



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



So, where are you living now and what are you up to?

Living in Brussels since 2008. Currently Head of one of the Irish translation units in the European Commission.

When did you play for the club and which teams were you on?

Unfortunately, I never got to play underage as there was nothing in place for girls at the time. When I was in primary school in St Laurence's the boys did have the opportunity to go out playing football with Con (the da), but the only thing on offer for the girls was knitting, and the occasional game of rounders if we were lucky. The first football team for women was set up by Oliver Leonard and Cecilia O'Neill in 1997 and my sister Míde finally convinced me to join in 1998. I played with the junior team until 2008 with a few breaks while living in Canada.

Did you have much or any success?

We were a motley crew for the first couple of years but progressed as time went on to make the junior county final three years in a row - 2006-2008. We finally won it in Aughrim in 2008.

Is there a particular match that stands out in your memory?

Definitely the county final of 2008. Well the match itself is a bit of a blur at this point in time, but I remember the nerves in the pre-match parade around the pitch in Aughrim and driving down Greystones main street in convoy after we won, en route to the clubhouse, flags flying and horns hooting. Most of Greystones hadn't a notion what was going on, but we were on cloud nine.

What mentors stand out who had a big impact on you?

Séamus Aherne for his dedication, commitment, and patience, and I always remember Billy Long having a chat with each player before matches, telling us all individually what our job was and getting us focused.

Have you played or been involved in Gaelic games at all since leaving the club?

I've been playing football in Brussels since 2009. I took up camogie in 2010, broke a few bones since but love it and captained the European camogie team in the World Games twice, winning the shield in the games in Waterford in 2019. I was on the committee of the Belgium GAA for about 11 years, Chair for two and was involved with the European county board as ladies football officer for two years also. I'm hoping I have a season or two left in me, if Covid restrictions don't scupper that.

Favourite teammate?

I always enjoyed playing with Míde (in both Greystones and in Brussels), making sure she did all the hard running, and having Maria O'Neill in the backline beside me.

Any possibility of returning to Greystones and maybe evening wearing the jersey or getting involved in some capacity again?

Well seeing as Éamon Ryan played with his club until he was 55 (at which point he still didn't want to retire but no one would have him), maybe there's hope for me yet. I'm delighted to see how camogie has grown in the club and would love the chance to someday play camogie in Greystones, whether with or against Éire Óg! We were hoping to organise a trip of the Belgian camogie team to Greystones in 2020, but like so many other things it had to be postponed. Most of our camogie team have never played camogie in Ireland so it would be a great trip for us, and we're still holding out hope it will be possible in the next year or two.



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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
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