



Míde Ní Shúilleabháin - Wicklow via France and Belgium

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

I've just moved back to Wicklow, though to the other side of the county, and I'm involved with the GAA's new Green Clubs programme, which encourages and supports environmental awareness and action in GAA clubs around the country.

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

I was a member of the first Ladies football team when it was established in the late nineties and I played my last game with the club in 2007

Did you have much or any success?

Well, our trophy cabinet wasn't overflowing back then...I'm not sure that we won anything while I was playing; in the earlier years wins on the pitch were few and far between. The team came on hugely in the years after, though. We had a number of painful near-misses in those later years but competitive success didn't come after I left. Almost immediately after I left!

However, in other terms I'd say, yes. We had huge success. In those early years we went from a first training session with three players to building a strong and committed team, forging bonds and friendships for life, raising the profile of women's sport in the club and paving the way for the next generation of girls and women..

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

The county final in 2007. A match we were winning well but that we ended up losing, in extremely frustrating circumstances. I can feel it and see it still, can remember what it felt like coming off the pitch in Newtown after the final whistle, can recall all-too clearly the tears, anger, disappointment.

However, I also remember how our manager Seamus Ahern, despite his own deep disappointment, insisted that we all call to his house for a barbecue that evening, not only to eat and drink our way through the pain but to come together as players, supporters, family. I recall clearly too how it helped to laugh and talk and regret and bemoan as a group, as a team, and how through Seamus's thoughtfulness and generosity we learned that club isn't only on the pitch, it's what happens off the pitch that makes of club a community.

Any funny or amusing story from your time with the club?

The ones I can think of have me as the brunt of the joke so I'll pass on sharing those.

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

I have been involved as a player and administrator in Belgium GAA, in Niort Gaels in France and with Na Fianna in Dublin and worked for a number of years with Croke Park.

Favourite teammate?

I probably should say my sister but instead I'm going to take the opportunity to give a big shout out to Laura Mitchell, midfield dynamo and the beating heart of our team at the time.

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

Maybe...