



Éire Óg Club Stories



Éire Óg stories is a new series where we will be chatting to members of the club and getting to know what makes Éire Óg special for them. First up is Ladies Camogie Player's Player of the Year 2019 – Bronagh Daly

What were your first GAA memories?



I grew up in Kilkenny and lived next door to the county secretary for the GAA. I regularly saw the Kilkenny jerseys drying on the washing line next door. In 4th class a teacher came to the school and decided the girls should also be taught hurling. I remember his frustration mostly but he persevered and brought us to matches. We got better and by 6th class we could beat a couple of the city teams but not one of the country ones. In secondary school I joined the team and I knew after the first session that I was way out of my league. There was no chance of making a team. I put my own stick down for almost 24 years and became a keen spectator.

What drew you back to Camogie after so many years?

In 2015, Angela, the camogie captain, told me she was setting up a camogie team in Éire Óg. It seemed crazy but she was very persuasive! I went down on the first night and was hooked. Since then I've tried not to miss a session. It has been incredible. I've met a fantastic bunch of women, from all around Ireland and beyond. Now I always have a couple of hurls with me where ever I go.

Tell us about the first game as part of the Éire Óg Team?

I remember our first game. The opposing team had called ahead to try and suss out what kind of a team we were in Greystones. They'd heard that there were two girls from Kilkenny! Marguerite and myself were delighted with that but they had nothing to fear! When the ref saw us, he shortened the pitch and as we failed to get the ball past the halfway line, he shortened the match too! We were delighted with ourselves. Our first match was over us. We'd never be as nervous again and we could only improve. You couldn't be anything but happy.

What keeps you playing?

For all of every game we play there is constant support and praise from the team. Even a missed ball would be followed with 'nearly!' 'So close!' 'Next time'. Five years later we're probably a little more constructive but the encouragement is always there.



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What's been the biggest highlight for you?



There have been many highlights but one was the shield final in Oct 2017. In the last minute of the game we were a point ahead thanks to a stunning goal from Angela. I was full back. I had a lump in my throat, focusing, willing the ball not to come near me. I can't imagine the final minute of the Tipp Kilkenny 2014 (first) final being any less intense for the players and spectators. Granted we had far fewer spectators but in the small gathering was my father, whom having lost his sight in 2014 had never actually seen me play. Angela's husband was giving the commentary. When the final whistle blew, I sprinted down to my teammates with tears flowing down my cheeks. It was incredible. The other highlight was sharing the award of player's Player of the Year for 2019 with Jo. I was so proud to get the award, particularly as the team had chosen it.

What are you looking forward to once we are back playing?

To say I've missed camogie would be an understatement. We had a great year last year with Jim and Ger. New players were joining us. The strength and conditioning classes with John had been great and I was feeling fitter and stronger and really looking forward to the new season and the matches ahead. Jim had sent the calendar – now the alerts pop up, another match missed. I can't wait to get back to all of it.

Ní neart go cur le chéile

There is no strength without unity

If you would like to nominate someone to tell their club story, please contact Olive Farrell (farrell.olive@gmail.com) or Daniel English (englishdaniel@hotmail.com).