

SIDE LINES



ASHBOURNE CUP
Four in a Row

Fitzgibbon Cup
2012 Roundup

Freshers' Reports

Men's & Ladies'
Football Reports

Inter-county
players in WIT



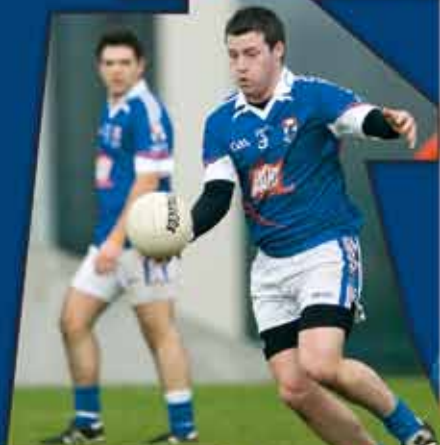
Waterford Institute of Technology
WIT COLLEGE TYN, KILPATRICK, WATERFORD

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30th
Anniversary
Edition

- WIT Host Ashbourne Finals
- WIT GAA Scholarships
- 30 years' of GAA in photographs
- Waterford Camogie Academy



Feature Articles:

- Royal on the Rise
- Women in Sport
- "Donna's done it all"
- "The Hutch"
- Trish Jackman



WIT GAA Club

Roll of Honour 1982-2012



1982-1983

Division 3 Hurling League

1983-1984

Division 2 Hurling League

1984-1985

Division 3 Football League

Freshers Football League

1985-1986

Division 1 Hurling League

1986-1987

Division 1 Hurling League

Hurling Championship

Division 3 Hurling League

Freshers Football

Munster Freshers Football

Championship

1987-1988

Ladies Football Championship

Fitzgibbon Plate Hurling

Division 1 Freshers Hurling League

Munster Freshers Hurling

Championship

1988-1989

Division 1 Ladies Football League

Division 1B (Intermediate) Hurling League

Division 1 Freshers Hurling League

Freshers Camogie League

Munster Freshers Hurling

Championship

1989-1990

Purcell Cup Camogie Championship

Division 2B (Intermediate) Football

League

Division 2B (Intermediate) Hurling

League

1990-1991

Purcell Shield Camogie Championship

Division 1 Freshers Hurling League

Division 2 Trench Football League

1991-1992

Fitzgibbon Cup Hurling

Purcell Cup Camogie Championship

Division 1 Camogie League

Division 1 Hurling League

1992-1993

Purcell Cup Camogie Championship

Division 1 Camogie League

Freshers Football League

Handball League and Championship

1993-1994

Ashbourne Shield Camogie

Division 1 Hurling League

Munster Freshers Hurling

Championship

1994-1995

Fitzgibbon Cup Hurling

Division 2B (Intermediate) Football

League

Freshers Camogie League

1995-1996

Division 1 Freshers Hurling League

Division 2 Football League

Handball Ladies Singles Open

1996-1997

Ashbourne Shield Camogie

Division 1 Hurling League

Division 1 Ladies Football League

Division 1 Freshers Hurling League

1997-1998

Division 1 Hurling League

Division 1 Camogie League

Division 1 Freshers Hurling League

Division 3 Hurling League

1998-1999

Fitzgibbon Cup Hurling

Ashbourne Cup Camogie

O'Connor Cup Plate Ladies Football

Division 1 Camogie League

Division 1 Ladies Football League

Division 1 Freshers Football

Championship

1999-2000

Fitzgibbon Cup Hurling

Division 1 Hurling League

Division 1 Freshers Hurling League

2000-2001

Ashbourne Cup Camogie

2001-2002

Division 1 Hurling League

Division 1 Freshers Ladies Football

Shield

2002-2003

Fitzgibbon Cup Hurling

Division 1 Fresher Hurling League

Division 2 Fresher Hurling League

Division 3 Ladies Football

2003-2004

Fitzgibbon Cup

Intermediate Hurling

Division 2 Fresher Hurling

2004-2005

Intermediate Hurling League

Fresher Camogie Cup

2005-2006

Fitzgibbon Cup Hurling

Division 1 Hurling League

Fresher Camogie Shield

Division 1 Fresher Hurling League

2006-2007

Fresher Hurling Shield

Fresher Camogie Shield

2007-2008

Fitzgibbon Cup

Division 1 Camogie League

Fresher Ladies Football Shield

2008-2009

Ashbourne Cup

Division 1 Camogie League

Freshers Ladies Football Plate

2009-2010

Ashbourne Cup

Division 1 Camogie League

Freshers 1 Camogie League

Munster Junior Football

Handball : 60x30 A Team Open/ Mens

A Singles/ Mens B Singles

2010-2011

Ashbourne Cup

Giles Cup

Munster Junior Football

Intermediate Hurling All Ireland

Handball : 60x30 A Team Open

2011-2012

Ashbourne Cup

Munster Ladies Donaghy Cup

Fresher 1 Camogie League

Handball : 60x30 Mens A

Singles/Team Open

Céad Míle Fáilte!

Welcome to another issue of "Sidelines", the publication that provides all the information you need to know on the WIT GAA Club. This is the 19th year of Sidelines and inside you will find articles on all the college teams and their progress in all of last years competitions. You can find out about player profiles, blasts from the past, articles on current and past players and lots more about the GAA scene here in Waterford IT.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the GAA club. We have a long



and proud tradition of participation in Gaelic games here in WIT.

The GAA office is located upstairs in the Courtyard Building on the main Campus. It is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.30pm so feel free to drop in if you have any questions or helpful suggestions. Also keep an eye on the display screen in the Atrium for times and dates of training, matches and any club activities. Our website (www.wit.gaa.ie) and facebook page (WIT GAA) are updated regularly and features information regarding all club activities.

The GAA club in Waterford IT is the perfect opportunity to continue participating in Gaelic Games, keep fit and make new friends for life. So make sure to get involved this year by joining the club and becoming an active member on and off the field, whether its playing, coaching or organising social events.

There is a team here for everyone who wants to play Gaelic Games with over 18 teams competing in 30 competitions each year in Gaelic Football, Hurling, Ladies Football, Camogie and Handball. We hope that you

join the club and get the benefits of a regular exercise, great craic and many new friends made in a great club.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to producing this publication of "Sidelines" and wish all our teams every success for the coming year.

We have had some great success and memories over the last year, winning the Ashbourne Cup for the forth year in a row, winning the southern and All Ireland Camogie Shield, and winning the Munster Ladies Football Donagh Cup. Off the field we hosted what was proclaimed as one of the best Ashbourne Cups in years, all in our new WIT sports campus.

No pressure but let's make this season even more special.

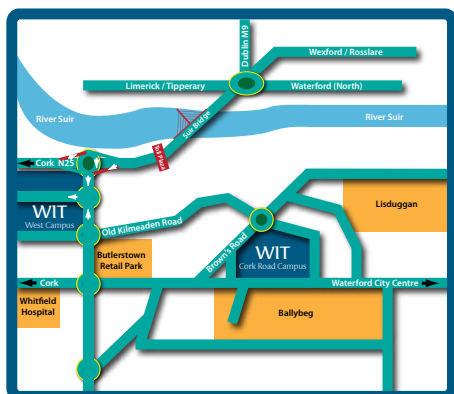
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/wit.gaa
Twitter: #WITGAA

Directions to WIT Sports Campus



From Dublin or Limerick,

Take the N25 signposted Cork across the new Suir Bridge.

Take the first left after the toll plaza, signposted Waterford South, Tramore.

Stay left onto the outer ring road. At the WIT West Campus roundabout, take the second exit, the Sports Campus is on your left.

From Cork,

Take the N25, signposted Dublin, Rosslare, at the Kilmeaden roundabout take the second exit.

On that road take the first exit left, signposted Waterford South, Tramore.

Come across the flyover onto the outer ring road.

At the WIT West Campus roundabout take the second exit. The Sports Campus is on your left.

From Waterford,

Take the old N25 Cork Road to the roundabout at B&Q.

Take third exit, travelling towards the roundabout on the old Kilmeaden Road.

Take the second exit which will bring you to the WIT Sports Campus roundabout.

Take the first exit: WIT Sports Campus is on the left.

Fundraising

WIT GAA Club has been successful over the past number of years but all this success comes at a price. The club fields over 18 teams throughout the year. These include Hurling, Football, Ladies Football, Camogie and Handball. Between all the codes the club organises over 140 games a year.

Sadly, any club or society needs money to survive and flourish. The WIT GAA club is no exception in this regard. It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it, and in this case, someone means its members.

Remember, running a GAA club costs money and lots of it if we are to provide games for all our members, from the intercounty senior player to the club junior performer.

Expenses for buses, meals, gear, facilities and equipment all adds up. Add in the cost of weekend competitions and you get some idea of the difficulties in keeping the WIT GAA club on the financial straight and narrow. As a result members are asked to fundraise to help the running of the club by selling tickets for the various nights and draws throughout the year. At the end of the day its your club, built around you, built for you.

Or to put it another way, the club needs you!!



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4-IN-A-ROW Ashbourne Cup Review 2012



Ashbourne Cup Champions 2012

Ask any college camogie player what medal they would like to win and almost all of them would say the Ashbourne Cup. This current year is no different, when all of the third level teams set out to compete for one of the highest honours in Camogie. What is it that makes the Ashbourne or any college competition so special; is it the fact that you only get a few chances to win it, or is it the unique bond that you forge with your teammates that crosses club, county and provincial boundaries, the friendships made and the memories treasured. All of those come to the fore when WIT compete to contest for the most coveted prize.

With WIT aiming for an unprecedented four in a row in modern history, and the venue for the weekend being WIT's own Sports Campus all the pressure was on them.

After the draw they knew WIT had to do it the hard way, WIT were pitted against league champions UL and 2011 Ashbourne Shield winners NUIG in what was called the group of death. Under the management of Helena Jacob, Ursula Jacob, Austin Murphy and GAA

Development Officer Conor Phelan they set out for the huge task of getting to the weekend firstly, not even thinking of retaining the title.

Despite having lost a number of players from the 2011 team, such as Wexford's Stacey Redmond and Kilkenny's Ann Dalton, they went into first the match with a strong squad. A result here versus NUIG would set WIT up nicely in the last game versus league champions UL in Limerick.

A difficult breeze blowing into the corner of the pitch made scoring difficult and it was a day where defenders fared best. WIT held NUIG to only two pointed frees in the opening half from Niamh McGrath. WIT held a double score advantage at half time. Emma Comerford raised the white flag on three occasion and Michelle Quilty also got off the mark with a point from play to leave the score 0-4 to 0-2 at the interval. NUIG played well at the beginning of the second half but found Ruth Jones, Sarah Anne Fitzgerald and Patricia Jackman in defence in sublime form (as many chances were quashed). Inspired by their defence WIT

kept the scoreboard ticking over at the opposite end of the field as points from Emma Comerford, Jean Brady and Patricia Jackman pushed WIT 0-7 to 0-2 in front.

NUIG landed two frees and created a couple of goal chances which were well dealt with by Kristina Kenneally in the WIT goal. WIT closed out the game with four points before the end with one from Emma Comerford and three more from Michelle Quilty who finished with a personal total of seven points. WIT 0-11, NUIG 0-4.

Next up for WIT was a trip to Limerick to play UL knowing a win on Shannonside would guarantee the champions top spot in group A and a place in the semi finals of the competition.

It was a bright crisp spring day and relatively good underfoot conditions lent itself to a good open fast game with both sides keen to progress in this year's championship. After a very lively start both sides exchanged scores from placed balls; Emma Comerford for WIT and Tipperary senior player, Cait Devane for UL. A ding dong battle then ensued with both defences and mid-field parings doing well as the intensity of the game grew. Despite the strong defending of UL, WIT managed to dominate the next quarter with two well taken goals by Marie Dargan and Emma Comerford and points from placed balls by Patricia Jackman and Emma Comerford before UL added another point from a free. Just before half time WIT captain Katie Power tacked on two good points from play. The second half very much belonged to UL who got off to a flying start which saw them notching up 1-2 before Patricia Jackman added to her tally for WIT from placed balls and Denise Gaule's well worked point from play. Though disappointed UL who were without their full back Shona Curran, a star from Waterford's Junior All Ireland winning side last year would take much heart from their second half display as they head into their second group game against NUIG next week and which should prove to be a very eagerly contested encounter. WIT progressed to the Cup semi finals and knew that despite some good patches of play that more will be required over the full sixty minutes if they were to secure a place in the final. **WIT 2-13, UL 0-9.**

Semi Final

In the other group UCC came out, to face us meaning WIT took on UCD in the second semi final. Not knowing what to expect from UCD made WIT very edgy but the girls were up for the challenge and a keenly contested first half saw UCD enter the break one point to the good after being aided by a strong wind. Emma Comerford opened the scoring for WIT with two pointed frees. Struggling to get to grips with a very strong WIT defence, UCD snuck in for a goal. WIT replied with three points



Shelly Farrell in action in the semi-final



courtesy of Katie Power (two) and an Emma Comerford pointed free. UCD finished the first half scores with two well taken points. WIT set out their intentions within 20 seconds of the restart when Patricia Jackman scored an excellent long range point. She quickly followed this with two pointed frees. Marie Dargan sprang to life in the second half with three excellent points. WIT were rampant at this point and their dominance was rewarded when Denise Gaule gathered a ball and rounded her defender before crashing the ball to the back of the UCD net. The result of the game was put beyond doubt when Emma Comerford and Michelle Quilty scored a goal each for WIT. UCD first score in the second half came one minute into injury time when Denise McGrath finished a well hit free to the net. **WIT 3-12, UCD 2-4.**

Ashbourne Final

Played on home soil at the splendid Sports Campus grounds, WIT were made to fight for the silverware. They didn't get matters their own way against a resilient UL team who battled bravely only to be overtaken by the holders in the final quarter. The turning point arrived midway through the second half when All Ireland medallist Katrina Parrock was moved to full forward and found the net. The midfielder had just switched into full forward and made no mistake finding the net from close range. Gaining momentum, Kilkenny attacker Marie

Dargan added a second goal three minutes later. From there to the full whistle WIT pulled away adding four unanswered points.

UL made a brave start and held the upper hand with three points on the board before WIT opened their account. To be truthful, the Limerick College should have been further ahead. WIT didn't record their first score from play until the 23rd minute from Dargan. The sides were tied 0-3 apiece at half-time.

UL continued to mark tightly following the resumption and were also grateful for a point-blank save from keeper Sile Moynihan. However, once Parrock rattled the net the home side's confidence began to rise. Driven on by the powerful play of Patricia Jackman, Collette Dormer and Aisling Carroll in the half back line, WIT were not going to be denied.

Their forward line (consisting of five Kilkenny county players) began to click. Dargan raised their second green flag on 48 minutes, followed by two massive Jackman frees and a Dargan point with two minutes left to play. Comerford signed off with her third pointed free as the cup was set to remain in WIT. **WIT 2-8, UL 0-4**

Ashbourne all stars

Following their impressive displays over the weekend, seven of our players were awarded Ashbourne All-Star awards. Congratulations to

Ruth Jones (Kilkenny), Sarah Anne Fitzgerald (Laois), Patricia Jackman (Waterford), Denise Gaule (Kilkenny), Marie Dargan (Kilkenny), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Katrina Parrock (Wexford) In addition, Patricia Jackman was adjudged "Player of the Tournament" and while at the Health & Exercise Science Ball later in the year she also received the accolade of "Sports Person of the Year". Also, at the Clubs and Societies Awards the victorious Ashbourne team were awarded the "WIT Team of the Year".

WIT Ashbourne Cup Panel 2012: Kristina Kenneally (Tipperary); Ruth Jones (Kilkenny), Sarah Ann Fitzgerald (Laois), Lorraine Keena (Offaly); Patricia Jackman (Waterford), Collette Dormer (Kilkenny), Aisling Carroll (Tipperary); Kate O'Donoghue (Cork), Katrina Parrock (Wexford); Denise Gaule (Kilkenny), Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny), Shelly Farrell (Kilkenny); Marie Dargan (Kilkenny), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Emma Comerford (Kilkenny). Jean Brady (Offaly), Stephanie Beausanng (Cork), Mairead O Connor (Cork), Bridin Doyle (Wexford), Marguerite Doyle (Wexford), Claire Aylward (Kilkenny), Andrea Mangan (Cork), Louise Sinnot (Wexford), Meave O Keefe (Cork), Maggie Hogan (Laois), Aoife Shiel (Wexford), Aine Doran (Kilkenny), Sheena Ryan (Tipperary), Jane Cullen (Kilkenny), Lorraine Cass (Kilkenny), Sara Gleeson (Tipperary), Anne Maire Lennon (Kilkenny).

Profile: Ruth Jones (Kilkenny)

Course? Sport and Recreation Management

Nicknames? Jones, Jonesy

High Point in Sporting Career?
Winning Ashbourne 2012

Third Level Honours? Ashbourne Medal

Other Achievements? 4 Leinster, 3 All Ireland's with Kilkenny, 5 All Ireland Athletic Medals

Other Sports? Soccer, Athletics

Favourite Cartoon As A Kid?
The Road Runner



My Earliest Sporting Memory Is?

Going to matches on the train with my dad

When You Were Growing Up What Did You Want To Be?

Sports and Rec student

My Most Treasured Possession?

My Bed

Biggest Insult?

Being asked "am I from Waterford"!

My Signature food dish Is?

Fried Eggs, mushrooms and toast

Stranded On An Island, What Are Your 3 Essential Items?

A lilo, a friend, food

Stranded On An Island, Who Would You Most Like To Keep You Company?

The "family"

Favourite book?

Ahhhhmmmm.....

Royal *on the* Rise

by Randall Scally

Life is good for Donnacha Tobin at the moment. Since completing the final year of a four-year BSc (Honours) Quantity Surveying course at Waterford IT in May, he has gone straight into employment and made his Leinster SFC debut for his beloved Meath. "I've been very lucky," he says modestly.

"I was on a 30-week placement with a company called CapCon Engineering in Kilcock, Co. Kildare, which is only 20 minutes from my home, and I couldn't believe it when they offered me a job. A lot of newly-qualified quantity surveyors have been forced to leave Ireland, so I'm lucky with the way things have worked out.

"Things have been going very well for me as far as the football is concerned too. This is my first year on the Meath senior panel and to have made the team for the first round of the Leinster championship against Wicklow was a dream come true. At the start of the year, I would never have expected to start a championship game, so things have happened a lot quicker than I would have expected."

As he begins a new and exciting chapter in his life, Donnacha looks back on his time at Waterford IT as "the best four years of my life".

The Blackhall Gaels clubman enthuses: "I would recommend WIT to anyone. I enjoyed every minute of it and have made friends for life. One of the great things about the college is that everyone knows everyone. There is a great atmosphere there and the GAA club is very close-knit. The sports facilities are top-notch – when I wasn't travelling back and forth to Meath for training, I was able to do the gym work in the college and that was a huge help to me.



Donnacha playing against Derry in the National Football League

"WIT has played a major role in my development as a footballer," he adds.

While silverware eluded him during his time wearing the blue jersey, Donnacha holds nothing but fond memories and feels privileged to have played alongside so many talented footballers.

"Obviously, WIT is better known for its hurling exploits – they've won eight Fitzgibbon Cups and have the pick of hurlers from Waterford, Kilkenny and Tipperary – but they take their football just as serious and are unlucky not to be playing in the Sigerson Cup at this stage," the 22-year-old explains.

"This year Trinity beat us narrowly in both the Trench Cup and league semi-finals. Last year we lost the Trench Cup final to St. Pat's, Drumcondra and the league final to IT Tralee, so we were very close to getting promoted to the Sigerson. We also played in the McGrath Cup and that was a great experience because you're playing against inter-county teams.

"Tommy McCabe managed the team for the first three years I was in Waterford and Martin O'Connor was over us this year. David Power, who managed Tipperary to win the All-Ireland minor title last year, assisted Tommy the second year I was there. We had some excellent footballers – fellas like Tipperary goalkeeper Mattie O'Donnell, Cathal Coughlan from Carlow, Sean Culleton from Wexford, Limerick dual star James Ryan and my fellow Meath man Chris O'Connor."

Donnacha's passion for football was instilled in him at an early age. The youngest of a family of five girls and two boys, he remembers being brought to matches to watch his older siblings play: "They all played before me so I suppose it was inevitable I would play as well. My brother Dermot, who is more than 20 years my senior, had trials with the Dublin U14s before we moved from Rathcoole to Meath.

"When I was growing up, Meath were winning All-Irelands and I looked up to the likes of Trevor Giles, Graham Geraghty and Darren Fay. They were all heroes of mine and I wanted to be like them."

Tobin won a Leinster MFC medal with Meath in 2008, but a hip injury scuppered his hopes of representing the county U21s last year. He has since made a full recovery and it was a proud day for him and his family when he made his senior debut for the Royal County against Monaghan in the opening round of this year's National League.

"I was taken off at half-time, but I didn't let that disappointment get to me and knuckled down to try and get my place back. It's all about working hard and taking your chance when it comes along. I scored a goal against Kildare in the third round of the league and I took a lot of confidence from that. It put me in a position to challenge for a place on the championship team."

As it transpired, Donnacha was one of four players – Alan Forde, Mark Collins and Conor Gillespie were the others – to be handed their first championship starts by Meath manager Seamus McEnaney for the first round game against Wicklow at Carlow's Dr Cullen Park. Lining out at right half back, he gave an excellent account of himself as the Royals recovered from a slow start to win 0-16 to 0-11.

"After a poor league campaign (Meath were relegated to Division 3), it was nice to get a win and hopefully we'll be able to build on that and have a long summer of football to look forward to," he says.



Donnacha versus Wexford in the league

Donnacha has come up through the ranks at Blackhall Gaels, which is based in the parish of Kilcloon in south Co. Meath and encompasses the townlands of Batterstown, Mulhussey and Kilcloon. Founded in 1995 following the amalgamation of the old Batterstown and Kilcloon clubs, Blackhall caters for football, hurling and camogie, and won IFC titles in 1998 and 2001 before claiming its first and so far only Meath SFC crown in 2003. Donnacha is the fourth Blackhall man to represent Meath at senior level, following in the footsteps of brothers Nigel and Alan Nestor, and Anthony Moyles, who captained the Royals a few years ago.

When Meath won the Leinster MFC in 2006, their captain was Paddy Brady from Blackhall. Another well-known Blackhall man is top football referee David Coldrick, who has taken charge of two All-Ireland finals (2007 and 2010).

WIT Host Ashbourne Cup Camogie Finals Weekend



Waterford Institute of Technology had the honour of hosting the 2012 third level colleges' camogie finals weekend; It was a weekend packed full of drama and top class camogie in which the semi final and final matches of the Ashbourne Cup & Shield, Purcell Cup & Shield and Fr. Meaghair Cup & Shield were played during the weekend of Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th of February 2012. This was the first time that the penultimate stages of all three competitions was hosted over the same weekend and it was a huge honour for the WIT GAA club to act as host. All 12 games over the weekend were played in both the state of the art WIT Sports Campus, in Carriganore and in the local De La Salle GAA Club Grounds.

It was a titanic weekend with 18 colleges competing, 550 students playing and with over 2,500 spectators attending the games over the 2 days all need to be managed by 110 volunteers.

The hosting of this prestigious weekend of camogie provided a profile boost for Waterford Institute of Technology on a national level. Anyone that attended Ashbourne Cup matches enjoyed a well-organised event but few know of the work that needed to be put in behind the scenes in the months before hand. The WIT committee worked hard and diligently over the months prior to the event so that the college would host a successful and vibrant sporting weekend. WIT GAA Club have an excellent record of hosting major third level GAA events during its 30-year history, including hosting the Fitzgibbon Cup weekend on three separate occasions; in 1993, 2000 and in 2011 along with the Ashbourne Cup in 2005.



Weekend Results

- Fr. Meachair Shield Final **St. Mary's Belfast 3-06 v IT Tralee 3-04**
- Fr. Meachair Cup Semi-Final A - **Mary I, 3-10 v IT Carlow 0-04**
- Fr. Meachair Cup Semi-Final B - - - - **TCD 1-03 v St. Pats 2-08**
- Purcell Cup Semi-Final A - - - - - **DCU 5-12 v NUIM 1-06**
- Purcell Cup Semi-Final B - - - - - **QUB 4-09 v DIT 0-04**
- Purcell Shield Final - - - - - **CIT 4-11 v AIT 0-02**
- Ashbourne Cup Semi-Final A - - - - - **UCC 1-05 v UL 0-10**
- Ashbourne Cup Semi-Final B - - - - - **WIT 3-12 v UCD 2-04**

Sunday 19th Feb

- Fr. Meachair Cup Final - - - - - **Mary I 0-15 v St. Pats 0-3**
- Ashbourne Shield Final - - - - - **UUJ 2-13 v NUIG 3-09**
- Purcell Cup Final - - - - - **QUB 0-04 v DCU 4-07**
- Ashbourne Cup Final - - - - - **WIT 2-08 v UL 0-4**

Thank You

A huge thanks goes out to all who helped out during the event; a special thanks to our friends in De La Salle GAA Club for accommodating the Fr. Meachair semi finals on Saturday the 18th of February, thanks to the student and staff volunteers who gave up their free time unreservedly, kudos to the WIT Ashbourne Cup committee for their fantastic organisation on so many levels, a word of praise to our sponsors and a huge appreciation from all of us here in WIT to the CCAO, the Munster Council and Waterford County Board for their support and guidance throughout the last year in the lead up to the event.



GAA Club Awards 2012

The 2012 season will be remembered as yet another successful year for the GAA Club with the Camogie club completing the Ashbourne Cup four in a row, The Freshers' winning the Southern and All Ireland Camogie shield, the Ladies Football Club winning the Munster Donaghy Cup and our handballers completed three in a row of wins in the 60 x 30m team championships in Thurles

We were delighted to have Kilkenny's 9 time All Star Winner, Tommy Walsh to present the awards on the night.

We had some great performances throughout the year from all codes. The criteria for players of the year are based on, the players performance, attitude to training, commitment to club.



Fresher Camogie Group



Senior Camogie Player of the Year: Trish Jackman



Senior Hurling Player of the Year: Enda Barrett



Ashbourne Cup camogie team at GAA Awards' Night, 2012



Senior Ladies Football Player of the Year: Noelle Connolly



Senior Football Player of the Year: Brian Rogers



Ladies Football, Div. 4, Munster winners 2012 at the GAA Awards' Night



Freshers Football Player of the Year: Shane Walsh



Freshers Hurling Player of the Year: Rhys Clarke



Freshers Ladies Football Player of the Year: Clara Donnelly



Freshers Camogie Player of the Year: Marie Dargan

Profile: Clara Donnelly (Wexford)

Course? Criminal Justice

Nicknames? Cla

High Point in Sporting Career?

Minor B All Ireland final winner

Third Level Honours? N/A

Other Achievements?

Club Football: U12 div 1, U14 div 1, U16 div 1, U18 div 1.

Senior Championship Football winners and runners up

Division 1, 2 and 3 winners.

Leinster U14, Leinster Senior Blitz, All Ireland Blitz.

Leinster Schools, County Féile, All Ireland Féile.

Minor B Football - County and All Ireland

Fresher Player of the Year

County Football U12, U14, U16 and U18. Captain of U14 and U16 teams.



Other Sports? Soccer

Favourite Player To Watch Growing Up? Michelle Hearne

Favourite Cartoon As A Kid? Tracey Beaker

My Earliest Sporting Memory Is? Winning the All Ireland Féile

Funniest person in the WIT GAA Club is? Bridín Doyle.

When You Were Growing Up What Did You Want To Be? Guard

My Most Treasured Possession? family

Biggest Insult? Being mistaken for my sister

My Signature food dish Is? Spaghetti Bolognese.

Stranded On An Island, What Are Your 3 Essential Items?

Phone, laptop and mobile internet

Favourite book? The Notebook

WIT takes Men's A Singles 60 x 30 ICHA All Ireland Title



Ger McGrath representing Waterford Institute of Technology and playing out of Kells Handball Club, Co. Kilkenny won the Men's A Singles 60 x 30 ICHA All Ireland Title. The event was held in Kilkenny on the weekend of the 14th of October and featured many of the country's top big alley players. Ger came through a very strong field of players to take the title, he received a walkover in the first round and then defeated Niall O Connor (IT Tallaght) in the semi-final 15-9, 15-14. The greatest test was in the final as he came up against Martin Mulkerrins (UCD) who is the reigning Minor All Ireland champion and was a winner of two World Championship titles last year in America. Ger got off to a great start winning the first game 21-13. Mulkerrins then rallied to win the second game on the same scoreline 13-21 which left the match poised for a tie break. Both players showed great fitness with some excellent killing and retrieving with Ger coming out on top on a scoreline of 11-6 after a great battle.

Nicky Anthony representing WIT was unlucky not to take home the Open Title for a fourth year running when he was narrowly defeated by Fergal Collins (IT Tralee) in the Open final in two straight games. However he will take some consolation from winning the Colleges All-Ireland 60 x 30 team event a few weeks before which also included Patrick Funchion, Ger McGrath and Peter Funchion where they defeated DCU in the final.



Profile: Wayne Hutchinson (Waterford)

Course: Exercise & Health Year 4

Nicknames: Hutch

High Point in Sporting Career:

Anytime I put on the Waterford jersey.

Third Level Honours? WIT player of the year 2011, Hopefully a Fitzgibbon in 2013.

Other Achievements? 3 senior county championship medals, 2 Munster championship medals, Intermediate football championship, minor county championship medal, under 21 county championship medal, Granville hotel sports star (2011), Park Hotel sports star (2011).

Other Sports? Soccer, Gaelic Football, Golf.

Favourite Player to Watch Growing Up? Brian Lohan (Clare)

Favourite Cartoon as a Kid? Flintstones.



My Earliest Sporting Memory Is?

1992 Waterford winning under 21 All Ireland.

Funniest person in the WIT GAA Club is?

Pado. Always a good guy to be around.

When You Were Growing Up What Did You Want To Be? A Garda.

My Most Treasured Possession? iPhone for Twitter!

Biggest Insult? Being told I'm a full back only

My Signature food dish is? Sweet and Sour Chicken

Stranded On An Island, What Are Your 3 Essential Items?

iPhone, Toothbrush, Female Company

Stranded On An Island, Who Would You Most Like To Keep You Company? My dog Benj

Favourite book? Roy Keane's Autobiography

Toughest opponent? Tony Bolger (footballer)

WIT Women in Sport Night

On Tuesday 8th November 2011 WIT held an event called "Women in Sport" to recognise the outstanding achievements of the 22 students, both past and present, who won all Ireland medals in Camogie and Ladies Football in 2011. The event was held to recognise the high standard of sport in WIT, particularly among female students. Attendees at the event included the President of the Camogie Association, the President of Ladies

Football, the High Performance Director of Paralympics Ireland as well as WIT staff and students.

Addressing the large crowd in attendance, Mr Tony McFeely, acting President of WIT said: "Camogie and Ladies Football are minority (GAA) sports; however, the girls make the same commitment on the pitch and on the training ground as their male counterparts. The Institute is anxious to recognise and acknowledge their achievements. The success of our student athletes, the continued expansion of the sports scholarships programme and the ongoing development of the Carriganore campus will ensure that Waterford Institute of Technology remains at the forefront of Irish sport for many years to come."

Also in attendance at the event was Nancy Chillingworth, High Performance Director of Paralympics Ireland who have a partnership with WIT for the 2012 Paralympics. In her speech, Ms Chillingworth stressed the importance of females getting involved in sport: "Those of us involved in sport have a responsibility to promote what we do in order to encourage girls to participate early and continue to participate throughout their lives. It is essential that the elite athletes are supported as it is only through having appropriate role models and high aspirations that young girls will commit to engaging in sport and will experience the health and social benefits that come from that".



Past and present players that won All Ireland titles in 2011:

Wexford Senior Camogie Panel

Ciara Storey
Colleen Atkinson
Evelyn Quigley
Fiona Kavanagh
Helena Jacob
Josie Dwyer
Karen Atkinson
Kate Kelly
Katrina Parrock
Stacey Redmond
Ursula Jacob (Captain)

Wexford Intermediate Camogie Panel

Niamh O Connor
Shelley Kehoe
Stacey Kehoe

Waterford Junior Camogie Panel

Charlotte Raher
Jennie Simpson
Karen Kelly
Pauline Cunningham
Trish Jackman

Wicklow Junior Ladies Football Panel

Emma Sargent Kelly
Loretta Gilbert
Niamh Coleman

Freshers' Hurling: *So Close... Yet so far away*



WIT Freshers' Hurling panel 2012

The Waterford IT Fresher Hurlers were a shining beacon this year for the hurling section of the GAA club producing many top class displays whilst also reaching the semi finals of the All Ireland Freshers Championship where they lost out in extra time to a highly fancied UCC side.

As usual the league stages began with a lot of the teams missing players due to club commitments and the first game of the campaign was against UCD in Dublin. In a roller coaster of a game The WIT came out on top 2-13 to 2-12 which boded well for the rest of the year.

Victories against Carlow IT, DCU, DIT and St Pat's set up a league final against a much vaunted UCC side. Waterford IT tore into them from the off with Rhys Clarke, Gavin O'Brien and Stephen Maher leading the UCC defence a merry dance to gain a 1-6 to 0-4 lead at the break. As the heavens opened for the start of the second half UCC managed to grind out a 0-12 to 1-7 win.

A number of challenge matches took place after that against eventual All Ireland Colleges

Finalists Kilkenny CBS and Leinster Champions Kieran's College amongst a number of other teams.

These games set Waterford IT up nicely for their All Ireland Quarter Final meeting with Limerick IT played in Carriganore. LIT made use of the elements in the first half to gain the advantage, one which they held until a Rhys Clarke thunder bolt of a goal helped get Waterford IT back into to the game.

Extra time ensued with Waterford IT winning 4-21 to 1-18 but this victory proved costly with injuries to key players Stephen Maher and Cormac Heffernan.

The All Ireland Semi final proved to be an absolute cracker of a game played again at Carriganore with both sides revelling in the almost summer like conditions. UCC took the early initiative and were four points up at the break despite playing against the breeze and an early point in the second half put them further ahead.

However the men clad in blue, red and white were not about to lie down and produced some scintillating hurling to bring themselves back into the game and to draw level.

In extra time the lead changed hands several times and unfortunately for the WIT they happened to be behind at the end 2-20 to 1-25 in a game that will be remembered for years to come.

Unfortunately at Freshers hurling you only get one chance of winning it but I'm sure that if these players throw their lot in with the Seniors next September then the five to six year wait for the Fitzgibbon will be over as throughout the year they

distinguished themselves and WIT by their conduct both on and off the field.

In a sense that summed them up as they also displayed togetherness, skill, great heart and determination in adversity and that's the responsibility you undertake when you pull on that WIT jersey.

Freshers 1 Panel:

Dylan Walsh (Kilkenny), Stephen O'Neill (Waterford), John Whelan (Galway), Luke Hickey (Kilkenny), Damien Ahern (Waterford), Thomas Hammill (Tipperary), Ger Teehan (Kilkenny), Stephen Roche (Waterford, Capt), Matthew Holihan (Kilkenny), Gavin O'Brien (Waterford), Jason Bergin (Tipperary), Stephen Maher (Laois), Liam McGrath (Tipperary), Rhys Clarke (Wexford), Eoin Ryan (Offaly), Mark Fanning (Wexford), Dylan Murphy (Wexford), Cormac Heffernan (Waterford), John Hayes (Kilkenny), Jason Roche (Waterford), Josh Tobin (Kilkenny), Shane Seymour (Tipperary), Tom Doheny (Limerick), Eoin Burke (Laois), Kieran Cahill (Tipperary), Shay Dempsey (Kilkenny), Anthony Farrell (Kilkenny), Colm Kinsella (Wexford), Jordan Broaders (Wexford)

Freshers 2:

The Fresher 2's performed very admirably in the league. They had a challenge match against UCD to prepare for the league. They were a lot more competitive in their games in the league and were unlucky not to win a game in their group.

A massive improvement on last year with them gaining a fine victory over CIT in the quarter finals with 22 players toggled out for the game. However they suffered their own injury crisis prior to the UL semi final and a spate of early goals put paid to their hopes with UL boasting several inter county minor hurlers amongst their ranks.

However the participation level with this team is up hugely on last year and that has to be main aim for this group going forward in the short to medium term with an increase of game time being a priority for next year.



Rhys Clarke on the attack

Trench Cup

2012 REPORT

It was another year of close, but not close enough as our footballers reached the semi final stage in both the league and the Trench cup this year. This year saw the team coached by Gaultier man Martin O'Connor who admitted "that there is a strong base of players at WIT who have a championship in them without a doubt". The profile of WIT football has come out of the shadows of the success of the Fitzgibbon hurlers somewhat as the footballers are now among the challengers for the Trench Cup each year and the club aspires to be playing at the top level.

The league campaign began in defeat with a tough battle from Mary Immaculate College from Limerick. With the management team of Martin O'Connor, Paul Quirke and Emmet Doherty only on board a week this was always going to be hard even though we were at home. We lost the game by a point on a score line 1-10 to 0-12. There were huge positives to be taken out of it with strong performances from Shane Fox, Mark Molloy and Brian Rogers.

WIT senior men's football team next played the 2nd round of the division 2 league with an eleven point win over LIT in Limerick. In the shadows of Thomond Park WIT stormed into a ten points to two half time lead, with three points each from Kevin O'Grady and David Tone. There was no easing off in the second half as the boys in blue secured their first competitive win of the season and David Tone finished up with a six point haul with O'Grady scoring four points in the second half of this impressive display. WIT's fine performance ended with a score line of 0-19 to LIT's 0-8.

Next up was the quarter final of the league against UU Coleraine in St Margaret's GAA club outside Dublin. WIT were 2 points up at half time and were good value for that lead despite kicking some bad wides. In the second half the Coleraine full forward line were causing the WIT defence problems and we conceded two goals. With the game in the melting pot Kevin O'Grady and Brian Thornton popped up with 2 points each to win the game. Final Score WIT 0-13, Coleraine 2-5.

WIT went into the semi final of the league in good form but were very slow to get a handle on the game versus Trinity College Dublin. WIT were guilty of missing too many scores early in

play and soon found themselves six points to no score in arrears as Trinity packed their defence and hit WIT hard on the counter attack. WIT could only muster 3 points in the opening half while their Dublin opponents fired in 1-7 to give them a seven point half time lead. WIT scorers in the opening half were Kevin O'Grady (2 points) and Brian Thornton.

The second half saw Martin O'Connor's WIT side became a different animal and it was a bombardment from WIT; an early point from Brian Thornton and a super goal drilled home by David Tone set the second half up nicely. Trinity College Dublin did fire over three crucial points in the second half and although Brian Thornton and three Kevin O'Grady points were added before the end for WIT it was to be an agonising one point defeat. Although the team were disappointed at the end good performances from Ger Hally, Stephen Prendergast, James McGrath, Donnie Tobin, Sean Dalton and Kevin O'Grady. After the league displays, it gave management and players plenty of encouragement ahead of the Trench Cup after Christmas.

The draw was made for the Trench Cup in mid December, with WIT coming out to play Belfast Metro College (BMC) in the first round. We were all set to travel but unfortunately BMC were unable to field a team. This set up a meeting with Letterkenny IT after they accounted for Tallaght IT.

WIT got off to a great start with points from Cathal Coughlan and Kevin O'Grady edging them to a 5-3 point lead. The goal came early for the WIT team from Graeme Cullen who received the ball outside the 13 yard line and coolly finished into the bottom corner after good work from Donnacha Tobin and Mark Molloy. WIT always seemed to have too much in the tank and emptied the bench to keep the hard working pace going. Further scores from Liam McGrath, Stephen Burke and Kevin O'Grady wrapped up the win for WIT who would now play in the Trench Cup weekend for the 4th year in succession. Final Score WIT 1-13 to Letterkenny 1-7

In the Trench Semi Final it was a replay of the league semi final earlier on in the year which saw WIT face Trinity in NUIG grounds. WIT started off well with points from Kevin O'Grady and Cathal Coughlan. However WIT lost two key players early on through injury Graeme Cullen (calf) and Shane Fox (hamstring) and WIT never seemed to keep their shape after that. In the confusion Trinity took advantage and scored a top class goal which was the difference between the teams until the end of the game. Best performers on the day were



Brendan McGarr sets up an attack.

Donnacha Tobin, Sean Dalton, Shane Murphy, Brian Rogers and Kevin O'Grady. Final Score Trinity 1-10, WIT 0-10

Intermediate Football

The intermediate football team reached the Munster final in which they played UCC in the Mardyke Arena back in March. The team fielded a number of up and coming Fresher's along with current senior players. UCC were very strong with a number of senior inter county players in the squad. Wexford's Aj Lehan and Louth's Conor Smith representing the Fresher's and Pat Hughes from Carlow and Derek Butler from Wexford representing senior players were the standout players on the day. The UCC side were worthy winners with a score line of UCC 3-17 to WIT 0-16.

WIT Football has gone from strength to strength over the past number of years edging closer to success hopefully next year the squad will come back stronger and go on a step further than previous years and become Trench Cup winners in which their effort thoroughly deserves. With a number of Inter County players who are becoming the top prospects in the game the football club in WIT hopes to push for honours in the 2012-2013 season.

WIT Trench Cup Panel 2012:

Mattie O'Donnell, Brendan Redmond, Ger Hally, Stephen Prendergast, Shane Murphy, David Doyle Murphy, Shane Fox, James McGrath, Mark Molloy, Brian Rogers, Donnie Tobin, Emmet Malone, Graeme Cullen, Cathal Coughlan, Gary Ward, Sean Dalton, Kevin O'Grady, Liam McGrath, Stephen Burke, Brian Thornton, Bryan Barry, Caoimhghinn McDonnell, Derek Butler, Ger Dunne, Peter O'Hagan, Sean Foley, Shaun Kelly, David Tone, Luke Thomas, Fergal Brady, Brendan McGarr, David Grey.



WIT Trench Cup panel 2012

Fitzgibbon Cup Report

This years Fitzgibbon Cup promised to be a highly charged affair with a greater number of inter county players participating than ever before in all colleges. The competition, has long been the launching pad for many a player's inter county careers and will continue to be but this year saw a bigger number than usual of established inter-county stars in action as the number of players returning to achieve higher qualifications increased due to lack of employment opportunities in the current economic downturn.

Last year was the first time in a long time that saw the WIT team miss out on the semi finals which were held in WIT Sports Campus and despite being rank outsiders this year, a big effort was made to make it to Cork for the semi finals on the first weekend in March.



Shaun Murphy in possession

It was a disappointing autumn league campaign for WIT when, like many other colleges, fielded under strength teams due to players being committed to their club championships. For the Fitzgibbon, the squad included seven of the team that lost narrowly to LIT last year, namely Adrian Power, Noel Connors, Wayne Hutchinson and Enda Barrett in defence, midfielders Mark Molloy and Luke Harney and Tipperary senior Brian O'Meara in attack. WIT were going to go all out to make it to this years finals weekend even though they had been drawn in a qualifying group that included CIT and UCD this was always going to be a tight affair.

The opening round of the Fitzgibbon Cup campaign saw WIT travel to Cork IT. A thriller unfolded in Bishopstown. After a terrific first half showing by WIT they lead by five points at the interval. However, a scoring blitz just after half time wiped all WIT's first half endeavours.

WIT had the edge on the Leesider's in almost every area of the pitch in the opening half with the defence of Enda Barrett, Ciaran Haugh and Eoin Moore quashing all that came their way in the opening period, while some sharp shooting from Eoin Murphy raised a number of white flags for WIT. On the 18th minute WIT got a huge boost as Shane Walsh found space inside the fourteen and hammered the sliothar to the net. CIT could only manage three frees and a point from play in the opening half as the men in blue led 1-6 to 0-4 at the interval.

CIT sprung Colin Fennelly from the bench and his introduction stemmed the tide and with some more tactical changes it was the home side who took up the challenge. Paudie O'Sullivan fired home a goal within five minutes of the restart as CIT found their scoring touch. It was a combination of Fennelly's fine passing and Paudie O'Sullivan's deadly finishing that saw CIT raise a second green flag and combined with five points from Tommy Quaid and David Drake, the home side pushed in front 2-9 to 1-9 as the game was in its dying embers.

WIT battled heroically till the end but they were unable to breakdown their opponents which meant WIT had to beat UCD to go through to the 1/4 finals. Cork IT 2-10, WIT 1-11

The second group game was the winner takes all game against UCD. WIT started at an electric pace with Bernard Burke and Eoin Murphy registering points inside the opening minute. The visitors soon settled to the task however and imposed their physical strength on proceedings with Matthew O'Hanlon in particular providing a rock solid presence at full back. Noel McGrath fired over six points including a glorious sideline cut to keep UCD in contention despite playing against the breeze. The sides were level on five occasions in the first half with Eoin Murphy leading the UCD defence on a merry dance by posting seven white flags. On the stroke



Brian O'Meara (r) and Luke Harney (l) battle for ball

of half time however, UCD grabbed a crucial goal through Domhnall Fox after he was the first to react when Adrian Power blocked the initial strike. WIT were behind 1-7 to 0-8 to the at the interval.

On the resumption and four points on the trot left from UCD boasted a healthy six point lead. With elimination staring WIT in the face at this stage, the hosts responded strongly by firing over five points in a row including four from the stick of the mercurial Eoin Murphy. This set up a rousing finish but the home side couldn't find the equaliser in the closing ten minutes that would have seen them advance to the knock out stages. Instead UCD wrapped up victory with a couple of late points against the run of play. WIT 0-13, UCD 1-13.

WIT Fitzgibbon Cup Panel 2012: Aaron Kenny (Wexford), Adrian Power (Waterford), Bernard Burke (Galway), Brian O'Meara (Tipperary), Ciaran Hough (Tipperary), Conor O'Meara (Tipperary), Daniel Murphy (Dublin), Enda Barrett (Clare), Eoin Madigan (Waterford), Eoin Moore (Wexford), Eoin Murphy (Kilkenny), Jake Dillon (Waterford), James Dowling (Kilkenny), Joe Fennelly (Kilkenny), Joe O'Dwyer (Tipperary), John Cahill (Kilkenny), Kieran Hammersley (Tipperary), Kieran Joyce (Kilkenny), Luke Harney (Kilkenny), Mark Molloy (Wexford), Martin O'Donnell (Tipperary), Martin Power (Kilkenny), Maurice Power (Waterford), Michael Sheedy (Tipperary), Noel Connors (Waterford), Paddy Nolan (Kilkenny), Sean Cleary (Offaly), Shane Walsh (Waterford), Shaun Murphy (Wexford), Stephen O'Keefe (Waterford), Wayne Hutchinson (Waterford), Willie Dunphy (Laois), Stephen O'Keefe.



WIT Fitzgibbon Cup panel 2012

WIT GAA Scholarships 2012

WIT Clubs & Societies and GAA Munster Council presented 33 GAA student scholarships in 2012. These were split across all years and all GAA codes. The Munster Council sponsored 9 of the scholarships this year.

Role of Scholarship Awards

To attract athletes to WIT of outstanding sporting ability or has the potential to perform at a high sporting ability.

To provide scholarship athletes **the opportunity to develop their sporting career by offering a network of support services and expertise which is tailored around the specific needs of each individual athlete.**

To ensure athletes have an alternative vocation after their sporting career comes to an end.

To raise the profile and sporting performance of all sporting clubs within WIT, making them more attractive regarding funding and sponsorship, and in turn further help their development.

The programme provides services and benefits to all sport scholarship recipients in the following areas;

- Financial Support
- Academic Support and Mentoring
- Strength and Conditioning/Injury
- Management
- Sport Science Support (nutrition, sport psychology etc)
- Technical Support (coaching etc)
- Access to Medical and Physiotherapy Services
- Gym Membership

Athletic Performance Module

As part of WIT Sports Scholarship Programme, Scholarship Award recipients entering first year can be recommended to participate in the Athletic Performance Module. The athletic performance module provides the student with the necessary skills to enhance their athletic potential while attending college and pursuing their academic programme. Following the completion of the module, participants will be leaders in WIT within their respective sports on a national level. Student athletes will be provided the relevant tools to enable them to balance their sporting and academic commitments and achieve excellence in each

The scholarship recipients are outlined below:

Hurling

Bernard Burke, Galway
Dylan Walsh, Kilkenny
Enda Barrett, Clare
Eoin Madigan, Waterford
Eoin Murphy, Kilkenny
Gavin O'Brien, Waterford
Jake Dillon, Waterford
Kieran Haugh, Tipperary
Kieran Joyce, Kilkenny

Hurling continued

Luke Harney, Kilkenny
Noel Connors, Waterford
Ray O'Brien, Waterford
Stephen Maher, Laois
Stephen O'Keefe, Waterford
Tommy Kavanagh, Tipperary
Wayne Hutchinson, Waterford
Willie Dunphy, Laois

Camogie

Denise Gaule, Kilkenny
Jean Brady, Kilkenny
Katie Power, Kilkenny
Katrina Parrock, Wexford
Michelle Quilty, Kilkenny
Patricia Jackman, Waterford
Sarah Anne Fitzgerald, Laois
Shelly Farrell, Kilkenny

Gaelic Football

Fionn Dowling, Kildare
Liam McGrath, Tipperary
Mattie O'Donnell, Tipperary
Shane Fox, Limerick
Stephen Prendergast, Waterford
Ladies' Gaelic Football
Clara Donnelly, Wexford
Donna Berry, Kildare
Marie Dargan, Kilkenny



Munster Council Scholarships 2012

WIT Intercounty Men's Footballers 2012

Donnacha Tobin (Meath):

The Blackhall Gaels club man has been a very important player for WIT men's football team throughout his four years in the college. Earlier this year he made his Meath Senior Debut in the League and was a vital member for the Royal County going into this year's championship. Comfortable as a back as he is a forward has been noted for his driving runs through defences.

Mattie O'Donnell (Tipperary):

A native from Killenaule who has been a member of the Tipperary Senior football team since 2009 in which he has been an ever present player in the goal keeping position. Long range kick outs and shot stopping are his forte along with organising a defence under pressure.

Cathal Coughlan (Carlow):

A hard working half forward that hails from the Naomh Brid club in Carlow. He is comfortable kicking off either side and is a top free kicking marksman in the game who never shy's away from a scoring opportunity.

Sean Culleton (Wexford):

A tight corner back who never gives an inch that has broken into the Wexford team through his performances with his club in New Ross, Geraldine O'Hanrahans. He excelled for the college in either full back or corner back position this year.

Liam McGrath (Tipperary):

An All-Ireland minor winning captain with Tipperary in 2011 who has also been called up to the senior squad this year. A hard working forward who leads by actions and puts the team first. Was a dual player competing for WIT in both codes in the 2011-2012 season.

Fionn Dowling (Kildare):

He has been a member of the Kildare panel for the past two years, who has a bright future ahead of him in the game. A very accurate corner forward that has been noted to get the crucial scores in the big games.

James McGrath (Waterford):

A Dungarvan native who has filled the half back position with distinction over the past couple of years in the college. He also has been apart of the Waterford Senior team for the last year after strong performances for WIT in the Trench cup.

Kevin O'Grady (Wexford):

The pacey corner forward who plays club football with St. James club in Wexford and has been a member of the Wexford senior panel for the last two years. He was a very important talisman for the Trench footballer's this year as he finished as top scorer.

David Tone (Westmeath):

Has been a member of the Westmeath panel as of from this year. David is a reliable corner forward but missed out on the Trench cup weekend through injury unfortunately.

Those were the DAYS

Archive photographs over 30 years of the WIT GAA Club



Div. 1 Hurling, 1987



Div. 2 Hurling, 1984



Ashbourne Cup, 1999



Div. 3 Hurling, 1983



Ashbourne Cup, 2001



Div. 1 Ladies Football, 1989



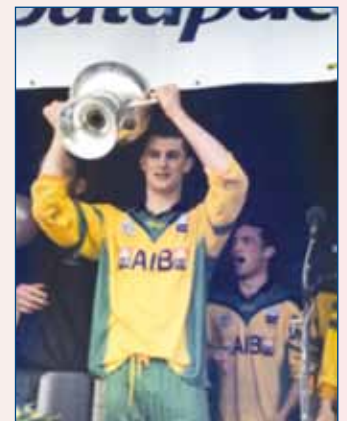
Div. 2 League, 1985



Fitzgibbon Cup, 1992



Purcell Cup, 1992



Fitzgibbon Cup, 2003



Ladies Football trip to the US



Purcell Cup 1990



Fitzgibbon Cup, 2000



Ashbourne Cup 2012



Intermediate Hurling 2011



WIT GAA Football trip to San Francisco 1989



Ashbourne Cup 2009



Ladies Football 1989



Football Champions 1985



Fitzgibbon Cup 2004



We did it!



Ashbourne Cup 2011



Sigerson Cup panel 2000



Fitzgibbon Cup 2006



Giles Cup 2011



Fitzgibbon Cup 2008



Ashbourne Cup 2010

Junior Hurling Report 2012

The WIT junior hurlers started their campaign against CIT in mid November on WIT's 3D pitch in WIT Sports Campus. This was a very open game with some well taken scores from both sides none more so than WIT's Brian Staunton and Leo Curtin. An even contest throughout with both sides exchanging scores for the full sixty minutes thankfully WIT came out on top on a score line of 4-11 to 3-17.



WIT Junior Hurling panel 2012

starters even made matters more difficult for the lads. A strong start from UL made it an uphill battle for the lads from the outset and throughout. In difficult circumstances the lads continued to battle hard with some excellent moments coming from Captain Andrew Kavanagh and leading forward Kieran Bergin. Unfortunately UL's dominance was far superior to ours and they were good value for their win in the end. The club would like to thank Kieran Hammersley and Alan Roche for their management and guidance throughout the year.

WIT Junior Hurling Panel 2012: Derek Deegan, Damien Kavanagh, Kevin O'Brien, Paul Doran, Gavin Mansfield, Andrew Kavanagh, James Murray, Leo Curtin, Stephen McKeon, James Doyle, Kieran Bergin, Derek Butler, Daryl O'Gorman, JP McGrath, Mark Gorman, Nathan Nangle, Liam O'Hara, Darren Duggan, Brian Staunton

WIT's second game saw WIT face LIT – Tipperary. This game wasn't as free flowing as the first one however it was very tightly contested between two very even sides. A poor start from WIT had them chasing the game from early on. However WIT put together a strong period of dominance in the second half spear headed by Kevin O'Brien in defence and Stephen McKeon up front. This period of pressure proved not enough for the lads as they were defeated narrowly on a score line of 4-12 to 2-12.

Their final game saw them in a Munster final against UL down in Limerick. This would prove to be a very taunting task for many of the players travelling to Limerick facing a very strong UL outfit also missing some regular

GAA Counties explained in Soccer terms

Antrim
Macedonia, disgusting looking jersey
Armagh
Italy, seemingly the best about, look good in their tight fitting jersey, yet never seem to quite reach their true potential
Carlow
Liechtenstein
Cavan
Hungary- old masters
Cork
Germany - always seem to be there or there about
Clare
Austria (better at other sports)
Derry
Czech Republic

Donegal
Denmark, good for a while in early 90's, still handy
Down
Croatia, always threatening to do something
Dublin
England, overhyped media-darlings, underachievers
Fermanagh
Cameroon, going on a run against the odds
Galway
Argentina, have had some classy players and teams over the years
Kerry
Brazil- enough said
Kildare
Belgium- good, not that good though

Kilkenny
Canada- stick to the stick sports
Laois
Portugal- will the golden era ever amount to anything?
Leitrim
Iceland
Limerick
Latvia- a few good performances, but still not too good
Longford
Northern Ireland, just not that good
Louth
Malta- size matters.
Mayo
Spain- how have they not won more?
Meath
Nigeria- a tough team.
Monaghan
Scotland- could beat anyone, could lose to anyone

Offaly
Russia, can be dangerous.
Roscommon
Albania, deprived of resources
Sligo
Israel- can be tricky
Tipperary
Liberia, relied on one man for too long
Tyrone
France- great individuals
Waterford
Kazakhstan- whipping boys
Westmeath
Bolivia- not a bad team, but have lived in the shadows of great neighbours
Wexford
South Korea- are they better than we think?
Wicklow
Albania, rugged country will give anyone a run at home!

Profile: Matthew O'Donnell (Tipperary)

Course: BBS

Nicknames: The Swan

High Point in Sporting Career:

2006 minor all Ireland hurling, 09 national league football

Third Level Honours? Fresher all Ireland 08

Other Achievements? Knowing the German alphabet, 4 different languages and counting backwards from 1million

Other Sports? Soccer

Favourite Player To Watch Growing Up?

Johnny Dooley, DJ Carey, Roy Keane

Favourite Cartoon As A Kid? Turtles



My Earliest Sporting Memory Is?

94 World Cup - Ray Houghton goal or the Brazilian ladies beach volley ball (yum)!!

Funniest person in the WIT GAA Club is?

Mark "The Mexican" Molloy

When You Were Growing Up What Did You Want To Be? F1 driver (some say I can achieve this in d Primera) ha

My Most Treasured Possession? iPhone

Biggest Insult? Too many to mention

My Signature food dish Is?

Bacon and cabbage white sauce, new potatoes(boom)

Stranded On An Island, What Are Your 3 Essential Items?

Shower gel, fresh underpants and The Irish Examiner paper!

Stranded On An Island, Who Would You Most Like To Keep You Company? Eva Mendes

Favourite book? Ronan O'Gara Autobiography

WIT Intercounty Hurlers

Noel Connors (Waterford):

A man who hails from Passage East who has been the back bone of the Fitzgibbon Cup team for the past four years. Previously Noel has won an All-Star and a Munster Senior Hurling Championship with the Deise. Noel was captain of the WIT Fitzgibbon Cup team this year.

Brian O'Meara (Tipperary):

Brian has been a member of the Tipp Senior panel for the past 3 years picking up a Senior All Ireland medal in 2010. He has been one of the stand out performers the past year for the Fitzgibbon Cup team.

Wayne Hutchinson (Waterford):

A man who plays his club hurling with Ballygunner and is a strong candidate to be filling a backs position for the Deise this year. Wayne was unlucky with injury for this years Fitzgibbon cup campaign but will be an important player for next years team.

Gavin O'Brien (Waterford):

A Roanmore man that has broken on to the Inter-county scene with some fine performances in the league and has already made an impact in this years championship. A fresher this year with the college and is one of the up and coming prospects in the game.

Eoin Murphy (Kilkenny):

The Glenmore man has been a member of the Kilkenny Senior panel since last year and has already picked up a Senior All Ireland medal. An accurate free taking corner forward with WIT he will be hoping to continue his form into the summer months.

Kieran Joyce (Kilkenny):

The man with three Fitzgibbon Cup All Stars and an All-Ireland with Kilkenny which are just among a few honours he has achieved. Kieran has been a big part of Cody's plans this year due to his versatility as a player.

Bernard Burke (Galway):

Through his performances with WIT Fitzgibbon cup team earned him a call up to the tribesmen Hurling panel earlier this year. A man who possesses power as well as speed is sure to give a few corner backs trouble over the summer.

Enda Barrett (Clare):

A member of the Senior Hurling panel in Clare for the past couple of years along with representing WIT for the past 4 years with distinction. A local of Newmarket-on-Fergus has become one of the first names on the team sheet in the half back line this year.

Shane Walsh (Waterford):

Shane has been a huge addition this year to the WIT panel. His experience helped settle a lot of the younger players this year. He gives a target every time he plays. With his ball winning abilities and good eye for goal makes him a hard man to mark.

Stephen O'Keefe (Waterford):

Stephen is a top class goalkeeper who loves the one on ones. His puck outs hit the target every time and is a huge addition to WIT. He made an impression on this year's championship saving Waterford in a couple of games.

Willie Dunphy (Laois):

Willie is a versatile player that can play anywhere in the forwards. His ball winning ability along with his eye for a score makes him a huge asset to the WIT setup. A quite player who does all of his talking on the pitch.

Stephen Maher (Laois):

Stephen is another fresher that has being unlucky with injury this year. When injury free he is one of the stand out players of his age. His ability to carry the ball, set up scores and get goals makes him a dangerous player for the opposition.

Social GAA Games - Camán Abú and Peil Abú

Camán Abú and *Peil Abú* are the names of the Social and Recreational Hurling and Football games which were launched at this year's GAA Congress in Mullingar.

They were devised by the National Research Committee on foot of extensive trials which took place in Portumna (Hurling), and Sligo (Football) and at the Waterford IT . Sports Campus (Hurling and Football).

There has been a very positive response from participants who have derived a great sense of achievement, fun and enjoyment from their involvement.



Peil Abú participants 2012

Camán Abú is effectively a non-contact ground Hurling game which is played with a modified hurling sliotar.

The big difference between Peil Abú and Gaelic Football is that players wear tags and a player who is tagged (caught in possession) has to hand over possession of the ball to the opposition.

Teams can be made up of male and female players on the basis that each team has an equal number of female players on the field at the same time. Players should be over 16 years of age and participate at their own risk.

If any student is interested in playing or

becoming a ref etc, please call up to Conor Phelan in the GAA Office or email cphelan@gaa.ie to find out more.

Just for
FUN

*Make sure the goal is
covered all the time!*



Intermediate Hurling Report 2012

This year saw WIT enter the intermediate campaign as defending champions for the first time since 2004. With nine of last year's victorious team still available and mixed with some exciting freshers' from the previous year, a strong showing was expected from the Waterford outfit. In unfortunate circumstances the early exit of the Fitzgibbon Cup team at the group stages also gave an extra headache to the Intermediate management team.

WIT's first outing saw them against UCC in WIT Sport Campus. After 15 minutes of the first half it was an exchange of points from both sets of forwards with Daniel Murphy and Martin Power looking the most threatening from WIT with some well taken scores. However it was the Cork side who lead by five at the break. The second half saw them extend that advantage further with two early goals after the half time whistle. WIT had no response to UCC's pressure and playing against a strong wind in the second half saw UCC run out worthy winners at the end on a scoreline of 2-15 to 0-13.

The second game saw us pipped against CIT, opposition who we defeated in last year's final. Travelling to Cork we knew this would be a very tough game as they would be seeking revenge from last year's final defeat also playing them in their own back yard would prove another pivotal factor. CIT started the game with a flourish, scoring four unanswered points in a row from a very formidable looking full forward line. WIT got a small foot hold in the game halfway through the first half with commanding displays from John Ryan and Fintan Mullins in midfield. CIT'S dominance in the second half continued with some excellent long range shooting. WIT pulled a goal back late in the game thanks to a well taken 21 yard free from Tommy Kavanagh however it proved too little too late. The final score showed a victory for the Cork side.

After a poor showing in the group stages of the competition saw themselves WIT drawn against a highly fancied UL side in the quarter final. This would prove to be one of the most difficult draws as UL had showed some excellent form coming into the game. With the aid of a very strong breeze

UL started the brightest with some well taken points from all six attackers. However WIT showed some excellent character in the second half with excellent defensive displays from John Cahill also at the other end Willie Dunphy was showing strong with a brace of points. Unfortunately the lead in the first half was too much to claw back for the Waterford men and UL advanced to the semi final. The panel would like to say a special thanks to Alan Roche and Tommy Kavanagh for their time and effort throughout the year.

WIT Intermediate Hurling Panel 2012: Kieran Hammersley, Maurice Power, Brian Byrne, Joe Fennelly, Aaron Kenny, Matthew O'Donnell, John Cahill, John Ryan, Lorcan Mulhearn, Tommy Kavanagh, Martin Power, Conor O'Meara, Daniel Murphy, Willie Dunphy, Padraic Gahan, Derek Deegan, Kevin O'Brien, Leo Curtin, Fintan Mullin, Liam O'Hara, Kieran Bergin, Stephen McKeon, J P McGrath, Mark Myler.



Martin Power heading for goal



Daniel Murphy sends the ball over the bar

Profile: Gavin O'Brien (Waterford)

Course: Business

Nicknames: Not any that I know of anyway

High Point in Sporting Career: Winning intermediate championship with club 2010, unreal!

Third Level Honours?

None yet: hopefully a few in the years to come

Other Achievements? Munster Minor Championship 2009 and captain county 2011

Other Sports? Small bit of soccer, 2 left legs though

Favourite Player To Watch Growing Up?

Ken McGrath and Brian Whelan.... 2 legends

My Earliest Sporting Memory Is? Waterford being beaten by Clare in the Munster final 1998, should have won that one.

Funniest person in the WIT GAA Club is?

Has to be Eoin Burke, some man for a song after a bottle of Stella!!



When You Were Growing Up What Did You Want To Be? Wanted to be a commentator, would have got many a tip off Burke!

My Most Treasured Possession? Computer.... lost without it

Biggest Insult? Being branded as a Kilkenny man, horrible insult!

My Signature food dish Is? Steak chips and a drop of pepper sauce

Stranded On An Island, What Are Your 3 Essential Items? Computer, tv and phone would be grand.

Stranded On An Island, Who Would You Most Like To Keep You Company? Fresher panel and management - top men!

Favourite book?

Roy Keane autobiography, one of the only books I ever read and enjoyed.

Freshers' Football Report 2012

winners would go on to convincingly win the semi final and final by double scores. This group of players showed a tremendous attitude and commitment to the GAA club this year and no doubt a lot of these will make the step up to the college senior team in the coming years. League game included Mary Immaculate, CIT, LIT and UCC. While challenge games were had against UL, Rathgormack, Good Counsel, Tipperary and Carlow Minors.

The first league game ended in defeat away to UL. In the team's first game of the year played in poor conditions but despite this strong performances were given by James O' Mahoney and Wexford duo AJ Lehané and Craig McCabe. The side suffered their second league defeat by the narrowest of margins at home to CIT. WIT seen both their keeper and full back retire through injury in the second half when momentum was with the home side. Strong performances came from Mark O Connor, Shane Walsh, Cian Gilligan, Liam McGrath and Martin O'Brien despite being on the losing side. WIT finally got off the mark at home to LIT, a strong start was required from the side which had been missing in previous games and the lads duly delivered. Spear headed by Tipperary All Ireland Minor winning captain Liam McGrath was had put 2-2 on the score board within ten minutes the lads never looked back. In defence Shane Walsh, Shane Farrell and Tom Eustace were shutting out and LIT attacks while McGrath, Sean Pailing, Mark O' Connor, John Horan and AJ Lehané were keeping the score board ticking over. UCC was the sides final game down in The Farm with qualification for a league semi final up for grabs if other results went their way. WIT recorded their second win with a 3 point margin. The lads got off to another flying start leading 2-1 to 1-0 within ten minutes however UCC fought back and WIT's lead was cut to 1 point at the break. Liam McGrath was the star of the show notching up 2-5 from full forward with James O Mahoney and Eoghan Quinlan also scoring 0-3 and

While silverware escaped the WIT fresher footballers this year further strides were made at this level within the college. Beaten by Mary Immaculate in the All Ireland Quarter final by 4 points, the

0-2 respectively. Shane Walsh, Cian Gilligan Martin O'Brien and Ciaran Byrne also delivered big performances for WIT in a hugely exciting game with WIT winning on a score line of 3-12 to 3-9.

With training over the Christmas break and a number of early morning sessions held leading up to championship WIT faced Mary Immaculate at home. WIT got off to a great start and were on top of their opponents for most of the first half. Leading by 2 points with 5 minutes to go before half time WIT were awarded a penalty, however the home side could not capitalise and went in at the break leading by 2 points. The second half seen Mary Immaculate come out in determined fashion, an early goal in the second half gave them momentum and their physicality and counter attacking style caused WIT huge problems. Limerick U21 footballer Pa O'Donnell was doing his best to get WIT back into the game while at the other end Niall Carolan was making a string up top saves to keep the home side in the game. Jimmy Kelly and Mark O'Connor and Sean Pailing were working tirelessly around the middle battling for possession while player of the Shane Walsh was doing his best to snuff out any Mary I attacks but despite battling until the very end they could not overcome an impressive Mary Immaculate side who were the eventual All Ireland Champions. It was a disappointing end for this group of players but great friendships and memories were made that will last a lifetime. The side was represented by a large Wexford contingent, and players from Tipperary, Limerick, Wicklow, Waterford, Meath, Louth, Cork, Kerry, Kildare, Clare and Carlow. A special word of thanks to Alan Malone, Sean Foley, Stephen McKeown and Mark Gorman for their help and advice throughout the year.

WIT Freshers' Football Panel, 2012: Niall Carolan, Ben Dunford, Cian Gilligan, Shane Walsh, Martin O'Brien, Shane Farrell, Jimmy Kelly, Ciaran Hearn, AJ Lehané (vice-captain), Mark O' Connor, Pa O'Donnell, Sean Pailing, Craig McCabe, Liam McGrath (captain), John Horan, Gerry Mora Kelly, Adam Roche, Tom Eustace, Barry Kennedy, Cathal McCongigley, Conor Smyth, Cormac O'Brien, Eoghan Quinlan, Ciaran Byrne, Frank McCarthy, James Graham, John Ahern, Kieran Furlong, Shane Enright, Denis Heffernan, Micheal Ryan, James O Mahoney, Kieran Furlong, Niall Byrne.



WIT Fresher Football panel 2012

Profile: Margaret Revins (Waterford)

Course? Exercise & Health Studies

Nickname? Mags, Mag

High Point in Sporting Career? Winning the 2011 Giles Cup with WIT Ladies Football Club, Playing with Waterford Ladies, Intermediate Munster championship in 2012.

Third Level Honours? Giles Cup runner up in 2010 and winner in 2011.

Other Achievements? Getting into Mason's in a tracksuit..

Other Sports? Anything! soccer, hurling, extreme gardening..

Favourite Player To Watch Growing Up? Cora Staunton

Favourite Cartoon As A Kid? Animaniacs



My Earliest Sporting Memory Is?

My brother bringing me off playing soccer, football and hurling with me

Funniest person in the WIT GAA Club is?

Mairead O' Connor..she's great for a rap battle!

When You Were Growing Up What Did You Want To Be? Taller...success!!!

My Most Treasured Possession? Pandora bracelet

Biggest Insult? Bad sportsmanship

My Signature food dish Is? Wild salmon on a bed of asparagus with a watercress dressing.

Stranded On An Island, What Are Your 3 Essential Items? Jacobs crackers, water, ball

Stranded On An Island, Who Would You Most Like To Keep You Company? Bear Grylls

Favourite book? "Come What May" by Donal Óg Cusack

WIT Intercounty Ladies' Footballers 2012

Donna Berry (Kildare):

A Kildare senior member for the past 4 years who has been selected as the lily whites captain along with Co-Captain of the WIT Ladies football team this year. She is one of the leaders within the group both on the field.

Marguerite Doyle (Wexford):

A tight defender who never gives an inch. She has the ability to create attacks from defence and always has the presence of mind to give the ball to the right player in position. One of the most down to earth girls who has been a great help in promoting ladies football in WIT.

Bridín Doyle (Wexford):

A sticky corner or wing back who makes it hard for any forward to score. She is a leader on and off the pitch and was the WIT Co captain this year for the WIT Giles Cup Team. Like her sister Marguerite, she was a Masters student playing both ladies football and camogie for the college, a true ambassador for WIT.

Clara Donnelly (Wexford):

Another standout player for the WIT team this year. Her forward minded thinking led to a lot of scores in this year's campaign. A half back that defends well and noted for getting a score or two. As only a fresher this year she has a big future ahead.

Noelle Connolly (Galway):

The Galway native had a great year in the WIT colours as her performances throughout the year led to her receiving the WIT Ladies Football player of the year award. Playing at full back she set up attack after attack while not giving her marker an inch.

Lorraine Keena (Offaly):

A dual star who also plays corner back for the Ashbourne cup team was a great addition to the team and helped the team reach the Giles cup weekend in Belfast this year. Her ability to read the game is second to none giving forwards a hard time.

Marguerite Revins (Waterford):

The Waterford native is a huge ball winner for WIT and Waterford. She is able to carry and control the ball ease setting up attacks from both mid field and the half forward line.

Loretta Gilbert (Wicklow):

Loretta is a player that every team needs; she works hard for the team, shes able to score at ease and a leader on the field. When she won the Junior Football All Ireland last year with Wicklow in 2011 she was one of the star performers.

Marie Dargan (Kilkenny):

Currently a member of the Kilkenny Football and Camogie panels another dual star that has an eye for a score. She contributed to some vital scores for the team in the big matches this year. Never seemed to be under pressure while she was causing havoc on the other teams defence as she was one of the top scorers this year in the championship.

Lisa Gough (Wexford):

Lisa has been a big addition this year. Her free taking ability has been second to none and her eye for a score makes her hard to mark. She made big sacrifices to get involved with the WIT setup this year which highlights the type of person she is.

Emma Sergeant Kelly (Wicklow):

Emma won a Junior Football All Ireland last year with Wicklow. She was unfortunate to get injured during the year which limited her playing time on the pitch. A fresher that will be a force for WIT over the next couple of years.

Catherine Doyle (Wexford):

Catherine has all the skills and abilities to be one of the best footballers in Ireland. Unfortunately with injury and college commitments we did not see enough of her on the pitch this year. When she plays she has pace to burn and can kick scores off her right and left foot.

Just for
FUN

Let go of my hand!



Profile: Katie Power (Kilkenny)

Course? Business Studies

Nickname? Power I suppose.. How original.

High Point in Sporting Career? Captaining the WIT Ashbourne team to the 4 in a row last year in our home pitch was a huge honour. Beating Galway in the Senior All-Ireland Semi final in 2009 to reach the Senior All-Ireland for the 1st time in 10 years.

Third Level Honours? 3 Ashbourne Cups, 1 Ashbourne League, 1 Fresher All-Ireland, 2 Ashbourne All-Stars.

Other Achievements? 1 Senior National League, 1 All-Star, Leinster Young player of the year, 3 Minor All-Irelands, 2 U16 All-Irelands, 10 Leinster titles (U14 to Senior), 2 Senior Inter provincial, 1 Schools inter provincial, 1 All-Ireland 'C' Schools title, 1 Junior county title.

Other Sports? Soccer and ultimate frisbee!

Favourite Player To Watch Growing Up?

DJ Carey and Ann Downey.

Favourite Cartoon As A Kid? Hey Arnold.. Go on the football head.

My Earliest Sporting Memory Is? Myself and my brother breaking nearly every window in the house playing hurling. That slipper was an awful thing!



Funniest person in the WIT GAA Club is?

Denise 'can you bring me back some chicken' Gaule, she's going to kill me! Mark Molloy with his 'serious banter' and 'lads yer raw women' The crossbar challenge queen herself Aine Doran. And not to be leaving out Nicki Minaj.. Oh sorry I mean Shelly Farrell.

When You Were Growing Up What Did You Want To Be? I really wanted to be in the Spice Girls.

My Most Treasured Possession?

My helmet my GHD, my 'touchscreen' phone.

Biggest Insult? A woman once asked me where in Wexford was I from because I had a strong accent.. I wasn't impressed.

My Signature food dish Is? CEREAL.. Yum.. Awh lads that was unreal, yea Saf your line is in Sidelines.. What of it..

Stranded On An Island, What Are Your 3 Essential Items?

Suncream, as I wouldn't want to be out tanning anyone, Hurley and a ball. The WIT Camogie team, never a dull moment J

Stranded On An Island, Who Would You Most Like To Keep You Company? David Beckham, just for the conversation obviously.

Favourite book? The Hunger Games.

Donna's *done it all*

The Waterford IT ladies football team have been fortunate to have one of the top ladies footballers in the country – Kildare star Donna Berry – among its ranks over the past four years.

The holder of a sports scholarship since 2008, Donna has just completed her BBS (Honours) in Recreation & Sports Management course and is eager to further her education at WIT. Donna hails from the village of Grangenolvin (Grange), which is situated just outside Athy.

"I've learned so much from both a football and academic point of view in the last four years and have made some wonderful friends from all over the country. It's brought me on so much as a footballer. The standard of football at third level is higher than club level and just a little bit under inter-county. You're playing against the best players, and that can only improve your game.

"I would have no hesitation in saying that playing with Waterford IT has been a huge asset to me as far as my football career is concerned."

For Donna, who won an All-Ireland junior medal with Kildare in 2004 and has represented Leinster in the inter-provincial series, 2011's historic Giles Cup triumph ranks alongside anything she has achieved in the sport. Donna was one of Waterford IT's star performers as they defeated IT Tralee on a 1-8 to 1-6 score line at University of Limerick to make amends for their 2009 final loss.

"Winning the Giles Cup was the best experience ever," she fondly remembers.

"I captained Waterford to win an All-Ireland Freshers title in 2009, but the Giles Cup success was special. We had girls from Wexford, Waterford, Kilkenny and other parts of the country who gelled together very well and who showed fantastic courage when Tralee threw everything at us in the second half."

Donna is fulsome in her praise of the coaches who have helped her to fulfil her potential at Waterford IT.

"Robin Croke was over us for the first two years and he was absolutely brilliant. He was also a selector last year (2010-2011) when Noel Holohan from Wexford managed us to the Giles Cup. Noel managed us again this year with Peter McKenna as his assistant. And I have to say Conor Phelan has been a great help to the ladies club since he became GAA development officer at the college."

An only child, Donna cites her late grandmother Betty O'Brien as having the

biggest influence on her sporting career.

"My parents were both keen sports fans when I was growing up, but my Granny Betty was probably most responsible for instilling my love of the GAA in me. She used to tell me stories about playing camogie for Kildare in Croke Park and how she used to cycle up to Dublin on the morning of a game and cycle home afterwards. It was only after she passed away in 2008 that I discovered everything she said was true!"

Even though Donna has been playing football since the age of six, she didn't play for her local club Grangenolvin until she was 13.

"I started out with the Grange U14 team," she remembers.

"They had only founded the club a couple of years earlier, so I've been nearly there since ladies football first started in Grange. We've had a lot of success since then and I consider myself very lucky to have been part of the successful teams we've had in the club."



Donna powers forward

Donna quickly progressed through the ranks and was part of the Grange team that won both the Kildare and Leinster junior championships in 2001, but lost the All-Ireland final to Rockban of Cork. She has since garnered eight Kildare senior championships, four Leinster championships and one intermediate championship, as well as nine league medals (eight Division 1 and one Division 2). In addition, Donna has received the Kildare Young Player of the Year award on three occasions – 2000, 2005 and 2006.

Her most recent success with her club came last year when they defeated Maynooth to



Donna in action against IT Tralee

lift the intermediate championship crown and regain their place in the senior ranks after a one-year lapse.

Donna first represented the Lilywhites at U14 level and has since lined out for the county U16, minor, junior and senior teams. She was only 17 when she came on as a substitute to help Kildare win the All-Ireland junior title at Sligo's expense in 2004. Also the holder of National League Division 2, Leinster U16 and junior, and All-Ireland U14 Blitz honours, Donna's long service to her county was rewarded last year when the captaincy was bestowed upon her.

Selected for provincial duty in 2008, 2010 and 2011, Donna's biggest regret to date is not winning a Leinster senior medal with the Lilywhites. This year their interests were ended at the quarter-final stage by Dublin.

"It's disappointing to think that we haven't really built on our All-Ireland junior win in 2004. Because there was no intermediate championship at inter-county level at the time, we went straight up senior where we've been ever since. But much to our frustration, we haven't managed to crack the Leinster championship so far. We've reached three finals, but have come up short in all of them.

"There's a group of us still there from the time we won a Leinster U16 title together, and we're not getting any younger. Hopefully, the breakthrough will happen soon," says Donna, who was joined on this year's Kildare panel by her club-mates Brianne Leahy (a two-time All Star), Kate Leahy and Suzie Byrne.

Despite the disappointment of their early Leinster championship exit at the hands of Dublin and their relegation from Division 1 of the National League last spring, Donna and Kildare have no intention of giving up on their Leinster dream.

"We won't be happy until we win a Leinster title. That has been the goal since I first came onto the team. We have a very good management team in John Divilly (Galway's 1998 All-Ireland winning centre back), David Hughes, Mark Hogarty and Joe O'Donoghue, and we'll keep at it for as long as it takes," the south Kildare girl concludes.

Giles Cup and Ladies Football Report 2012

*Future of WIT ladies football in
safe hands of new players*

WIT ladies football teams had a very impressive year, while Giles Cup and Donaghy Cup All Ireland success eluded the girls in blue and white, a Munster title and impressive league campaigns give huge hope for the future in what is the most played GAA sport for ladies in colleges across Ireland.

The season began in early October with WIT putting two teams into action in Division 2 and Division 4 of the leagues. The division two side which was a mixture of youth and experience got their season underway with a dramatic last minute win over Cork Institute of Technology on the Astro pitch in Carriganore. However this result was quickly followed by defeats in exciting battles with Mary I from Limerick and Tralee IT who were fired up to seek revenge for some tough battles in the 2010-11 season.

However the league season was not a complete loss as the force that became the Division 4 team which was backboned by first year students gave the management hope for some serious stars of the future. Although they suffered an early defeat to UL in Limerick 6-15 to 2-7, from there they turned in a fantastic league campaign with four wins on the trot, two wins in the group over Limerick IT and Mary I, before beating the Royal College of Surgeons in a bizarre game in Carriganore. This saw WIT cruising at half time before easing off and allowing the Dublin side close to within a point. Eventual success in that game sent the girls on the road again for the quarter final where a determined defensive showing saw WIT defeat NUI Galway in Portlaoise by 3-5 to 1-9.

The semi final pitted WIT against UL in a repeat of the opening round fixture and another fine defensive display saw the sides draw in a fantastic game on the new Astro surface in Limerick on a 3-8 to 1-14 score line. The replay the following week saw UL claim the final spot on a 3-12 to 3-6 score line.



After the league campaign finished the players were assembled to begin serious championship preparations prior to the Christmas break and before exams. Rejuvenated from the festive holidays WIT ladies football team assembled for a two day training camp in Carriganore and it was clear to be seen by the attendance that the hunger for championship success was in WIT once again. Running the hard yards, working in the gym and developing the skills of freezing temperatures in Tramore hardened and bonded this group of players ahead of the Giles and Donaghy Cup campaigns.

In February the Giles Cup defence got underway in St Patrick's College Drumcondra, and on a soft pitch in fine sunshine the championship buzz hit WIT in fine style as WIT recorded a 2-13 to 0-5 win over the home side, with Noelle Connolly and Clara Donnelly excelling in the game, and Sarah Healy also punched the air in triumph after a fantastic penalty save. This game cost WIT however as joint captain Brídín Doyle and fellow team mate Loretta Gilbert suffered injuries and were sidelined for a number of weeks.

The only home game of the group saw Maynooth roll into town. On a night when little went right for WIT from the start with goal keeper Sarah Healy breaking her finger in the warm up, WIT were blown apart by a rampant Maynooth side who went home smiling with a 7-12 to 3-7 win under their belts and also a place in the semi finals.

Two weeks WIT had to shift their efforts up a few gears and a south east Derby with Carlow IT set the pulses racing again as Patricia Jackman made her debut in goal for the Giles Cup team with a fine performance, Noelle Connolly, Marguerite Doyle, Clara Donnelly, Donna Berry, Marie Dargan and Lisa Goff putting in good performances in a 6-7 to 3-9 win that guaranteed a semi final spot and a trip to Queens University Belfast for the Giles Cup weekend.

Once again Maynooth provided the opposition and once again it was the girls in yellow that prevailed in a fantastic game of ladies football. WIT trailed narrowly at half time and on the resumption a goal for WIT plus some points gave them a four point lead, but missed scores and bad luck saw the tide swing back to Maynooth who advanced to the final on a 2-14 to 2-8 score line.

Defeat is always hard to take in any sport but the dressing room afterwards was like a sunken battleship with dreams and hopes crushed, despite an amazing effort by everyone. Taking defeat on the chin and standing together however, is one thing ladies football in WIT is proud of, and speeches made in the dressing room that day and bounds and promises made will hopefully be seen in 2012-13.

The Donaghy Cup team was making steady progress in the early round of the

championship beating Mary I 2-7 to 3-3 away in the first round and then an 8-10 to 1-7 win over Tralee IT sent WIT into the Munster Final. Mary I were the opposition again and this time WIT cut loose in impressive fashion on a sunny afternoon in Carriganore as Maria Delahunty, Sarah Anne Fitzgerald, Orla Boggan, Triona O'Donnell and Lorraine Keena were among many stars in a first ever Munster title in a 5-11 to 3-3 win.

There was to be more heart break in the All Ireland semi final as Marino College from Dublin came to town with an experienced, well drilled side and they stunned WIT in the opening half to storm into a 13 point lead. WIT regrouped with the wind in their backs but could only close the gap to the minimum one point defeat and one feels if five more minutes had been played it would have been an All Ireland decider in store.



The Donaghy Cup success and also a fantastic showing in the Freshers All Ireland seven a side in UL, showed the real success of the 2011-12 season. Where a huge talent of fresh players came on the scene, and the lessons they have learned from departing final year students in 2012, will set them on the road ahead. They have now been handed the mantle of keeping WIT at the top in ladies football in the years ahead.

WIT Ladies Football Panel 2012: Aisling Murphy, Amy Ryan, Aoife Dillane, Aoife Tormey, Brídín Doyle (Giles Cup Joint Capt), Catherine Doyle, Claire Hutchings, Clara Donnelly, Danielle Downey, Donna Berry (Giles Cup Joint Capt), Eimear Bryant, Eimear O'Sullivan, Elaine Moore, Emma Sergeant Kelly, Julie McCarthy, Kellie Kearny, Kellie Mullan, Lisa Goff, Loretta Gilbert, Lorraine Keena, Louise Dickenson, Maeve O'Keefe, Mags Revins, Mairead O'Connor, Marguerite Doyle, Maria Delahunty, Marie Dargan, Niamh Arthur, Noelle Connolly, Orla Boggan, Pamela Martin, Rose Anne Keogh (Donaghy Cup Capt), Sarah Healy, Sinead Corcoran, Stephanie Beausang, Triona O'Donnell, Sarah Anne Fitzgerald, Collette Dormer, Ciara O'Neill, Ciara Dunican, Lorraine Cass.

NHCDC - The National Hurling and Camogie Development Centre

The National Hurling and Camogie Development Centre (NHCDC) based at WIT's state of the art Carriganore arena was set up as one of the primary initiatives outlined in the GAA's National Hurling Development plan published in February 2012. The fundamental purpose of this plan is to promote the game across all counties and improve the standard of hurling at all levels across the country. As outlined in the plan the NHCDC is one of the major innovations to be introduced.

This new and innovative centre, located on the Carriganore Arena in WIT, is responsible for consolidating and promoting research and development across hurling related areas e.g. Sports Science, Coach and Referee Education, Player Development. The Centre will also assist in the formulation of frameworks, which have regard for issues pertaining to the promotion and development of Hurling's traditional and non-traditional playing areas.

The National Hurling & Camogie Development Centre will also involve formalised cooperation between the GAA and An Cumann Camógaíochta as it is recognised by the Hurling Development Committee that there are mutual benefits involved and that the involvement of the GAA's sister organisation will only serve to increase the potential impact of the NHCDC.

The 5 core areas the NHCDC will be targeting and working in are:

- Participation
- Performance
- Research
- Health and Lifestyle
- Applied Lifelong Learning.



One of the primary roles of the NHCDC in its current format is to provide Sports Science support to the developing counties. This sports science support consists of strength and conditioning, diet and nutritional advice and games analysis. These services will be made available to counties or club by either visiting the centres base or through the specially commissioned NHCDC's Mobile Unit. Each year the GAA will nominate the counties which will be able to avail of the NHCDC's services in order to further there hurling development. It is also planned to develop Satellite centres with the NHCDC based at the Carriganore Arena functioning as the central hub for all activities.

For more information on how the NHCDC can be of benefit to your club or county contact via email at NHCDC@wit.ie.

Recent Awards PRESENTED TO WIT Students

Katrina Parrock (Wexford) – 2011 Senior Camogie All Ireland Winner
Louise Sinnot (Wexford) – 2012 Senior Camogie All Ireland and Leinster Club Winner with Oulart the Ballagh
Patricia Jackman (Waterford) – Camogie Poc Fada Champion 2009-2012
Patricia Jackman (Waterford) – 2011 Junior Camogie All Ireland Winner
Patricia Jackman (Waterford) – 2011 Junior Camogie All Star Award Winner
Loretta Gilbert (Wicklow) – 2011 Junior Football All Ireland Winner
Emma Sergeant Kelly (Wicklow) – 2011 Junior Football All Ireland Winner

Eoin Murphy (Kilkenny) – 2011 Senior Hurling League and All Ireland Winner
Kieran Joyce (Kilkenny) – 2011 Senior Hurling League and All Ireland Winner
Bernard Burke (Galway) – 2011 U21 Hurling All Ireland Winner
Liam McGrath (Tipperary) – 2011 Minor Football All Ireland Winner
Liam McGrath (Tipperary) – 2011 Minor Football All Ireland Man of the Match Winner
Brian O'Meara (Tipperary) – 2011 Munster Hurling Winner
Kieran Joyce (Kilkenny) – 2012 Senior Hurling League and Leinster Winner.
Eoin Murphy (Kilkenny) – 2012 Senior Hurling League and Leinster Winner.
Brian O'Meara (Tipperary) – 2012 Munster Senior Hurling Winner.
Thomas Hammill (Tipperary) – 2012 Munster Minor Hurling Winner.
WIT Camogie – 2012 Team of the Year at the Clubs and Societies Awards Night

WIT Patricia Jackman's record 4th successive Poc Fada title

The strongest field yet might have been assembled for the Poc Fada at Annaverna, Co Louth but it made no difference to Trish Jackman.

The 21-year-old WIT and Gaultier ace made light of the testing conditions to retain the title and capture an historic fourth in succession. She completed the course in 29 pucks.



WIT Intercounty Camogie Players 2012

Kristina Kenneally (Tipperary):

Following in the footsteps of her sister Rosie, Kristina has been the WIT number 1 on the Ashbourne cup team for the last 3 years. Her fine performances have undoubtedly helped the WIT team to reach the 4 in a row. So committed that she spent 5 hours in A&E on the night before the Ashbourne Cup final with a hand injury and still played in goal the following day as if nothing happened.

Ruth Jones (Kilkenny):

A Kilkenny native who had an excellent first year on the panel receiving an All Star for her performances over the Ashbourne Cup campaign. Never giving an inch is her motto and she lives by it to her markers misfortune. She is a player that has a big future ahead of her as she can play in a number of positions with ease.

Sarah Anne Fitzgerald (Laois):

Sarah Anne has been on the Laois Senior Team for the past 5 years and she has shown her strength and versatility by lining out in both attack and defence. She has been a rock at full back for the last 3 years and is one of the main reasons that the Ashbourne Cup team have conceded very little goals throughout this years championship. A true leader who would make any team in the country.

Lorraine Keena (Offaly):

Lorraine has been a member of the successful Offaly panel for the past number of years. Since arriving in WIT, Lorraine has shown her versatility by lining out in the backs and midfield. She has been a member of the successful Ashbourne Team four in a row team. Lorraine lined out in this year's final at corner back and showed great discipline and tight marking by not allowing her player get any score. This is a player you would not like to mark!

Patricia Jackman (Waterford):

The Gaultier native was awarded with an All Star along with player of the tournament for this year's Ashbourne competition. Playing at halfback her presence was always felt along with her free taking ability was a leading light for the team this year. She was a launching pad for the WIT attacks from the half back line. A girl who does all of her talking on the pitch.

Collette Dormer (Kilkenny):

She has won numerous medals while donning the Black and Amber. Collette is a leader on and off the pitch for WIT. Her performances in this year's championship were outstanding at centre back with not an inch spared. She has been one of the most consistent performers on the team over the past number of years.

Aisling Carroll (Tipperary):

Aisling was a huge addition to the panel this year as a fresher. She fitted in straight away into the Ashbourne team with her strong striking and her strength to win the dirty ball a huge advantage. This is another girl that has a big future ahead in the coming years.

Jean Brady (Offaly):

Jean has been a member of the Offaly panel for the last few years. Jean has been a revelation for WIT since coming on the scene last year. At midfield she has pace, work rate and scoring prowess and was a vital part of the Ashbourne success this year. Even though she got sick coming up to the finals weekend she showed true leadership off the pitch on the lead up to those big games by helping her teammates prepare.

Katrina Parrock (Wexford):

Since Katrina has come to WIT she has been one for the driving forces of the Ashbourne Cup team. In recognition of her outstanding performances she was awarded an Ashbourne Cup All Star 2012. Katrina has being a driving force for Wexford and was rewarded last year with All Ireland success and a Camogie All Star. She is a player that has natural skill levels that can win a game on her own.

Katie Power (Kilkenny):

This years captain playing in the full forward position in where she received an All Star for her performances in the weekend. A leader on and off the pitch, she rallied her team mates to win the 4 in a row. She has been the heartbeat of the club for the last number of years and never missed a training session this year even though she had knee surgery over the summer months previous.

Michelle Quilty (Kilkenny):

Michelle was also a member of the Kilkenny squad for the last number of years. Michelle's score taking and ability to make space for others with her vision was second to none. Playing anywhere in the forward line she has given a master class in attacking play on a number of occasions.

Shelly Farrell (Kilkenny):

Shelly is also a member of the Kilkenny senior camogie Squad. She has pace to burn and can play anywhere from midfield to corner forward. Her vision attacking play puts defences on the back foot every time she gets on the ball. Another fresher who has a big future ahead.

Marie Dargan (Kilkenny):

Marie is one of those players you don't want to mark as she is strong and fast, if she gets the ball in her hand she makes things happen. She has been outstanding all year no matter who she marked and a girl who always has a good word to say about everyone.

Denise Gaule (Kilkenny):

Denise is another member of the current Kilkenny Senior Camogie team and plays a pivotal role WIT's game plan. At full forward/half forward she has the strength, pace and skill to win games on her own. In recognition of her outstanding performances she was awarded an Ashbourne Cup All Star 2012.

Emma Comerford (Kilkenny):

Another fresher this year who slotted into the team seamlessly. Even though it was her first year on the panel she took over the free taking duties which just shows her character. Emma was WIT's top scorer in this year's champion.

Maggie Hogan (Laois):

Maggie is one of those tight defenders that as she reads the game so well giving forwards a hard time. She has made a huge impression since joining the panel last year for both the Div 1 and 2 teams. She was away for the first part of the year on work experience but can back at Christmas fit and made a big contribution to training.

Ann-Marie Lennon (Kilkenny):

This is a girl that slotted into the Ashbourne set up straight away even though it was her first year. She was a character who always kept everyone in good form! Playing in goal, she gave some great performances on the freshers team to win both the Freshers Southern Cup and the All Ireland Freshers camogie shield.

Just for FUN



Royals play Croker



Tipperary Rodeo

"The Hutch"

by Jackie Cahill

ELITE athletes will often tell you how they remember the ones that got away even more than the great victories. Wayne Hutchinson is no different and the 2010 Fitzgibbon Cup final defeat to NUIG still haunts him on a daily basis. That was Hutchinson's first year at Waterford IT and in the back yard of their opponents, a ninth Fitzgibbon Cup success beckoned as WIT led by 1-11 to 0-5 with 38 minutes gone. But inspired by Clare's John Conlon and Tipperary's Seamus Hennessy, NUIG came roaring back to force extra-time, before claiming a 1-17 to 1-16 victory. "I look back on that with regret," Hutchinson admits. "I think about it every day. We left that one slip big time. The following year then we're knocked out in the group stages and last year, knocked out again in the group stages. People think that just because WIT have a great history, you're going to be there every year but students now have to build their own team and not be looking back on past teams."

Hutchinson, 27, is preparing for his final year of Exercise and Health Studies at Waterford IT. Naturally, he's anxious to graduate but the Ballygunner clubman also wants to leave with a Fitzgibbon Cup medal.

He admits: "Before I came into college, Fitzgibbon wasn't even in the back of my mind. All I wanted to do when I came to college was just come to college and get through the exams. But then you get involved in the club and within the college and you start meeting lads from other counties. Before I came into college, I could never see the attraction of Fitzgibbon hurling, playing hurling in January and February. All I wanted to do was enjoy the pre-season stuff, go out and enjoy myself. But

it's a different identity to the club and county scene – you're playing with your peers. It has definitely brought me on, in leaps and bounds.

"Every player that you play against is either intercounty or on the verge of intercounty. The standard, compared to club hurling, would be very high. You're coming up against top intercounty hurlers from all the different colleges – UCD, UL, UCC, CIT, LIT etc. It's only going to bring you on."

Hutchinson, a member of the Waterford senior hurling panel, admits that balancing full-time studies with a hurling career can be a delicate act. But the summer holidays afford him some breathing space, to concentrate on intercounty and club commitments. He explained: "When you're training in the winter, preparing for National League and with college and exams in the back of your mind, it's hard to train and to focus in on it. But now that we're off for the summer, it's a release from the books but it won't be long coming around again. I've my final year coming up but I still have to leave WIT with a Fitzgibbon medal – that's a priority as well."

Hutchinson added: "Conor (Phelan, GAA Development Officer at WIT) and the management are very understanding about exams. You're never left under pressure with college work. But it all comes down to balance. "Then again, I'm that bit older. I'd like to think that I'm a bit more focused about my career, rather than just hurling. But I try to balance both if I can at all."

Hutchinson, who studied for a year at UL before applying for WIT, has this piece of advice for any young hurlers who may remain sceptical about the merits of third-level colleges hurling.

"I'd be saying to any young lad coming into college, stick the head down because Fitzgibbon is a serious competition to play in. As I said, I wasn't really into it before I came to college but now I wouldn't dream of life without Fitzgibbon hurling."

"Here in WIT, it's such a small college. The campus is small compared to universities across the country. We're all so close and the lads house together across the road in Templar's Hall."



And so many talented players have worn the WIT shirt with distinction through the years. Kilkenny trio Henry Shefflin, JJ Delaney and TJ Reid are still representing the Cats with distinction. Peter Barry was here too, as well as Michael 'Brick' Walsh from Waterford. And there's been a healthy Tipperary representation as Tommy Dunne, Eamonn Corcoran, Declan Browne and Colm Bonnar lined out for WIT. Bonnar, of course, was the mastermind behind a glorious run of success that was sparked by the 1999 Fitzgibbon Cup victory for Waterford RTC. And in nine seasons from 2000-08, WIT won the coveted silverware five times. Hutchinson, whose favourite position is right half back, would love to sample that winning feeling. A graduate of De La Salle College, he's won three county senior hurling championship titles with Ballygunner. But with typical hunger and honesty, Hutchinson isn't happy with that, explaining: "Ballygunner would be a big club in Waterford with great tradition. De La Salle came on and won two senior county championships. But they were able to go on then and win the two Munster clubs, while we weren't. You can have all the tradition you want in the world but it comes down to teams, wanting to win and going to the next level."

And he admits that he would love to make a big breakthrough with the Waterford senior hurlers – after missing out on the starting line-up for this year's championship. Hutchinson says: "Any player growing up wants to play with their county – I'm no different. I'm not happy with my progression with the county scene over the last few years. Hampered with a lot of injuries too, which hasn't helped. I've struggled since 2005 with different injuries – two hip operations, two groin operations. They take their toll as well but I won't give up until I make it, really make it at the highest level. Please God, my break will come sooner rather than later."



Just for FUN

Left: "You talkin' to me?" / Middle: Australian rules hurling / Right: "Tight" marking.



Trish Jackman

by Eddie Kirwan

There is no doubt that when it comes to Camogie, Waterford and WIT star, Trish Jackman is a national star. While at county level, Waterford may not be competing amongst the big guns... yet, one of their star names has certainly caught the eye of Camogie followers all around the county with her eye-catching displays for WIT in the Ashbourne Cup. On an individual basis, Trish has also made an impact when winning the Poc Fada competition in the Cooley Mountains on three occasions.

Trish told me how great it felt to win the Ashbourne Cup for the fourth time in a row this year; "There was a bit of pressure on us this year, hosting the tournament and I think until the final whistle in the final we didn't realise the amount of pressure we were putting on ourselves. It was a huge relief to get over the line. We really showed in the second half against UL, that when we got going, we were really able to go through them. I think UCD put it up to us on the Saturday and UL on the Sunday – we were level in both games at half-time. We really had to fight for it in the second halves and the whole squad showed their determination to follow through and get the two victories."

Of the four titles won in the last four years, the latest one would probably be the sweetest for the WIT girls, given that it was won on home ground in the resplendent WIT Sports Campus. Jackman certainly took great pleasure in winning on her own patch: "I suppose it was huge because the college has invested so heavily in the WIT sports campus and we have really benefitted from being able to train there. Prior to that, we would have been using various club pitches and it's not ideal. When you have your own field and it's of the quality that Carriganore is, you're able to train there every night. It was also nice to win there because of all the hard night's training that we had put in there during the year."



Trish powers forward to set up an attack

There is no question colleges GAA competitions will hold a special place in the hearts and minds of those who play in them. Friendships that are made on Ashbourne and Fitzgibbon fields are generally friendships that will last a lifetime and whatever is won with club and county, winning with your friends from college will always be special for those involved. It also gives players from so-called weaker counties a chance to compete at the very highest level of the game. As Trish herself puts it; "For a lot of players it's a way to test themselves against players from different counties. For myself, coming from what is not one of the stronger counties – we're getting there with Waterford at the moment, to be able to play with the likes of Katrina Parrock, Ursula Jacob a few years ago and Katie Power is just huge. When you look around and you see the likes of Sarah Anne Fitzgerald from Laois would get on any team in the country. It's a huge opportunity for players like that to step up and show that they can play on the same playing field as the girls from the bigger counties. There's huge spirit within the team as well and no doubt every season it does help that we are all studying together and get lunch together, which does create a great bond within the team."

I asked Trish whether winning Ashbourne Cups with WIT gives her great confidence when she goes back to playing with Waterford later on in the year; "It does. Ashbourne is a very unique competition in that it is played in the winter. It's hard to see how that transfers to the summer. It has softer pitches but it's huge to be able to show that you can play just as well as any girl from Cork, Kilkenny and Wexford. It's a huge confidence boost and also a reflection of the huge strides that have been made in other counties. There are players starting to make the breakthrough now and Ashbourne is certainly a stepping stone for those girls."

I put it to Trish that with the introduction of higher quality pitches such as the one in Carriganore that the gap between playing in Winter and Summer has narrowed; "Probably, Yes. It's a long season for Camogie players. People might not appreciate that. While a lot of hurlers would go on until March, we had Louise Sinnott going for



Trish delivers a long ball in the 2012 final

the whole year, with Oulart as well. That went until four weeks after Ashbourne and straight back into the club season as well. Camogie can be difficult because the same players are being pulled on all the time, with club, county and the college. But definitely I think with the quality of the pitches this year certainly, it has helped. We had our game against NUI Galway in the first round at home as well. We had three out of our four games at home and every time the pitch was in perfect order and while the weather might not have been the greatest, the pitch was always top quality."

As Trish already mentioned, the top players are being pulled from pillar to post with clubs, counties and colleges looking for their attention. I put it to her that with all this going on, it must be difficult to get any studying done which I suppose is the primary reason for being here in the first place; "It is difficult but that is where the management of Helena (Jacob) really comes into play because she really has a great relationship with all the players. She understands what they are going through, always willing to help and if there is ever a time when there might be a project due, she gives a hand. If you need to train at a different time to everyone else just to get something done, there is always a great understanding there. I think that is a huge thing with the management that we have this year, Conor, Ursula, Austin and Tommy. There is a great understanding there and while they are coaches as well, they really facilitate the players to maximise their ability and I think that is a huge thing both on and off the field. There's never a time when if you went to one of them they wouldn't help you out. That's a great help to the squad that if you ever have a setback, there is always someone you can call on."

As the WIT girls face into another year of studying and playing Camogie on the fields of Ireland, they will certainly be hoping to be able to make it five titles in a row and put themselves up there with the great UCC side of the 70s and the UCD team of the 80s who managed to win 6 in a row and 5 in a row respectively. However, with players and girls of the stature of Gaultier's Trish Jackman amongst their ranks, few would bet against WIT adding to their legendary status as the giants of the modern game.

Waterford Camogie Academy Launch at Carriganore

"The overall purpose of the academy is to promote participation and excellence in camogie within Waterford."

The Official launch of the inaugural Waterford Camogie academy took place in the WIT Sports Complex in Carriganore on Wednesday May 16th. Conor Phelan the development Officer of WIT was the compere on the evening and welcomed all in attendance on the evening to the WIT sports complex to the Launch of the Camogie Academy. He then went on to introduce the first speaker of the evening De La Salle's Joey Carton who is one of the founder members of this new initiative.

In Joey's speech he praised the efforts of Gaultier's Patricia Jackman and the Brickey's Brendan Donnelly who came up with the idea of the Academy initially. Joey went on to explain briefly the concepts of this great initiative, and explained that they are introducing the academy on a phased basis to include the County's U14 and U16 Squads which will include up to 60 players from around the County for 2012. In 2013 they hope to have the County's U18 included followed 2 to 3 years down the road to develop the U13 and U15 squads as well. Joey explained that this academy will take place every fortnight with training sessions taking place from the end of May until the end of August. These training sessions will include the development of the different playing skills along with talks on both lifestyles and diet and nutrition of a camogie player. It is hoped that the academy will develop the underage player with the aim to identify at a later stage players to go on and represent the County as an adult player. The academy is also hoped to help County/Club managers/coaches to get more training for the coaching of girls to get the best out of them in the field of play. Also, the academy is hoped to help the County Board to develop the various County teams.

Joey also said that he is delighted to be involved with WIT and the National Coaching and development centre and its excellent facilities

made available to the girls. He said that its great to have such huge resources in personal in the college to help out in the academy and also to have Corks Mary O'Connor as support. In the financial aspect of the academy each player is expected to contribute €25 as well as having WIT and the Munster Camogie Council as sponsors. Joey also thanked County Board treasurer who was of immense help to the financial part of the academy.

The next speaker on the night was WIT's Sinead Nealon. Sinead welcomed all to the event and said that she was delighted to be associated with the academy and was delighted to have Waterford Camogie to be associated with the National Camogie and Hurling development initiative. She also said that this academy would be of great help to both the County and Club Camogie teams and wished everyone the best of luck with the programme especially Joey carton who was one of the main people to push for this programme.

Next up to speak and to officially launch the academy was Waterford County Camogie Board Chairperson Tricia McCarthy. She said in her speech that it was a fantastic initiative and that the County Board will be 100% behind the academy and commended all County Board Officers, Trainers and Munster Council for all their hard work in the development of camogie. She thanked all in WIT for all their support to Waterford camogie. Tricia then went on to pronounce the academy officially launched.

Since the launch of the Camogie Academy the squad took part in The James Hurley tournament camogie blitz held in Mallow on June 5th. The team recorded wins over Wexford, Limerick and Dublin and were narrowly defeated by Cork and can look forward to the summer tournaments with much optimism.



Waterford camogie players attending the Academy

Profile:

A J Lehane (Wexford)



Course? Ord. Bachelor Business Degree

Nicknames? Babyface, Adge

High Point in Sporting Career?

All- Ireland Féile winners medal in under 14

Third Level Honours?

Vice captain of football fresher's

Other Achievements? Playing with Wexford Youths and playing county football

Other Sports? Soccer, beer pong

Favourite Player To Watch Growing Up?

Brian Malone (club hero of mine) and Darragh O'Shea

Favourite Cartoon As A Kid? Pokemon

My Earliest Sporting Memory Is?

Dunno about earliest but reaching the mini world cup final in under 10 great atmosphere once I graced the pitch

Funniest person in the WIT GAA Club is?

John Horan had the whole bus in stitches that night coming home from Limerick

When You Were Growing Up What Did You Want To Be? An astronaut

My Most Treasured Possession? Contacts

Biggest Insult? Being told I can't bite my nails

My Signature food dish Is? Shepherd's Pie

Stranded On An Island, What Are Your

3 Essential Items? a jet ski , a ball and my phone for the casual chat

Stranded On An Island, Who Would You Most Like To Keep You Company?

The Megan Fox out of the Transformer film.



Waterford U14 camogie squad who train at WIT Sports Campus



Waterford Institute of Technology Sports Scholarship Programme

SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Financial Support
- Technical and Injury Management Support
- Access to **FREE** Medical and Physiotherapy Services
- Academic Mentoring and Support
- Strength and Conditioning
- Sport Science Support

**“DELIVERING SPORTING
EXCELLENCE IN THE
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The main aim of the WIT Sports Scholarship Programme is to give talented athletes the opportunity to develop their sporting career by offering a network of support services and expertise which is tailored around the needs of each individual athlete.

Closing date for applications is September 21st.



For Further Scholarship Information Contact:

Tel: 051-834132 or 302238

Email: sport@wit.ie

Web: www.wit.ie/sportrec