

Administration and Promotion of Kildare Camogie

RECORDS are scarce on the administration of camogie in the early part of the century, from the foundation of the Camogie Association in 1904. In November 1907 the Leinster Leader's GAA columnist observed that:

... In the whole county there is not even one colleen's hurling club.

Two years later in 1909, progress was noted as Athy Ladies Hurling Club advertised a reunion on 24th July. Miss Campbell was listed as the club captain and Miss Tierney as secretary.

By June 1921, Newbridge, Naas, Blacktrench, Prosperous and Ballymore applied to the County Board for affiliation but it was to be thirteen years later before the Kildare Camogie Board was organised. However it is clear that there was camogie activity as the cameo below describes!

Trying to get started in the 1920s

The following excerpt is from June 1921 Kildare GAA County Board records and relates to the affiliation of ladies hurling teams.

County secretary: If all the ladies teams are willing to affiliate you will have to decide whether you will charge them for entrance

Asked if there was a prospect of many ladies clubs, the Secretary said that they already had ones in Newbridge, Blacktrench, Naas and Prosperous.

A member: May the Lord help you (laughter).

Chairman: They must have a lady referee in Dublin. Suppose they ask you to appoint a referee? (more laughter)

Secretary: It is bad enough as it is (laughter) it having been suggested to form a championship.

Chairman: If you could get enough teams I'd have no objections.

Secretary: Yes, but I hope there will never be as many objections as there are in the minor championship (laughter). (supplied by Naas camogie club)

The 1930s

By 1932 Kildare delegates were attending a full camogie congress in Dublin and all counties containing more than three affiliated clubs were asked to form a county board and to affiliate to Central Council.²

In 1934 the first Kildare Camogie Board was formed. Fr. Byrne CC of Carbury was President. William Fisher of Newbridge was Secretary. Mrs. B. McCarthy of Castledermot was Vice-President and Mrs. Polly Smyth of Newbridge was Treasurer.

1934 Motions Passed:

- Co. Championship be finished each year before November.
- **Ban on foreign games enforced:** Any player selected to play in any inter county fixture, who having received notice of her selection, fails to travel with the team be suspended for a period not less than 3 months unless she forwards to the committee (in writing) within 2 days from the date of the match a satisfactory reason for having failed to fulfil her engagement.

By 1935 the County Board Officers remained the same and there are records of 11 active clubs. 1935 Co. Board Officers: President Fr. Byrne; Vice President Ms. B. McCarthy; Secretary W. Fisher; Treasurer P. Smith. Delegates to Congress Fr. Byrne and Ms. McCarthy. Clubs and their delegates were:

- Castledermot: Ms. Bolger/Ms. Cummins
- Clan Bridge Athy: Ms. Malone/Ms. Gannon
- St. Patricks Athy: Mr. Malone/Ms Gorman
- St. Brigid's Naas: Ms. O'Donoghue/Ms. O'Hanlon
- St. Anne's Sallins: Ms. Murphy/Ms. Vance

- Carbury: Ms. Leech/Ms. Burke
- Ellistown: Ms. McCormack/Sr. Philomena
- St. Eithne's Curragh: Ms. Doyle/Ms. Dowling
- St. Theresa's Newbridge: Ms. Smith/Ms. Fisher
- St. Ita's Clane: Ms. McCormack/Ms. White
- Prosperous: Ms. Kelly.

Records also show that Kildare fielded on a number of occasions in Leinster competitions, playing a Leinster final v Dublin in 1939 in Kill, Co. Kildare.

1940s

During the Second World War, sporting priorities were second to national economic survival and the maintenance of political neutrality. Living standards were affected; food was rationed and transport was at a standstill. In this unfavourable climate, camogie generally disbanded in the county though some teams played each other competitively.³

1955-1965

A decade of expansion

Fifteen years or so on, fortunes had changed somewhat and camogie was revived in Kildare. A County Convention was convened in 1954 and from then onwards camogie has been played on Kildare's shortgrass.

The minute books of the Kildare County Camogie Board from 1955 onwards are available and were the source material for this chapter. A significant volume of the minute books are comprised of the routine business of games' administration: fixtures, results and referees' reports. Key moments or items of interest from the minute books are highlighted here. A record of officers of the Kildare County Camogie Board is provided at the end of this chapter.

1955: Kildare League commences

The Random Inn Naas was the venue for County Board meetings at this time. Four clubs were listed at the County Board meeting on 4th March 1955. These were Prosperous, Kill, Clane and Naas. At this meeting it was decided to change the county

colours to brown and white, the colours of the Prosperous club. Club registration fees were 10 shillings.

By July 1955, Leixlip, Kilcock, Carbury and Edenderry teams were active and they joined the above clubs in a Kildare league. Later in 1955 Ticknevin and Clogherinkoe were attending County Board meetings and participating in the league. During 1955 it was also decided that county board meetings should rotate to clubs, as most of the clubs had long distances to travel. The last meeting of 1955 was therefore held at Derrinturn with Carbury club the hosts. At this meeting Ballylinan from Laois requested to affiliate to Kildare County Board and this was forwarded to Leinster Council for decision.

The thorny issue of referring standards came to a head at the December 1955 meeting. The minute book notes:

All delegates expressed complete dissatisfaction about the refereeing positions. We had been compromising lately with men due to all members of the (referees') panel, drawn up last May, taking part in matches arranged for same day ... A match refereed by other than the officially appointed referee will be declared void. This decision must be rigidly adhered to in future.

1956: Championship recommences then ends in dispute

The first meeting of 1956 decided to organise the Kildare League into Division I and Division 2. It also agreed to hold an open draw and knock-out system for the county championship. Irish Ropes Droichead Nua, St. Conleth's Kildare, Allenwood and Caragh were all affiliated for the first time in 1956. Naas also formed a juvenile team.

Financial costs and fundraising was a regular theme in the county board minutes. The minutes for the meeting held on 9th May 1956 in Edenderry notes:

The following clubs did not send representatives due to lack of funds for car hire: Naas, Kill, Droichead Nua and Kildare.

Fundraising efforts culminated in a Céilí in April in Kilcock. The hall cost £10; Naas gave the Board of a loan of £10 for the hall fee. The Gallowglass Céilí Band cost £30. Unfortunately the Céilí incurred a financial loss and left Naas 'with no funds'. The minute noted that *there was a surfeit of dancing in Kilcock that week* and this probably accounted for the loss.

Several times throughout the year clubs were asked to donate monies to offset the loss and to reimburse Naas for the Céilí and to offset ongoing administration costs incurred by the County Board. A funding letter was also sent to Kildare GAA Board and each club was asked to enlist support from their local GAA club to ensure a favourable outcome for the financial request to the GAA.

The purchase of medals for the county league champions Naas also posed a problem due to lack of funds. However the Secretary said she could order medals from John Timmins, Dublin *who would not mind waiting some time for payment*. By the end of 1956 the money situation was looking healthier following a grant of £7 pounds and 15/6 from Leinster Council and a donation of £17 from Prosperous Hall Committee.

Black stockings a must!

The July 1956 County Board meeting heard that Leixlip were still only in the process of getting their camogie uniforms made. This meant that they would not have official uniforms to play against Irish Ropes on 11th July. The Board sanctioned their playing without official uniforms but requested them to be dressed as uniformly as possible, with black stockings a must.

The 1956 championship was deemed out of order by the General Secretary of the Camogie Association. Edenderry were eligible to play in the Kildare league only, and not the championship. The Board voted to re-draw the championship but this led to some dissatisfaction. Clane and Leixlip withdrew from the league, championship and county board meeting. The championship was re-drawn. Irish Ropes, Kill and Kilcock submitted an objection to the Leinster Council in regard to this. The objection was accepted by Leinster Council on the basis that *Kildare Board allowed two delegates per club to vote* which was contrary to rule. Leinster Council recommended that the championship be dropped in view of the lateness of the season (November 1956) and

Excerpt from County Board Minute Book 1956

LEAGUE TABLE - 1955-56.

	<u>PLAYED.</u>	<u>WON.</u>	<u>DRAWN.</u>	<u>LOST.</u>	<u>FORFEITED.</u>		<u>POINTS.</u>
					<u>TO</u>	<u>BY</u>	
<u>CARBURY</u>							
<u>CLANE</u>	13	4	3	6	1	2	15
<u>CLOGHERINKOE</u>							
<u>EDENDERRY</u>	14 ³	3	-	10	2	1	8
<u>KILCOCK</u>	14 ¹⁴	10	1	3	1	1	23
<u>KILL</u>	- LAPSE			-	-	-	-
<u>LEIXLIP</u>	8	4	1	3	3	5	19
<u>NAAS</u>	14 ¹¹	10 ¹¹	-	-	1	4 ⁴	30
<u>PROSPEROUS</u>	8	4	1	3	6	2	13
<u>TICKNEVIN</u>	10	3	1	6	3	3	13

Referee reports from November 1961

Adopted 31/4/62
P.W. M. M.

54 Parc Fionnmaca
Cabraic

26-11-61

Naomh Síne v Naís na Ríog

This match started at 3.20 pm
twenty five minutes each half. It
was won by Naomh Síne with 9 glo
to 1 gl for Naís na Ríog.

The standard of play was
high and the score no indication.

Some very good forward play
won this game for Naomh Síne.

There are some very promising
players on both sides, good
material for the county in the future.
There is however too much use
of the body and one Naomh
Síne player who has lovely
stick work is spoiling herself
with robust play and tactics
which would not be tolerated
even on a hualing pitch. It
would be tragic to see this
girl lost to the game. I
sincerely hope she will take
these remarks as constructive
criticism and when next I
hear of her, she will be
playing the game in the
manner in which it should
be played.

Is mae

lemaos

Máire Bean U. Brown

P.S. I would also like to thank G.H.
Curlinn for their excellent umpiring.

Sallins 3.1 Carberry 1.1.

Above is the result of this League match which
I refereed at Naas on Sunday, 29th October.

While the game was evenly and sportingly
contested, there was some unauthorised
tackling which was entirely unnecessary.

Both teams wore an assortment of cardigans
and sweaters and their general turn-out left
a lot to be desired. The Sallins team have
not yet got complete uniform. I would urge
the County Board to ensure that all teams are
attired in accordance with the rules. Lists
of players attached.

League Final: Naas v Ballyroe

Ballyroe won this League Final at Naas
on Sunday, 29th October. The full-time score -

Ballyroe 7.2 Naas 2.2

Play was, at times, a bit robust, and I
had to speak to the Ballyroe Captain about her
tactics in the first half. There was a
distinct improvement in the second half, when
play was of a sporting nature. Lists of
players attached.

Just one complaint: The first two teams
were late in fielding and I did not get
started until 2.55 p.m. During this game there
was a delay of 2/3 minutes, due to an injury;
and the second match did not commence until
4 p.m.

Carroll Bean U. Dubairig

3/11/61.

Jul. Bean

Letter of congratulations from Naas Hurling Club on the occasion of Kildare's first Leinster title win 1961

Leann Síne v Naís na Ríog.

16. Our Lady's Place,
Naas.
31. 7. 61

The Secretary
Kildare Camogie Board.
Naas.

O le hua
At a meeting of the above Club it was
unanimously decided to express their sincerest
congratulations to your Team on their great
achievement in winning the Leinster Junior Camogie
Championship on Sunday 25th inst.
The Team's win was all the more
qualifying in view of the fact that there were
so many players from this area chosen as
the side.

No hope that this is a forerunner
of greater victories in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Padraig O'Connell
Rural

the Board agreed this unanimously. It was also agreed to drop the county league.

1957: First official juvenile friendlies commences

Kilcullen, Moone and a newly formed juvenile club, Killina, joined the County Board for the first meeting of the year on 19th February at the Donore Hall in Caragh. The County Board commissioned its first headed notepaper at a cost of 30/- per ream and ordered 1,000 envelopes. In June, the Board initiated a series of friendly games for juveniles so *that the youngsters would get some practice before engaging in a competition.* The first juvenile friendly was Prosperous v Naas, followed by Kilcock v Kill and Caragh v Naas.

Players' attire a concern

Vera Lee, the Kildare delegate to Leinster Council reported in July 1957 that *Leinster Council was perturbed at the laxity governing players attire throughout the province and said that she was instructed to ask the Board to enforce strictly all rules in this connection. The Board instructed all referees to disqualify any players contravening any of these rules.*

1958: First juvenile competition is run

A new vice-chairperson and secretary were appointed. M. Ní Bheacháin stepped into B. Judge's shoes as vice-chair and Vera Lee (Naas) took over as secretary from P. Meade. The first juvenile competition got underway with six clubs taking part, Naas, Kilcock, Caragh, Killina, Prosperous and Ticknevin. Joseph Brennan, Ballitore also formally approached the June 1958 County Board to affiliate a camogie club.

Players' attire an ongoing concern

Leinster Council was again concerned about players' attire. In June 1958 Kildare County Board was reminded that *all players fielding for a match....should wear blouses with at least half-sleeves, should have slippers on boots and not have any tin bands on hurleys.*

**Naas UDC receipt for April 1961
County Board meeting room hire**

Nº 0737

NAAS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE,
TOWN HALL, NAAS.

Holds day of April, 1961.

RECEIVED from Mr. Naas Camogie Club

.....Pounds, Five Shillings

and (.....) Pence, in respect of Committee Room

for meeting 5/4/61 (8-10)

Eng. Brennan
for Town Clerk.

£ : 5 : —

How Paid { CASH ☒
Cheque ☐
Pay Order ☐

1963/64: County team adopts the 'lilywhite' colours

The April 1963 county board meeting decided that the County Board should have its own uniforms for the county team. The Board was in a good financial position and this allowed for the purchase of camogie uniforms. White was decided as the colour of the county team uniform. However the following April 1964 the Board decided that some colour other than a white blouse would have to be worn as the white gym and blouse did not look well together. The Board decided that if possible they would get blue blouses. In 1965 the blue blouses of Naas were worn in the Leinster championship.

1964: Men – in or out?

A Celbridge motion to the 1964 Annual Convention proposed that the male ban be lifted for clergyman. Fr. Val Martin (Celbridge) explained how awkward it was for him as a priest, supposed to be fostering all games in a small village like Celbridge and yet, because of the ban, being asked to forsake some of these games he loved so much. He pointed out it has his duty to have all the youth of the village occupied at some sport or another and he asked the Board to give careful consideration to the case. The Board decided to bring the matter to Leinster Council but some members cautioned that 'he had not a hope of the motion succeeding'.

1965: Camogie Board parties and schools competition is success

In October 1965, the Board decided to hold a party on 5th December to make presentations to the league and championship winners. The schools under 15 competition was a success and a *credit to our county*. Farringtons donated the schools cup. The presentation night became a regular feature of county board activity at the end of each season for many years until 2002.

1966-1976 Additional competitions and inter-county success at Junior level

1966: Camogie honours 1916 Commemorations

All clubs were asked at the March 1966 County Board meeting to take part in the parade on Easter Sunday in Naas to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1916. All teams were told to dress in their uniform if it was a fine Sunday.

Married women can play on county team

A query was made to the April County Board if it was alright for married women to play on the county team. The questioner was advised *there was nothing to stop them*.

1966: Men in – Fr. Martin appreciated

Naas proposed and it was agreed at the 1966 Annual Convention that Fr. Val Martin (previously Celbridge but transferred to Dublin) be invited to participate in all meetings and functions, in view of the work done by him for Kildare Camogie Board.

1967: Football ban in vogue

In 1967 the Chairperson of Kildare County Camogie Board informed clubs that any girl playing football, indoor or outdoor, will be suspended.

1967: Tournament medals returned as a breach of rules and three new cups donated

The ICA Guild in Celbridge hosted a tournament

between Ardclough and Celbridge and put up a set of medals for the winners. This was in breach of camogie rules whereby tournament games were not allowed [exhibition games were allowed]. The Ardclough manager, returned the medals when informed of the ruling and the ICA presented the medals to the County Board. These were awarded to the Senior League runners up. Three cups were kindly donated to the County Board in 1967:

- Corcoran Cup – for the senior league runners up
- Fr. McCarthy Cup – for the junior league winners
- Muintir na Tíre Cup – for the junior league runners up.

For the first time runners up medals were presented for the senior and junior leagues.

1967: Junior County Team wins Smyco Cup (Leinster junior title)

Teamwork, co-operation and loyalty won Kildare the Smyco Cup in 1967. These were the attributes acknowledged by the county chairperson in congratulating the county team's Leinster success (see also Chapter 4).

1967: Special awards

Special awards were presented to Betty Garry (Caragh) for best referee in 1967; to Mona Burke (Kingswear) and Margaret Deering (Brownstown) for most sporting players of 1967.



County Chairperson Mrs. Corcoran presenting
Mona Burke and Margaret Deering with
their awards in 1967

Dancing no more

Two motions to the 1967 Annual Convention and to a number of subsequent Conventions on modern dancing were presented. The motions requested that the ban be lifted on foreign dancing to make camogie more sociable' and 'that the ban on modern dancing be abolished for camogie socials'. These motions were governed by national camogie rules and were usually withdrawn as the national rule had priority.

1968: Schools committee to oversee competitions

A schools committee was established to oversee camogie in second level schools. It was also agreed that the Farrington Cup would be for under 16 schools camogie and that an under 14 competition would be established. Fr. McCarthy, Mrs. Corcoran, Mary Rourke and Maria Walsh were the first members of the schools committee (see also Chapter 5).

1968: Special awards

Betty Garry (Caragh) for the second year in a row won the best referee award. Teresa Walsh (Rathcoffey) and Tessie Behan (Naas) won the most sporting players award.

1968: Referees' courses

For a number of years since 1965 the county board ran lectures, talks and courses for referees and players on the camogie rules.

1968: Kildare officials take Leinster Council positions; Organiser appointed

Mrs. Corcoran the county board chairperson and Maria Walsh were elected as 1969 Leinster Council Chair and Registrar at the Leinster Council convention. Mrs. Corcoran continued as Chair in 1970 and Marie Walsh became Leinster Council secretary. In 1974 Mrs. Corcoran stood down as Leinster Council vice chairperson. Marie Walsh was also appointed 'Organiser' for Kildare to promote the development of camogie. This was part of a

national initiative. Betty Garry became Organiser in 1972

1969: Three new clubs register

Johnstown Bridge, Two Mile House, Ellistown affiliated to the County Board.

1969: Smyco Cup success again in Leinster

Kildare beat Wexford, Wicklow and Louth to take the Smyco Cup as Leinster junior champions. Kildare lost to Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final in Naas (see also Chapter 4).

1970: First vocational schools' competition inaugurated

A number of vocational schools, plus Presentation Convent Clane and Presentation Covent Kildare affiliated in 1970. A competition for vocational schools was won for the first time by Kildare. Kildare was the first county to run such a competition. A Mr. Deegan of Naas presented the cup for the vocational competition (also see Chapter 5).

1972: Sympathy to people of the North

The February 1972 County Board meeting passed a *vote of condolence with suffering people of the north of our country*.

1972: Kildare vote to keep tunics

The February 1972 County Board voted to retain the present style of camogie uniform, tunics, in the context of a motion to Leinster Council to change the uniform.

1972: Special awards

Marie Cribbin, St. Mary's, Naas, and Josie Miggin, Broadford were awarded the Most Sporting Player of the Year Awards.

1972: Mrs. Corcoran elected as first President of Kildare Camogie Board

At the 1972 Annual Convention, Maria Walsh took over as County Board Chairperson from Mrs. Corcoran following a long tenure in the post. Maria

Nominations to Kildare County Convention, early 1970s

CUMANN CAMOGUIDEACTA NA NGAEIL.

COISDE CO. CILL DARA.

NOMINATIONS.

Chairman:	Maria Walshe ✓	Nominated by	Broadford; Nurney; Cappagh Ardclough; Johnstownbridge St. Michael's, Athy; St. Mary's, Naas; Prosperous St. Conleth's, Kildare. all, as above.
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. K. Higgins ✓	"	"
Secretary/Registrar:	Mrs. M. Fields ✓	"	"
Organiser/P.R.O.:	Miss M. Cribben ✓	"	"
	Miss M. Daering	"	"
	Miss M. Miggin	"	"
	Miss B. Garry.	"	"
Treasurer:	(Mrs. K. Higgins, ✓ Miss J. Miggin ✓)	"	"
	Mrs. K. Higgins.	"	"
	Miss J. Miggin	"	"
			Broadford; Nurney; Cappagh Ardclough; Johnstownbridge St. Michael's, Athy; St. Mary's, Naas; Prosperous St. Conleth's, Kildare. all, as above.
			Broadford; St. Mary's; Johnstown Bridge. Prosperous; St. Conleth's.
			Nurney.
			Ardclough; St. Michael's.
			Nurney; Ardclough; St. Conleth's; St. Mary's; Johnstown Bridge; Prosperous.
			Broadford.
			Cappagh; St. Michael's.

Mrs. Corcoran,
Bishop Birch
and Antrim referee,
Éilís Ní Spealáin,
at the start of the
Leinster Senior
Final 1970.



Walsh proposed and Ardclough seconded that Mrs. Corcoran be elected Kildare's first President. This was unanimously agreed. Mrs. Corcoran continues in this post today, 2004.

1972: PE talk for county players

With a view to having the county team fit for the 1972 campaign, the Chairperson asked a qualified physical education (PE) teacher to give a talk in the Town Hall Naas after a trial on 8th May.

1972: Uniform rule changed at Annual Congress
Kildare County Board were informed of rule change at 1972 Congress regarding the camogie uniform. Of Irish manufacture, skirt/divided skirt, long or short sleeved blouse, sports skirt, tights or bobby socks with suitable matching underwear and boots was now to be allowed.

Money, money, money

All through the minutes of 1955, the County Board regularly reports financial constraints. Fundraising through raffles, dances, concerts, donations from clubs ranging from 30/- to £20 over the years, grants from Kildare GAA Board and flag days are regularly reported.

In June 1972 the Chairperson said *money from gates was very slow coming in and pointed out again that each player was to pay 5p at each game. The captain from each team is responsible for collecting it. Mrs. Higgins [the Treasurer] collected 79p from delegates at the meeting from which 50p was paid to Ardclough for the hall for the meeting.*

1972: Kildare player gets Leinster medal

Miriam Miggin is congratulated at a Board meeting for her success in winning a Gael-Linn medal with Leinster. Mrs. Corcoran, President said as a Leinster officer and Kildare President she would like to congratulate Miriam.

1972: Who knows when first camogie game in Kildare was played?

Secretary Mary Fields in the 1972 Annual Report posed the question

I wonder can anyone definitely tell us where the first camogie game was played in Kildare and when – who competed – scores – were the rules any different – attendance. Would our members help in compiling a history of the game in the county?...

1973: Deering Cup offered to County Board

The Athy club offered the County Board a memorial cup for the late Mr. Deering, Athy. The County Board thanked the Deering family most sincerely and accepted the cup.

1976: Community Games

The County Board clarified its support for Community Games but advised those taking part to ensure that all camogie players were registered (also see Chapter 5).

Advice to wear protective gear

The May 1976 County Board recommended to clubs, that any girl wearing glasses, should wear protective gear if at all possible.

1976: Kildare captain Leinster Gael-Linn victory

Miriam Miggin and Teresa Lynch played on the victorious Leinster Junior team to win Gael-Linn, the inter-provincial competition in 1976. Both were congratulated at the November County Board.

1977-1987

New structures and competitions; first national league and championship titles

1977-1979: Club activity dips

It would appear from the county board minute books that club activity across the county suffered somewhat in the mid-seventies. At some county board meetings only four clubs were in attendance – Celbridge, Cappagh, Broadford and Naas in September 1978. At the first meeting of 1979 six clubs were in attendance Prosperous, Kilcock, Naas, Celbridge, Cappagh and Maynooth.

1978: First Wednesday of every month becomes regular County Board night

The August 1978 County Board meeting in Clane GAA decided that the first Wednesday night of each month as the date for future County Board monthly meetings. This continues to be the practice up to 2004.

1978: St. Patrick's College Maynooth request to play in Kildare competitions

Fr. Meagher attended the 1978 Annual Convention and said that St. Patrick's College Maynooth were interested in taking part in Kildare competitions. It was agreed to commence the 1979 league early in the year to accommodate student participation as they would not be able to field from early May to the first week in October.

1979: Kildare agrees to participate in Féile na nGael

The first meeting of 1979 agreed that Kildare should participate in the Féile na nGael tournament on 24th June. Cappagh agreed to host the Kildare qualifying competition.

1979: Wrap around skirts favoured over gym-slips for county teams

A motion from Prosperous, seconded by Cappagh,

to the 1979 Annual Convention got agreement to change the county team uniform. It was agreed to change from a gymslip to a white wrap round skirt with a blue shirt (jersey) and blue knee socks (see Photo Gallery).

First county team coach in place

Mrs. Kelly the County Junior team coach attended the May 1979 County Board meeting. Mrs. Kelly asked to Board *what was her position now as coach. She stated that on the day of matches unless she had complete control of the team, she would quit as coach. She said it was ridiculous having selectors running up and down the side line saying who to take off and who to put on. The Chairman said we [Kildare] were never in the position before of having a proper camogie coach and she thought it was great now to have a proper coach. ... It was agreed that Mrs. O'Kelly, was coach to junior and minor teams and as coach she would have full control of team on the day of match.*

1980: Intermediate grade introduced

Kildare County Board introduced an intermediate grade in 1980. Kilcock, Naas, Ardclough and Clane were designated to play in an intermediate league competition. No championship was played. Kilcock were the first league winners. In 1981 the intermediate was dropped because of insufficient interest.

1980: County players expenses a County Board issue

In April 1980 the County Board discussed the issue of travelling expenses for county players. The question was whether players or clubs should carry the cost of travelling to inter-county games. The final decision was a three way split, players to pay a third of the costs, the player's club to pay a third and the County Board to pay a third.

1980: Accommodation arrangement for visiting county teams

In advance of the national League Final in Cappagh,

the May 1980 County Board meeting considered accommodation arrangements for the visiting Armagh team. The minutes read: *Armagh presumed that Kildare players would be putting them up for the night. Mrs. Ó Ceallaigh was disappointed with the response from home players to receive Armagh players. The County Board expected them to accommodate at least one player from Armagh. Due to this lack of response from Kildare players, the [Kildare] County Board agreed to pay for Armagh expenses...*

1980: Cappagh host All Ireland Junior League Final

Kildare lost by a point to Armagh in the first All Ireland Junior League Final. At the County Board Cappagh were warmly thanked for having the pitch in excellent condition. The GAA club was thanked for their assistance. Clane GAA hosted the Armagh team on their arrival on Saturday and the Armagh team were accommodated in Prosperous.

Programme cover from 1980 National League (Junior) final played in Cappagh

CUMANN CAMOGAÍOCHTA na nGAEIL
SRAITH-CHOMÓRTAS na hÉIREANN
Soisear 1979 - '80
:/:/:/:/:/:/:/:/:/:
ARD MHACHA v CILL DARA
CLUICHE CEANNAIS
Ceapach, Cill Dara, 11 Bealtaine, 1980.

Réiteoir : Fileas Ní Bhreasláin,
(Áth Cliath).
-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-
CLAR OIFIGIÚIL --- --- --- --- Luach 10p.

Knitting for funds

A knit-it by clubs to raise county board funds was organised in 1981. The Ardclough delegate felt they might do something for the Board but no way would they travel to Clane to knit. Celbridge felt it might be good for a 'laugh' but she thought a disco would do better. Broadford planned to have a sponsored walk for the club so they didn't think they could do anything. Cappagh, Balyna, Kilcock and Clane would hold the knit-in as arranged for April. The knit-in raised £440.

1981: Kildare secure Leinster Junior title

At the July 1981 County Board meeting, Marie Walsh, Chair, congratulated the Kildare juniors on winning the Leinster Junior title for the first time in 12 years, beating Dublin by two points. The Chairperson said the support at the match was very bad. Clare went on the defeat Kildare in the All Ireland semi final played in Clane and on this occasion, the match was attended by a huge crowd (also see Chapter 4).

1982: Armagh present cup to Kildare

Following a national league game in Armagh, (which Kildare won 2-3 to 0-2), Armagh presented Kildare with a cup to be called the Armagh Cup. On the suggestion of the Chair, Marie Woods, it was agreed to use the cup for the Kildare senior championship.

1982: Miriam Malone, Kildare's Superstar

The Board was informed that Miriam Malone would represent Kildare in the Superstars competition in



Miriam Malone represented Kildare in the 1982 National Camogie Superstars.

St. Patrick's College Drumcondra on 29th May in the presence of the Minister for Sport.

1982: Under 21 competition held for first time

Cappagh, Clane, Broadford, Kilcock, Ardclough, Prosperous, St. Lawrences, Johnstown Bridge agreed to enter an under 21 competition.

1983: £300 received from Kildare GAA

Kildare GAA donated £300 to the October 1983 county board meetings towards the cost of county team uniforms.

A tenner for county uniforms

The March 1983 county board was informed that the cost of all white top, skirt and socks would be £10. While waiting on the new skirts, Celbridge provided the county team with theirs.

1984: Broadford win special championship to mark GAA Centenary

A special open draw championship between junior and senior clubs was run off in honour of the GAA Centenary. The two finalists met on June 30th and competed at the GAA Centenary Celebrations in Clane. The GAA centenary committee provided trophies to the winners Broadford (see picture in Chapter 2).

1984: Cup provided for under 18 league

Seán Conway, Broadford donated a trophy for an under 18 league to bridge the gap between the under 15 and under 21 competitions. Seán was thanked for his generosity and it was decided to play for it at some later stage.

1987: Amalgamated teams compete in senior championship

The competitions were restructured in 1987. The junior grade and an intermediate grade were league and championships. The junior and intermediate teams also amalgamated into four different teams to compete in the senior championship. Ardclough, Celbridge, Leixlip, Straffan and Rathcoffey called

(see Chapter 2 for picture of Broadford, the competition winners)

CORRA CHOILL

2.5 p16

Dathanna:
Glas is Dubh

(1)
R. Mac Mearman
(Rose Merriman)

(2)
G. Mac Dubhúir
(Geraldine Dwyer)

(4)
A. Mac Meannan
(Antoinette Merriman) / p t

(3)
C. Ó Dhompaigh
(Christina Dempsey)
(Captain)

(6)
S. Ó Mionacháin
(Joan Minahan)

(9)
D. Ó Colinn
(Dolores Quinn) / g t

(7)
M. Mac Sheáin
(Marianne Johnson) 3 p t s

(10)
M. Ó Cullin
(Mary Cullen)

(12)
C. Mac Sheáin
(Catherine Johnson)

(8)
G. Ó Catháin
(Gemma Kane)

(11)
N. Ó Conáil
(Nuala O'Connell)

(5)
M. Mac Sheáin
(Mary Johnson)

(13) T. Ó
Catháin (Teresa Kane), (16) T. Mac Meannan (Teresa Merriman).

U0 13 f o e No 12
1 p t

Mná Ionaid: (13) Carmel Kindregan, (14) B. Mac Sheáin (Barbara Johnson), (15) T. Ó Catháin (Teresa Kane), (16) T. Mac Meannan (Teresa Merriman).

GEARR EISCHIR

2.7 p15

Dathanna:
Dearg is Bán

(1)
I. Ó Ciosóg
(Una Cusack)

(2)
E. Ó Conaill
(Elizabeth Conway)

(4)
A. Ó Deargáin
(Anna Dargan)
(Captain)

(7)
M. Ó Maolcoilín
(Miriam Malone)

(10)
C. Ó Catháin
(Christine Kane) / g t

(12)
R. Ó Flannagáin
(Reona Flanagan) / g t

(5)
N. De Sutton
(Nora Sutton)

(8)
I. Ó Maolcoilín
(Irene Miggins) / g t

(11)
T. Ó Falcacháin
(Terese Farrelly) / g t

(13) B. Ó Ciosóg
(Breda Cusack), (15) G. Ó Ciosóg
(Geraldine Cusack), (16) D. Ó Deoráin
(Dympna Doran).

U0 13 f o e No 12
1 p t

Mná Ionaid: (13) M. Ó Griabháin (Marian Graven), (14) B. Ó Ciosóg (Breda Cusack), (15) G. Ó Ciosóg (Geraldine Cusack), (16) D. Ó Deoráin (Dympna Doran).

Cumann Luthchleas Gael
Coiste Cill Dara
1884—1984



SATHARN, 30 MEITHEAMH, 1984
ag CLAOINADH

1884 Centenary Finals 1984

Camogie—6.00 p.m.
CORRA CHOILL v GEARR EISCHIR

Football—7.30 p.m.

CAIRBRE v NAOMH LORCÁIN

Referee: Jim Barker (Kilcullen)

Clár Oifigiúil

Luach 30p

their amalgamated team St. Wolstan's. The other teams were Cill Dara Theas comprised of St. Laurence's, Athy, Kilcullen and Kildare; St. Conleth's, comprised of Johnstown Bridge, Cappagh, Carbury and Allenwood; Broadford and Prosperous.

1987: Kildare's Bernie Farrelly wins national Gradam Táihte

Bernie Farrelly was congratulated at the August 1987 county board on her achievement in winning the national Gradam Táihte (this was a camogie skills competition). Bernie was the first player from Kildare and the first player from a camogie junior county to do so.

Rogha is Togha na n-Imreoir



BERNIE

The announcement by Angela Downey (Cill Chainnigh), that she did not intend to defend her Gradam Táihte title in 1987 left the way clear for the emergence of a new superstar. Followers scanned the line-up at Belfield and pointed to well-known players as probable or possible successors. Ach, ní mar a sítear a bítear.

All were proved wrong by a sixteen year old schoolgirl from Co. Kildare. Bernie Farrelly showed athletic ability, competitiveness and camogie skills as she became the youngest player to receive the Gradam Táihte Award.

Despite her tender years, she is in her fifth season in county colours. Bernie was introduced to the under fourteen team as a midfielder in 1983 and has progressed via the minor side to the county's first team.

Educated at Dermiturn National School and Edenderry Vocational School, she shone as an underage player. She has blossomed into a fine performer with the Kildare Junior team this season. In the semi-final against Cork, she caught the eye at centre-forward and scored a very creditable 1-3 from play.

The fourth holder of Gradam Táihte, Bernie is in very good company. Jo McClements, a sterling defender from Loughgall in Antrim, was the first holder. Clare Cronin (Corcaigh) pipped Angela Downey in a thrilling contest in 1983.

For the following three years, Angela Downey ruled supreme with marvellous displays. Ní haon ionadh é gur tugadh Banríon Táihte uirthi! The three previous winners are All-Ireland medal-holders. Is this a good omen for Bernie today?



AINGEAL



EOSAIMHÍN



CLÁR

1987: Kildare Juniors secure New Ireland Cup for first All Ireland title and Broadford secure Leinster club title

At the Annual Convention in December, the Chairperson, Patrica Keatley, led the meeting in congratulating the Kildare players in securing the junior All Ireland title for the first time. Manager Pat Herbert and selectors Paud Malone and Sean Conway were especially thanked for their hard work. Miriam Malone was chosen as National Junior Player of the Year. Broadford also were congratulated for winning the Leinster Junior club championship (also see Chapter 4).

1987: Most successful year in Kildare

Marianne Johnson, the County Secretary in her 1987 annual report recalled the year's successes as follows:

1987 will go down in camogie history as

the most successful year in Kildare. After many years of defeat earlier on in the championship and many years of defeat at Leinster semi final and final stages and in the All Ireland semi final twice and the All Ireland last year, the county team achieved their goal this year by winning the All Ireland [junior] championship.

For the 'older' players especially it was a splendid victory. A lot of credit has to go to these 'older' players but especially to Pat Herbert who trained the team for the past two years and his fellow selectors Paud Malone and Seán Conway. No doubt the talent has been there down through the years but there never has been anybody to get these players together, to motivate them and to build their confidence up to achieve as much success as they have in the past two years ... The team have only been beaten twice in the last two years – last year in the All Ireland final and this year in the All Ireland league final... (see also Chap. 4)

1988-1998

Kildare secure further national titles, go senior. Board funding crisis.

First under age Leinster title.

1988: Kildare win three in a row Leinster; Kildare woman referees All Ireland and Bernie Farrelly wins two in a row Gradam title; Broadford secure Leinster junior club title

The Leinster junior title was again Kildare's for the third year in a row. Rose Merriman refereed the 1988 All Ireland junior final and also won the Kildare Player of the Year Award in the same year.

Kildare's Bernie Farrelly also won her second Gradam Táihte title. Broadford, the Kildare senior champions, competed and won the Leinster junior club title in 1988.

1990: Reunion in Clane

A reunion of Kildare players from the 1961 Leinster winning team was held in Clane.

1990: Kildare secure Leinster 5 in a row, national league and All Ireland titles

Kildare were upgraded from junior to senior following the 1990 treble. The minutes of the Annual Convention of 1990 notes *the Chairperson Marie Woods....congratulated all teams saying that 1990 should be written into history as this Kildare team is the first from the county to be graded to play senior, since 1960. Five Leinster junior championships in a row is a hard record to beat. Marie congratulated all the girls, the selectors Paud [Malone], Seán [Conway] and trainer Pat Herbert. Some disappointment was expressed in regard to the poor attendance at the victory parade in Clane after the All Ireland win but praise was extended to all supporters who attended the matches.* The upgrading grading meant that Kildare fielded both senior and junior teams for a number of years thereafter.

1991: Helmets for underage players

In 1991 the County Board stipulated that the wearing of helmets by underage players, as per bye laws, was to be strictly enforced. Helmets were to be worn by all underage players up to minor (under 16) level.

1991: County teams attend County Board

Pat Dunny and members of the county teams attended the March County Board meeting. An open and frank discussion followed and ended with a pledge of full co-operation of the County Board to the county teams on all aspects of running the teams and support needed to keep the teams successful.

1991: Missing cups 'a disgrace'

Two county finals in 1991, the under 21 and under 16 championships, were concluded without cups being available for presentation to the winning captains. It was also noted that Carbury, the 1990 under 18 championship winners never received a cup. County Board delegates felt *this was a disgrace especially for under age players.*

Swinging '60s presentation night

The presentation of county medals and cups at the Presentation Night in 1991 was a 1960s night with sandwiches and tea. Everyone was asked to pay £2 admission. Every club was asked to support this night and to provide 4 sliced pans of sandwiches.

1991: Bicycle shorts ban

The wearing of bicycle shorts was queried at the November 1991 County Board meeting. It was clarified that the Annual Camogie Congress passed a rule that banned bicycle shorts; referees were requested to enforce the ban and team managers were asked to discourage players from wearing such shorts.

Miriam Malone completes 26 years playing with the county team

Miriam Malone completed 26 years playing with the county team in 1992. The County Board made a special presentation to Miriam to mark this occasion.

1992: GAA donates £600 but funding crisis on horizon

On a number of occasions, the minutes record financial contributions and assistance from the Kildare GAA Board. In 1992, Kildare GAA donated £600 to the Kildare Camogie Board but expectations were higher as the minutes record that the Chair of the GAA Board *was contacted and told that we were disappointed with the amount received.* The GAA continued its financial support and the minutes record two financial donations totalling £700 in 1994; £600 in 1995; £600 in 1997.

1993: Debt hits County Board

By February 1993, the County Board was £2,000 in debt. The bank refused to honour any cheques and wanted to know what fund raising activity was planned. This funding problem gave rise to many fundraising activities. Over the next two years, these included flag days, raffles, collections at GAA

games, poker classic, club donations, a donation from the Kildare team players' fund and some corporate sponsorship. However, the debt continued and the County Board remained in debt for a further period. An overdraft facility was secured in 1995 and the debt was cleared by April 1996.

1994: Superquinn Naas provide cup

Superquinn, Naas donated a cup which was designated for the senior championship competition and is in use up to 2004.

1996: Another Leinster junior win

Kildare secured the Leinster junior title again in 1996 (also see Chapter 4).

1997: Under 11 Blitz commenced

An under 11 blitz was arranged over several weekends by Leixlip club. This followed a request at an April County Board meeting to run an under 11 competition. The Board then agreed that the clubs might run this themselves. Leixlip requested County Board funds to pay for medals and refreshments for the blitz teams and this was agreed. Following this initial blitz, several clubs thereafter ran under 11 competitions.

1997: New senior league cup presented

Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne, St. Laurence's donated a cup for the senior league competition, as the previous cup for the competition, the Deering Cup, could not be located. A referee's cup was also donated and it was decided to present this annually to the Referee of the Year.

1997: Kildare win under 14 Leinster 'B' title

Kildare secured its first underage Leinster title when it won the Leinster 'B' under 14 competition in July 1997 (also see Chapter 4).

1998: Rathcoffey and Sarsfields selected as County Board meeting venues

A recommendation from the 1998 Annual Convention agreed that Sarsfields and Rathcoffey alternate as venues for County Board meetings to accommodate clubs from south and north of the county.

1999-2004

New competitions.

Leinster under age double.

Financial stability.

Junior National League title.

County Development plan.

1999: Kildare GAA grant use of Hawkfield

Following a request from the Camogie Board, Kildare GAA agreed to the use of the county training grounds Hawkfield for county camogie training.

1999: Senior league declared null and void

Following several attempts to fix the 1998 senior league final between St. Laurence's and Broadford, the March 1999 County Board meeting declared the competition null and void. The Senior 'B' league for 1999 was also abolished as only one club, Leixlip, was graded for the competition. Leixlip were to compete in the Senior 'A' league.

1999: Prosperous disband; donate funds to county under 18 team

Prosperous advised the May 1999 County Board meeting that they were disbanding. They wished the club's monies to be used for the purchase of polo shirts for the under 18 county team and asked the County Board to hold the remainder of the funds in trust.

2000: Under 11 league initiated

Following a motion to the 1999 Annual Convention, a special County Board meeting in February 2000 agreed to initiate an under 11 league. 10 clubs indicated an interest in participation as follows: Celbridge, Johnstown Bridge, Naas, Cappagh, Confey, Maynooth, Rathcoffey, Clane, St. Laurence's and Leixlip. The same meeting agreed to disband the under 15 league.

2001: Lorraine Bagnall Cup donated and Keatley Cup re-designated

The Lorraine Bagnall cup was donated to the County Board in 2001 in memory of a young Celbridge player who lost her life in a car accident. The cup was

designated for the under 16 league. A number of years previously Patricia Keatley (St. Laurence's) donated a cup for the senior 'B' competition. With Patricia's agreement, this cup was re-designated for the under 18 championship from 2001 onwards.

2002: Camogie pursues own pitch

In response to a public advertisement, an application was made to Kildare County Council for the use of St. Catherine's Park Leixlip for camogie. Kildare County Council rejected this bid.

2003: Kildare win first Leinster under 16 'B' title and second under 14 'B' title

In June 2003 the County Board congratulated Kildare on winning its first Leinster under 16 'B' title against Wicklow (also see Chapter 4). In the All-Ireland series, Kildare went out to Waterford in the All-Ireland semi final in Waterford. The under 14 title was also secured. Players received their Leinster medals at a Presentation Night to the winning teams was held in Toughers, Naas on 9th July (see also Chapter 4).

2003: Johnstown Bridge win Féile banner competition

Kildare, Meath and Westmeath hosted the national Féile na nGael competition in 2003. In the national finals in Mullingar in June 2003 Johnstown Bridge won the best overall banner in their grade. At the July County Board meeting, congratulations were passed on for this achievement (see Photo Gallery).

2003: Under 9 blitz initiated

Ten teams took part in the first ever under 9 blitz. Nurney Camogie Club proposed the blitz idea. Several clubs hosted preliminary rounds and Moorefield hosted the finals. Each player received a medal and Moorefield organised 'goodie bags' for the players. The blitz was successfully run again in 2004. Finals were held in Kill and Sarsfields GAA. Clubs.

2003: Annual County Board presentation night disbanded

At the October 2003 meeting, the County Board

meeting agreed to disband the annual county presentation night. Most clubs hold their own presentation of medals and in recent years the County Board nights had not been very well supported.

2003: Young Player of the Year Award initiated

The County Board agreed to initiate a new award, young player of the year. In 2003, Carol Nolan (St. Laurence's) and Susie O'Carroll (Celbridge) were the inaugural winners.

2004: 100 ticket raffle a great success

In 2003/4 Kildare County Board participated in the Raheens GAA Draw. Clubs sold 100 tickets and the County Board retained two-thirds of each ticket sold. The Board made an outstanding profit due to the exceptional efforts of the ticket sellers throughout the county. In 2004 the Chairperson, Joan O'Flynn, thanked all clubs for their commitment to putting the County Board on a sound financial footing.

2004: Kildare win McMullen Cup

To commemorate Mary McMullen (Moorefield) RIP, a past County Board officer of many years, the McMullen family donated a cup in 2003 for competition between Kildare and Mary's home county Antrim. In 2004, Kildare travelled to Belfast to play Antrim for the cup. This was a return game for the initial tournament match played in Newbridge in 2003. Kildare won on the day against Antrim junior team.

Two previous chairpersons of Kildare camogie, Mary McMullen on left and Mrs. Corcoran (right) come to grips with the county senior championship trophy in 1980s.



2004: Skorts adopted over skirts for county junior team

In 2004 in recognition of the achievement of reaching the national league junior final, Kildare Camogie Board agreed to replace the wrap around skirt with the new style skorts for the county junior team. Each county junior player received a personal skort.

2004: Junior national league title secured

In June, at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny Kildare won the national league junior title v Laois (see also Chapter 4). The players, management and supporters were thanked and congratulated at the June County Board meeting.

2004 Kill win best 'home' banner at Féile 2004

At the Féile na nGael finals in Navan, Kill camogie club won the award for best banner amongst the counties hosting Féile – these were Kildare, Westmeath and Meath who also hosted it in 2003.

2004: Four year camogie plan initiated

In June 2004, the initiation of a four year camogie development plan commenced. The plan is expected to focus on increasing membership; improving playing, refereeing, coaching and administration standards and improving promotion of camogie. The county plan is intended to dovetail with the National Strategic Plan 2004-08.

2004: Mrs. Ciss Corcoran, member of Kildare Camogie Board for 50 years

In 2004, Mrs. Ciss Corcoran marks a half a century of administrative service to camogie. Mrs. Corcoran has fulfilled several Kildare and Leinster camogie roles. She was a player with Naas and a team selector and trainer with Kildare, particularly during the 1960s when Kildare won the Smyco Cup and four Leinster titles.

Mrs. Corcoran served as County Chairperson for 11 years from 1960-1971. She also served as Leinster Council and Leinster Colleges Chairperson and Vice-chairperson. In 1972 Kildare County

Camogie Board made Mrs. Corcoran Life President, a role she continues in today 2004. Mrs. Corcoran is also President of Broadford Camogie Club.

Mrs. Ciss Corcoran, a Scots woman, tells her own story here in an adapted extract from the Cill Dara Yearbook 1981⁴:

I started my camogie in 1930 when I played with Sallins. There were two teams there at the time St. Anne's and St.

Bernadette's. Bernadette's were commonly known as 'The Wasps' as we had black and amber striped blouses. St. Anne's wore pink blouses and were our closest rivals.



I was captain of St. Bernadette's and got the nickname 'Lowry Meagher' for my long puck out. There was great team spirit with camogie teams at that time and there was not all the cars then that are about now. We went to matches on our bicycles or depended on our local GAA members with cars for transport which we always got. We always had great support from them.

I won three county championships medals with Bernadette's. In 1936 I retired from the game. ... In 1954 when I returned to my old hobby again I registered with Naas club and won four more championship medals between 1955 and 1961. I was county chairman for thirteen years and vice chairman of Leinster and Leinster Colleges. In 1974 after thirteen years as an officer I withdrew from Leinster Council and withdrew from Leinster Colleges in 1979.

There were six Leinster titles won in the county ... and I trained five of the teams that were successful – the other one was trained by Sister Ita of Kilcock school ... One of the proudest moments in my camogie career was in 1969 when we were in Croke Park to see three Kildare teams in the Leinster Finals; our

footballers were beaten; our hurlers were beaten but that evening our county camogie team won the Leinster championship by beating Louth and lifted the gloom for Kildare supporters ...

I had the honour of being nominated by Kilkenny for President of the Association in 1970 but did not let my name to forward.

I have a very good camogie record behind me. Very good luck to our county and clubs in the future is the sincere wish – from Ciss Corcoran (nee Creaney) born in Scotland!

The art of refereeing

Refereeing is an integral part of camogie administration. Yet, there is little documentation on Kildare camogie referees. The following brief focus on Kildare referees involved in national finals goes some way to redress this.

Five Kildare referees have been in charge of national finals.

- **Gloria Lee** took charge of the 1963 All Ireland senior camogie final Dublin v Antrim, Dublin winning 7-3 to 2-5 in Croke Park. In the same year Gloria also refereed the All-Ireland colleges final, also in Croke Park.⁵



- **Rose Merriman** refereed the All Ireland junior final in 1988.



- More recently **John Pender** refereed the national senior league final Cork v Tipperary and the All Ireland junior final Cork v Derry, both in 2000. In a refereeing career spanning 21 years, John has refereed 16 All Ireland semi-finals, one Gael Linn final, several Leinster finals and county finals in Kildare, Wicklow, Meath, Dublin, Galway and in Connacht and Féile 2004 Division 2 final.



In 2003 and 2004, Kildare, Meath and Westmeath hosted the Féile Finals. These are the national under 14 competitions and Kildare provided three referees for the final stages.

- Deirdre Ryan (Celbridge) refereed the Féile Division 2 final in 2003 and Division 1 semi final in 2004.
- Ciarán Quigley (Celbridge) refereed the Féile Division 4 final in 2004.

A number of Kildare referees also provided service to the Leinster Council. This included championship games and finals. These have included: Marie Woods (Clane), Marianne Johnson, Rose Merriman, Betty Garry, Maria Walsh, Kate Treacy (St. Laurence's), Jimmy Donnelly (Moorefield), John Pender and Ciarán Quigley (Celbridge).

For a number of years Kildare County Camogie Board awarded a referee of the year. Again the records are not complete but the winners of this award included:

- 1965 Mrs. Hogarthy
- 1967 Betty Garry (Caragh)
- 1968 Betty Garry (Caragh)
- 1969 Betty Garry (Caragh)
- 1971 Maria Walshe
- 1978 Marie Cribbin (Clane)
- 1984 Geraldine Downey (Cappagh)
- 1985 Rose Merriman
- 1988 Rose Merriman
- 2001 Jimmy Donnelly (Moorefield)

From Kildare camogie administration to Leinster Council administration

Four Kildare women have provided service to the Leinster Council camogie executive. Notably, Marie Woods has provided the longest length of service, acting as Leinster Council Treasurer from 1975 to the present day. The full list of Kildare officers of Leinster Council are:

- 1968-69 Chairperson: Mrs. Corcoran
- 1968 Registrar: Maria Walsh

1970 Secretary: Maria Walsh

1980 Treasurer: Mary Bermingham

1975-present day: Marie Woods.

A number of Kildare camogie personnel also acted as selectors to various Leinster senior and junior teams competing in the annual inter-provincial Gael Linn competitions. In recent years, John Pender has served as selector to the senior team for a number of years including 2004. Likewise, Marie Woods has served as selector to the junior team including in 2004.

Kildare, like every other Leinster county, also sends delegates to the Leinster Council.

Marie Woods serves 27 years as Leinster Council Treasurer

Marie Woods (nee Cribbin) and Kildare camogie are synonymous for the last 30 odd years or so. Marie was what you would call a late starter, not



picking up the hurley until fourteen years of age when she lined out with her school in Naas. This was the beginning of her love affair with the small ball. Marie's playing career commenced with Sallins and when they broke up there were stopovers at Kill and Naas, where Marie played for around seven years.

Marie eventually found herself in Clane where she continues to play a very active role in both camogie and GAA affairs.⁶ Marie's camogie career spans all the opportunities in the game. She has served as:

- ★ Player
- ★ Referee at club, county and provincial level
- ★ Trainer/coach (in 1978 Marie was the first Grade C coach appointed in Kildare)
- ★ Team selector for club, county and Leinster
- ★ County board delegate for Clane
- ★ County board officer – in different post on

numerous occasions (see list of officers below)

- ★ Treasurer of Leinster Council (since 1975 to present day)
- ★ Member of Ardchomhairle (national camogie Central Council in Croke Park)
- ★ Kildare delegate to Annual Congress.

Marie talked to me one evening in July.

What do you consider the biggest difference between camogie now and 30 years ago?

The extent of ground play is one of the biggest differences. 30 years ago there was much more of this. The game has become much more robust also these days – it was more 'ladylike' then! The other difference that stands out for me is that camogie seemed to have a much bigger following years ago. More people seemed to attend games then.

What is your favourite camogie memory?

It has to be the occasion of Kildare's first All Ireland win – 1987.

What aspiration do you hold for camogie in general?

It would be that camogie increases its following. The county team needs to be better supported by camogie followers from the clubs and the general public. Club camogie also deserves better support.

Tell me your aspiration for Kildare camogie?

I'd like to see Kildare win the junior All Ireland again and also that the standard of camogie improves. First time ground play and first time pulling makes for a faster game. Let's get back to the basic skills.

Integration with the GAA/Ladies Football or total independence as a Camogie Association?

Integration with the GAA and Ladies Football has advantages and disadvantages. I'd suggest a slowly but surely approach to integration.

Skirt or skort?

From a modesty point of view, skorts!

Many thanks Marie.

Kildare marks the Camogie Centenary 2004

Like many other counties and units of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, Kildare is proud to mark the Camogie Centenary.

A Centenary Committee was established comprised of Phyllis Finneran (Ardclough), Joan O'Flynn (Celbridge), Marie Woods (Clane), Loretta Shinnors (Leixlip), Mary Kennedy (Leixlip), Deirdre O'Sullivan (Sarsfields), Margaret Sexton (St. Laurence's), Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne (St. Laurence's) and Ciara Tallon (St. Laurence's). This Committee and the Kildare County Board agreed a programme of events to honour the occasion. These consisted of:

- ★ Selection of Ciara Tallon (St. Laurence's) and Orla Bambury (Cappagh) as Centenary Ambassadors (see below)
- ★ Publication of a history of camogie in Kildare, this publication *Soaring Sliothar*
- ★ Honouring a team of the century and some special awards
- ★ Hosting a Centenary Mass
- ★ Hosting a county 10-a-side senior and junior centenary blitz and under 12 blitz
- ★ Hosting a club photographic exhibition
- ★ Hosting a centenary dinner
- ★ Initiating three new under age competitions: an under 11 B and C league and an under 14 C league to add to the pre-existing under 11 and under 14 A and B competition and an under 12 centenary blitz. Initiating a senior inter-club tournament in association with Offaly County Camogie Board.

The first four activities were held in Clane GAA on 5th September 2004 and the Team of the Century is listed elsewhere in this book.

St. Laurence's and Celbridge contested the senior 10 a side final on 21st June 2004 in Straffan and 'the Larries' claimed the laurels. St. Laurence's and Maynooth contested the junior 10 a side final on the same evening with 'the Larries' claiming the Centenary double with a victory over Crom Abú.



Orla Bambury (Cappagh) and Ciara Tallon (St. Laurence's), Kildares camogie ambassadors 2004.

The Centenary Dinner is scheduled for 2nd October 2004 in Sarsfields GAA.

In the under age competitions inaugurated this year Straffan and Confey both contested their first underage final in the under 14 'C' league final. Confey won comfortably in Maynooth on 14th June 2004. Naas won the John Lindsay Cup kindly donated for the first under 12 blitz.

Camogie Ambassadors 2004

As part of the national celebrations to mark the centenary of camogie in Ireland, the Camogie Association came up with the unique initiative to appoint ambassadors of the game in each county in Ireland. Having people on the ground to promote camogie within each county makes a huge difference to any organisation.

Kildare County Board selected Ciara Tallon (St. Laurence's) and captain of the Kildare junior county team and Orla Bambury (Cappagh) as the Kildare Centenary Ambassadors. Ciara and Orla describe their activities in 2004:

We decided to concentrate on promoting the game first and foremost in the primary schools. We feel very strongly that to invest time and energy into the primary school will benefit the county in the long term. By coaching and encouraging the young girls to play it ensures that we have a steady stream of pupils making the transition from school teams to local club teams in the county. In turn the greater numbers in the clubs means a larger pool of

players available for selection for the county teams.

Our response to our primary school visits has been fantastic. There's great enthusiasm for the game throughout the county north and south and there are literally hundreds of girls eager to play camogie. What is even more promising is the fact that we've had numerous reports that there has been a marked increase at underage training as a result of these visits. On our trips we had lots of promotional material to hand out and in most of the schools even got to do some coaching with the girls. The interest in the sport was very encouraging and we hope to continue following up with the primary schools in the next school year. One of our major projects we hope to oversee is that where required we will attempt to organise some member of a local club to coach in the primary schools on an on-going basis.

Another initiative set in motion by the Camogie Association was 'Lá na gClub' a day of celebration for the local clubs. Kildare's 'Lá na gClub' was a very successful day throughout the county with all clubs making a special effort for the day. Each club provided entertainment for members and visitors alike and emphasis on the day was on participation rather than competition. It is hoped that we can make 'Lá na gClub' an annual event in our county as we feel it's very important that the camogie club is an integral part of the town or village it is situated in. By holding an annual day of celebration it encourages people not normally involved to participate and enjoy the social aspect of the camogie club.

One of our more ambitious projects is in September/October when we hope to organise a secondary school blitz to encourage second level students to stay involved in camogie. The drop off rate is quite high in secondary schools so we are hoping that this blitz will help maintain interest and appeal to any potential camogie players who are not yet involved.

More than anything we are trying to keep the girls playing throughout their school years because besides the skill and fitness they will acquire, just as importantly they will acquire great friendships and loyalties that will stand to them throughout their adult life.

Camogie like hurling has long been recognised as one of the fastest and most exciting field games in the world. People who watch the sport for the first time marvel at its skill and speed. Camogie however is much more than a field game. Camogie is about bonds and friendship, camaraderie and allies, loyalties and solidarity. That what we hope to instill in the future generation of Kildare camogie girls, camogie is about team spirit!

FOOTNOTES

1. *The History of the GAA*. 1984. The Female Lily-Whites, 1908-1983. Chapter 14. Kildare County Board.
2. Martin Bourke and Seamus King. 2003. *The History of Camogie in Tipperary*.
3. *The History of the GAA*. 1984. The Female Lily-Whites, 1908-1983. op. cit.
4. *Cill Dara Yearbook* 1981. p 52-53. Oisín Publications.
5. Mary Moran. *Camogie Champions*, op cit.
6. *Kildare Ash*. Vol. 1 No. 1 2001.

OFFICERS OF KILDARE COUNTY CAMOGIE BOARD

Efforts have been undertaken to ensure that the records below are as complete as possible. Omissions or inaccuracies, if they arise, may be due to incomplete record keeping, unavailability of records or time constraints to fully verify the details below.

CHAIRPERSON

1934/5	Fr. Byrne (Carbury)	1986-88	Patricia Keatley (Broadford)
1954	Seán Healy (Athy)	1989-1990	Marie Woods (Clane)
1955-59	Kathleen O'Sullivan (Naas)	1991-1994	Mary McMullen (Moorefield)
1960-1971	Mrs. Corcoran (Naas)	1995	Marie Woods (Clane)
1972-79	Maria Walsh	1996-98	Mary McMullen (Moorefield)
1980	June O' Kelly	1999-2001	Helen Berns (Rathcoffey)
1981	Marie Walsh	2002	John Pender (Moorefield)
1982-85	Marie Woods (Clane)	2003-present	Joan O'Flynn (Celbridge)

VICE CHAIRPERSON

1954	Sheila Hughes (Athy)	1984-86	Bridget Maloney (Celbridge)
1955	Miss Burke	1987-88	Mary McMullen (Moorefield)
1956-1957	Bridgid Judge (Ticknevin)	1989	Sue Goulding (Kilcullen)
1958	M. Ní Bheacháin	1990	Mary McMullen (Moorefield)
1960	Bridgid Judge (Ticknevin)	1991	Helen Berns (Rathcoffey)
1961	Mrs. Rock	1992	Mary Kennedy (Leixlip)
1963-65	Mrs. Mangan	1993	Úna Healy (Straffan)
1966	Mrs. Hogarthy	1994	Marie Woods (Clane)
1967	Mrs. K. Higgins (Naas)	1995	Mary McMullen (Moorefield)
1976- 78	Marie Cribbin (Woods) (Clane)	1996	Helen Berns (Rathcoffey)
1979	Marie Walsh	1998-99	Helena O'Driscoll (St. Laurence's)
1980	Marie Cribbin (Woods) (Clane)	2000	Loretta Shinnors (Leixlip)
1981	June O'Kelly	2001-02	Phyllis Finneran (Ardclough)
1982	Marie Cusack (Clane)	2003-present	Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne (St. Laurence's)

SECRETARY

1934/5	William Fisher (Newbridge)	1991	John Pender
1955-1957	Patricia Meade (Naas)	1992-3	Marie Woods (Clane)
1958	Vera Lee (Naas)	1994	Úna Healy (Straffan)
1962	Bridgid Judge (Ticknevin)	1995	Melanie Treacy (St. Laurence's)
1963 -64	Mrs. Connolly	1996	Helen Berns (Rathcoffey)
1965	Mary O' Rourke (Fields) (Clane)	1997	Melanie Treacy (St. Laurence's)
1977-81	Mary Fields (Clane)	1998-99	Loretta Shinnors (Leixlip)
1982	June O'Kelly (Kilcock)	2000	Réiltín Treacy (St. Laurence's)
1984-87	Marianne Johnson	2001-02	Joan O'Flynn (Celbridge)
1988	Kathleen Conway	2003	Geraldine Mooney (Johnstown Bridge)
1989	John Pender		
1990	no secretary elected	2004	Martin Connolly (Maynooth)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1955	Vera Lee (Naas)	1984-85	Rose Merriman (Prosperous)
1956	C. Marron	1986	Phyllis Bambury (Fixtures Sec)
1967	M. Walshe	1987	Geraldine Dwyer (Prosperous)
1974	Mary Boland	1990	John Pender (Carbury)
1976	Marie Reilly	1991	Marie Woods (Clane)
1977-78	Marie Cribbin (Woods) (Naas)	1992-93	Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne (St. Laurence's)
1979	Ann Convey (Cappagh)	1994-95	Gillian Stagg (Straffan)
1980-81	Gemma Kane (Prosperous)	2004	Geraldine Mooney (Johnstown Bridge)
1982-83	Marianne Johnson (Prosperous)		

TREASURER

1955	Esther Dunne (Clane)	1985	Mary Johnson (Prosperous)
1962-67	Patricia Meade (Naas)	1986- 87	Mary Johnson (Prosperous) & Doreen Kenna (Carbury)
1968-71	Betty Garry	1988-89	Marie Woods (Clane)
1972-73	Mrs. K. Higgins (Naas) & Josie Miggin (Broadford), Joint Treasurers	1990	Mary McMullen (Moorefield) & Doreen Kenna (asst.)
1974	Mrs. O'Brien (Johnstown Bridge) & Mrs. Higgins Asst Treasurer	1991-94	Patsy Leyden (Rathcoffey)
1977-1982	Mrs. O'Brien (Johnstown Bridge)	1991	Mary Kennedy (Leixlip) (asst.)
1983-84	Nora Dunne (Ardclough)	1995-2002	Margaret Murray (Sarsfields)
		2003-present	Phyllis Finneran (Ardclough)

REGISTRAR

1977-79	Mary Bermingham (Naas)	1994-97	Loretta Shinnors (Leixlip)
1980-81	Marianne Johnston & Mary Bermingham	1997-98	Deirdre O'Sullivan (Sarsfields)
1982	Mary Bermingham (Ardclough)	1999-2000	Mary McMullen (Moorefield)
1983-93	Bridget Maloney (Celbridge)	2001-present	Liz Roche (Broadford)

PRO

1962	J. Connolly (Kilcullen)	1985	Nora Dunne (Ardclough)
1967	Mrs. Higgins (Naas)	1986-89	Marie Woods (Clane)
1968-1970	Mrs. Corcoran (Naas)	1990	Peter Farrelly (Broadford)
1971	Mrs Corcoran & Maria Walsh (Naas) (also Kildare Organiser since 1969)	1991-92	Marie Woods (Clane)
1972	Maria Walsh & B. Garry (Naas)	1993	Patsy Leyden (Rathcoffey)
1974	Mrs. Downey (Cappagh)	1994-1995	Marianne Feeney (Johnson) (Clane)
1975	Mrs. Corcoran (Naas)	1996	Pat Aspell (St. Laurence's)
1976-77	Marie Walsh (Naas)	1997-99	Kate Treacy (St. Laurence's)
1978	Bernadette Bergin (Naas)	2000-02	Maeve Gorman (Cappagh)
1979	Mary Dempsey (Prosperous)	2003	Geraldine Mooney (Johnstownbridge) and Mary Hurley (Moorefield)
1981-83	Marianne Johnson (Prosperous)	2004	Geraldine Mooney (Johnstownbridge) and Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne (St. Laurence's)
1984	Marianne Johnson (Prosperous) and Bridget Maloney (Celbridge)		

As they reported it ...

Leinster Leader, July 29, 1961

First Camogie Title Comes to Kildare

SPORTING history was made for Kildare on Sunday when 12 gallant girls from the county brought home the trophy from the provincial junior camogie decider.

By defeating Carlow at Graiguecullen (3-0 to 1-0) they became the holders of the Smyco Cup and the first Kildare camogie team to win a Leinster title.

And a well-deserved win it was for the "short grass" girls, accomplished on a home ground of the losers.

In a game that was spiced with excellent camogie, all the Kildare girls played very well. In the first quarter they settled down quickly and, after holding the initial effort of the Carlow girls, took the lead per a good effort by Maureen Prendergast. She shot from about thirty yards, pulling on a rolling ball, and saw the sliothar run all the way to the net.

Shortly afterwards the St. Anne's (Ballyroe) player, Pauline Murphy, had Kildare's second goal when she drove home from a melee around the goal. These scores were unanswered before the short whistle, leaving the visitors two goals to nil coming out for the second half.

After the interval the Kildare girls were even a more confident force than in the first half. They soon increased their lead with another goal, this time by team captain Gloria Lee, who shot direct to the net from a thirty yards free.

At this stage Kildare were "all over" their neighbouring opponents and completely ruled the roost for about fifteen minutes, during which they were unlucky not to add to their lead.

The last few minutes saw the Carlow girls stage a great rally which brought their only score of the game, a goal.

The losers were at the disadvantage of having to field without their most experienced player, Annie Crean, but it is doubtful if she would have made a great difference. It was the Kildare girls' day. They were the more confident side, defended soundly and attacked with gusto and precision, taking

advantage of the opportunities that presented themselves.

Naas girls Annette Ryan—daughter of former county footballer Dan Ryan—Gloria Lee and Clare McGovern were excellent in defence for the winners, while Pat Higgins (Naas), Gene Carolan and Brigid Moran, both of Ballyroe, formed a very impressive mid-field trio, with Anne Hartigan, daughter of well-known Naas sportsman, Jack Hartigan, giving them useful support.

In the forwards Maureen Prendergast was consistently dangerous.

On the Carlow side, Teresa Nolan, their schoolgirl full-back, was up to her best form. Anne Kennedy at midfield played a very stylish game, but saw most of her good work come to naught in the forward division.

Kildare have now advanced as far as possible in this competition. There is no All-Ireland championship in the grade, but they may have a match against Ulster champions, Armagh, who have signified a wish to play the Leinster title-holders.

Kildare: Brigid Judge (Carbury); Clare McGovern (Naas); Anne Hartigan (Naas); Gloria Lee (Naas); Annette Ryan (Naas); Gene Carolan (Ballyroe); Brigid Moran (Ballyroe); Pat Higgins (Naas); Mona Burke (Naas); Maureen Prendergast (Naas); Pauline Murphy (Ballyroe); Maureen Moore (Carbury).

Leinster Leader, Saturday

11th July, 1981

Camogie champs

KILDARE 2-5;
DUBLIN 1-6.

Kildare had a tremendous victory over Dublin in the Leinster junior camogie final, in Blanchardstown. It was a close-fought game with not more than three points separating them at any time. The score at half-time was Dublin 1.3 to Kildare 0-4. After Dublin got the goal, Kildare played with more determination with the help of Nuala O'Connell, who played a true captain's game, urging her players on throughout the game and playing a brilliant game herself.

In the second half, Kildare used the strong wind better than Dublin did in the first half and kept the pressure on Dublin's defence. The turning point in the game was when Marian Craven got a goal for Kildare mid-way through the second half. This lifted Kildare's spirits even more as they seemed to have eased off then. Then after Miriam Malone scored a brilliant goal from a free from about 30 yards out, Kildare were ahead by two points, with about 10 minutes to go. Kildare played with all they had to keep Dublin from scoring.

Miriam Malone played a brilliant game at centrefield and scored a total of 1-5, all from frees or 30's. Geraldine O'Dwyer played a great game at full back position and the brilliant goal-keeping of Rose Merriman really saved the day for Kildare.

This is the first time in 12 years for Kildare to win a Leinster title, having won back in 1969. It was also the first time in 26 years for Kildare to beat Dublin which made the victory even better.

The support for Kildare was extremely bad having only a handful of supporters. In fact, Kildare won against all odds, Dublin being the favourites, playing at a Dublin venue and in front of a large Dublin crowd. It is hoped to have better support for the All-Ireland semi-final which will be played later.

A video of the game will be shown in the Travellers Rest, Littletown, Robertstown, on Tuesday, 14th July at 9 p.m.
Team: Rose Merriman, Mary Cribbin (Clane), Geraldine O'Dwyer, Mary Malone, Nuala O'Connell, Gemma Kane, Marianne Johnson, Liz Dempsey (Prosperous), Miriam Malone, Anna Miggim, Phyllis Ryan (Broadford), Mary Birmingham (Ardclough). Subs.: Marian Craven for Mary Cribbin.