

CHAPTER 4

“The Lilywhites”

IN 2004, Kildare competed in the Leinster junior championship, the junior National League and Leinster under 14 B, under 16 A and under 18 championships. It also competes in the Leinster junior club championship. Success at these levels within Leinster, with the exception of the under 14 level, leads to participation in the All Ireland championship. There is no All Ireland series at under 14 B level.

Kildare made its mark at inter-county level this year, Centenary Year. We are the junior National League champions with a victory over Laois in May in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny (see below). We are also the Leinster Final junior championship runners-up, losing to Wexford in July in Wexford Park.

Some inter-county competitions are established for less than 40 years. The Leinster championship and All Ireland junior championship came into being in 1968. The junior national league was introduced in 1979. The Leinster B underage competitions were introduced in the 1990s. To date Kildare has won a total of 19 titles and appeared in many finals.

Kildare has fielded teams that have competed at inter-county level since the very early days of camogie. The task of recording a comprehensive and definitive catalogue of all of those teams and people who represented their county on camogie fields over the last hundred years is a very challenging one. It is desirable and important to acknowledge and preserve the contribution of players who donned the Kildare colours. However, it proved much more time consuming than the modest time available for this publication. For that reason, the focus in this chapter is primarily on county teams that won either provincial or national titles. In the future, perhaps the gaps in the story may be filled.

Here the county triumphs of Kildare camogie are honoured and saluted. The Leinster Leader, the Liffey Champion, the Kildare Nationalist and Meath Topic and Kildare County Library were important information sources for this chapter.

Kildare Roll of Honour

- 1961 Junior Leinster champions (Smyco Cup competition)
- 1966 Junior Leinster champions (do.)
- 1967 Junior Leinster champions (do.)
- 1969 Junior Leinster champions
- 1981 Junior Leinster champions
- 1986 Junior Leinster and National League champions
- 1987 Junior Leinster and All Ireland champions
- 1988 Junior Leinster champions
- 1989 Junior Leinster, National League and All Ireland champions
- 1990 Junior Leinster, National League and All Ireland champions
- 1996 Junior Leinster champions
- 1997 Under 14 B Leinster champions
- 2003 Under 14 B Leinster champions
- 2003 Minor B Leinster champions
- 2004 Junior National League champions.

Winning captains' parade

A photographic profile of Kildare's winning captains is on pp. 150-151. Meanwhile the players and achievements are listed here.

- ★ Gloria Lee (Naas) 1961 junior Leinster winning captain
- ★ Peggie Magee 1966 junior Leinster winning captain
- ★ Tessie Behan 1967 junior Leinster winning captain
- ★ Nuala O'Connell (Prospersous) 1969 and 1981 junior Leinster winning captain
- ★ Miriam Malone (Broadford) 1986 junior Leinster and National League winning captain
- ★ Geraldine Dwyer (Clane) 1987 junior All Ireland and Leinster winning captain

- ★ Antoinette Merriman (Clane) 1988 junior Leinster winning captain
- ★ Bernie Farrelly (Broadford) 1989 junior All Ireland, National League and Leinster winning captain
- ★ Miriam Malone (Broadford) 1990 junior All Ireland, National League and Leinster winning captain
- ★ Deirdre Feeney (Sarsfields) 1996 Leinster junior championship winning captain
- ★ Pauline O'Callaghan (Sarsfields) 1997 u14 B Leinster championship winning captain
- ★ Siobhan Hurley (Johnstownbridge) 2003 u14 B Leinster championship winning captain
- ★ Carol Nolan (St. Laurence's) 2003 minor B (under 16) Leinster championship winning captain
- ★ Ciara Tallon (St. Laurence's) 2004 junior National League winning captain.

and white (during the 1930s); brown and white (1955+) and blue and white (1965).

The May 1955 County Board meeting decided to adopt brown and white, the Prosperous colours, as the county colours.

In April 1963 the County Board decided that the county team should have uniforms of its own. 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 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.

From gymslips to skirts to skorts

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). The 1980 junior and minor (under 16) teams were the first to wear this new team kit. By 1983 the Lilywhites (all white) uniform was adopted.

In 2004 in recognition of the achievement of reaching the National League junior final, Kildare County 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.

Skorts are light wearing integrated skirt/shorts similar to culottes.

Just a tenner for county team 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.

In 2004, Kildare wear an all white strip of jersey, skort and white socks.

Kildare captains of the 2003 Leinster Under 16 B and Under 14 B title winning captains, Carol Nolan (top) and Siobhán Hurley.



From navy to brown to Lilywhite

Although today, known and playing as the Lilywhites, this was not always the case. Records and memories say that Kildare previously played in navy

Eleven Leinster junior championships

Kildare have won the Leinster junior championship eleven times.

Kildare won the Smyco Cup, the forerunner to the Leinster junior championship three times in the 1960s – in 1961, 1966 and 1967.

The Leinster junior championship was inaugurated in 1968 and won by Wexford. Kildare followed as winners in 1969. Leinster glory was not to be during the 1970s but Kildare came back strongly in the 1980s. Kildare won Leinster five times in the 1980s, first in 1981. Then Kildare became the first junior team to win a five in a row from 1986-1990.

1996, was the most recent occasion that the Leinster junior championship cup came back to Kildare.

Prior to the introduction of the Leinster junior championship in 1968 Kildare competed at senior level. However, Dublin were dominant from 1932 until 1967 at this grade and won every final with the exception of 1934 and 1936 when Louth took the honours. Dublin won thirty junior titles in a row from 1937-1967. Kildare contested some of these finals but failed to break the stranglehold of the city. Two of these finals and a Leinster championship game are recalled below from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s prior to the first historic Kildare success in 1961.

Single goal denies Kildare in 1939 senior final



Kildare team at first round of Leinster championship v Wexford in New Ross, 7th May 1939.



Kildare team, 1939 Leinster final, Kill.

In 1939 four players of Wicklow origin, from Stratford-on-Slaney, N. Fay, Bridie O'Neill, Baby Parke and Kathleen Deering were on the Kildare team that was pipped by Dublin in the Leinster final. Kildare's passage to the final included a 9-3 to 3-1 beating of Wexford in the first round. In the semi-final Westmeath went down 12-3 to 4-2 and in the final Dublin won 3-2 to 2-2. The 1939 team was N. Fay (Stratford), N. Mangan (Carbury), B. O'Neill (Stratford), S. Dempsey (Kilmeade), K. Deering (Stratford), M. McCreevey (Kill), B. Ennis (Prosperous), B. Dempsey (Kilmeade), B. Parker (Stratford), S. Burke (Carbury), N. Quinn (Prosperous) and N. Burke (Carbury).

Dublin far superior in 1943 senior decider

A highlight from 1943 saw Kildare and Dublin play a Leinster championship final in Newbridge. Wicklow were overcome 8-1 to 3-5 in the first round; Louth went down 6-0 to 3-1 in the semi final. Dublin, with Kathleen Coady and Kathleen Mills easily saw off Kildare's challenge in the final on a scoreline 11-2 to 2-1. The Kildare team were: E. White (Sallins), Maura Fenelon (Athy), Joan, Stella and Marjorie Gorry (Naas), Doreen Keatley and Eve Daly, (Ballitore), Maura Brennan and Molly Kissane of Naas, Myra McCreevy and Bridget Ennis (Capt) (Sallins) Polly Fortune (Newbridge), M. Walsh (Sallins); M. Fitzsimons (Ellistown). Subs. B. Dalton (Sallins), K. Mackey (Ballytore), M. Brennan and M. Kissane.

Kildare defeated by Louth in 1956 Leinster championship

The 1956 July County Board meeting congratulated the county team on *their splendid display against Louth in the Leinster championship. ... While Kildare did not triumph they had brought honour to the Camógaíocht Association by their clean sporting play. The Dublin referee and other officials from Leinster Council highly commended the Kildare team on their clean play, their neat appearance and last, but not least, their more than prompt arrival at Knockbridge, Co.Louth. The entire team and officials had been on the pitch one hour before start (official time) of game.* The Kildare team which travelled to Knockbridge was B. Fitzsimons (Prosperous), Vera Lee (Naas), Brigid Judge (Ticknevin), Gloria Lee (Naas), M. Clohessy (Prosperous), M. Wheeler (Naas), C. Monahan (Naas), S. McGahey (Kilcock), A. Murray (Clogherinkoe), P. Doyle (Clane), M. Moore (Carbury), A. Eiffe (Leixlip). Subs. M. Groome (Carbury), F. Pender (Ticknevin), M. Donovan (Clane).

First Camogie title comes to Kildare: 1961

Kildare 3-0 Carlow 1-0

The Leinster Leader headline of 29th July 1961 'First Camogie title comes to Kildare' captures the sporting history made in Graiguecullen when Kildare overcame the holders of the Smyco Cup, Carlow, to win their first ever camogie title. The report goes on the say:

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 ... After the interval the Kildare girls were even a more confident force than in the first half. They



Gloria Lee (Naas), captain of Kildare's first title winning team in 1961, with the Smyco Cup, as Leinster Champions. Also in picture, Mrs. Corcoran.

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 ... Naas girls Annette Ryan ... Gloria Lee and Clare McGovern were excellent in defence ... while Pat Higgins (Naas), Gene Carolan and Brigid Moran, both of Ballyroe, formed a very impressive midfield trio with Anne Hartigan ... giving them useful support. In the forwards Maureen Prendergast was consistently dangerous.

Kildare had advanced as far as possible in the junior grade as there was no All Ireland championship in this grade at the time.

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Naas provided seven players out of twelve in the historic winning team: Brigid Judge (Carbury), Clare McGovern (Naas), Anne Hartigan (Naas), Gloria Lee (Naas) (captain), Annette Ryan (Naas), Gene Carolan (Ballyroe), Brigid Moran (Ballyroe), Pat Higgins (Naas), Mona Burke (Naas), Maureen Prendergast (Naas), Pauline Murphy (Ballyroe), Maureen Moore (Carbury). Two Naas players from the Kildare Team of the Century, Gloria Lee and Clare McGovern (Monahan) were on this team.

1966 victory over Meath secures second Leinster title Kildare 6-1 Meath 0-0

Kildare waited five years to bring back the Smyco Cup to the short grass county. Beaten by Meath in the 1965 decider, they again faced their north Leinster neighbours in the following year's final. The match was played in Naas before a good crowd despite atrocious weather earlier on that day. The Leinster Leader July 16th 1966 deemed Kildare's victory a:

well merited win ... Kildare were slow to score, until a brilliant effort by Monica Malone mid-way through the first half resulted in the goal from far out. This spurred the Kildare team and Betty Garry scored two further goals before the end of the first half. Meath tried very hard but scarcely ever got past a strong Kildare half-back line. When they did Mary Moore at full back was impregnable and cleared her line beautifully.... The entire Kildare team played very well, the mid-field of Monica Malone, Mary Maguire and Peggy Magee being outstanding, while Mary Moore and Brigid Cushen in the backs were very spectacular. The forwards combined well, Betty Garry and Barbara Magee trying hard all the time to pick up scores.

Scorers were: Betty Garry 3-0; Lily Tierney 2-0; Monica Malone 1-0; Barbara Magee 0-1.

The team was B. Cullen, M. Moore, M. Campbell, B. Cushen, E. Tierney, M. Malone, M. Maguire, P. Magee (captain), L. Tierney, B. Magee, M. Molloy and B. Garry. Subs: T. Behan, M. Deering, M. Barker and Mrs. Harrington.

Third Leinster of the 1960s: 1967 Kildare 2-0 Meath 0-0

In 1967 Kildare won the Leinster championship by beating Meath 2-0 to 0-0, having already trounced Laois 7-0 to 0-0 in the semi final. Played at Fr. Brennan Memorial Park in Naas, the foundations for the victory were laid in the first half when they led by 2-0 to nil. Wingers Margaret Deering and Kathleen Kelly were outstanding, assisted by Mona Burke, the Behan sisters and Josie Miggin. The 1967 junior panel was T. Walsh, T. Behan, P. Hurst, M. Burke, N. Lynch, K. Kelly, N. Malone, M. Deering, M. Loughrey, E. Nolan, M. Behan, J. Miggin, E. Kavanagh, P. Molloy, M. Reilly, M. Carney. A. Donnelly. Trainer: Mrs. Ciss Corcoran.

After the 1967 junior championship win Kildare were graded senior and were well beaten by Kilkenny in 1968. The following year Kildare were re-graded to junior again and Leinster glory eluded the Lilywhites until the 1980s.

In 1967 Kildare also fielded an intermediate panel as follows B. Cullen, J. Connelly, B. Cushen, M. Campbell, B. Garry, M. Barker, M. Malone, P. Magee, A. Dune, B. Magee, M. Molloy, L. Tierney, B. Murphy, B. Walsh, K. Higgins, P. Hiney and E. Ryan. This team went out to Wexford in the Leinster Championship on a score of 9-2 to 1-0. At the June County Board meeting the Chairman and trainer of the team Mrs. Corcoran said *that the team gave a good account of themselves and the score... was no indication of the standard of play. Experience told in this case but it was suggested that the County team should be kept in practice with games during the year and very good results should follow.*

1969 Kildare victors over Louth: Kildare 3-3 Louth 1-5

Kildare secured the Leinster junior championship in 1969 by beating Wexford, Wicklow and Louth along the way. The Leinster Leader of 2nd August 1969 considered the final an exciting game and the fact that Kildare took their chances in the first half was the deciding factor. Kildare only managed two

KILDARE – LEINSTER CHAMPIONS 1967



Standing: Mrs. K. Higgins, Rita Dunne (Celbridge), Pauline Molloy (Rathcoffey), Margaret Behan (Naas), Margaret Deering (Nurney), Nuala Malone (Rathcoffey), Mary Loughrey (Broadford), Marian Carey (Brownstown), Maura Reilly (Rathcoffey), Mrs. Corcoran.

Front row: Kathleen Kelly (Naas), Nancy Lynch (Brownstown), Tessie Behan (Naas), Phylis Hurst (Broadford), Mona Burke (Naas), Josie Miggin (Broadford), Miriam Miggin (Broadford).

1969 LEINSTER JUNOR CHAMPIONS



Back (l to r): Mrs. Corcoran, Bridget Cushen, Tessie Behan, Ann Leonard, Margaret Behan, Margaret Molloy, Betty Garry, Marion Mangan.

Front (l to r): Miriam Miggin, Mary Maguire, Ann Dunne, Phyllis Hurst, Nuala Malone (captain), Teresa Lynch, Mary Loughrey, Eileen Reilly, Josie Miggin.



Nuala Malone (far right) and Bridget Cushen lead Kildare in 1969 Leinster final v Louth. Nuala and Phyllis (R.I.P.) are on Kildare Team of the Century.

points in the second half as Louth tried to impress. Kildare's defence played the ball on the ground which foiled the Louth players who were too anxious to lift the ball. The scorers in the final were: Josie Miggin 2-0; Margaret Molloy 1-0 and Teresa Lynch 0-3.

The August 1969 Board meeting acknowledged that the Leinster Final win over Louth in Croke Park on 27th July was achieved through teamwork and the support of the clubs:

teamwork was the key to the success teamed with practice and training sessions. The Board were grateful to the clubs who sent players to practice with the county team, chiefly Broadford.

Kildare were defeated by Cork in the All Ireland semi final on 10th August in Naas and to progress so far was acknowledged as *a great achievement in the second year of the Junior All Ireland series*. The Kildare panel for 1969 was: Betty Garry, Phyllis Hurst, Brigid Cushen, Ann Dunne, Mary Loughrey, Miriam Miggin, Eileen Reilly, Nuala Malone (captain), Margaret Molloy, Mary Maguire, Teresa Lynch, Josie Miggin. Subs: Tessie Behan, Margaret Behan, Marion Mangan, Ann Leonard.

Six players from the winning side were selected on the Kildare Team of the Century: Phyllis Hurst, Brigid Cushen, Miriam Miggin (Malone), Eileen Reilly, Nuala Malone (O'Connell) and Teresa Lynch.

Leinster champs again 1981:

Kildare 2-5 Dublin 1-6

A full decade passed before Kildare registered another Leinster title. The 1970s were lean as regards intercounty honours though Kildare continued to compete well in both the National League and Leinster championship. The early 1980s started brightly with a Leinster final appearance against Dublin.

Two points separated Kildare and Dublin at the end of a closely fought final in Blanchardstown in July 1981. Dublin were ahead at halftime on a score of 1-3 to 0-4. The Leinster Leader of 11th July 1981 records that:

Kildare played with more determination with the help of Nuala O'Connell, who played a true captain's part, urging her players on throughout the game and playing a brilliant game herself...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.Miriam Malone played a brilliant game at centrefield and scored a total of 1-5 all from frees or 30s. Geraldine O'Dwyer played a great game a full back position and the brilliant goalkeeping of Rose Merriman really saved the day for Kildare.

Interestingly, this was the first time in 26 years that Kildare had beaten Dublin. The Leinster Leader report noted with disappointment the level of support for Kildare: *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 Dublin venue and in front of a large Dublin crowd.*

Kildare lost to Clare by a point in the All Ireland semi-final.

The winning Leinster team was: Rose Merriman, Mary Cribbin (Clane); Geraldine O'Dwyer, Mary Malone, Nuala O'Connell (captain), Gemman Kane, Marianne Johnson, Liz Dempsey (Prosperous); Miriam Malone, Anna Miggin, Phyllis Ryan (Broadford); Mary Birmingham (Ardclough). Subs:

KILDARE PANEL 1986



Back (l to r): Pat Herbert (trainer/manager), Melanie Treacy, Anna Dargan, Kathleen Elliot, Antoinette Merriman, Marianne Johnson, Liz Conway, Liz O'Donoghue, Nora Egan, Paul Malone (selector).

Front (l to r): Bernie Farrelly, Patricia Keatley, Oni Flanagan, Geraldine Dwyer, Rose Merriman, Gemma Kane, Nuala Kerrigan, Miriam Malone, Phyllis Bambury, Seán Conway (selector).

LEINSTER FINAL 1987



Back (l to r): Melanie Treacy, Antoinette Merriman, Patricia Keatley, Anna Dargan, Phyllis Bambury, Pat Herbert (trainer/manager), Rose Merriman, Therese Farrelly, Teresa Hanly, Liz Conway, Aisling Treacy.

Front (l to r): Kathleen Elliot, Bernie Farrelly, Marianne Johnson, Geraldine Dwyer (captain), Miriam Malone, Nuala Kerrigan, Linda Lenehan, Claire Moloney. Seven players from 2004 Kildare Team of the Century were on this team.

Marian Craven for Mary Cribbin. (See Photo Gallery for picture of team playing in blue and white). Trainer: Mrs. June O'Kelly.

Geraldine O'Dwyer, Nuala O'Connell, Marianne Johnson, Miriam Malone and Anna Miggin (Dargan) were selected on the Kildare Team of the Century 2004.

Leinster title added to League title: 1986:

Kildare 1-4 Carlow 0-4

Clane was the venue for the Leinster Final in July when Kildare added the Leinster title to the National League junior title won earlier in the season. The Leinster Leader faithfully provided the match report on 2nd August 1986. Kildare dominated the first fifteen minutes and were five points up at half time following four points from Miriam Malone and a goal from Marianne Johnson. Carlow emerged stronger in the second half and *played as a newly inspired team and showed their appearance in the final was no fluke. They matched Kildare in their play and never left them any open spaces.* Kildare actually failed to score in the second half and *did not panic under all the pressure and the few times Rose*

Merriman was called on to clear her line showed the soundness of the backline ... Geraldine Dwyer and Melanie Treacy were outstanding in defence. Miriam Malone and Patricia Keatley always played well, while Gemma Cooney had a difficult job controlling Nuala Smithers. Marianne Johnson and Nuala Kerrigan were always trying hard in the forwards.

Team: Rose Merriman, Geraldine Dwyer, Melanie Treacy, Anna Dargan, Antoinette Merriman, Patricia Keatley, Miriam Malone, Gemma Cooney, Kathleen Elliott, Marianne Johnson, Nuala Kerrigan, Liz Donohoe. Subs: Bernadette Farrelly for Kathleen Elliott, Nora Egan for Liz Donohoe.

Miriam's too good for Carlow 1987:

Kildare 2-8 Carlow 1-5

Ace freetaker Miriam Malone was the main reason why Kildare emerged victorious at the end of this largely one-sided junior camogie final at Clane ... Victory was accomplished mainly through the freetaking talent of mid-fielder Miriam Malone who was responsible for

SISTERS IN ACTION



Miriam Malone holds the 1986 National League Cup after the final in Clane.



Anna Dargan, in striking pose in Croke Park, All Ireland final 1989.

all of Kildare's points ... Kildare's ace freetaker capitalised on the numerous indiscretions committed by the besieged Carlow defence and she slotted over six scores from dead ball situations before Marianne Johnson got possession uncomfortably close to the Carlow goal, and while under pressure, sent a piledriver to the net in the 23rd minute.

The Leinster Leader of 1st August 1987 summed up Kildare's dominance in this game as above. Nuala Kerrigan was the other scorer on the day with a goal *when she capitalised on confusion in the Carlow defence to emerge from a scramble with a goal.*

The team was: Rose Merriman, Phyllis Bambury, Anna Dargan, Melanie Treacy, G. Dargan, Antoinette Merriman, Miriam Malone (0-8), Patricia Keatley, Kathleen Elliott, Marianne Johnson (1-0), Bernie Farrelly and Nuala Kerrigan (1-0). Sub. C. Maloney for K. Elliott.

Victory over Dublin: 1988 Kildare 3-7 Dublin 2-7
Kildare clinched their third successive Leinster junior title in Glenalbyn when they fought off a stern Dublin challenge. This championship win was described as:

a tremendous, almost delirious victory. Since the current championship began, they have had rapidly increasing injury worries and were unable to field a full strength side against their toughest opposition to date. The champions with Anna Dargan, Miriam Malone and Theresa Hanley in magnificent form, led by 1-5 to 0-4 at half time. ... Towards the end of the match the home team rallied and scored their second goal one minute from time. ... Without Nuala Kerrigan, Patricia Keatley and Geraldine Dwyer and with doubts over the fitness of Linda Leneghan, Marianne Johnson and Aisling Treacy, Kildare's task against Dublin looked to be enormous (newspaper unreferenced).

Scorers: Bernie Farrelly 1-0; Teresa Hanley 1-2; Miriam Malone 0-5; Elizabeth Conway 1-0.

The team who won the 1988 Leinster was: Rose

Merriman, Anna Dargan, Bernie Farrelly, Melanie Treacy, Antoinette Merriman, Linda Leneghan, Miriam Malone, Marianne Johnson, Teresa Hanley, Claire Malone, Liz Doran, Elizabeth Conway. Subs. Aisling Treacy for Liz Doran and Kathleen Elliot for Linda Leneghan.

Team management: Pat Herbert with selectors Sean Conway and Paud Malone.

Fourth Leinster in a row: 1989

Kildare 4-12 Dublin 2-3

Kildare became the first junior county to win four Leinster titles in a row when, for a second year in succession, they beat Dublin in August 1989. The Leinster Leader reported that Kildare got stronger as the second half progressed and Dublin's challenge never materialised. In the last ten minutes Kildare were at their best and they sent over four points to Dublin's one.

Kildare's panel was the one that had already won the national league v Armagh in July. This was Anna Dargan (Broadford), Claire Maloney (Clane), Phyllis Bambury (Cappagh), Melanie Treacy (Ballyboden St. Enda's), Therese Farrelly (Broadford), Antoinette Merriman (Clane), Miriam Malone (Broadford), Patricia Keatley (Broadford), Marianne Johnston (Clane), Bernie Farrelly, (Broadford), Teresa Hanley (Carbury), Rose Merriman (Clane). Subs: Liz Doran for Teresa Hanley; Nuala Kerrigan for Rose Merriman and Geraldine Dwyer for Teresa Farrelly.

The Leinster final scorers were Marianne Johnson 2-1; Bernie Farrelly 0-7; Miriam Malone 1-2; Rose Merriman 1-0 and Liz Doran 0-2.

Team management: Pat Herbert with selectors Sean Conway and Paud Malone.

Tough win over Dublin for five in a row: 1990 Kildare 4-6 Dublin 1-10

The 1990 final against Dublin tested Kildare before they ran out winners by five points. Kildare's journey to the final was not so difficult however and, in a record score easily overcame a young Wicklow side 10-24 to 0-1.

By comparison, the following week, the Leinster

final v Dublin was well deserving of being an opening game at Croke Park because of sheer entertainment value and thrills (newspaper reference undated).

The newspaper went on to say:

when those two teams meet you are certain of a good tough game and this was no exception. Kildare won the toss and playing with a strong wind took their time to settle down as indeed did the Dublin girls. ... Miriam Malone, the Kildare captain, started the scoring with a point which settled her charges ... It is some indication of the wind strength when the puck out ... ended up in the Kildare goal having been deflected badly from both Phyllis Bambury and goalkeeper Anna Dargan, both of whom had been excellent in defence. This seemed to spur the champions into action and in true form they responded ... the Kildare girls broke forward half a dozen times and scored their second goal of the half, again from Teresa Hanley. ... The Lilywhites are now Leinster champions for five years in a row and cele-

brated their win with their GAA colleagues from the minor team, Prosperous, where a reception was held for both teams, courtesy of Prosperous local community and Caragh GAA club. The Camogie Board were delighted with this arrangement and look forward to future similar joint ventures.

Scorers: Teresa Hanley (Carbury) 2-1; Rose Merriman (Clane) 2-0; Miriam Malone (Broadford) 0-1; Bernie Farrelly (Broadford) 0-2; Marianne Johnson (Clane) 0-1.

Team: Anna Dargan, Phyllis Bambury, Therese Farrelly, Geraldine Dwyer, Melanie Treacy, Patricia Keatley, Miriam Malone (capt), Antoinette Merriman, Bernie Farrelly, Marianne Johnson, Theresa Hanley, Rose Merriman. Sub. Liz O'Donoghue

Back from the dead in 1996:

Kildare 3-9 Carlow 1-10

This game was over for Kildare at half time when they were eight points down. As the Leinster Leader of 22nd May 1996 puts it: *Through a combination*

1996 LEINSTER JUNIOR CHAMPIONS



Back (l to r): Ernie McMullen (selector), Melanie Treacy, Naomi Treacy, Seán O'Sullivan (team manager), Niamh Leahy, Áine McCormack, Róisín Walsh, Louise Conlon, Bernie McSweeney, Clare Kerrigan, Orla McGrath, Phyllis Bambury, Elaine Miley, Liz Doran, Mary Healy (selector), Mary McMullen.

Front (l to r): Kate Treacy, Ruth Treacy, Eileen Murray, Michelle Aspell, Deirdre Feeney (captain), Nuala Kerrigan, Miriam Malone.

of hard work and bizarre luck Kildare inched their way back into the game in the second half, cancelling out the deficit, and eventually winning by five points.

Determination characterised Kildare's second half performance:

A surging run from Michelle Aspell saw the first of Kildare's second half points scored. Another from Liz Doran reduced the deficit as Kildare came more and more into the game. ... Elaine Miley made it considerably less of a chore when she got the goal which signalled the reversal of fortunes.....A Carlow resurgence promised a classic last twenty minutes. ... Naomi Treacy put Kildare into the lead for the first time in the game. Carlow panicked. Their eight point lead was gone and defence was under severe pressure which led to foolish fouls which gave Kildare only more opportunities to lengthen their lead. ... Liz Doran pointed ... Niamh Leahy [goalie] scored a point with a puck out from her own goalmouth. ... A third goal, scored by Michelle Aspell, ended any chance of a Carlow revival.

Team: Niamh Leahy (0-1), Naomi Treacy (0-1), Nuala Kerrigan, Melanie Treacy, Róisín Walsh, Deirdre Feeney (captain), Miriam Malone (0-3), Ruth Treacy, Michelle Aspell (1-2), Liz Doran (0-2), Kate Treacy, Elaine Miley (2-0). Sub: Eileen Murray for Kate Treacy.

Team management: Sean O'Sullivan, Mary Healy and Ernie McMullen. Three of this team, Melanie Treacy, Michelle Aspell and Miriam Malone were selected on the 2004 Kildare Team of the Century.

Centenary runners-up 2004:

Kildare 0-6 Wexford 5-11

While not successful in claiming the Centenary Leinster junior title, Kildare at least made a mark as runners-up with a final appearance in Wexford Park on 10th July. Wexford, fielding a number of players eligible for both their junior and senior teams, proved superior on the day with strong midfield and forward play. Kildare enjoyed limited possession and were

forced to defend for much of the game. The Centenary Leinster final featured two members of the Kildare Team of the Century, Melanie Treacy and Bernie Farrelly. Already 2004 national league champions, the team that played in the historic final was:

Ann Glennon (Celbridge), Breda Gorman (Cappagh), Melanie Treacy (St. Laurence's), Niamh Concannon (Celbridge), Lousie Conlon (Clane), Naomi Treacy (St. Laurence's), Ciara Tallon (captain) (St. Laurence's), Orla Bambury (Cappagh), Angela Lyons (Celbridge), Clodagh Flanagan (Johnstown Bridge), Noelle Earley (Sarsfields), Bernie Farrelly (Broadford), Regina Gorman (Cappagh), Susan O'Carroll (Celbridge), Christine O'Reilly (Clane). Subs: Shona Nolan (Clane) for Angela Lyons, Karen O'Reilly (Clane) for Breda Gorman. Other subs: Dolores Brown (St. Laurence's), Áine McCormack (Clane), Majella Kenny (Moorefield), Niamh Breen (St. Laurence's).

Team management: Jim McMullen and selectors Nuala Kerrigan, Eddie O'Carroll, Liz O'Donohoe-Byrne, Niall Lanigan.

Four national junior league titles

Kildare's four national junior league titles are spread across three decades and in two centuries –1986, 1989, 1990 and most recently in 2004. Kildare reached four other finals, most notably the first national junior league final in 1980 against Armagh who won 2-5 to 2-3. In 1985 Galway took the honours 3-10 to Kildare's 3-3. In 1987 Dublin were the better side with a winning margin of 6-4 to Kildare's 1-7¹ and Cork were the winners in 2000.

1980: Hosting and losing an National League Final on the same day²

In Cappagh, Kildare and Armagh contested the National Junior League final. Armagh ran out winners by two points. Armagh failed to score in the second half except for the last minute when they nicked a goal to overtake Kildare's two point lead. Kildare beat Carlow, Offaly, Kerry and Waterford en

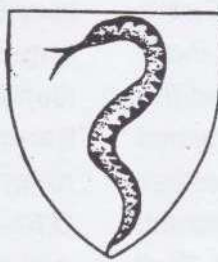


Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael

AN CLUICHE CEANNAIS
SRAITHCHOMÓRTAS na hÉIREANN
SÓISEAR



ARDMHACHA



CILL DARA

CLAONADH, CONTAE CHILL DARA

23Ú IÚIL, 1989.

Clár Oifigiúil

Luach 30p

Síle de Bhailís

Ardrúnai.

Programme

cover

and

teams

from the

1989 Junior

National League

Final

ARDMHACHA

3-8

CROCH IS BÁN (SAFFRON AND WHITE)

CILL DARA

2-14

BÁN (WHITE)

1 BRIAINÍN NIC an FHAILÍ (Bernie McNally) Leitrim	2 MAIRÉAD NÍ MHUIREARTAIGH (Margaret Moriarty) Derrymacash	3 SÍLE NÍ MHÓRÁIN (Sheila Moran)	4 SORCHA NIC COMHAIN (Sally McCoen) Ballymacnab	5 SIOBHÁN NÍ THUATHAIL (Siobhán O'Toole) Ballymacnab	6 FÍLEAS BHAMBAIRE (Phyllis Bambury) Cappagh	7 CLÁR NÍ MHAOLOMHNAIGH (Claire Maloney) Clane	8 MEALLÁINE NÍ THREASAIGH (Melanie Treacy) Ballyboden Naomh Eanna	9 TREASA NIC PHAIRCHEALLAIGH (Therese Farrelly) Broadford
6 SEACAILÍN NÍ DHONNAILE (Jacqueline Donnelly) St. Bridget's	7 PÓILÍN DE BRÚN (Paula Brown) Clann Éireann	8 OILIBHE NÍ LIONÁIRD (Olive Leonard) St. Brenda's	9 FIONNUALA NIC CRAITH (Fionnuala McGrath) St. Bridget's	10 DENISE NÍ MHAOILSTÉ (Denise McStay) Clann Éireann CAPTAEN	11 MÁIRE NÍ DHUIBH (Mary Black) Tullysarron	12 ANTÓINÍN NIC GIOLLA MHEIDHRE (Antoinette Merriman) Clane	13 MIRIAM UÍ MHAOILEOIN (Miriam Malone) Broadford	14 PÁDRAIGÍN NÍ GHATHLAOICH (Patricia Keatley) Broadford
12 MÁIRE NÍ DHONNAILE (Mary Donnelly) St. Brenda's	13 TREASA NIC an FHAILÍ (Teresa McNally) Derrymacash	14 ANDREA NIC GIOLLA FHIONDÁIN (Andrea McAlinden) Derrymacash	15 BREANDA NIC SHIURDÁIN (Brenda Jordan) Clann na nGael	16 LEAN NÍ DHONNAILE (Ellen Donnelly) St. Bridget's	17 JEMMA NÍ DHRAIGHNEÁIN (Jemma Thornton) Broadford	18 CAOIMHE NÍ BHRAONÁIN (Caoimhe Brennan) Clane	19 GEARÓIDÍN UÍ DHUIBHIR (Geraldine Dwyer) Clane	20 MÁIRE NÍ ÉALAÍ (Mary Healy) Clane

Ionadaithe

Ionadaithe

RÉITEOIR

MIRIAM UÍ CHEALLACHÁIN - UÍBH FHÁIGHLE

route to final day. The panel in 1980 was: Marian Graven, Phyllis Ryan, Ann Miggin, Miriam Malone, Tina McGinty, Joan Brennan, Nuala Malone, Marianne Johnson, Gemma Kane, Mary Dempsey, Liz Dempsey, Carmel Kindregan, Mary Malone, Mary Bermingham, Nora Dunne, Olive Reddy, Mary Cribbin, Marie Cusack, Mary-Rose Merriman.

Trainer: Mrs. June O'Kelly.

First national title: 1986 Kildare 2-3 Dublin 1-4

Kildare's path to attaining their first national league title meant overcoming Waterford, Carlow, Wicklow and Offaly. Cavan were beaten in the semi-final before the all-Leinster final v Dublin in Dublin. Kildare had two points to spare and got their hands on the national league cup Corn de Búrca for the first very time. They defeated Dublin in the final at Silverpark, Leopardstown. The Leinster Leader report of 4th June claims that:

Kildare went into this game with an eagerness to win never before seen...In the tenth minute, Miriam Malone sent a very well taken sideline shot across to Kathleen Elliott who was just on the edge of the square. Kathleen doubled on the incoming ball and sent it to the back of the net...[In the second half] Kildare selectors saw the need to bring on a fresh player. Nora Egan was replaced by Bernadette Farrelly on

the wing, Nuala Kerrigan was moved to full forward. It did not take this very young player many minutes to score a point for Kildare ...Rose Merriman was very cool in goal ...Geraldine Dwyer was very sound at full back. Anna Dargan relieved a lot of pressure with her long clearances and got plenty of assistance from her wings Melanie Treacy and Liz Conway. Miriam Malone was by far the best of the midfield players on both sides.

Scorers: Kathleen Elliott and Nuala Kerrigan 1-0 each; Miriam Malone 0-2; Bernadette Farrelly 0-1.

Team: Rose Merriman, Geraldine Dwyer, Melanie Treacy, Anna Dargan, Elizabeth Conway, Gemma Cooney, Miriam Malone, Patricia Keatley, Kathleen Elliott, Marianne Johnson, Nuala Kerrigan, Nora Egan. Sub: Bernie Farrelly for Nora Egan.

Team management: Pat Herbert with selectors Paud Malone and Sean Conway

Settling a score with Armagh for second league title: 1989 Kildare 2-14 Armagh 3-8

This year's national junior league final was a repeat of the first ever final held in Cappagh in 1980 when Armagh were victorious. However, in Clane in July 1989, fortunes were reversed. Kildare were three points better and secured a second national league title. For five players in particular this was sweet as



Pat Herbert (trainer/manager) giving a talk at half-time during the 1988 National Junior League tie versus Dublin.

Miriam Malone, Marianne Johnson, Phyllis Bambury, Anna Dargan and Rose Merriman were survivors of the 1980 defeat.

On the way to the final Kildare demonstrated immense firing power, netting a total of 14-68 in the earlier league rounds and semi-final. In the final the defence was reliably strong.

The Leinster Leader of 29 July 1989 captures the final moments of this second national victory:

Four minutes remaining, Kildare six points up and Armagh got a third goal. Miriam Malone had other ideas and when she got the break upfield was accurate with her shot and sent over another point for Kildare. Armagh piled on the pressure in the last two minutes but could only manage a point against a rock solid defence ... Once again the defence was the most solid unit of the team and the high fielding, especially that of Claire Maloney was as good as any to be seen. Patricia Keatley, Antoinette Merriman and Melanie Treacy were others to shine on the day and Anna Dargan brought off some fines saves in goal.

The Corn de Búrca winning team, featuring eight Broadford players, was: Anna Dargan (Broadford), Claire Maloney (Clane), Phyllis Bambury (Cap-pagh), Melanie Treacy (Ballyboden St. Enda's), Therese Farrelly (Broadford), Antoinette Merriman (Clane), Miriam Malone (Broadford), Patricia Keatley (Broadford), Marianne Johnston (Clane), Bernie Farrelly (captain) (Broadford), Teresa Hanley (Carbury), Rose Merriman (Clane). Subs: Geraldine Dwyer (Clane), Gemma Thornton (Broadford), Mary Healy (Clane), Nuala Kerrigan (Broadford), Liz Doran (Broadford) and Caoimhe Brennan (Clane).

Scorers in the league final were: Teresa Hanley 2-1; Bernie Farrelly 0-7 and Miriam Malone 0-6.

Team management: Pat Herbert and selectors Seán Conway (Broadford) and Paud Malone (Broadford).

Two in a row: 1990 Kildare 2-14 Kilkenny 3-2

Kildare were going for their third title and two in a row when they fielded against Kilkenny, in Nowlan

Park, Kilkenny in July 1990. With nine points to spare and a personal tally of ten points by Bernie Farrelly, Kildare overcame Kilkenny's home advantage to secure the first title of the new decade. The game took its toll as Geraldine Dwyer in defence lost a tooth and Phyllis Bambury was taken to a local hospital with a suspected fracture of her collar bone. The Leinster Leader captures the scene at the end:

... when the final whistle blew, the injuries were forgotten and shouts of joy came from the Kildare bench. It was jubilation and celebration for Kildare who only days earlier returned the cup ... and would once again return home with the trophy. Captain Miriam Malone received the cup on behalf of her team mates. A special tribute was paid to coach Pat Herbert of whom it was said that without him Kildare would not be returning with the cup.

Scorers: Bernie Farrelly 0-10; Marianne Johnson 1-0; Ester Byrne 1-0; Miriam Malone 0-2; Patricia Keatley 0-1; Teresa Hanley 0-1.

The 1990 league winning team was: Anna Dargan, Phyllis Bambury, Therese Farrelly, Melaine Treacy, Geraldine Dwyer, Antoinette Merriman, Miriam Malone (captain), Patricia Keatley, Marianne Johnson, Bernie Farrelly, Ester Byrne, Rose Merriman. Subs. Liz Doran, Mary Healy, Liz O'Donoghue, Teresa Hanley (for Ester Byrne).

Team management: Pat Herbert with selectors Sean Conway and Paud Malone.

First Kildare junior title of new century in

Centenary Year: 2004 Kildare 2-11 Laois 2-6

The first junior title of the new century was secured fourteen years later when Kildare returned to Nowlan Park, Kilkenny on 22 May 2004 for the all Leinster national junior league final versus neighbours Laois. The Liffey Champion of 29th May 2004 observes that the final was special for Clodagh Flanagan, Noelle Earley and Naomi Treacy as it came six days after they helped Kildare ladies football team to win their first ever league title.

The side also included Melanie Treacy and Bernie

Farrelly and sub goalkeeper Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne, survivors from Kildare's 1980s glorious era and 1990 league final.



L to r: Bernie Farrelly, Melanie Treacy and Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne, winner of National League medals with Kildare in three decades and two centuries!

Remarkably this victory meant that Melanie, Bernie and Liz won national league medals in three different decades and in two different centuries – a historical achievement!

As the Champion notes, Kildare fielded a *youthful and skilful side* that took the game to Laois from the throw-in. Kildare's pressing in the first half produced an early goal by Suzie O'Carroll but after that, at one point, Laois led. However, Suzie, a *precocious camogie talent*, as the Champion says, had another one in the net before the half ended along with points from Regina Gorman, Noelle Earley, Clodagh Flanagan and O'Carroll to lead at half-time 2-8 to 1-3. Clodagh Flanagan got Kildare's three second half scores to leave the final score 2-11 to 2-6.

Featuring three sets of sisters, the Treacys, the

Gormans and the O'Reilly's, the winning panel was: Dolores Brown (St. Laurence's), Breda Gorman (Cappagh), Melanie Treacy (St. Laurence's), Niamh Concannon (Celbridge), Louise



Ciara Tallon lifts the National League Cup 2004

Conlon (Clane), Naomi Treacy (Drom-Inch, Tipperary), Ciara Tallon (St. Laurence's) (captain), Orla Bambury (Cappagh), Angela Lyons (Celbridge), Clodagh Flanagan (Johnstown Bridge), Noelle Earley (Sarsfields), Regina Gorman (Cappagh), Bernie Farrelly (Broadford), Suzie O'Carroll (Celbridge), Christine O'Reilly (Clane). Subs: Réiltín Treacy (St. Laurence's), Karen O'Reilly (Clane), Helena Lynn (Celbridge), Áine McCormack (Clane), Shona Nolan (Clane), Hazel Mulligan (Cappagh), Ann Glennon (Celbridge) and Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne (St. Laurence's). Liz provided another link with the last national league win in 1990. She was sub-goalie on the day as Ann Glennon was unavailable due to exams.

Team management: Jim McMullen (Moorefield) and selectors Nuala Kerrigan (Broadford), Eddie O'Carroll (Celbridge) and Niall Lanigan (Celbridge). Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne (St. Laurence's) was selector for the League games prior to the final and on the day of the league final was sub-goalkeeper.



Kildare's historic National League winning team, Centenary Year 2004.

Back (l to r): Hazel Mulligan, Melanie Treacy, Naomi Treacy, Dolores Browne, Áine McCormack, Karen O'Reilly, Helena Lynn, Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne

Middle row l to r: Orla Bambury, Breda Gorman, Noelle Earley, Ciara Tallon, Clodagh Flanagan, Christine O'Reilly, Susie O'Carroll, Louise Conlon

Front (l to r): Regina Gorman, Niamh Concannon, Angela Lyons. Mascots: Leona Kennedy and Dervla Byrne.

All-Ireland glory three times

All-Ireland glory is the ultimate for any player of gaelic games. Camogie is no different and the achievement of a national championship medal motivates and drives every player who puts on the county jersey. Kildare qualified for the junior All Ireland four years out of five, 1986, 1987, 1989 and 1990.

From four attempts, it achieved All Ireland success three times with virtually the same team. The New Ireland Cup, the junior All Ireland cup made its way to Kildare three times, in 1987 for the first time, in 1989 and 1990.

First All Ireland appearance but defeat to Clare: 1986 Kildare 3-4 Clare 1-13

Kildare's first All Ireland effort was overcome by a goal difference against Clare at Croke Park. After about fifteen minutes the teams were level but by half time Kildare were behind by two points. In the second half:

Kildare threw all they had into the game. Within ten minutes they drew level when a free from Miriam Malone went into the back of the net. Their spirits were shattered from the puck out. Geraldine Dwyer misjudged the dropping ball, Rose Merriman was unsighted and it finished in the net. This was Geraldine's only mistake as she was brilliant during the game and had



Miriam Malone, Kildare, with Clare captain Maura McNicholas and referee before the All-Ireland final of 1986

thrown herself bodily at two point blank shots previously. Clare went on to score point after point... Kildare were far from being disgraced. It was an excellent game....On arrival back to Clane on Monday night there was a great reception for the team. They were met by the local band and Clane junior camogie team at Woods garage and paraded to the GAA grounds where the club held a very enjoyable night for them. (Leinster Leader 20/9/86).

The team was: Rose Merriman (Prosperous), Geraldine Dwyer (Prosperous), Melanie Treacy, Anna Dargan (Broadford), Antoinette Merriman (Prosperous), Patricia Keatley (Broadford), Miriam Malone (capt.), Gemma Cooney (Prosperous), Liz O'Donohue (St. Laurence's), Marianne Johnson (Prosperous), Kathleen Elliot (Prosperous), Phyllis Bambury (Cappagh). Subs. Nuala Kerrigan (Johnstownbridge) for Marianne Johnson, Nora Egan (Broadford) for Liz O'Donohue. Subs not used: Elizabeth Conway (Broadford) and Bernadette Farrelly (Broadford).

Team manager: Pat Herbert

Kildare's big day: 1987 2-10 Armagh 0-7

The headlines in the sports pages of the September and October 1987 newspapers best capture the significance of Kildare's first ever All Ireland championship camogie title, won convincingly on 27 September 1987 in Croke Park v Armagh. The headlines included:

*Kildare toast magical Miriam
Kildare's big day
Kildare girls succeed³
Hurrah for Kildare's All Ireland winners
Kildare All Ireland Camogie Glory
Losers become winners.*

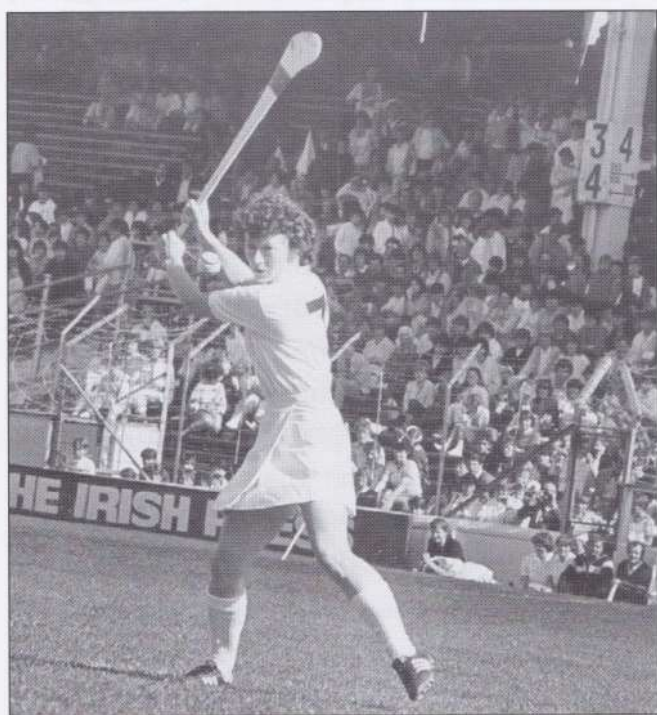
One of the newspapers gets behind the headlines with the observation:

There are always stories behind the headlines, not all of them told. In the case of All Ireland junior camogie championship success, it was a victory after a staggering 67 training sessions, with only three of the panel taking their summer

ALL-IRELAND FINAL 1986 – KILDARE (DEFEATED FINALISTS) v CLARE



*Back (l to r): Marianne Johnson, Melanie Treacy, Rose Merriman, Anna Dargan, Antoinette Merriman, Patricia Keatley.
Front (l to r): Kathleen Elliot, Geraldine Dwyer, Gemma Kane, Miriam Malone, Liz O'Donoghue, Bernie Farrelly.*



Phyllis Bambury and Anna Dargan close in on Maura McNicholas, Clare, 1986.

Miriam Malone in action in the 1986 All-Ireland final.



Tears of happiness and joy – Kildare's first All-Ireland winning captain awaits the trophy in Croke Park, 1987.

holidays, some changing plans to fit the team's programme.

One newspaper (no reference available) describes the scene:

I just can't believe it. They were the first words audible to the Croke Park attendance through the public address system from the lips of the Kildare captain, Geraldine Dwyer, last Sunday. She had just lifted the All Ireland Junior Camogie trophy in the Hogan Stand to the delight of her team mates and the Kildare supporters. Kildare were disappointed losers in last year's final and their determination to win was evident throughout this final. For the fifty minutes plus they fought and ran for every ball and Armagh never had an answer for them. Even the (much) larger and avid group of Armagh supporters could not lift the losers for more than some brief moments ... What a pity



Geraldine Dwyer, Kildare camogie first All-Ireland winning captain, 1987.

there weren't more supporters from their home county to see the All Ireland coming home. It is very difficult to single out players who excelled above others. An overall team effort was the basis of the victory. No one gave in save obvious fatigue beat them to a ball ...

Scorers: Miriam Malone 1-6 (4 from frees); Marianne Johnson 1-0; Teresa Hanley 0-2; Patricia Keatley 0-1; Nuala Kerrigan 0-1.

The historic Kildare team of 1987 was: Rose Merriman, Phyllis Bambury, Melanie Treacy, Geraldine Dwyer (captain), Antoinette Merriman, Miriam Malone, Patricia Keatley, Marianne Johnson, Bernie Farrelly, Teresa Hanley, Nuala Kerrigan. Subs. Kathleen Elliot and Therese Farrelly used. Also Claire Maloney and Aisling Treacy. (See back cover and Photo Gallery for team photo).

Local newspapers covered the homecoming in Clane where some estimates of 1,000 people turned out to welcome home the victorious All Ireland



Marianne Johnson, member of the Kildare Camogie Team of Century in action in the All-Ireland final 1987.

women. However some papers recorded disappointment at the turnout:

their homecoming on Monday evening, instead of a glorious and large reception at Clane was described by one player as 'an anticlimax' ... The team remained overnight in a hotel in Malahide, Dublin ... They returned to Clane via Celbridge where they stopped off. The reception in Clane was a rather small one and was described as a subdued affair. Camogie has never demanded wide public support in the county ... It should be mentioned that the players had to raise sponsorship themselves to cover their expenses in contesting Sunday's final. An initial fundraising campaign through a local newspaper gathered only £10 and that from a donor in London, England. Afterward business ... stepped into provide sponsorship.

Interestingly, three of the team were also County Board officers. Patricia Keatley was County Chairperson, Marianne Johnson was County Secretary and Geraldine Dwyer was Assistant Secretary.

Team management: Pat Herbert with selectors Seán Conway and Paud Malone.

Limerick victors in semi final: 1988

Limerick 1-10 Kildare 2-6

Limerick overcame Kildare's defence of their All Ireland junior title in the 1988 All Ireland semi-final. Played in Ballybrown in Limerick, the final scoreline

was Limerick 1-10 Kildare 2-6. Kildare had failed by a single point to qualify for a third All Ireland in a row.

Second title, after replay: 1989

Kildare 0-15 Galway 2-9

On the path to this final Kildare amassed an impressive scored 17 goals and 52 points against Wexford, Wicklow, Dublin and Down. They trounced Wexford 5-19 to 0-7; Wicklow 2-14 to 1-5 and Dublin, in the Leinster Final 4-12 to 2-3. The All Ireland semi-final was a closer affair with Down running Kildare to a goal difference on a scoreline of 4-7 to 3-7.

The All Ireland junior final was played the last weekend of September 1989. Kildare, chasing their second title, started in excellent form. With five minutes gone they were four points up, with three of these from frees. This form continued in the first half with Kildare leading 0-9 to 0-2 at half time.

Kildare Team Profile from 1989 All Ireland Final Programme

Foireann Chill Dara

Anna Dargan (Broadford): Anna started her career with Cill Dara as a goalkeeper. She has returned to that position following many seasons in other defensive roles. A sister of Miriam Malone. All-Ireland junior, Gael-Linn and National League medals.

Claire Moloney (Clane): As Contae an Chláir di, Claire joined Athy when she came to Cill Dara to take up duty as a Bank Official. She moved from attack to full-back early in the season. The former U.C.G. player holds All-Ireland and Leinster medals.

Phyllis Bambury (Cappagh): The former Broadford player holds an All-Ireland Junior, Leinster Junior, National League and several Cill Dara championship medals. Phyllis is a sister of Ceatharlach player, Mary Ryan. Tá thriúr clainne uirthi.

Melanie Treacy (St. Enda's): Melanie plays her club camogie in Áth Cliath where she works as an insurance official. Voted Cill Dara player of the year in 1985, she has All-Ireland junior, National Junior League, 4 Leinster junior championship and Gael-Linn medals.

Therese Farrelly (Broadford): Therese captained Edenderry Vocational School team and led Bradford in the 1988 championship. A sub. when Cill Dara won the 1987 All-Ireland, she has established herself on the team and holds National League and Leinster junior medals.

Antoinette Merriman (Clane): Ar fhoireann na Miontrí 1980 agus 1981. Captain of Cill Dara last season, who won her place on the Leinster team many times. A good badminton player, she has All-Ireland, National League and Gael-Linn medals.

Miriam Malone (Broadford): Miriam has enjoyed a long and distinguished career with Cill Dara and Cúige Laighean. She was awarded the Gaelic Stars/AIB trophy in 1987. Her vast collection of medals includes All-Ireland junior, Gael-Linn senior and junior and National League. Sáir-imreoir í.

Patricia Keatley (Broadford): A regular member of the county panel since 1981, Patricia was Cathaoirleach of County Board for three years. She is a farmer and has a keen interest in Macra and horse riding. All-Ireland junior, National League and Leinster medals.

Marianne Johnson (Clane): Marianne has had a long innings in the Kildare colours. Iar-rúnal ar an gCoiste Contae. She is a keen badminton player. Gael-Linn, National League, Leinster junior and 7 Kildare county championship medals.

Bernie Farrelly (Broadford): Eighteen year old Bernie captains Cill Dara today. An all-round sports star, she won Gradam Taitte twice and plays hockey and squash. Bernie, who played with Leinster in 1988, holds All-Ireland, National League and Leinster medals. An-imreoir í.

Teresa Hanley (Carbury): d'Imir sí le Carbury a bhuaidh Féile na nGael, Roinn II, i Loch Garman, 1985. A colleges' player with St. Mary's, Edenderry, she moved quickly through the minor ranks to junior team. 3 Leinster and National League medals.

Rose Merriman (Clane): Rose moved to the full-forward position this season following many successful years in goal. Ina réiteoir ar Chluiche Ceannais na Sóisear, 1988. A Grade C coach. 2 Gael-Linn, All-Ireland junior, National League and 5 Leinster medals.

Geraldine Dwyer (Clane): Captain Chill Dara a bhuaidh an chraobh i 1987. Twice selected as Kildare sports star, she has All-Ireland junior, National League, Gael-Linn and National League medals. She also won 5 Kildare championship Medals with Prosperous Club.

Nuala Kerrigan (Broadford): An injury sustained during 1988 caused Nuala to miss the early part of this season. Now fully recovered, she helped Broadford to win the current championship. All-Ireland, National League and Leinster medals.

Caoimhe Brennan (Clane): A real sports girl, Caoimhe has starred at basketball, tennis and badminton and also finds time for hockey, horseriding and athletics. She is in her second season with Kildare team. She lived in Syria for some time. Ar intinn aici freastal ar Mhá Nuat ina scólaire.

Gemma Thornton (Broadford): Played schools' camogie with Edenderry Vocational school. Gemma holds 6 county championship, 3 Leinster Club, National League and Leinster junior medals. A recent addition to the Cill Dara panel, she enjoys cycling and music.



Bernie Farrelly, 1989 team captain, raises aloft the All-Ireland Cup, received from Camogie National President, Mary O'Callaghan, after a replay in Birr.

Kildare extended their lead to eight points in the second half but Galway started to break down the Kildare defence and got two goals with ten minutes to go. The Leinster Leader of 30 September 1989 recalls that Galway made a number of goalmouth raids but Anna Dargan brought off some fine saves in goal. Rose Merriman hand passed the ball over the bar for one of Kildare's final three points. Meanwhile Galway scored four to even up the scores at the final whistle. The scorers on the day were Bernie Farrelly 0-7; Miriam Malone 0-6; Teresa Hanley and Rose Merriman 0-1. Subs used were Geraldine Dwyer for Therese Farrelly, Nuala Kerrigan for Teresa Hanley and Liz Doran for Patricia Keatley. (See Photo Gallery for team picture).

The replay: Kildare 3-11 Galway 1-3

Kildare made no mistake in the replay, played in Birr on 8th October 1989, though Galway led on a

scoreline of 1-3 to 1-2 at halftime. Kildare shed all nerves in the second half and treated many fans to a feast of camogie. During a 20 minute spell, Miriam Malone had a field day and scored five points in 17 minutes. Two of these were from play (14th and 25th minute of second half); two from 15 yard frees (17th and 29th minute) and one from a 30 yard free in the twelfth minute. Scorers on the day were Miriam Malone 1-11; Bernie Farrelly 1-0; Teresa Hanley 1-0.

The All-Ireland winning team was Anna Dargan, Claire Maloney, Phyllis Bambury, Geraldine Dwyer, Melanie Treacy, Antoinette Merriman, Miriam Malone, Caoimhe Brennan, Marianne Johnson, Bernie Farrelly (captain), Nuala Kerigan, Teresa Hanley. Subs: Rose Merriman (for Nuala Kerrigan), Therese Farrelly (for Phyllis Bambury), Gemma Thornton, Liz Doran and Mary Healy, Patricia Keatley (for Caoimhe Brennan). (See Photo Gallery for picture),

Team management: Pat Herbert with selectors Sean Conway and Paud Malone.

Tipp beaten for Lilywhites 3rd All Ireland: 1990 Kildare 2-14 Tipperary 3-7

The first All Ireland campaign of the new decade witnessed Kildare fielding a team of considerable experience. Fourteen of the squad were looking for the third All Ireland medal. Four of the squad were looking for their first, Liz O'Donoghue, Réiltín Treacy, Niamh Leahy and the youngest Sharon Browne aged 16.

The All Ireland victory is preserved in print as follows: (newspaper reference unavailable)

The greatest camogie team Kildare has ever produced, led by the greatest player ever to wear the county's colours, Miriam Malone, scored a historic victory over a youthful Tipperary side at Croke Park last Sunday to retain the All Ireland Junior Championship and by virtue of this, earn promotion to senior ranks. ... It was naturally an emotional occasion, one which was deserving – not for one courageous performance before a small crowd confined to



Broadford women, Nuala Kerrigan, Anna Dargan and Liz Doran carry aloft their Broadford teammate and Kildare All-Ireland winning captain in 1990, Miriam Malone.

the lower deck of the Hogan Stand on a cold day, but for five years of dedication to a cause which required absolute loyalty and commitment ...Kildare had scored 1-5 before Tipperary first scored in the 17th minute of play. The Munster county stormed back in style to reduce Kildare's lead to four points at the interval (Kildare 1-8 Tipperary 1-4) ...it was the Lilywhites who showed the greatest hunger and besides adding 1-3 to their total they forced the young challengers to defend for most of the third quarter ...For sheer unity of purpose Kildare won ... they won because of tremendous courage and because of the marvellous performance of such players as the veteran Miriam Malone who scored 1-7 and truly played a captain's role. Teresa Hanley was particularly impressive in the second half, Rose Merriman enjoyed a great hour at full forward. Anna Dargan made a number of important saves and for once, Melanie Treacy revealed only her strength and skill in the Kildare defence. Bernie Farrelly only scored three points on this

occasion but played an important if subdued role at midfield. Antoinette Merriman and Therese Farrelly had their moments also.

Scorers: Miriam Malone 1-7; Bernie Farrelly 0-3; Patricia Keatley 0-1; Teresa Hanley 1-2 and Rose Merriman 0-1.

The team was Anna Dargan, Geraldine Dwyer, Therese Farrelly, Melanie Treacy, Phyllis Bambury, Antoinette Merriman, Miriam Malone (capt.), Bernie Farrelly, Marianne Johnson, Patricia Keatley, Teresa Hanley, Rose Merriman. Subs Liz O'Donohoe for Phyllis Bambury, Réiltín Treacy, Liz Doran, Sharon Browne.

Team management: Pat Herbert with selectors Sean Conway and Paud Malone.

Changes from the 1989 panel included the loss of Claire Maloney who transferred to Dublin; Nuala Kerrigan who was not available in the 1990 season and Caoimhe Brennan who spent several months in Australia. Melanie Treacy was a member of the London-based camogie club Islington Irish and commuted from there to wear her county colours. Three members of the current (2004) Tipperary senior team were on the opposition for the Tipperary juniors that day, Jovita Delaney at full back, Claire Madden at corner back and Deirdre Hughes in the half forward line. Deirdre Hughes subsequently was named on the National Camogie Team of Centenary in 2004.

This third All Ireland remains as the last occasion when Kildare took national championship honours.

Kildare compete in the senior ranks and reach Intermediate All-Ireland final

In 1991/2 Kildare competed at senior level, based on their prior junior grade successes at national league and all Ireland championship level in 1989/90.

In 1992 the senior team qualified for the semi final of the national league but were well beaten by Cork. Kildare also participated in the senior championship which was run on an open draw basis.

Following championship defeats to Galway in both years, Kildare were then eligible to play in the intermediate championship. They joined Down, Dublin, Antrim and Clare in the augural intermediate championship in 1992. The team management at that time was Pat Dunny with selectors Paud Malone and Marie Woods (1991) and Pat Dunny with selectors Marie Woods and Johnny Ging (1992).

In 1994 Kildare reached the All Ireland Intermediate final against Armagh. Armagh had the upper hand and won with a four goal margin. The Kildare team was Anna Dargan, Geraldine Dwyer, Therese Farrelly, Melanie Treacy (capt.), Liz O'Donoghue, Caoimhe Brennan, Claire Maloney, Aisling Treacy, Bernie Farrelly, Michelle Aspell, Miriam Malone, Elaine Miley. Subs: Rose Merriman, Nuala Kerrigan and Siobhan Mullen.

Team managers excel

Kildare's three All Irelands, five Leinster championships and three national league titles were captured under the direction of Pat Herbert, Paud Malone and Sean Conway.

Pat Herbert played with Limerick hurlers where he won two national league titles, two Railway Cup medals with Munster and Limerick Player of the Year in 1983. In Kildare he joined Éire Óg and was also known to wield a hockey stick.

Paud Malone hurled with Coill Dubh and played football with Allenwood. He won two junior hurling championship and league medals and three under 21 medals. In football he won two Leinster Leader Cups.



Seán Conway, Pat Herbert and Paud Malone, Kildare selectors, in Croke Park.

Seán Conway was best known for his association with Broadford camogie club. Seán played hurling with Broadford and togged out with Johnstown in football. Sean also played hockey and table tennis and refereed county camogie championship and league finals in Kildare. Seán sadly passed away in 2004 after distinguished service to Kildare camogie as club member and officer, county selector and county referee. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

The minor and u14 Lillies-three Leinster titles in the last seven years

The underage section is thriving in Kildare and young girls are now coming through to the adult panel and all credit to those who coach and support them.



U14 B Leinster Champions 1997, Cappagh girls with team management, left to right, Jimmy Donnelly, Ernie McMullen and Phyllis Bambury.

1997: First Leinster under age title win – Kildare 3-7 Laois 2-5

17th July in Mountmellick GAA was a historic day for Kildare camogie. Kildare underage camogie won its first ever underage championship by beating Laois on home territory.

The match report (newspaper unreferenced) details that it would be unfair to pick anyone out from the team as all players played their part very well. Lorraine Kemmy was the outstanding scorer putting up a tally of 2-2. Regina Gorman from Cappagh scored three points (two from frees) while Noelle Earley scored 1-1. Pauline O'Callaghan finished off the Kildare tally with a point. Lorraine

Kemmy opened the scoring with a goal followed by two points from Noelle Earley and one from Regina Gorman before Laois put their name on the scoresheet. The halftime score was 1-7 to 0-3 at halftime. Laois piled on the pressure in the second half but Kildare's backline showed their worth and held out very well. Pauline O'Callaghan coming into defence and Regina Gorman coming into help left Kildare worthy winners by a five point margin.

Team management: Ernie McMullen, Phyllis Bambury and Jimmy Donnelly.

Kildare reached the under 14 and under 16 B finals again in 2001 under Liz Roche's management. Laois beat Kildare in the under 14 final and Carlow were the winners of the under 16 final. However success was not too far in the distance.

2003: Second under 14 Leinster 'B' title Kildare 5-6 Carlow 2-5

In a thrilling match played in the heart of Carlow, Myshall, Kildare won the Leinster B under 14 title by coming from behind to win by ten points. In the first half when Carlow were strongest, solid defending by Kildare's Jackie O'Rourke, Leanne Farrell and Siobhan McCourt kept the Lilywites in the game. Forwards Emma Doyle and Shona Farrell showed some skilful touches and two superb points by St. Laurence's girl Louise Keatley meant that Kildare trailed by two points at half time. Using a more direct approach and playing fast ground hurling paid dividends for Kildare in the second half. Laura Dunne, Clodagh Farrell and Leanne Reilly put away a goal apiece by first-time pulling. Louise Walsh from Maynooth, Johnstownbridge's Siobhan Hurley and Louise Keatley again took some good scores. Carlow continued to press but Kildare's defence stood the test and Karen Butler, Katie Murtagh, Laura Downey and Eimear Connolly in goal kept cool heads for Kildare to take the honours.

This was a great victory and secured the Leinster under 14 and under 16 double for the team management and several players who were involved in winning both titles.

A large panel comprised: Karen Butler, Ciada



Pauline O'Callaghan, Kildare under 14 captain, receiving the 1997 Leinster under 14 trophy from Leinster Council Chairperson, Pat Rafferty.

McDonagh, Hannah McDonnell (Celbridge); Megan Daly, Laura Downey, Jackie O'Rourke (Cappagh); Eimear Connolly, Aisling Farrell, Siobhan McCourt, Louise Walsh (1-0) (Maynooth); Clodagh Farrell, (1-1), Sinead McHugh (Leixlip); Leanne Farrell, Shona Farrell, Jane O'Donoghue, Siobhán Hurley (capt) (1-1) (Johnstown Bridge); Leanne Reilly (1-0), Katie Murtagh, Claire McIntyre, Orla Hession (Rathcoffey); Heather Costello, Jennifer Culleton, Dearbhail Kelly, Louise McMullen, Niamh McMullen (Moorefield); Rebecca Brewer, Laura Dunne (1-0), Emma Doyle, Anne-Marie Kearney, Louise Keatley (0-4), Rhona Mulhall (St. Laurence's).

Team management: Jimmy Donnelly (Moorefield) and selectors Michael Barry (Maynooth), Martin Connolly (Maynooth), Deirdre McDonald (St. Laurence's) and Garvan Whelan (Celbridge).

2003: First Leinster Minor 'B' title Kildare 4-09 Wicklow 2-02

The lilies were in full bloom when they captured their first ever Leinster Minor 'B' title in fine style from Wicklow on Sunday in St. Laurence's, Kildare. Playing against a driving wind and rain in the opening half they were 3-07 to 0-1 ahead at the break thanks to two goals from top scorer Susie O'Carroll and a third from Mary Murtagh. Wicklow put in a much better performance in the second half with goals from Katie Cullen and Tanya McDonald. However, they came just too late to snatch victory on this occasion. When Susie O'Carroll got

Kildare under-16s celebrate first Leinster Minor B title 2003



her side's third goal it put Kildare into their first ever All-Ireland Minor 'B' semi-final against Waterford in July. Carol Nolan (captain) and Mary Hawkins were solid defenders; Eimear Connolly made some tremendous goal line saves. Up front, Ciara Mooney, Serena Donnelly and Katie O'Sullivan sent in balls to see Louise Keatley and Susie O'Carroll finish them off under and over the bar. Siobhán Hurley did tremendous work when she replaced Paula Holton. Amid scenes of joy and singing in the rain, Marie Woods of Kildare and Treasurer of Leinster Council presented the cup to Carol Nolan the team captain. In August 2003 Waterford beat Kildare in Walsh Park, Waterford, in the All Ireland semi final and went on to win their first minor All Ireland.

Team: Eimear Connolly, Paula Holton, Mary Hawkins, Sinéad Quigley, Paula Keatley, Carol Nolan, Katie Roche, Mary Murtagh, Helena Lynn, Louise Keatley, Serena Donnelly, Katie O'Sullivan, Lorraine Bowes, Susie O'Carroll, Ciara Mooney. Subs: Siobhán Hurley for Paula Holton, Sharon Doyle for Lorraine Bowes and Claire Barry for Katie O'Sullivan.

Team management: Jimmy Donnelly (Moorefield) and selectors Michael Barry (Maynooth), Martin Connolly (Maynooth), Deirdre McDonald (St. Laurence's) and Garvan Whelan (Celbridge).

Sisters doing it

There were many sets of sisters to represent the county at adult level. These include:

- ★ Joan, Stella and Marjorie Gorry, Naas (1940s)
- ★ Vera and Gloria Lee, Naas (1950s/60s)
- ★ The Miggin sisters, Miriam (Malone), Anna (Dargan), Irene and Josie Miggin Broadford; (1960s-80s)
- ★ Mary and Nuala Malone (Prosperous) 1970s/82)
- ★ Bernie and Therese Farrelly (Broadford) (1980s/90s/2000s)
- ★ Nuala and Claire Kerrigan (Broadford) (1980s/90s)
- ★ Rose and Antoinette Merriman (Clane) (1980/90s)
- ★ Elaine and Martina Miley (St. Laurence's) (1990s)
- ★ Melanie, Kate, Aisling, Réiltín, Ruth, Naomi and Roxanne Treacy, St Laurences; (1980s/90s/2000s-2004)
- ★ Regina and Breda Gorman (Cappagh) (2000s-2004)
- ★ Karen and Christine O'Reilly (Clane) (2000s-2004)

The 1987 All Ireland winning team had four sets of sisters: the Merrimans, the Treacys, the Miggins (Miriam Malone and Anna Dargan) and the Farrellys. Phyllis Bambury of Cappagh often played against her sister Mary Smith who wore the Carlow jersey (1980s/90).

MAGICAL MIRIAM

Miriam Malone is Kildare's most decorated and longest-serving camogie player. Miriam continues to line out in 2004 in Kildare intermediate competitions with her club Broadford.

Once described as *the DJ Carey of Kildare camogie*⁴, Miriam started her camogie career in 1965 in Longwood, Co. Meath. Miriam also played on the Meath team in that year. Miriam played an inter county Meath game before she lined out with Longwood, having been spotted by one of the Meath selectors at a Longwood practice match in Enfield.⁵

Miriam grew up in Moyvalley on the main Dublin-Mullingar road. Miriam joined Broadford club in 1966 and lined out for her native county Kildare for the first time.

Miriam's inter county career spanned four decades when she played consistently for Kildare from 1966 to 1998. Her retirement from inter-county action after 32 incredible years was a testament to quality service to Kildare, Leinster and national camogie. Miriam captained two Kildare winning teams. In 1986 she captained the Leinster and National League side and in 1990 captained Kildare to Leinster, All Ireland and National League success. She played in junior, intermediate and senior national competitions for Kildare. Miriam's sisters, Anna (Dargan), Irene and Josie played alongside her for several years on different Kildare teams.

Miriam's haul of medals and recognitions include:

- ★ 17 County Championships (including ten in a row);
- ★ 5 Leinster junior club championship medals with Broadford (four in a row 1987-90);
- ★ 8 Leinster junior championship medals (five in a row 1986-90);
- ★ 3 All-Ireland junior championship medals;
- ★ 3 National League medals;
- ★ 4 Leinster junior Gael Linn medals;
- ★ 4 Leinster senior Gael Linn medals.



Miriam shows her delight on receiving Junior All-Ireland Cup in Croke Park, 1990.

Miriam appeared in:

- ★ five All Ireland finals – four junior All Irelands and one Intermediate All Ireland;
- ★ seven national league finals;
- ★ and nine Leinster junior finals.

Miriam represented Leinster at inter-provincial competitions. In 1972, Miriam was the first junior player to be selected onto the Leinster senior team and won senior inter-provincial medals. Miriam was Leinster captain in 1976 and 1987. When the inter-provincial competition was extended to both senior and junior grades Miriam played in both grades on a number of occasions.

Miriam won the AIB Gaelic Stars All Ireland Junior Player of the Year award in 1987 and the Kildare GAA/Leinster Express award on a number of occasions.

She received Kildare camogie player of the year award four times, and the Kildare Camogie Board

President's Award five times. Miriam was also Camogie Superstar of the Year a number of times and was second to Kilkenny's Angela Downey in the All Ireland Camogie Gradam Táihte on one occasion.

In 2003 Miriam was part of a group selected to visit President Mary McAleese in Áras an Uachtaráin in recognition of sporting achievements in the previous years.

In 2004 Miriam was the beneficiary of the Irish Examiner GAA President's Award from Seán Ó Ceallaigh for service to camogie. Miriam was the Kildare recipient and the only woman to receive this award.

Miriam was also selected at centre forward on the Leinster Centenary Camogie Team announced in Croke Park on 4th July 2004 during the Leinster Hurling Final, and honoured by the Leinster GAA Council. Miriam was the only player outside of the senior counties of Dublin, Kilkenny and Wexford to receive this honour.

INTERVIEW

In an interview for this book, on a bright summer's evening in June 2004 in her Allenwood home, Miriam talked about her camogie career.

Earliest memory of playing camogie:

Playing hurling with the boys at home aged ten or eleven before being involved in any formal camogie games. The first team game of camogie I played was when I was aged 14.

Latest game:

With Broadford v Cappagh in May 2004.



In action in Croke Park 1987 All-Ireland versus Armagh.



Miriam accepts the Leinster Championship Cup 1986.

Biggest difference in camogie now and earlier years:

There is more emphasis now on skill and speed. There are higher fitness levels. Training methods have changed a lot. We never did warm ups or cool downs! The emphasis in my earlier years was on match practice. It is hard to say though if standards are much better now. There were excellent players around before.

Biggest influence(s) on camogie career:

Dermot Burke my teacher in Broadford National School was a great early influence. At lunchtimes he'd organise hurling and buy hurleys and balls for us at his own expense. Noel Sutton, my first trainer at Broadford was also a strong influence. Then at county level, Pat Herbert, Tommy Carew and Pat Dunny brought new ideas. Pat Dunny trained us when we were senior and that was very enjoyable.

Favourite thing about camogie:

Training, games and the speed and skill of the sport.

Favourite memory:

First time being picked for my native county, Kildare, in 1966.

Toughest opponent in Kildare:

There were lots! Prosperous were our main rivals in Broadford and I remember Nuala Malone, Alisha Flynn and Eileen Reilly. From St. Laurence's Naomi Treacy and Michelle Aspell were always hard to get away from and Teresa Lynch from Clane was never easy to get the better of.

Toughest opponent outside Kildare:

Jo Holden from Dublin and Valerie Crean and

Nuala Quirke were two Carlow players that were always very competitive.

Aspiration for future of camogie:

At the moment Kildare have great talent. I would love to see Kildare getting back to senior level and staying there for a while. The forwards in today's team are the best unit of natural scorers I've ever seen line out for Kildare. To go senior we'd have to win the junior All Ireland though and I hope that's not far off again.

Skirts or shorts? Definitely skirts.

12 or 15 a side?

I played in the experimental 15 a side games in 1991 and loved that. It made it easier to score and much easier to get available pitches for games as we played full length.

Helmets, faceguards, shinguards, ash-guards?

Definitely. When we played we didn't have these protections. It is good and important to see underage players wearing these and getting used to them.

Many thanks, Miriam. Her record speaks for itself and ranks her as a true Kildare great, a camogie great and a great of women's sport in Ireland. This Centenary Story of Kildare camogie salutes her.

Kildare win Gradam Táihte Awards

From 1982 to 1988 an All Ireland competition incorporating camogie skills, athletics, gym and ball tests was staged. Bernie Farrelly, representing Broadford



Bernie Farrelly (Broadford), member of the Kildare Team of the Century, receives her first Gradam Fáilte award from National Camogie President Máire Ní Cheallacháin (Corcaigh).

and Kildare won the competition outright in 1987 and 1988.⁶ Miriam Malone achieved second place on one occasion.

Kildare camogie and Féile na nGael

Féile na nGael was inaugurated in 1971 to promote hurling, camogie and handball for boys and girls aged under 14. It is a national competition. The hosting of Féile is undertaken by a different county or counties each year. Camogie competitions are hosted at different grades. Each county sends a club or clubs to be its representative in the relevant grade. Kildare teams compete each year in Féile and have had some success.

In 2003/4 Kildare, Meath and Westmeath jointly hosted the competition. Four grades were ran off. The home teams did not compete in the appropriate grades but were required to compete in the grades of the teams they were hosting. 13 Kildare teams competed in Division 1 to Division 4 in Féile 2004.

In 1985 Carbury were the first Kildare team to attain Féile success. In Rathnure, Wexford, they won the Division 2 title, the Caitlín Uí Thoimin Shield, by beating Drumcullen from Offaly 3-2 to 1-2. (See Carbury history for photograph)

In 1996 Cappagh reached the Division 3 final but lost out to the Down side Ballyholland Harps by 4-1 to 2-0 at Walsh Park in Waterford.

In 2000 Johnstownbridge brought Féile honours to Kildare for the second ever time by beating Bendearg 3-1 to 0-2 at the final in Casement Park, Belfast. (See Photo Gallery for picture).

The annual parade is a highlight of each Féile. Teams parade down the main street of the host town mixing with bands, parade banners and their club colours.

In 2003 Johnstownbridge were camogie winners of the 'Best Parade Banner' in the Féile na nGael parade in Mullingar. (See Photo Gallery for picture).

In 2004 Kill won the camogie award for 'Best Parade Banner' from a host team at the Féile parade in Navan.

Kildare representatives in Féile skills

For a number of years Kildare sends a representative to the Féile finals skills competition. A special competition is run to select the Lilywhite's representative.

Kildare representatives in Féile included:

- 1978 Pat Nealon
- 1981 Karen O'Toole (Scoil Iosa, Kilcock)
- 1982 Loretto Power
- 1984 Theresa Hanley (Carbury)
- 1986 Alma Cooney (Broadford)
- 1987 Yvonne Gartland (Clane)
- 1994 Una Cusack (Broadford)
- 1997 Aoife Magee (Celbridge)
- 2003 Leanne Reilly (Rathcoffey)
- 2004 Leanne Reilly (Rathcoffey)

In 2003 Kildare County Camogie Board initiated the Mary McMullen Perpetual Award for the winner of the Kildare Féile Skills competition. Mary McMullen RIP was a previous holder of several officer positions on the County Board. Louise Walsh (Maynooth) was the winner of the Award in 2003 and 2004. Because Féile rules disallow a player to compete in Féile and also participate in the national Féile skills competition, another player was selected to represent the county. In 2003 and 2004 Leanne Reilly from Rathcoffey represented Kildare at the finals in Mullingar and Navan.



Leanne Reilly (Rathcoffey), Jimmy Donnelly (under 14 county team manager) and Louise Walsh (Maynooth) with under 14 Féile Skills trophies in 2004.

Kildare and the green of Leinster

Kildare players also represented their county on Leinster teams down through the years. The four provinces compete annually for the Gael-Linn Senior and Junior cups.

Kildare players featured on both Leinster senior and junior teams. Miriam Malone is the most decorated Kildare player winning four Gael-Linn medals with the Leinster junior team and several senior Gael-Linn medals with the senior Leinster team. In 1972, Miriam was the first junior player to be selected onto the Leinster senior team. Miriam was captain of the Leinster junior team in 1976 (when it won the inter-provincial series) and 1987. When the inter provincial competition was extended to both senior and junior grades Miriam played in both grades on a number of occasions.

Kildare representation on Leinster senior teams from 1956 to 1997 included the following players who either won or reached inter-provincial finals. It was not possible to fully represent the story of Kildare players on Leinster teams; a 'snapshot' is provided below.

Leinster senior teams

Sisters Vera and Gloria Lee, Clare Monahan and Miriam Malone are Kildare players who won senior inter-provincial medals. The 1950s was a lean time for Kildare success in Leinster. Yet Clare Monahan from Naas won her medal in 1957 while Vera Lee, also from Naas won an inter-provincial medal medal



Clare Monahan, fifth from left, back row, on the Leinster team 1954, the Camogie Association's Golden Jubilee Year.

LEINSTER TEAM 1983



Anna Dargan is second from left, front row, and Miriam Malone is fourth from left.

in 1958. Vera was on the Leinster team that Munster 5-1 to 3-1 in 1957 and they beat Ulster 8-2 to 3-3 in 1958. In 1958 Vera played alongside the great Dublin player Kathleen Mills who is on the national camogie Team of the Century.

Gloria Lee, the Naas captain of the first Kildare camogie team to win a Leinster title, the Smyco Cup in 1961 won an inter-provincial medal in 1960.

Bríd Moran was on the 1963 Leinster senior team. They lost the inter-provincial final to Munster 3-2 to 2-2.

In 1964 Pat Higgins was selected on the Leinster side who narrowly lost to Munster 2-6 to 3-2.

In 1966 Miriam Malone was on the Leinster senior side bettered by Munster 4-2 to 1-3.

In 1972 Miriam Malone won a senior inter-provincial medal on the Leinster team who beat Connacht 7-7 to 4-2. Miriam played alongside the Wexford great Margaret O'Leary, a member of the national camogie Team of the Century.

In 1991 Miriam collected another senior medal when Leinster beat Munster 5-13 to 0-7. This time Miriam shared the Leinster honours with the legendary Angela Downey, Kilkenny and member of the national camogie Team of the Century.

Leinster junior teams

The junior inter-provincial series has a shorter history than the senior series.

In 1976 Teresa Lynch and Miriam Malone won medals when Leinster beat Munster by three points in the final decided, Leinster 2-6 Munster 2-3. Miriam was team captain on the day.

Antoinette Merriman, Anna Miggin, Miriam Malone and Mary Birmingham were the Kildare representatives on the 1980 Leinster team that narrowly lost to Munster by a point, Leinster 3-2 Munster 1-9.

The trio of Merriman, Miggin and Malone collected medals two years later when Leinster beat Connacht 3-16 to 2-8 in 1982.

Two pairs of sisters, Anna Dargan (Miggin) and Miriam Malone (Miggin), and Antoinette and Rose Merriman were on the successful panel that were inter-provincial champions in the GAA Centenary Year of the 1984 when Leinster beat Ulster 3-6 to 1-3. Anna Dargan was team captain.

Kildare had nine members on the winning 1986 Leinster team that had a one point victory over Munster. These were Kathleen Elliot, Ester Byrne, Antoinette Merriman, Rose Merriman, Geraldine Dwyer, Melanie Treacy, Anna Dargan, Miriam

Malone and Marianne Johnson. Miriam was collecting her fifth inter-provincial medal, including two senior medals; Anna was collecting her third while Geraldine, Melanie and Marianne were collecting their first (see picture below).

In 1988 Kildare again had five members on the team that lost by a point to Munster on a scoreline of 4-3 to 3-5. Rose Merriman was the goalkeeper, along with Anna Dargan, Melanie Treacy, Miriam Malone and Bernie Farrelly.

Seven Kildare players were represented on the 1989 side that reached the final but lost to Ulster 1-11 to 2-3. Anna Dargan was the goalkeeper this time with Clare Moloney, Phyllis Bambury, Melanie Treacy, Antoinette Merriman, Miriam Malone and Bernie Farrelly.

In 1993 Leinster lost to Ulster 4-5 to 1-9. Sisters Ruth and Aisling Treacy were the Kildare bearers on this Leinster side.

In 1997 Melanie Treacy and Miriam Malone were

Kildare players on the Leinster first fifteen that lost the final to Munster 3-11 to 2-10.

Patricia Keatley, Aisling Treacy, Sharon Browne and Réiltín Treacy were St. Laurence's players to win junior Gael Linn medals with Leinster through the 1980s and 1990s. Liz O'Donoghue-Byrne (St. Laurence's) also won two Gael Linn junior medals with Leinster, most recently in 2000.

Kildare players continue to be selected on Leinster teams to the present day.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 1999. Smith, R. *The Sunday Independent/ACC Complete Handbook of Gaelic Games*. Naas: Leinster Leader.
- 2 1981. *Cill Dara Year Book*. p 50. Oisín Publications.
- 3 *The Nationalist* 2 October 1987.
- 4 Brian McQuillan, Chairman of Derry Camogie Board at a Broadford Camogie Club function quoted in *Liffey Champion* 10 March 2001 p32.
- 5 1999. *Camogie Abú, Camogie Annual*. Cumann Camóg-aíochta na nGael. p.66.
- 6 Undated. Moran, M. *Camogie Champions*.
- 7 Moran, M. op. cit p.86.

LEINSTER TEAM 1986 (Leinster 1-6, Munster 0-8) featuring nine Kildare players



Back (l to r): Kathleen Elliott (Kildare), Ester Byrne (Kildare), Carmel Gray, Anna Dargan (Kildare), Patsy Murphy, Melanie Treacy, Antoinette Merriman (Kildare), Valerie Crean.
 Front (l to r): Geraldine Dwyer (Kildare), Mary Doyle, Nuala Smithers, Kay Barry, Geraldine Dunne, Miriam Malone, (Kildare), Mariann Johnson (Kildare), Rose Merriman (Kildare).