing their support once more for camogie in the county. However I believe we failed to promote this initiative and as a result we only have thirty members. Notwithstanding this I feel there is huge potential to grow this club and maybe we should look at setting up a separate committee who will promote the supporters club in the future.

#### **"OUR GAMES OUR CODE"**

"Our Games Our Code" the code of Best Practice in Youth Sport is a publication which has been referred to many times by our County Children's Officer Margaret Condell during the past year. All coaches and administrators from our ten clubs, county board officers and squad coaches were invited to attend a Child Protection Basic Awareness Training Course in March given by Deirdre Hurley, Irish Sports Council Tutor. The uptake was excellent shown that it is the intention of all involved in Carlow Camogie to ensure all our players are in a safe and enjoyable environment and our games conducted in a spirit of fair play. I would appeal to all clubs to ensure all club members are educated in the Give Respect Get Respect initiative. It is no longer acceptable behaviour for anyone, be they coaches, club officials, players or supporters to give abuse to referees or the opposition and vice a versa.

I commend Margaret Condell, County Children's Officer along with all the Club Children Officers for ensuring this new code of conduct is adhered to.

### **PUBLICITY**

We continued to provide coverage of underage and club championships games, intercounty games and other events and happenings in the county throughout the year. We provided programme's for all our club championships finals and all home intercounty League and Championship games. I wish to recognize the invaluable assistance given by John Foley and Kieran Murphy, Carlow Nationalist, Brian O'Donoghue, The Scoops, Stephen Byrne, Kevin McGillicuddy and Michael O'Leary of KCLR in keeping our patrons updated with reports, previews and photographs. Thanks also to all the photographers who attended our matches and functions.

I wish to thank Laura Power, PRO for her excellent work and her willingness to support and help with other duties in her first year as PRO.

#### **THDC**

While I am happy to report that the overall level of discipline remained high this year one or two incidents brought no credit to the Association in the county and we hope such incidents will not happen in the future. I commend the members of the THDC Pat O'Brien (Carlow Town), Helen Coady (St. Mullins), Michael O'Brien (Ballinkillen) and Michael Doran (Setanta) for their work and support during the year.

#### **REGISTRATIONS**

Registrations were an issue that occupied much of our time over the past year with the introduction of the new online registration system. While their was a huge volume of work involved in the initial few weeks and a few teething problems I do feel the new system will be of huge benefit to the Association at all levels going forward. I would like to thank all club registrars and secretaries who administered the system in their clubs and thank them for attending the two training evenings. This final registration figures for Carlow as of 01.11.2014 is

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
Youth	744
Adult Playing	78
Adult – Coaches/ Administrators/Referees	146
Social	44
TOTAL	1012

I wish to acknowledge and thank Kathleen Thompson, Registrar for her help with registrations and other administration work during the year.

# **GROUPS WHO ASSIST OUR ASSOCIATION**

#### **SPONSORS**

The financial support of our county team sponsors Reddy's Bar and Restaurant and JF Sports, Tullow Street, Carlow played a vital role in enabling us to ensure our county junior team was looked after in an appropriate manner with year with food after matches and new playing gear. I wish to place on record our sincere thanks and gratitude to both business lead by Carmel Reddy and Jason Farrell for their very generous sponsorship and indeed friendship all during the past year. I must acknowledge the work of our chairman Liam Foley and treasurer David O'Brien on securing both these excellent sponsorship deals. Thanks also to David Hickey, Fitnesse Fit, Nigel Treacy, Solar Signs Bagenalstown, William Power, McHugh O'Leary Insurances, Liam Foley, Foley's Trophies, Carlow Credit Union, Councillors Fergal Browne, Brian O'Donoghue and Jennifer Murnane, Larry Earle Bus Hire and a number of private individuals for their donations. With the down turn in the economy Carlow Camogie really appreciate these vital funds. Thanks must also be expressed to the local fashion outlets who supported the fashion show namely Regatta, Pinkiss, Glad Rage, JF Sports and Franele Shoes.

### **LEINSTER COUNCIL / CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION**

Our Association at Leinster level is very lucky to have Rachel Hogan (Chairperson), Sarah Conroy (Secretary), Hilda Breslin (Vice Chairperson), Patsy Murphy Hetherton (Treasurer) and Pat Martin (Development Officer), Gerry O'Sullivan (PRO) administering affairs for the province. Equally at National Level Aileen Lawlor, President, Joan O'Flynn, Ard Stiúrthoir, Mary O'Connor, Director of Camogie, Liz McGuinness, Fixture Administrator, Cian Nelson, Operations Manager, Paula Bruen, Finance Director, Caroline Fitzsimons, Office Administrator, and Claire Egan, Communication Officer serve a growing Association very efficiently. I wish to put on record my gratitude to all these people for their help and courtesy to our County during the past year and especially to me during the past year. I would also like to pay a special tribute to Patrick Mullaney, Leinster Regional Development Officer for his support in many different ways during the year aside from all his excellent work with Ger Power our Development Officer.

# CARLOW GAA

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Michael Meaney, Chairperson and Ger Lennon, Secretary Carlow GAA for their support during the past year and in particular in making Dr. Cullen Park and the Carlow GAA Training Centre available for both club and county fixtures along with a training facility all season for our county teams. Thanks also to Tommy Murphy, PRO, Michael Byrne, Treasurer and Vinny O'Brien, Assistant Treasurer, Eddie Byrne and Pat Nolan, Leinster Council delegates for their assistance on a number of occasions during the year. A special word of thanks to Billy Brooks for all his help and support in so many ways to all our county teams while training at the Carlow GAA Training Centre in Fenagh. Seamus Moore, caretaker along with the other pitch staff at Dr. Cullen Park deserves a special thank you for their support and attention to detail. Many thanks to Breda McDermott in the Dr. Cullen Park office for help and assistance at all times. Thanks also to the full time coaching staff Michael O'Sullivan, Brendan Hayden, Valerie Crean and Johnny Nevin for all their work around the county in primary and secondary schools promoting our games and also with the Cul Camps.

### **STEWARDS / HELPERS & PITCHES**

A small group of loyal helpers who play an important role at our games and venues are our stewards who deserve a very big thank you in particular to our regular gate collectors Johnny Lomax, Eamon Dowling, Brian McStein, Alister Castle, Anne & Mary Foley. We thank the clubs who sent in stewards for our underage finals but we need new help from clubs to assist on other days. In order for games to be played in a safe environment for both players and supporters it is necessary to put certain rules in place and we need everyone's support in this matter. Many thanks to the following clubs and officials for making their pitches available for finals, county games and training sessions during the year and we thank them most sincerely for the help and co-operation.

Dr. Cullen Park – Michael Meaney, Ger Lennon, Seamus Moore, Tommy Reamsbottom; Carlow GAA Training Centre – Billy Brooks; McGrath Park – David O'Brien, Ger Power, Mick Lillis; Presentation De La Salle – Gerry Watchorn, Sean Monaghan; O'Hanrahans GAA – Tom Bermingham; Super Bowl, Leighlinbridge – Kathleen Thompson, Seamus Brennan; Leighlinbridge GAA Grounds, Ballinaboley – Paul Monaghan RIP; Myshall GAA Grounds – Michael Whelan, Tommy Murphy, Jimmy McDonagh; Carlow Hurling Club – Dan Harnedy, Pat O'Brien; Mount Leinster Rangers - Margaret Byrne.

A special word of thanks also to all who provided refreshments after games and to those who helped with catering at so many venues. Thanks also to Nuala Quirke, Breda O'Dwyer, Mary Nolan, Elaine Kavanagh and Ellen Fortune for washing jerseys during the year for various county teams.

### **REFEREES**

The recruitment and training of new and young referees is vital to ensuring that we can continue to complete our fixture programme each year. All clubs must actively promote the recruitment of both Young Whistlers and Referees. Efforts to run a full referees course failed on two occasions this year. A further course is planned for early 2015 and it is paramount that this course is completed by all referees. May I thank all those who officiated at games during the year and look forward to their continued support in the year ahead. Congratulations to Pat Kehoe, Kieran Kelly and John Thompson on their National and Provincial appointments during the year.

#### **CONCLUSION**

### APPRECIATION

I wish to thank the many people who have helped me personally carry out my duties as County Secretary this year and who have contributed so much to a very good year for camogie in the county. I want to particular thank everyone for their progressive outlook and pro active approach to all matters undertaken by the County Board. The work of all club secretaries is thankless and I do hope all clubs acknowledge the excellent people we have in Carlow in these positions currently – Jenny English (Ballinkillen), Jarlath Bolger (Burren Rangers), Mary Claire Byrne (Carlow Town), Catherine Callaghan (Kildavin / Clonegal), Stella Breen (Mount Leinster Rangers), James Cody (Muinebheag), Trisha Steacy (Myshall), Kathleen Thompson (Naomh Brid), Mary Bates (Setanta) and Laura King (St. Mullins).

I would like to thank all the county team mentors for their outstanding contribution and support during the year. I would particularly like to thank each and every one of our county players on their achievements and above all for the manner in which they represented themselves, their families, their clubs and Carlow over the past season.

I wish to thank county chairman Liam Foley for all the help and support he has given me over the past year. In his first year as chairperson of our Board has guided the County through a successful year. All his involvement has made this Board a stronger unit and we should be very grateful to him for that.

To all my fellow officers Nuala, Mary, Elaine, Kathleen, David, Ger, Laura and Margaret I thank you must sincerely for your outstanding contribution to Carlow Camogie during 2014 and say a special and sincere thanks to you all for your support to me in so many ways over the year.

Thanks also to Paul and Orla for their support and understanding at all times.

To all those who suffered bereavements during the past year you have our condolences.

To anyone I omitted to thank in this report I apologize.

We leave 2014 behind and progress to a New Year with the challenge to continue to build on our past successes, work with enthusiasm and in unity so we can achieve the best we possibly can for Carlow Camogie.

Finally on behalf of the Carlow County Camogie Board may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and good health in 2015.

Is mise le meas, Linda Ní Chíonnaith, Runaí.

# **Dublin Camogie Board**

### Tuaraisc an Runaí

### **Intercounty Teams**

In 2014 Dublin County teams took part in the following competitions:

- Leinster U16A and U16B
- Leinster Minor A and Minor B
- Leinster Junior Championship
- Leinster Senior Championship
- National U16A and U16B
- National Minor A and Minor B
- National Senior League and Championship
- National Premier Junior League and Championship

The Senior team had a tough year. The draws in both League and Championship pitted them against the strongest Senior teams in both competitions. Great credit must go to the Management and the panel for fulfilling all the fixtures and competing bravely. Hopefully 2015 will be a better year for them.

The Premier Junior team reached the Division 3 League Final but went down to Westmeath. They made it as far as the semi final in the Premier Junior Championship before going down to Laois. Well done to Deirdre Johnstone Naomh Uinsionn who was awarded a Soaring Star for her performance with this team.

Thank you to all involved, both the management and players of all our County Teams and Development Squads for all their commitment and dedication during 2014. Thanks are also due to all the clubs who provided their grounds as venues for club and inter county matches. Sincere appreciation to John Costello, and his colleagues at the Dublin GAA Board for the use of Parnell Park and O'Toole Park especially Noel Brady. Also to Patsy Kiernan, Parnell Park and Luke Lawlor, O'Toole Park for all their help during the year.

#### **Club Competitions 2014**

The Adult fixtures from Senior 1 to Senior 7 were well contested this year resulting in a huge amount of matches to be organised and once again there was increased interest in the Minor competitions. In the region of 120 sets of fixtures covering leagues, Summer Cups, Championships and Shields were organised from juvenile to senior ranks with a huge potential for error. This amounts to several thousand fixtures – a mammoth task organised superbly. Thank you to Brendan Cooper, Liz Baker and the Fixtures Committees for all their work organising League, Championship, Minor competitions and Summer Cup.

The Minor board organise juvenile League matches and Championship/Shield matches and also the GO Games for age groups down from U12. Thank you to Brendan Skehan and Denise O'Neill, for all their work on this and I also like to thank Deirdre Wade who stepped down during the year. Again Liz Baker did a great job organising all these fixtures. The allocation of referees for all these fixtures both Adult and Juvenile was excellently organised by Garry Beagan.

### Finances

Frank Malcolmson assisted by Tom Hayes looked after our finances for this year. I would like to thank them for all their work. It is massive job to keep track of all the financial transactions in a county the size of Dublin with 45 clubs and all the County teams and Development squads.

Tom is stepping down this year and I would like to express our thanks to him for all his work for Dublin camogie over the years. His advice and judgment will not easily be replaced.

#### Registrations

The new registration system this year was a learning process for us all and Eoin Reynolds has been busy keeping track of it. It should be easier for next year and thank you to Eoin for his ongoing work on it which brought great clarity to the system.

#### **P.R.O.**

Once again thank you to PRO Seamus Massey and Assistant Gerry O'Sullivan for keeping us updated with all the club and county activities. The website is a great source of Dublin camogie news and the more information clubs submit the better it becomes. The programmes produced for all the Championship Finals are a great record for players and supporters. Thanks to Martina McGilloway for her work on Facebook and Twitter.

#### **Presentation Nights**

The Juvenile presentation took place in November and Adult event has been postponed to a later date. Thank you to all involved in organising and congratulations to the Players of the Year in each grade.

#### Discipline

Discipline was again an issue this year with an increase in the number of Red cards and Yellow cards issued. There was also an increase in the issue of abuse of referees. The THDC had over 30 issues to deal with over the year in regard to Red Cards and verbal abuse of referees.

I would like to remind all clubs that they are responsible for the behavior of their supporters and should ensure that they behave in a manner that reflects well on their club.

#### Sponsorship

Thank you to all our sponsors: **Webtrade** of Rathfarnham continues to be the sponsor of the website, **AIG's** sponsorship of Dublin camogie has been a great boost to Dublin this year. "**WE ARE DUBLIN**" our media partners have done a great job promoting camogie in Dublin this year and we thank them for their coverage.

I would ask that everyone support our sponsors as without them Dublin Camogie would not be able to support all of our teams.

I would like to thank all the Executive members for all their help during the year and all the clubs for their cooperation during the year as this makes my job a lot easier.

As I said last year I am stepping down this year after 5 years as County Secretary. I would like to express my appreciation to all the Executive members I have worked with over the past 5 years. My thanks also to all the clubs, I have always had your co-operation.

No one has put their name forward yet for Secretary or the other vacancies but there must be someone in the clubs willing to take on these jobs. We will now have to have an EGM in

January to fill all the vacant positions. Please encourage any former players in your club who may now be interested in getting involved in Administration to put their names forward.

I have enjoyed my time as Secretary and I will be available to give any help needed to whoever takes on this job.

Mona Uí Shúilleabháin Rúnaí