



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## Orla Minogue



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

I'm living in Melbourne, been here over a year now - working away and playing GAA much the same as home.

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

I played from the age of 4 to about 12 until I couldn't play with the lads anymore and there was no underage girls team at the time. I went off playing other sports then came back to football in 2018 until I left in 2023.

### **What were the highlights of your time playing with the club?**

My first year back in 2018 we won the Junior A final, beating An Tochar by a point so that's definitely a highlight. My last season was also great, we got to the Junior A final again, this time vs Kilcoole and unfortunately wasn't our day but I think I had the most fun playing that championship. Switched from defence to a forward, trying to fill Laurie Ahern's shoes.

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

The 2023 semi-final against Bray Emmett's was an unreal game - it went to extra time, lashed rain but the girls pushed on thankfully got the win.

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

Underage, Kate McDonnell and Michelle Keane ran a great set-up and I loved going down to them every Friday. In the later years we've had many great managers - Ray McTague gave me a lot of confidence on the ball, John Lane was key to getting me fit and Carmel Deeney made sure I stayed involved, even when numbers were small.

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

Fair few memories from the dinner dances but none I'll get into here!

### **Favourite teammate?**

Answering with one could cause havoc here but Polly Demery and I are rarely in the club without each other. I loved getting to play with Laurie too - for someone with such accolades, I was initially intimidated but she's an incredibly encouraging team mate and sure we're great friends now.

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

Yeah, I'm with Wolfe Tones in Melbourne. We got to the championship final last year (narrowly defeated by Meadhbh Deeney's lot Sinn Fein), and while I'm taking a break from playing at the moment, I'm giving a hand to management and the social committee. For any regulars in the Orchard, you'll be glad to hear the karaoke mic comes everywhere with me.

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

Ah yeah, I'll be back at some point of course, but won't commit to a date for now. Always supporting from afar though - would appreciate any games getting streamed next year!