

## CAMOGIE ☺ Past Masters - All-Ireland Junior Champions



15 September, 1974  
Clare 3-2 Dublin 3-0

A FEAST of fast camogie was served up in Croke Park as the Clare ladies carved a niche for themselves in the annals of camogie in the county. It was a famous first for Clare – a first ever All-Ireland camogie title was

brought to the Banner.

Shannon player Mary Dolan had Clare on the All-Ireland road as early as the second minute when she finished a rebound off Dublin keeper Phyllis Breslin to the net from close range.

A tonic start but it almost went all wrong after that – Dublin got an

equalising goal in the 12th minute through Maura Sutton and early in the second-half Clare found themselves five points adrift.

Cue the great Banner fightback. Mary Mahon soloed 30 yards before passing to Maureen Davoren who finished to the net. Davoren then added a point from a 30 to reduce the gap

to a point. Then came the clinching goal in the 20th minute when Mary Griffin booted to the net from close range.

“At the beginning of the year we didn’t really believe in ourselves, but with every win, more confidence was instilled into the team,” said captain Margaret O’Toole afterwards.

Clare: Maureen Kelly, Anne Marie O’Loughlin, Rose Kelleher, Margaret O’Toole, Claire Harrington, Teresa McDonagh, Kitty McNicholas, Maureen Davoren (1-2), Mary Dolan (1-0), Mary Mahon, Pauline Ryan, Eleece Fitzgibbon. Subs Mary Griffin (1-0) for Ryan, M Saunders for E Fitzgibbon.

15 September, 1986  
Clare 1-13 Kildare 3-4

HISTORY was made in this All-Ireland when Sister Kathleen Elliott became the first nun to line out in an All-Ireland final. And, she marked the historic occasion by scoring the first point of this final in Croke Park.

That’s where the happy history ended for Kildare though.

Thereafter, the happy history belonged to Clare as another proud chapter was written in the county’s camogie annals.

The double act – Clare camogie’s very own ‘Terrible Twins’ - took this All-Ireland by the scruff of the neck and ran riot in GAA headquarters. They were Maura McNicholas and Catherine O’Loughlin.

Maura was the captain and scorer-in-chief with 1-7 over the hour, while O’Loughlin was the young starlet from Kilnamona who burst on the national stage by scoring six great points from play.

Clare had only one survivor from the 1981 All-Ireland victory in Carmel Wall, but inexperience was no obstacle to them on final day. They

led by 0-8 to 1-3 at half-time.

The sides were level midway through the second half, but then McNicholas struck for the decisive goal. When McNicholas crowned a great day by scoring four more points and Clare’s third All-Ireland title was secured in decisive fashion.

Clare – Pauline O’Brien, Helen Cusack, Patricia Ryan, Noeleen Quinn, Siobhán Reidy, Patricia Rynne, Sheila O’Halloran, Carmel Wall, Catherine O’Loughlin (0-6), Maura McNicholas (1-7) capt., Catherine Molloy, Noelle Comyns. Subs Claire Bracken for Comyns.



13 September, 1981  
Clare 3-2 Antrim 0-7

A REAL classic of the camogie kind in Croke Park as Clare maintained their 100 per cent record at All-Ireland final level when they edged out a brave Antrim side by four points.

It was the golden touch of the Clare girls in front of the sticks that won the day and this touch was evident from as early as the tenth second when the net at the Canal End rippled for the first time.

From the throw in, Veronica Casey won possession and shot goalwards to Lourda Fox who crashed home a great goal from six yards. Fox found the net for the second time in the tenth minute while the hat-trick of first-half goals was secured when Martina Beegan found the net.

Clare led by six and were on the road to victory - admittedly it proved to be rocky road in the second-half. Antrim started chipping away at Clare’s lead and with 15 minutes remaining the gap was down to two.

It was as close as Antrim fought back as Clare rallied with points by Lourda Fox from a 30 and Rosemary Fahy from play edged Clare home by four points. “This All-Ireland is what we trained for,” said Clare captain Claire Jones. She later won senior All-Irelands with Kilkenny.

Clare – Mary Carey, Caroline O’Meara, Josie Connellan, Mary Howard, Carmel Moroney, Veronica Casey, Carmel Wall, Claire Jones, Lourda Fox (2-1), Collette Keating, Martina Beegan (1-0), Rosemary Fahy (0-1).

