

ON THE BALL



WINTER 2013

Inside

- All Stars & Soaring Stars
- Therese Maher on reaching 'the promised land'

Plus

- Our new Árd Stiúrthóir Joan O'Flynn
- Liberty Insurance All Ireland Championships & Irish Daily Star National Leagues in Review
- Development News

And much more

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF



**THE
CAMOGIE
ASSOCIATION**
An Cumann Camógaíochta



President's Address

Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association
Eibhlín Uí Leathlóbhair, Uachtarán, An Cumann Camógaíochta

Welcome to the 9th Edition of On The Ball Magazine

What a great Camogie year we have had; a year full of surprises with new counties emerging to take the honours, and some old reliables regaining silverware.

It was a great pleasure once again to host Uachtarán na hEireann Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabine and Taoiseach Enda Kenny and his daughter Aoibheann at this year's Liberty Insurance All Ireland Finals. We know they have very busy schedules and we are honoured they choose to attend our finals. They were treated to three great games of Camogie and saw for themselves our top Camogie athletes in action in Croke Park.

Congratulations to all six teams who entertained us on the day, especially to Galway on their double wins in the Intermediate and the Senior, and to Kildare who captured the Premier Junior.

New Sponsorship

It was great to secure two new sponsors in 2013 with Liberty Insurance sponsoring the All Ireland Championship and AIB sponsoring the Club All Irelands. The Camogie Association look forward to working with AIB and Liberty Insurance over the next couple of years.

Our Camogie Stars

The 2013 All Stars, Soaring Stars and Intermediate Stars were selected from the Irish Daily Star League and Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship games this year. It was a hard task for the selectors as they witnessed many fine games of Camogie with talent exuding in all counties. Congratulations to all of our stars, and thank you for entertaining us throughout the year.

Continental Youth Championships

This year was Philadelphia's turn to host the Continental Youth Championships. The games were held in a soccer venue just outside the city and it proved to be a very successful tournament. There were 2,500 children aged between 6 and

18 playing over four days. There were some 550 games played over those four days in Camogie, Hurling and Football. It was a huge undertaking by the CYC committee and a host of volunteers and it was an incredible family experience with families travelling from New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and the home team of Philadelphia. One thing is for sure that Gaelic Games is developing at a huge rate outside the island of Ireland. Camogie has grown and grown, and the standard is improving year after year. This year saw the introduction of Go Games to the tournament. While the clubs were a little hesitant in preparation for the games, they all went home convinced of the value in introducing these Go Games to this age group, and were very positive of this being the way forward in coaching the skills of the games to these young players.

Poc Fada

Congratulations to Patricia Jackman who secured her 5th National Poc Fada title in a row. A huge achievement from this Waterford star. Each year there is very stiff competition in the Cooley mountains for this prestigious award with only one or two pucks separating the winners. Patricia shows great skill and strength of character in securing titles back to back.

Congratulations to Sinéad Millea, Kilkenny who was introduced into the University of Limerick Hall of Fame. Well deserved recognition of a very talented Camogie star.

Féile na nGael

Two thousand children took part in a very successful Feile na nGael this year hosted in Limerick City.

As usual this was a fantastic weekend; a true festival of Camogie, Hurling and Handball. An experience of a lifetime for all the 13 and 14 year old girls and boys who played in this prestigious national tournament, who were hosted superbly by host families throughout the City of Limerick and its environs.

The parade was a colourful spectacle starting in Limerick's Gaelic Grounds with each visiting and home club marching proudly under their club banners down through the main streets of Limerick City.

The finals were played in two venues; the Gaelic Grounds

and in Mungret St. Pauls and spectators were treated to great exhibitions of skill and athleticism from these young budding stars.

Once again Feile na nGael was a resounding success. Thanks to the National Feile Committee, Limerick GAA, Limerick Camogie and Handball on a job very well done.

The Camogie Gathering

The Camogie Gathering "Let's Play Ball & Have a Ball" commenced on Thursday July 25th.

Starting in Dublin's Na Fianna grounds, all the participants were welcomed with a reception in the Clubhouse. "Let's Play Ball & Have a Ball" was organised in conjunction with Dublin Camogie Board and was a three day event to celebrate the Gathering 2013.

It was a resounding success with teams from Toronto, Croydon London, Tara London, Fullen Gaels Manchester and a North American representative team, made up of players from Seattle and Washington DC. The home clubs were Na Fianna, Ballyboden St. Endas, St. Vincent's, Trinity Gaels and St. Brigid's.

One of the undoubted highlights of the weekend for all the players and spectators was the Camogie tournament on Friday night in Croke Park Stadium. Despite the torrential rain, every player weathered the storm and relished the

occasion and the opportunity to play on the hallowed turf of Croke Park.

Míle buíochas to the Gathering Committee, Dublin County Board, Na Fianna and the host clubs who made this event such a success.

Looking forward

It won't be long now until we are preparing for the 2014 Leagues and Championships.

The AIB Club championships are well under way with the Junior title up for grabs at the end of the year. Myshall and Milford are still in contention to put titles back to back.

We will have to wait till March to see who will take the Intermediate and Senior honours.

Whatever the results, we are sure that we will witness some more great games, and still be in awe of this wonderful game of ours. Thanks to everyone who contributed to a fantastic year of Camogie in 2013, and we look forward to another great year of camogie in 2014.

Eibhlín Uí Leathlóbhair

Uachtarán

An Cumann Camógaíochta

Aileen Lawlor and some young Camogie players get ready for Féile na nGael 2013



Team glory the motivating

Daragh Ó Conchúir speaks to Therese Maher in the aftermath of the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Final.

Afterwards, she was moved by the depth of feeling for her and by many of the articles written about her. She didn't read them beforehand. Never does. She wouldn't chance any distraction and there was a job to do.

Therese Maher joined the Galway panel at a time when the county was on the crest of a wave. She was winning U16 All-Irelands and the seniors had just made an historic breakthrough at senior level just a few months earlier. It seemed that her timing was perfect.

Yet last September, she was facing up to a sixth senior All-Ireland, having lost the previous five. For bad measure, she had suffered the same torture with Athenry twice. This was another chance of fulfilling a lifelong dream that had driven the 32-year-old for half her life.

There was no time for reading papers. That could happen afterwards and it did, because her family kept them all.

She appreciates the goodwill but while there is no attempt to mask her own satisfaction at having scaled Everest, she cannot emphasise enough how this was about Galway - the 53 players that had trained since the beginning of the year and the management. She was but one of the players.

Ah, but what a player!

Some might say it's a small decision but for me it's not. It's not just a hobby. It's part of my life. It's something you've done for so long. It's very hard to say 'I'm never going to do that again'. So it's not as easy a decision to make as some people think...

It is typical that Maher tries to deflect media attempts to make it about her. Despite her brilliance, she has always been the consummate team player. She never had any truck with the notion that she deserved to win one All-Ireland but the love was there throughout the camogie community nationwide was significant.

It was there as her team-mates congregated around Maher on the final whistle, ecstatic for themselves but thinking primarily of the one they came to call the Queen. The cameras were trained on her for those last moments and captured her reaction as the dream became a reality at last. She knelt down, took off her helmet and put her head in her hands. What was she feeling?

"I think initially it was just a huge relief for me" says Maher now at a couple of months' remove. "When you've been playing half your life for this, to get over the line..."

She catches herself, in danger of making it too personal for her liking.

"... but for this team especially. A lot of the core of this panel have been there for a number of years and we made up our minds it was going to be now or never."

The thing is, they would have gone into a few finals thinking that. The niggling fear that it might never happen must have begun to surface.

"I think you would initially after the final defeats. Especially 2011. That was one we were there for the 60 minutes... well, probably 55 and the last five caught us. That was particularly hard to take. But there's worse things that happen in your life. I'm sure everyone else has things themselves to deal with. You go home and you have to park it.

"When the new season comes around... you don't get to play this game all your life and if you want to try to achieve, you go back. So I never dwelt too much on it. Once it was over, it was over."

In recent years, retirement was briefly considered but management gave her time to assess. And for Maher, it wasn't primarily about pursuing her personal ambition. What she wanted to be certain of was that she could maintain the standards that made her a four-time All-Star. Providing leadership and experience was grand but if she felt she couldn't perform, she wouldn't go back. Because the collective good is always number one.

"We all have a great rapport. Out of this sport you get a lot



force for Maher

of friends. This year, we had a great bunch of young and experienced players. The young ones keep you on your toes and they were as good for us as we were for them."

"I know people say it was great (for me) but it's great for the other 52 girls too. We're All-Ireland champions. It's not just me got the medal. I am so delighted that they have gotten this medal as much as for the fact that I did. And the management, who have put in Trojan work."

There are two questions on everybody's lips now. The first surrounds whether Galway can build on this with the weight of so many near-misses removed from the players' shoulders, or if will they be blunted by a sated appetite.

"We can't leave it as long again to get back to the top as we have done. We have been continually winning at U16 and minor. We need to push on from here. There's a great amount of youth coming through with a lot of talent. This year our subs bench was very strong with a lot that could come in and do a job on a given day.

"They are the future. They need to have the same drive next year. You have to push on because if you don't it'll be like 'oh, they're the one-hit wonder again'. But these girls are high achievers. They want to be the best that they can be so I think they'll go back as determined next year."

They? That leads to the second, most pressing question. Does that mean Therese herself won't be back?

"I don't know! Oh God..." It's the only time in the entire conversation that she lacks sureness. But it's not that she's being purposely evasive. She just doesn't know yet.

It was mentioned within camp before the final that she mightn't be around much longer and perhaps it served as an extra little motivational edge. But right now, she has an upcoming knee operation to repair torn cartilage and will see how she comes out of that.

Then, it will be a similar process to the last couple of seasons. Take stock and see if she has something to offer. And like Galway, will the fire be dimmed by finally getting her hands on the most cherished memento in camogie or will it release the shackles? If anyone is entitled to walk into the sunset though, it's Therese Maher.

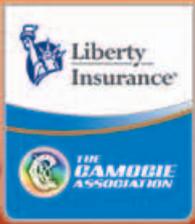
"If it was another defeat it would be very easy to say (that's it). But I don't know. If I was to go there would be no better way for me to go. That sounds like it's all about me and it's not. There are a lot of young ones there and there has to be a time where you need to blood them. Someone else is gonna take the No 6 (jersey) and hand on my heart I'll be delighted to see them do it.

"I want it to be the right decision for me and I don't want to be one of those who'll say they're retired and come back again. Some might say it's a small decision but for me it's not. It's not just a hobby. It's part of my life. It's something you've done for so long. It's very hard to say 'I'm never going to do that again'. So it's not as easy a decision to make as some people think.

"I'll know what to do when the time comes."

"We can't leave it as long again to get back to the top as we have done. We have been continually winning at U-16 and minor. We need to push on from here..."





2013 Liberty Insurance All Ireland Camogie Championship Finals

They say all good things come to an end and so it was for Wexford this year, as they finally gave up their stranglehold on the O'Duffy Cup after completing the three-in-a-row in 2012.

The Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship indicated that all bad things come to an end too however, as Galway finally reached the 'Promised Land' after so many near-misses to bag only their second title, 17 years after breaking their duck.

It was a victory for many but few looked beyond Therese Maher, who had joined the county panel just a matter of months after the 1996 success and experienced five All-Ireland Final losses in the intervening period.

Tony Ward was manager when Galway annexed their maiden Championship and it was he that introduced Maher to the squad. He returned to the fold at the beginning of 2012 in a bid to end the nightmarish famine and the man with the Midas touch worked the oracle once again with a blend of youth and experience.

It wasn't looking good early on mind you, as after failing to make the last four of the league, they fell to Kilkenny – their subsequent All-Ireland Final opponents – in the opening round of the Championship Group stages.

They did improve in the second half of that game though and continued gradual progress was made. That was just as well, because their group could hardly have been more difficult. Vitally, they accounted for Wexford by two points and built from there.

They were very impressive in overcoming Clare by two goals and the expected victory over Derry secured a quarter-final against Tipperary, from which they emerged with 16 points to spare.

Wexford were lying in wait in the Semi-Finals and while not the force of old due to retirements and the unavailability of other key players, there was a psychological hurdle to clear for Galway, having fallen to the Yellowbellies so often when the stakes were high.

Once Niamh Kilkenny struck for a 23rd minute goal, the result was inevitable however, and while Galway never opened up completely, they were always in command.

There was another mental mountain to contend with in terms of their history of Finals' failure and that wasn't taking into account that Kilkenny were entering the decider with a 100% record, having dispensed with League Champions and 2012 Championship Runners-up Cork in the penultimate round.

It wasn't a free-flowing classic due to the brilliance of both defensive units but youngster Ailish O'Reilly goaled in the 27th minute to give the westerners the



Galway reach 'Promised Land'

Reflections on a memorable day at Croke Park

upper hand with a four-point interval advantage.

Shelley Farrell and Aisling Dunphy were amongst those to get on the scoresheet for Kilkenny and skipper, Michelle Quilty came off the bench to convert a couple of frees.

They never looked like getting the goal they might need though, with Maher and inspirational captain, Lorraine Ryan leading the defensive effort for Galway. When Niamh McGrath brought her tally to five points with two late frees, the Tribeswomen could relax in the final moments before recording a 1-9 to 0-7 success.

It completed a double for Galway, who had earlier won the Intermediate Final by beating Limerick 0-12 to 0-10, and for Ward, who oversaw both sides.

Orlaith McGrath – who came on as a sub in the Senior Final and is a sister of the Seniors' top scorer, Niamh – was in scintillating form for the Tribeswomen, slotting four points from play.

Limerick fought to the bitter end but were hugely reliant on Niamh Mulcahy, who scored all bar two of her side's points. That kept the Shannonsiders in contention

right to the end and they were just one behind entering injury time.

Rebecca Hennelly pushed the gap to two with a 62nd minute free. Karen O'Leary almost snatched a dramatic victory for Limerick but her shot deflected out for a 45 and it was to be Galway's day.

It was Kildare's too, as the Lilywhites proved far too strong for midland neighbours Laois in the Premier Junior Final.

They flew out of the starting blocks with points from player of the match Siobhán Hurley and 18-year-old Melissa Lyons inside two minutes. Susie O'Carroll, Róisín O'Connell and Hurley (free) added to their tally and it was the 24th minute by the time Laois got off the mark through a Louise Mahony free.

A goal two minutes after the resumption from 17-year-old substitute Grace O'Neill gave Laois brief hope but Kildare responded in the manner of champions, with two goals in a minute almost immediately afterwards from O'Carroll to cement a famous victory for Jim McMullen's outfit.



ALL IRELAND SENIOR CLUB CAPTAINS 1964-1984 HONOURED

The Camogie Association honoured the winning Senior Club Captains from 1964 to 1984 with a special lunch at Croke Park on All Ireland Finals Day.

1964 marked the Diamond Jubilee of the founding of An Cumann Camógaíochta. It was decided to introduce an All-Ireland Senior Club Championship to mark the occasion. Like the GAA, it was run on the traditional provincial system. The first provincial winners were Glen Rovers (Munster), Celtic (Leinster), Newport (Connacht) and Deirdre (Ulster). While it was initially to be part of the jubilee year celebrations it was then decided to make the senior club championship a permanent part of the fixtures calendar.

Celtic travelled to Cork to play Glen Rovers. In those days the goalposts were much narrower and there was a bar across the two upright posts. Following discussion the match was played on a full-sized hurling pitch and the match ended in a draw. Celtic won the replay. Newport refused to travel to Belfast to play Deirdre, so the Ulster champions got an easy passage to the final.

The final was played in Croke Park where Celtic had an easy victory. An anonymous donor presented a silver cup known as The Jubilee Cup which the Celtic club was allowed to keep. Bríd Hanbury captained Celtic. The team was managed by the legendary Nell McCarthy, a native of Cork. She trained successful Dublin teams over a long period and later held the office of President. Two players in action that day, Mary

Moran who lined out for Celtic and Nancy Murray from the Deirdre club, later went on to become President of the Camogie Association. Claire Heffernan and Mary Casey were sisters to Dublin football stars Kevin Heffernan and Bill Casey.

In 1965 the first official Club Championship final was played in Casement Park when Tipperary champions St. Patrick's played and defeated the Deirdre club in a keenly contested match. Áine Meagher wrote in the Gaelic Weekly "It was an exhibition that is bound to help the spread of camogie". Bill Carroll a well known camogie enthusiast and builder presented a cup for the competition. His daughter Ann was a member of the St. Patrick's team and played for Tipperary and later was part of the very successful Kilkenny team. The Bill Carroll Cup is still much valued.

Over the years many famous players won the coveted Senior Club All-Ireland championship. Included in the illustrious list are Phyllis Breslin and Mary Fennelly who later held the office of President. Team of the Century players Margaret O'Leary, Liz Neary, Angela Downey, Bridie Martin, Marie Costine, Pat Moloney, Una O'Connor all won club championship medals.

The Senior All-Ireland Club Championship has produced great champions since its inception. Today we are delighted to welcome the winning captains from 1964 -1984; all but one is hale and hearty. Sadly, Ailish Toner from Eoghan Ruadh passed away. No doubt the day brought back lovely memories.

YEAR	DATE	WINNER	SCORE	RUNNER-UP	SCORE	CAPTAIN
1964	Dec 13	Celtic (Dublin)	5-2	Deirdre (Antrim)	1-0	Brid Hanbury
1965	Oct 17	St Patricks (Tipperary)	3-3	Deirdre (Antrim)	2-3	Mary Graham-Barrett
1966	Oct 30	St Patricks (Tipperary)	5-5	St Paul's (Kilkenny)	2-1	Ann Graham
1967	Nov 5	Eoghan Ruadh (Dublin)	3-4	Oranmore (Galway)	4-1	Maureen McCormack
Replay	Mar 31	Eoghan Ruadh (Dublin)	7-3	Oranmore (Galway)	4-1	Ailish Toner (RIP)
1968	Nov 3	St Paul's (Kilkenny)	7-2	Ahane (Limerick)	1-2	Teresa Brennan
1969	Nov 9	St Paul's (Kilkenny)	3-7	Ahane (Limerick)	2-1	Carmel O'Shea
1970-1	Mar 28	St Paul's (Kilkenny)	6-5	Bellaghy (Derry)	2-0	Mary Conway
1971-2	Mar 19	Austin Stacks (Dublin)	5-4	Thurles (Tipperary)	2-1	Mary Ryan
1972-3	Mar 25	Austin Stacks (Dublin)	4-2	Portglenone (Antrim)	2-0	Mary Ryan
1973-4	Mar 10	Oranmore (Galway)	3-2	St Paul's (Kilkenny)	1-3	Nono McHugh
1974-5	Mar 9	St Paul's (Kilkenny)	3-3	Oranmore (Galway)	1-1	Angela Downey
1975-6	Mar 14	Croagh-Kilfinny (Limerick)	4-6	Athenry (Galway)	4-5	Brid Stokes
1976-7	Mar 13	St Paul's (Kilkenny)	6-3	Athenry (Galway)	1-3	Mary Fennelly
1977-8	Mar 19	Athenry (Galway)	10-5	Portglenone (Antrim)	1-1	Mary Daly
1978	Nov 19	Ballyagran (Limerick)	1-3	Buffers Alley (Wexford)	0-1	Pauline McCarthy
1979	Dec 2	Buffers Alley (Wexford)	2-6	Athenry (Galway)	1-2	Kathleen Tonks
1980	Nov 9	Killeagh (Cork)	4-2	Buffers Alley (Wexford)	1-7	Breda Landers
1981	Nov 8	Buffers Alley (Wexford)	2-6	Killeagh (Cork)	1-4	Ann Butler
1982	Nov 14	Buffers Alley (Wexford)	3-2	Athenry (Galway)	0-2	Elsie Walsh
1983	Oct 30	Buffers Alley (Wexford)	3-7	Glenamaddy (Galway)	0-6	Caroline Farrington
1984	Oct 28	Buffers Alley (Wexford)	2-4	Killeagh (Cork)	1-4	Norah Gahan



#theToughest

AIB GAA Club Championships – The toughest of them all

AIB announces its sponsorship of the Camogie Club Championship



The AIB GAA Club Championship is the toughest competition of them all. Clubs are faced with a tough county championship against local rivals; progressing through the Provincial rounds; All-Ireland quarter and semi-finals and ultimately a final in Croke Park. There is no 'back-door' from the Provincial championships onwards and much of the competition is played in tough conditions over the winter months. It's the 'Toughest of them all'. Just ask the players.

'To win an AIB GAA Club Championship would mean everything to me,' **Fingallians and Dublin star Paul Flynn** said. "It's so difficult to win because of the amount of games often in a short space of time and it can be physically and mentally tough. To win an All-Ireland with my club, playing with your friends and for your community would be the ultimate achievement for me."

'I don't think I will ever have a better feeling than when that final whistle went in Croke Park last year,' **St Thomas' 2012 AIB GAA All-Ireland Club Hurling Champion, Conor Cooney**, revealed.

'It was so rewarding because it was such a hard journey and there is something special about success with your club. After winning the Galway county Championship and then the tough games after that it made it all the sweeter to win.'

"I've been lucky enough to win All Ireland title with Milford and the Club Championships presents a very different challenge to playing with your county. Everything starts at the club and it is really difficult to win an All-Ireland title, but it's an amazing feeling and all the hard work is worth it in the end," **Milford and Cork's Elaine O'Riordan** said.

AIB officially announced its sponsorship of the Camogie Club Championship and **Denis O'Callaghan, Head of AIB Branch Banking**, emphasised the importance of this new partnership: "This year, AIB's 22nd year partnering with the championships, sees us announce our new sponsorship of the Camogie Club Championships. This sponsorship is very

important for AIB as we recognise the proud history of Camogie, one of the most skilful sports in the world and we are looking forward to a successful partnership with The Camogie Association.

"Our sponsorship now includes Senior, Junior & Intermediate Championships across both hurling and football and the new Camogie partnership is a great addition to this portfolio. We are proud to be a partner of the Club Championship as it is one of the most competitive and toughest competitions to win in sport. Everything starts at the club and the passion and commitment from the players and supporters is exceptional and something we are very proud to be associated with."

Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Liam Ó Néill said: "This is the time of the year when our club activity assumes centre stage and you only had to witness the celebrations in villages and towns across the country in recent weeks to see what success in county championships means to players and clubs alike.

"There is of course a special dynamic involved in the AIB Club Championships as some of the best known players return to the scene where it all began and where it will all finish. AIB's assistance in helping us to showcase the special rivalries that emerge is greatly appreciated as is their support of the Camogie championships. Here's to another season of excellent club activity."

President of the Camogie Association, Aileen Lawlor, is looking forward to partnership with AIB: "The Camogie Association are delighted to join partnership with AIB who have been proud sponsors of the GAA for 22 years and now are sponsoring the Club All Ireland Camogie Championships.

"Club is the grassroots of our Association - this is where the player is first introduced to Gaelic games. This is where the player develops the love of the game and proudly represents their club, parish and community. AIB cater for families in parishes and communities all over Ireland just as we in The Camogie Association caters for all children from a young age and well into their adult life in the community. We are delighted to announce this partnership, and we look forward to working alongside AIB over the next few years".

For exclusive content and to see why the AIB Club Championships is the 'Toughest of them all' follow us @ **AIB_GAA** and **#theToughest**



ALL-STARS

1

**SUSAN
EARNER**

GALWAY

2

**MAIREAD
POWER**

KILKENNY

3

**SARAH
DERVAN**

GALWAY

4

**LORRAINE
RYAN**

GALWAY

in association with

Liberty Insurance

5

**EDWINA
KEANE**

KILKENNY

6

**THERESE
MAHER**

GALWAY

7

**CHLOE
MOREY**

CLARE

8

**NIAMH
KILKENNY**

GALWAY

9

**JENNIFER
O'LEARY**

CORK

10

**KATIE
POWER**

KILKENNY

11

**NIAMH
McGRATH**

GALWAY

12

**KATE
KELLY**

WEXFORD

13

**SHELLY
FARRELL**

KILKENNY

14

**ELAINE
DERMODY**

OFFALY

15

**AILISH
O'REILLY**

GALWAY

MANAGER of the YEAR

**TONY
WARD**

GALWAY



INTERMEDIATE SOARING-STARS

REBECCA
HENNELLY
GALWAY

NIAMH
MULCAHY
LIMERICK

PAULA
KENNY
GALWAY

SOARING-STARS

1
LAURA
DUNNE
LAOIS

2
KAREN
TINNELLY
DOWN

3
AOIFE
TRANT
KILDARE

4
KATE
AHERNE
OFFALY

5
AISHLING
DUNPHY
LAOIS

6
SARAH ANNE
FITZGERALD
LAOIS

7
ANGELA
LYONS
KILDARE

8
CAROL ANNE
CANNING
DUBLIN

9
ORLA
BAMBURY
KILDARE

10
CLODAGH
FLANAGAN
KILDARE

11
SIOBHAN
HURLEY
KILDARE

12
LOUISE
MAHONY
LAOIS

13
DENISE
McGRATH
WESTMEATH

14
SUSIE
O'CARROLL
KILDARE

15
NIAMH
DOLLARD
LAOIS



JOAN O'FLYNN

New Chief Executive of the Camogie Association, Joan O'Flynn, speaks to On the Ball about the road ahead for the sport and the exciting challenge of raising the profile of Camogie.

maintain her lifelong commitment to camogie, it would be with a lower profile.

As one would expect from someone that has been involved in the game since staggering her first steps in the East Cork village of Ladysbridge - making her mark with Fr O'Neill's before doing the same in London, Celbridge and Kildare - she gave her time unsparingly.

She helped out with her club Celbridge and was manager of Kildare's second adult team this year. It was a hugely enjoyable phase - anything connected with camogie gets O'Flynn's blood flowing.

Now though, she's got the biggest job as the Association's newest Árd Stiúrthóir. It is still fairly hectic, given that she only sat into the hot seat in the middle of October, but calling it a job doesn't sound right.

"When you find your passion, it's no longer work" smiles O'Flynn. "I've been involved in camogie for so long in different capacities but solely as a volunteer. So to move into it in a professional capacity is a great opportunity as well as a great privilege. I'm delighted to be in the role and looking forward to building on all the progress that's been made over the years and bringing the game onto a wider level."

Her various administrative and coaching roles will be distinctly helpful but so too will her professional experience, be it with the Action Group for Irish Youth voluntary organisation in London, her private sector work at AIB or the public sector history with Combat Poverty Agency, as director of the national advisory committee on drugs, and consultant on European Drugs Policy to the Department of Health.

"My role is really around the day-to-day management and development of the association, the implementation of policies, supporting the development of policies and programmes. It's got a finance and personnel management

function as well. I do think there is a leadership and management role for the Árd Stiúrthóir as well.

"There are inter-dependencies between the Árd Stiúrthóir and President. I'm very privileged to have been President of the Association. The learning from that experience will be hugely beneficial to me in my professional role within the organisation. When you're president, you're combining that with your full-time work responsibilities. But now my full-time work responsibility is camogie and that's a great position to be in."

While the 2010-2015 strategic plan is "the signpost for the organisation", changes to the economy, the sporting landscape and society in general mean that there must be an ongoing review within the six-year terms. Preparations must also be made for the next plan.

In terms of camogie itself, the Chief Executive believes that there are four areas that must be considered in that process, all designed to giving the game a wider profile.

The first is to provide broader support to the volunteer chain, without which the full-time team at Croke Park headed by O'Flynn would have nothing to work on, or for. Increasing camogie's fanbase

to reflect the rapidly growing participation levels and eliciting more coverage of the games is a definite priority.

Attracting the hearts and minds of teenagers, and emphasising the broader health issues is a challenge for all sports at the moment and the new chief executive wants women's sports in general to be the leaders in this area.

And finally, there is the area of integration with regard to the governing bodies of all Gaelic games.

Growing the fanbase won't be easy but O'Flynn is determined that it can be done. Having said that, she thinks negative commentary surrounding attendances is out of context at times.

"The All-Ireland finals are obviously important as the showcase for the sport but if you look at other organisations, there are obvious examples within Ireland and outside of Ireland. There are innovations in other codes like basketball in the United States. Or the Paralympics. They have succeeded very well at building a fanbase. And obviously the GAA is superb!

"When you find your passion, it's no longer work"

The newly-appointed Árd Stiúrthóir of The Camogie Association

"It's a long game rather than a short game. You have to build it... there's always commentary around how many were at the women's All-Irelands. It depends what you measure them against. If you measure them against the men's finals, well obviously they're smaller attendances.

"But if you measure them against other women's sporting events they rate very highly, and indeed if you measure them against many other men's sporting events they do equally well. Also if you measure them in relation to the revenue those sports generate... it stands up I think."

O'Flynn is convinced that the will to pursue integration is strong at national level amongst the hierarchy of the GAA, ladies football and camogie. It won't be a straightforward progression though, as evidenced by some counties' GAA boards playing major fixtures, including county finals, on a day when their camogie representatives are on All-Ireland duty at Croke Park.

"If we can learn from what works, that to me is the key thing. So at club level, there is loads of experience of it. You look at the administration of the Gaelic games internationally

as well. Look at Europe and Asia; they are integrated from the start.

"So it's about looking at what works but also being considered and open about the processes towards integration. There's issues of parity, trust and culture change and responsibilities both way. That's a process, an ongoing thing that evolves over time.

"I'm very privileged to have been President of the Association. The learning from that experience will be hugely beneficial to me in my professional role within the organisation."

"When you look at Liberty Insurance jointly sponsoring the hurling and camogie championships and AIB sponsoring the Club Championships, that's an excellent example of the benefits of working together and being together in the same mission of promoting Gaelic games."

She can't wait to get stuck into it.

"I'm joining a very high-performing team of staff and a very high-performing voluntary team as well... It's a great time to be joining an Association that's promoting women's sport because women's sport is on the rise, that's established, and camogie is out there as being one of the longest established sports. So I hope we can continue to be leaders in that capacity."

On duty at Croke Park on All Ireland finals day 2010, Joan is pictured with President Mary McAleese





**THE
CAMOGIE
ASSOCIATION**
An Cumann Camógaíochta

Media Awards Criteria

Submissions are invited for the Camogie Association Media in the following categories.

Please send by post, copies of submissions to The Camogie Association, Croke Park, Dublin 3 by close of business on January 24th 2014.

Special Project Category

This category is open to all clubs. It relates to any form of media, written, published, internet or otherwise, highlighting some aspect(s) of camogie which made a lasting impression. The submissions will be judged on presentation, research, imagination, accuracy and innovation.

Photography

The submissions will be judged on subjectivity, good taste, good reflection on the game/association, context and composition and the emotional appeal of the photo. There are two categories inviting submissions from Amateur* and Professional Photographers.

PRO of the Year

Consistent output of work; competency with public relations tools such as utilising print, radio and social media for promoting camogie; presentation in terms of publications such as match programmes etc; level of effort and innovation to raise the profile of camogie.

Match Programme

Submissions will be judged on the accuracy of information, presentation and lay-out, correct branding, photography and overall content.

Local Radio

Submissions will be judged on the variety of coverage; consistency of coverage, content and quality of interviews, level of live updates for games & events; colour & emotional appeal of the piece; and the impact of the piece, locally and nationally.

Newspaper (Local/Regional)

Submissions will be based on the consistency of coverage, quality, variety, accuracy, content of reporting and interviews.

Best Use of Social Media

Submissions will be based on the consistency, regular updates, innovative use of social media with photographs and video content and the visual impact of the website or social media account.

Special Project

The Special Project category is open to clubs only. It will awarded to any form of media, be it written, published, internet or otherwise, highlighting some aspect(s) of camogie which made a lasting impression. It will be judged according to presentation; research; imagination; accuracy and innovation.

Notes

* Definition of an amateur photographer: The competition is open to amateur photographers. An amateur is a photographer who makes less than 15% of their annual income, or less than €5,000, from the practice of photography.



CORK RETAIN DIV 1 HONOURS

The Irish Daily Star League has been good to Cork in recent years and after accounting for Wexford in last season's Division 1 Final, they repeated the dose once more in another tight decider this term.

The Leesiders emerged from Group 1 with an unblemished record, mixing comfortable wins over Offaly and Division 1 newcomers Derry, with hard-fought victories against Tipperary and Kilkenny, with the Noresiders bagging the second qualification position.

Special mention must go to Derry, who registered wins over Offaly and Tipperary to finish third in the group, in their very first top-flight League campaign.

There was some surprise in Group 2 as Galway failed to qualify for the Semi-finals, although subsequent events ensured that they won't be fretting about that over Christmas dinner.

This four-team group was a competitive affair with each side suffering at least one reverse. In the end, it was Clare that secured the top qualification spot by virtue of seven-point superior score difference over Wexford.

The All-Ireland champions were undergoing a period of significant transition, with Martin Lynch taking over from JJ Doyle as manager, while six key players were no longer available due to retirement or choosing to travel.

It was quite an achievement then for them to reach the League Final by accounting for Kilkenny with five points to spare. Cork have had some mighty battles with their Semi-final opponents Clare in the last couple of years and only three points separated them on this occasion.

The margin was only two in the decider at Nowlan Park – where the game acted as a curtain-raiser to the National Hurling League Division 1 Final – as Wexford showed their customary grit to put it up to the hot favourites.

Wexford opened very brightly thanks to points from Ursula Jacob and Fiona Kavanagh but two frees from Orla Cotter had Cork level by the seventh minute.

Síle Burns and Jacob exchanged points but the latter, from a ninth-minute free, proved to be Wexford's last score of the half as Cork opened up.

With the Rebels monopolising possession from puckouts and Rena Buckley dominant at centre-back, they pushed ahead with points from Julia White, Briege Crokery, Eimear O'Sullivan and Síle Burns to give them a 0-7 to 0-3 advantage at the break.

The scoring rate dropped considerably in the third quarter, with Jacob's 39th minute free the only return. It took Cork 18 minutes to get going but quick-fire efforts from White and Katrina Mackey gave Paudie Murray's crew a distinct advantage.

Frances Doran struck back with a lovely point from play before the magnificent Kate Kelly popped over the first of her two points after coming on as a substitute.

When Mackey and Cotter (45) raised white flags with six minutes remaining, it looked like curtains for Wexford but a penalty awarded for a foul on Kelly was blasted to the Cork net by Jacob in the 60th minute to give Wexford hope.

Kelly reduced the margin to one but Wexford couldn't find the equaliser in four minutes of injury time and instead Cork sub Finola Neville found the target with almost the last puck of the slotar to secure a 0-12 to 1-7 success.

Limerick overcame surprise packages Kildare to harvest the Division 2 title in Birr. It was the Lilywhites' first year at the second level and they impressed everyone by recording wins over Down, Cork and Tipperary in the group stages before shocking Waterford in the Semi-final.

Limerick emerged from a very tough group that also included Waterford, Galway and Meath. A hat-trick of goals by Mary O'Callaghan enabled them to account for Kilkenny in the penultimate stages.

And the Intermediate side had too much firepower for the Premier Junior outfit as illustrated by the 3-14 to 0-10 scoreline. Not for the first time, Susie O'Carroll was sensational for Kildare, scoring all her side's points, but Niamh Mulcahy had eight for Limerick, while dual star Dympna O'Brien, O'Callaghan and influential sub, Marie Keating grabbed goals.

Laois just edged out last year's Division 4 Champions Dublin in the Division 3 Final by 0-9 to 0-7 in Mullingar. They had Laura Dunne to thank after the goalkeeper made two point-blank saves 10 minutes from time.

The sides were deadlocked on 0-7 apiece when Dunne was faced with two one-on-one situations but the St Brigid's netminder was equal to the task, first denying Róisín Collins before blocking Emma Flanagan's shot.

That spurred Laois on and points from Síle Burke and Player of the Match, Sarah Ann Fitzgerald (from a 70m free) clinched the title for the second time in four seasons.

The Division 4 Final was also held in Cusack Park and it produced a dramatic conclusion as full-back Marian Doyle stole forward to strike a winning goal for Carlow deep in injury time.

The Red Hands looked to have done enough in the first half, with Caoimhe Rafferty's goal after just 10 seconds giving them a dream start. Niamh McNulty grabbed a second major for the Ulster girls in the 23rd minute but crucially, Ciara Quirke found the net at the other end before half time.

Carlow had a strong wind after the resumption but it looked like Tyrone would hold on before Doyle's late contribution snatched the 2-6 to 2-4 win.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

2013

To keep up with all the development news follow the Camogie Association on [Facebook.com/officialcamogieassociation](https://www.facebook.com/officialcamogieassociation) and twitter.com/officialcamogie

Camán to Croker

Camán to Croker activity day took place on Saturday the 6th of April. 48 clubs took part in the day with 720 under 12 girls taking part in total. Torpey Hurleys provided sponsorship of this very popular day for clubs in Croke Park.



Camogie For all workshops

A very successful Camogie for All Workshop took place in Athlone IT on September 27th with 52 participants in total.

Hurl Smart Week

The Camogie Association's second annual Hurl Smart week took place in clubs across the country from the 17th to the 23rd of June. This initiative is a partnership between the Camogie Association and the Nutrition & Health Foundation. The programme was a resounding success with a range of activities for all ages, males and females being organised to encourage people to Hurl Smart, increase their activity levels and become healthier. Some of the clubs that took part include Castleknock Dublin, Young Irelands Kilkenny, Na Brideoga Mayo, St. Annes Louth, Edendork Tyrone and Newmarket on Fergus Clare.

Camogie continues to grow

Growth at club level continues with new clubs forming in a range of counties. These include Camogaíocht na nGleannta in Leitrim who represented Leitrim in the national Feile competition.

Crossmolina affiliated in Mayo with Ballina starting camogie also in the county. Other new areas include Doon, Limerick, Abbeyleix Laois, Banner in Ennis, Lavey in Cavan, Omagh in Tyrone and Ballybacon Grange in Tipperary among others.

Mum & Me/Come Hurl with me Programme

Over 15 of these programmes have been held this year so far with 250 parents taking part and 300 girls. 6 clubs that completed the programme were revisited this year also to provide further support and training.

Camogie Specific Camps

A number of camogie specific camps took place over the summer with great success. There were 15 camps with over 700 girls attending. Some of the most successful camps included Laois with 51 girls, Offaly with 82 girls, Derry city with 51 girls and Roscommon with 67 girls.

The U-14 Lifestyle programmes took place also this year to date. These target older girls aged 13-15 years.

Coaching Update

Foundation courses- Camán -Get a Grip: To date this year there have been 35 foundation courses.

TY courses- 10 TY courses complete to date

Teacher training college courses- 5 complete to date this year.

Teacher summer in service courses - There was one course organised in Kerry between the Camogie Association and Ladies football and eight other teacher in service courses around the country.

Level 1 Courses - Camán Get Hooked- To date this year there have been 5 courses completed. These include courses in Dublin, Clare, Wexford, Down/Armagh and Antrim/Derry. A further level 1 course will take place in Galway on the 8th, 9th and 16th of November.

Coaching workshops

21 basic skills and fundamental workshops took place this year to date which aim to up skill coaches that have yet to complete a formal coaching course. 26 further courses took place to up skill current qualified coaches at Foundation and Level 1. There were 47 courses in total with 1000 coaches attending Camogie workshops in total this year to date.

Tutor Training

Patrick Mullaney and Ross Corbett are currently attending Tutor training with Coaching Ireland. This course takes place over five weekends on Saturday and Sunday in the University of Limerick. The course will be complete before Christmas.

Foróige Club Link pilot programme

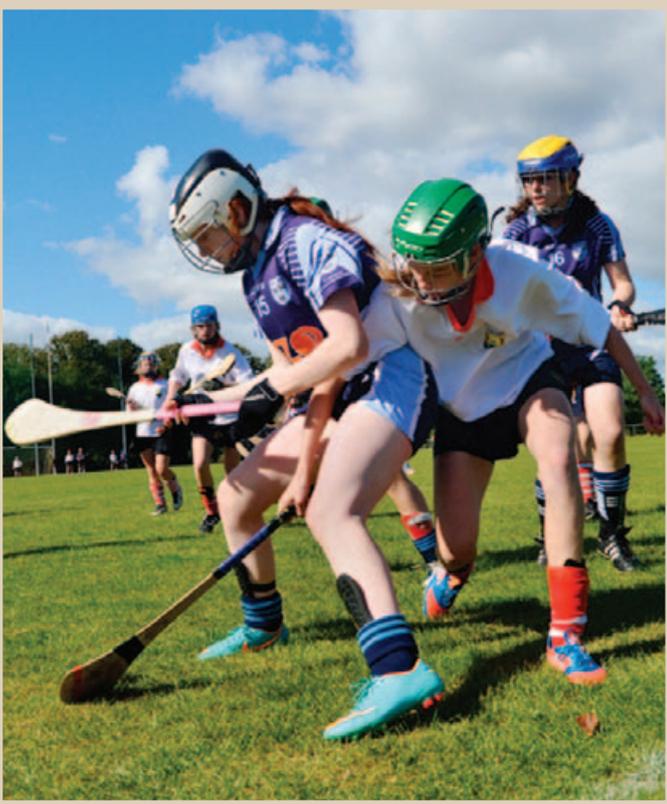
A pilot programme linking with a Foróige club in Rathvilly in Carlow is underway currently. It is hoped that a foundation course and First whistle course will be held with the Foróige club and they will hold a 'Come and Try it' Day and also look at the possibility of setting up a new camogie club if feasible.

Cooper All Ireland Under 14 Camogie Championship Blitz

As with the under 15 development model, this year was the second year of the Cooper U14 All Ireland Championship blitz competition. The blitz for Division 1 to Division 4 took place on Saturday the 14th of September in a range of Dublin venues. Thanks to Naomh Mearnog, St. Sylvester's, Craobh Chiarain, Thomas Davis, St. Ann's and Croi Ro Naofa for the venues. The Association would like to thank Cooper for its continued sponsorship of this competition. This year 30 counties entered at least one team in the competition over the 5 divisions with 48 teams taking part in total.

Congrats to everyone that took part in the competition this year.

The parade proved very successful again this year on All Ireland final day in Croke Park when the Under 14 teams took to the pitch at half time of the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Camogie senior Final.



Camogie Underage Development Models Under 15

2013 was the second year of the Camogie Association's underage development model at under 15 level. This development model encourages all counties to run a development programme for their Under15 players. Counties participate in one of 2 phases in this programme. The idea of this model is to encourage players from all clubs in the county to participate in organised sessions (Schools of Excellence) over a set number of weeks. Young players from the age of U15 get the opportunity to be part of a programme that improves their skills and encourages them to be the best they can be and represent their county with pride.

Phase 1 National participation blitz took place in Tipperary this year on All Ireland Semi final day. 11 counties participated with 16 teams taking part in total. The blitzes took place in Borrissleigh, The Ragg, Drom/ Inch, Thurles Sarsfields and Dr. Morris Park. The aim is that all girls get the chance to play on the day and enjoy the game of Camogie while developing both their skills and confidence. Phase 2 participation Blitz took place in Clonad in Laois on October 5th with Laois, Wicklow and Westmeath taking part on the day.

APPOINTMENTS

The Camogie Association are delighted to welcome **Caroline Fitzsimons** to the team. Caroline, a native of Cavan and a graduate of Dundalk Institute of Technology is the Association's new Office Administrator. Caroline previously worked with the Irish Sports Council.

Liz McGuinness has also joined the Association, taking up the post of Fixtures Administrator. Liz, a native of Dublin previously worked in Sales. Liz plays camogie with Dublin club, Good Counsel.

Lisa McAliskey has taken the position of RDO for Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down and Tyrone and started in her role in mid-August. Lisa previously worked for Ulster GAA as a coach in their DENI Programme working on improving physical literacy skills in 4-8 year olds whilst also improving club school links in the Gaelic Start programme. Lisa is an experienced playing member of the Down Camogie squad whilst also representing Ulster on many occasions in the Gael Linn.

THIRD LEVEL NEWS

The 2013 / 2014 Third Level season is well under way with the first two rounds of the league wrapped up. Dublin College DIT made the first statement of intent for the year with a comprehensive win over UUJ, followed up with a good win over UCD. UUJ got off the mark with a win over DCU. While WIT beat UCC in their first league game while in round two UL gained a small bit of revenge on Ashbourne Cup holders WIT with a hard fought victory in Waterford.

In Division 2 Mary I beat CIT, UUC 2 beat WIT 2, St Pat's defeated DIT 2 and Carlow IT overcame Athlone IT.

The Ashbourne and Purcell competitions this year will be held in Belfast as part of the Queens University "Festival

of Sport". QUB are hosting all four of the elite third level competitions starting with the Ashbourne and Purcell weekend which set to take place on the 15th and 16th of February 2014.

Big celebrations are coming up in the Third Level calendar with the Ashbourne Cup celebrating its Centenary year in 2015. The planning stages have already commenced and we would encourage anyone who has an interest in getting involved or who knows anything about the History of the Ashbourne to please get in touch with Fionnuala Carr CCAO PRO pro.thirdlevel.camogie@gaa.ie

The event promises to be a fantastic occasion to remember some of Camogie's most famous players.

Launch of first National Referees Academy

First of its kind within the Association

The first National Referees Academy was launched by the President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor at Croke Park on Saturday June 15th.

The Referees Academy is the first of its kind within the Association and is part of a number of initiatives introduced by President of the Association, Aileen Lawlor to support the development and progression of referees.

Twelve referees (six men and six women) have been selected for this year's Academy. They will receive concentrated training and will be monitored and assessed on their refereeing performance throughout the year.

Speaking at the launch President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor said:

"I am delighted to launch the first ever National Referees Academy and I would like to pay tribute to the sterling work of the National Referees Committee who have undertaken this project on behalf of the Association. As a former referee, this is an area that is very close to my heart. The role of a referee is one that is very demanding and challenging but it is also one that is extremely satisfying and worthwhile. Referees make an enormous contribution to our games and it is vital that we provide training and support that enables referees to perform at the highest level.

The Academy is an exciting initiative and it will enable us to provide excellent training to referees and to monitor and assess the standards of each referee. I want to congratulate each of the members of this year's Academy and to wish

them well in their endeavours over the coming months."

The members of this year's National Referees Academy are: Julie O'Neill (Armagh), Naomi Feighery (Kildare), Grainne Coulter (Down), Fiona O'Sullivan (Dublin), Jenny Byrne (Dublin), Siobhan Ryan (Tipperary), Kieran Kelly (Carlow), Pat Kehoe (Carlow), Eamon Cassidy (Derry), John McDonagh (Galway), Ray Kelly (Kildare) and Peter Dowd (Meath).

Speaking about the new Referees Academy, Chairman of the National Referees Committee Peter Downey said:

"While the Camogie Association is fortunate to be well served by a strong panel of Inter County Referees it is vital to ensure that the panel remains so into the future. The National Referee Academy is comprised of Referees who have displayed the potential to officiate at the highest level, and in turn provide them with the training and education they need to reach their maximum potential. The Association is fortunate to have a wealth of experience at its disposal and the Committee intends to use as much of that pool as is possible.

During the closed season the Academy members will take part in two initial training modules, equipping them with the skills needed to make good Referees, better. During the course of 2014 the National Referee Pathway will be rolled out, with the Academy being the ultimate destination. Progression through the Academy will be totally performance based. Members of the Academy have a busy time ahead of them and we wish them all the best."





Ireland

The chosen charity of The Camogie Association

Make-A-Wish® Ireland, the Camogie Association's chosen charity partner, are delighted to once again be part of the Camogie All-Stars. Since last year's awards, we have been working with clubs and players throughout Ireland to raise much-needed funds and look forward to building even further on this into 2014.

About Make-A-Wish® Ireland

Make-A-Wish Ireland has one simple aim: to grant the wishes of children aged between 3 and 17 years living with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. A wish granted is true magic for the child, providing respite from their normal routines of hospitals, doctors and treatment; providing long-lasting and happy memories for relatives, whatever the future may hold.

Make-A-Wish receives no government funding, and relies on the kindness of people like you to continue with our work and succeed in our aims. We have seen a substantial increase in the number of wish applications over the last few years, including a big increase in the number of rush wishes (where the child's life expectancy is less than 9 months).

Because of this, we set ourselves an ambitious target to grant 210 wishes in 2013; a 60% increase on 2012. We are delighted to say that we are target to achieve this, but 2014 will need a similar big target to keep the waiting list down.

Like so many charities, this recession is hitting Make-A-Wish hard, but time is a precious commodity that many wish children do not have. Therefore, to grant the wishes of all the wonderfully brave sick children on the waiting list, as well as our future wish children, Make-A-Wish need considerable funds.

How to get involved...

Throughout 2014, we will be looking for clubs and individuals to get involved in the many different events we will be running, so look out for updates. In the run-up to Christmas, we have a number of activities that we would love to see you all involved



**Anna Geary, Cork Player
& Make-A-Wish Ambassador**

with. For information on any of these events, call (01) 205-2102, e-mail info@makeawish.ie or go to <http://www.makeawish.ie/news-and-events/latest-news>

Christmas Movie: "The Muppet Christmas Carol"

Sunday 24 November @ 11am, Sugar Club, Leeson St, Dublin

On Sunday 24 November, Make-A-Wish will be getting the festive season started with a special screening of this funny and heartwarming movie. Tickets €10 each or €35 for family ticket.

Christmas Carol Concert

6 December, Unitarian Church, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin

A very special concert with the Dublin Gospel Choir and the Ballinteer Male Voice Choir, who are sure to put everyone in the Christmas spirit. Tickets €20.

Santa Dash

Bull Island, Dublin @ 2pm

On Sunday 8 December, for those looking for a more energetic start to Christmas, why not join hundreds of others and take part in the Santa Dash, a 5K run on Bull Island, with everyone dressed as Santa. Entry costs €25 (€20 for children), which includes your Santa Suit, and Make-A-Wish are the chosen charity www.santadash.ie

Christmas Wishes with Irish Rail

6 – 23 December

Our big Christmas project is a three-week event in conjunction with Irish Rail that will see us carol singing and collecting in the three main Dublin stations (Pearse, Connolly and Heuston). As you can imagine, we will be looking for as many people to help us as we can get, so we are calling on every club to sign-up for just a few hours on one of these days to help make the event a success. You can sign as part of a group or just shake a bucket to help collect donations from commuters. We won't accept any excuse that you can't sing – everyone can sing a Christmas song!

If you would like to get involved, or simply get more information, contact Mary on (01) 205-2012 or mary@makeawish.ie

Thank you for all your support so far in 2013 and we look forward to seeing you over the Christmas period and throughout 2014.



**Kate Kelly
Wexford Player
& Make-A-Wish Ambassador**

**"It's people like you
who make wishes come true!"**



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