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THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION



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Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship

All-Ireland Senior Championship | Round 1

Áth Cliath v An Clár

SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 14.30

CUMANN PARNELL

Réiteoir: Owen Elliott | Rúnaí: Breandán Cuipeir

Fáilte

Cuireann sé áthas an domhain orm fáilte a ghabhail do gach éinne inniu go mór mór na himreóirí. Táimid ag tnúth go mbeadh cluiche den scoth againn.

The start of a new season of the 2017 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship. Last year Kilkenny broke a 22 years barren spell to claim the O'Duffy Club. Could Dublin end a longer famine that stretches back to 1984 whereas Clare has yet to make that breakthrough.

No doubt about it – every player here today is hoping and believing that this could be their year. That is the spirit and aspiration that drives players and mentors each year to push themselves to the limit during the hard slog of early morning training session, personal fitness programmes, testing, rainy nights and niggling injuries.

Neither Dublin nor Clare set the world on fire during the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League but that won't stop them looking for positives and signs on which they can base a case for their All-Ireland cause.

Both counties have as good a set of players as any other and the margin between teams is narrowing all the time.

The counties met in an All-Ireland Minor semi final in 2017 and served up a thriller with much to be optimistic about in the coming years.



The effort that Croke Park makes to continually raise the profile of the game deserves to be commended. The news this week that the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Quarter-Finals are to be broadcast live on RTÉ television for the first time is a huge step forward. The Semi-Finals and Finals will also, of course, be broadcast live on RTÉ.

The Government will also release the first tranche of funding to Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football Intercounty teams in the coming weeks – the first phase of a scheme that will reach €428,000 in total in 2017.

All good news and a welcome realisation that camogie is getting the recognition it deserves.

I wish to thank all who have assisted with the organisation of today's game and I welcome referee Owen Elliott and his officials.

The support of the clubs who provided the young stars of tomorrow for the mini games is also acknowledged.

Patrick Martin

Cathaoirleach

Programme produced by Gerry O'Sullivan and Seamus Massey

Half Time Mini Games

Appreciation to the stars of tomorrow from Clontarf, Cumann Báire Chaomhín, Na Fianna, Erins Isle, St. Oliver Plunkett Eoghan Ruadh and Commercials

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Senior Captains 2017



From left: **CORK** – Aoife Murray; **DUBLIN** – Eve O'Brien; **LIMERICK** – Niamh Mulcahy; **GALWAY** – Heather Cooney; **WATERFORD** – Emma Hannon Roche; **KILKENNY** – Anna Farrell; **CLARE** – Orlaith Duggan; **TIPPERARY** – Mary Ryan; **OFFALY** – Jean Brady; **WEXFORD** – Bríd Gordon

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Áth Cliath

Béarla	Gaeilge	Club
1 Faye McCarthy	F. Ní Chárthaigh	Naomh Jude
2 Arleen Cushen	A. Nic Oisín	Na Fianna
3 Grainne Quinn	G. Ní Choinn	Naomh Uinsionn
4 Aine Woods	A. Nic Choncoille	Naomh Uinsionn
5 Eva Marie Elliott	E. M. Nic Eiligóid	Naomh Uinsionn
6 Aisling Carolan	A. Ní Chearrúláin	St. Oliver Plunkett Eoghan Ruadh
7 Eve O'Brien	E. Ní Bhriain	Na Fianna
8 Eimear McCarthy	E. Ní Chárthaigh	Naomh Uinsionn
9 Ellen McGovern	E. Nic Shamhráin	Naomh Uinsionn
10 Miriam Twomey	M. Ní Thuama	Naomh Mearnóg

Béarla	Gaeilge	Club
11 Hannah Hegarty	E. Ní hEigartaigh	Naomh Jude
12 Siobhan Kehoe	S. Nic Eochaidh	Naomh Fionnbarra
13 Aisling Maher	A. Ní Mheacáir	Naomh Uinsionn
14 Emma Flanagan	Ní Fhlannagáin	Lucan Sarsfields
15 Ali Twomey	A. Ní Thuama	Lucan Sarsfields
16 Megan Lewis	M. Lobhaois	Faughs Celtic
17 Claire Donnelly	C. Ní Dhonaile	Naomh Uinsionn
18 Ali McGuire	A. Nic Uidhir	Naomh Uinsionn
19 Eimear O'Leary	E. Ní Laoire	BallyBoden St Endas
20 Zoe O'Donoghue	A. Ní Dhonnchú	Na Fianna

Management Team

David Herity – Manager

Michael O'Grady – Selector

John Matthews – S&C/Selector

Sandra Tarr – Selector

Laura McCague – Physio

Canice Dowling – Kitman

Helen Cosgrave – Player Liaison



An Clár



Béarla	Gaeilge	Club
1 Ciara McCarthy	Ciara Nic Cárthaigh	Newmarket on Fergus
2 Amy Barrett	Amy Ní Bhairead	Scariff Ogonnellce
3 Maire McGrath	Maire Nic Graith	Sixmilebridge
4 Carol O'Leary	Carol Ní Laoire	Newmarket on Fergus
5 Laura McMahon	Laura Ní Mháthúna	Newmarket on Fergus
6 Clare Hehir	Clár Ní Hehir	Inagh Kilnamona
7 Roisin McMahon	Róisín Ní Mháthúna	Newmarket on Fergus
8 Orlaith Duggan (Capt.)	Orlaith Ni Dhugain	Clooney Quin
9 Ciara Grogan	Ciara Ui Grogan	Clooney Quin
10 Aine O'Loughlin	Áine ní Lochlain	Truagh Clonlara
11 Aoife Keane	Aoife Ní Cháin	Inagh Kilnamona
12 Aoibhean Duggan	Aoibheann Ní Dhugáin	Clooney Quin
13 Orla Devitt	Órlaith Ni Daibhéid	Eire Og
14 Niamh O'Dea	Niamh Ní De	Kilmaley
15 Chloe Morey	Chloe ní Mhurdan	Sixmilebridge

Management Team

Manager:	Patricia O'Grady	Newmarket on Fergus
Coach:	Brian Enright	Newmarket on Fergus
Selecter:	Flan McInerney	Sixmilebridge
Selector:	Denise Lynch	Kilmaley

Béarla	Gaeilge	Club
16 Sarah Loughnane	Sorcha Ni Loughnaine	Sixmilebridge
17 Andrea O'Keefe	Andrea Ní Caoimh	Inagh Kilnamona
18 Emma O'Connell	Emma Ní Chonnail	Ballyea
19 Aoibheann Malone	Aoibheann Ní Mhalaoín	Corofin
20 Saoirse Glynn	Saoirse Ní Ghlinn	Kilmaley
21 Rachel Kelly	Rachel Ní Cheallaigh	Sixmilebridge
22 Vera Loughnane	Vera Ni Loughnaine	Feakle
23 Zoe McInerney	Zoe Nic An Arthaigh	Newmarket on Fergus
24 Chloe Devitt	Chloe Ni Dhaibhead	Ballyea
25 Amy Keating	Amy Ní cheatáin	Inagh Kilnamona
26 Deana Cosidine	Deanna ní Chonsadín	Sixmilebridge
27 Regan Conway	Regan Ní Chonbhú	Feakle
28 Lauran Solon	Lauran Ní Sholáin	Whitegate
29 Ciara Doyle	Ciara Ní Dhúil	Scariff Ogonnellce

Management Team

Selecter:	Mark McInerney	Sixmilebridge
Strength & Conditioning:	Martin Conlon	Sixmilebridge
Logistics:	Brid MacNamara	Ruan
Physio:	Emma Sheehy	Clooney Quin





Photo: *Inpho.ie*

When Eve O'Brien and Laura Twomey lead out their teammates on All-Ireland final day some time in the future, Eve will have a headstart on all her colleagues. For some time the Joint Captain has been harbouring a deep secret until deciding now was the time to reveal all the Na Fianna stalwart "used to roll out the red carpet in Croke Park".

And woe betide... if that carpet is not nice and smooth for the 24 year old Customer Service official.

A European Studies graduate from the University of Limerick, Eve spent time in Germany as an Erasmus study abroad student – an experience shared each year with nearly 3,500 students from Ireland. She's in good company as former Cork skipper Anna Geary is also an ex Erasmus student. The programme celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year and Eve is one of nearly 60,000 students who have sampled that experience since 1987.

While fellow joint captain Laura Twomey has a decade of experience behind her, Eve only made her senior intercounty debut a year ago in February 2016 against Offaly in the National League in Banagher during a period when the midlands suffered some of the

MEET DUBLIN JOINT CAPTAIN

Eve O'Brien

worst flooding in a century. Laura continues to make progress after suffering a serious knee injury early in the season.

The news of Eve's appointment took her by surprise. "I didn't expect it. I haven't been on the team too long and it wasn't something I had considered. I felt really honoured. It's encouraging to see the girls showing leadership in different ways on our panel. It doesn't just fall on one or two people, which I think is really positive."

Her entrée to the game began at the age of 5 in the Na Fianna Mini-Leagues. "I remember going up to collect the medals with an old jersey that went down to my knees and we used to get a sliotar and a football to keep. I didn't get much use out of the football though!

Public speaking shouldn't be a problem either as all she has to do is pick up the phone to her famous actor uncle Gary Lydon for a bit of advice. Gary starred in an acclaimed stage production of Conor McPherson's "The Weir" last year and will also be remembered for tv and film roles in "The Clinic" as well as cinema hits "War Horse" and "The Guard".

Eve is a great admirer of rugby star Fiona Coghlan "a legend" and Olympic champion boxer Katie Taylor "I'm a massive fan". When asked her view on the skorts v shorts issue, Eve comes down on the side of shorts. "Shorts are much easier to play in. The rule is very outdated I think, we should have the option to wear either. Muireann O'Gorman from my club Na Fianna is proposing this change to the board and has a lot of support so we are hoping the Camogie Association will take on the players' views."

MEET CLARE CAPTAIN

Orlaith Duggan

it would be a big boost to win a championship game and especially our first one which will be away. The away games are always the huge ones to be winning and if we can do that, it would bring a lot of confidence coming into a home game against Waterford the following week.

"Things are quite positive in the squad and we have done well in recent challenges matches but you do have to follow through with competitive wins. So if we could get a win this Saturday, I think things would roll on nicely after that."

Her optimism is based on an exciting new crop of talent emerging rapidly through the ranks of the squad that between last year and the upcoming campaign, she feels are ready to make a real impact at the highest level.

"Last year in hindsight was just that little bit too soon for that many young players to come into one team and losing Chloe [Morey] and Maire [McGrath] to injury was huge. However, it is a big confidence boost to have a year of senior championship camogie underneath your belt as it's a huge step up from minor and I think sometimes people probably don't realise that.

"So it's great that they have that experience behind them now and in addition, this year's minor squad will have taken huge confidence from their run to the All-Ireland final. They have really boosted the squad and they brought a real positive energy when they came back into training with us so things have come together nicely now in fairness."

A more pressing concern to the captain however is her own fitness approaching what is a pivotal opening game against Dublin today as a persistent Achilles tendonitis injury has limited her involvement over the past two months.

"It's definitely one of the more frustrating injuries that I've ever had. I missed the end of the league and then the Munster campaign and it's a strange one really as I didn't feel it at first but during the league it started to give me trouble and it just got worse and worse.

"I rested it for six or seven weeks and it felt okay so I came back training but unfortunately it has flared up again. It's just one of those things that's kind of out of your hands and it's just frustrating because you just don't know how long you are going to have to rest it for. But I'm hoping that I'll be okay to play at the weekend so I'm doing minimal participation until then and just trying to keep fit in some way but fingers crossed I'll be able to play on Saturday.

"Given that the experienced players in the squad might be limited in terms of numbers, it is important that the older players would be driving things on a bit. On a personal level, I hate being on the sideline watching things so being involved in any way on Saturday would be a boost for myself.

"That's provided I'm picked of course as it's an awful cliché but there's no guarantee that I'll be able to get a place on the team at the moment especially when you haven't training much in the last few weeks. But hopefully I can play some part."

Eoin Brennan



Photo: Inpho.ie

Clare captain Orlaith Duggan is Clare's biggest injury concern entering this afternoon's championship opener against Dublin. But as she outlines to Eoin Brennan of *The Clare People*, the Clooney-Quin player is eager to line out to finally put an end to Clare's disappointing championship record.

July 19, 2014. Strange as it may seem, that was the last time that Clare beat any of the ten current contenders in an All-Ireland Championship match when seeing off Tipperary by 0-19 to 0-09 in Sixmilebridge on their way to the quarter-finals.

The reasons why? Well, the anomalous high turnover of players is certainly the main factor, with only six Clare survivors from the 20 that lined out that day still in the squad almost three years on whereas in contrast Tipperary are currently only missing six from their 20 panelists used.

One of those still flying the flag is captain Orlaith Duggan who far from dwelling on or lamenting the losses, is instead proudly leading Clare's youngest ever squad into championship fare. And despite being only 23 herself, the Clooney-Quin star isn't deterred by Clare's record of only one championship win (against Intermediate side Derry in 2015) in their last 11 outings.

"We just haven't gotten the championship wins in the last few years but at the same time, I don't think the results have reflected our efforts or capabilities. Last year we were the bottom team, we didn't win any championship game but we wouldn't have felt coming away from the championship that we were the bottom team.

"So there is a confidence there and although we haven't been showing it in terms of results, we still wouldn't be afraid of playing any other team. That obviously hasn't transpired into winning games but definitely it's fair to say that we have had a so-called transition period bringing in so many young players. And sometimes people throw that out as a bit of an excuse but it probably is time now that we push on a little bit.

"But we can't look beyond the Dublin game. It's going to be extremely tough but it's definitely one that we can win so hopefully if we get that, we might get on a run because we haven't had that winning momentum in a long while now.

"Because it's something that we haven't felt in a long while,



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