

Camogie

with Niall Scully



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All roads lead to Crokes with codes cracker on cards

IT began with a simple chat at a club dinner-dance. But a gem of an idea was born.

Brendan Cooper and Camillus Kilpatrick hatched the masterplan. And already it has found a neat home on the calendar.

The second OZO Dub All-Star Camogie/Ladies Football spectacular takes place at the Kilmacud Crokes HQ on Tuesday, December 28.

"We are indebted to OZO, the sponsors," states Brendan. "It's not easy these days securing sponsorship, so we are certainly grateful. Also, we greatly appreciate Kilmacud hosting the games once again."

The coming together of the big and small ball has received much complimentary feedback. "It has created so much positive goodwill for both sports and that's nice to see," adds Brendan, the vice-chairman of the Dublin Senior Camogie Board.

REACTION

"It's a very important event for both bodies. It shows how well we can work together. Our aim is to give girls the opportunity to play camogie or ladies football, or indeed both.

"The idea is to make it as easy and as comfortable for players as is possible.

"We made a huge step forward last year with the games. We were pleased with the reaction. Now, we will take on the experience of last year and make this year even more successful."

Paul Beecher from OZO congratulated the Jackies on winning the All-Ireland.

"The footballers had a great year.

Hopefully now camogie can achieve some silverware in the future," remarked Paul.

"We are delighted to be associated with the Dub All-Stars."

The big Leopardstown racing festival will be on up the road. But Brendan Cooper insists he has one sure-fire bet. And that's his prediction that the two, two-horse races in Páirc de Burca will even have Ruby taking his horse to town.

BOARD NOTES

■ Many thanks to all who attended the launch of the OZO Dub Stars games on Wednesday last in Kilmacud Crokes despite the bad weather. Preparations are well advanced for the games on Tuesday December 28 in Glenalbyn.

■ Congratulations to all the winners – camogie and ladies football – and the best of luck to all concerned on the day.

■ A 16-page match programme is being published for the event generously sponsored by Westsidepress, Tallaght.

■ Dublin seniors will open their 2011 National League game at home to Tipperary on Feb 13. The following games are against Kilkenny and Cork.

■ The Dublin junior team opens away to Meath on February 13 followed by games against Armagh, Kildare, Roscommon.

■ The Juvenile Presentations have been refixed for Sunday Jan 9 at St Vincent's.

High fives for 'Boden

COUNTY champions, Ballyboden St Enda's, have had five players selected on the 2010 OZO Dub All-Stars camogie team.

The side will play Dublin in Stillorgan on December 28. It will be Dublin's first match under the new management team of Denis Murphy, Ann Colgan and Dave Needham.

The Boden five are Sile Nic Coitir, Maeve Gaynor, Joanne O'Sullivan and the Lucey sisters, Ciara and Emer.

The Regional side, which took part in the Dublin Senior 'A' Championship, have four players chosen – Lorraine O'Connell, Grainne Quinn, Ciara Durkin and Amy Murphy. The selection includes two of the three Dublin players who have received All-Star awards, Ciara Lucey and Louise O'Hara, who will form the



TOP TEAM: Camogie Board officials - Brendan Cooper, Vice Chair; Tom Hayes Treasurer; Marie O'Brien, Chair; Denis Murphy, senior team manager, Paul Beecher from sponsors OZO

OZO DUB ALL-STARS CAMOGIE

Adele Murphy (St Jude's)	Lorraine O'Connell (St Brigid's)	Maeve Gaynor (Ballyboden St Enda's)
Grainne Quinn (St Pat's, Palmerstown)	Joanne O'Sullivan (Ballyboden St Enda's)	Tara Corrigan (St Jude's)
Louise O'Hara (Erin's Isle)	Ciara Lucey (Ballyboden St Enda's)	
Ciara Durkin (Skerries Harps)	Amy Murphy (St Mark's)	Edel Reid (Good Counsel)
Emer Lucey (Ballyboden St Enda's)	Aine Fanning (St Vincent's)	Aoife Kelly (St Jude's)

Subs: Colette Coady (St Brigid's), Linda Crennan (St Jude's), Julieanne Cooper (Na Fianna), Anne McCluskey (Erin's Isle), Carolanne Canning (St Vincent's).

midfield partnership. Ciara was Dublin's very first All-Star. She captained Boden to glory this term. Boden beat Isles in the Senior 'A' Championship final at St

Peregrine's. O'Hara was the skipper of the parish. She is regarded as the greatest Dublin camogie player of the modern era. Keeping the Finglas forwards

out of the kitchen was the majestic Sile NicCoitir, one of the finest sportswomen that the county has seen.

Sile plays in goal. She's a regular TG4 analyst. On the pitch, or in the stand, she can read the play better than most.

ELEGANT

There are also two 2010 Players-of-the-Year on the OZO ticket. Joanne O'Sullivan, the elegant centre half-back, was the Dublin Senior Club Player-of-the-Year.

Tara Corrigan, a heartbeat of St Jude's, was honoured with the Dublin Senior Team Player-of-the-Year accolade. She also helped Leinster lift the Gael Linn Inter-Provincial crown this term.

Aine Fanning's form has been rewarded. Aine has made a splendid return from injury and she has flourished in her new full-forward role.

Aine is joined in the full-forward line by Emer Lucey and Aoife Kelly. Emer is a master of finding the half yard and turning the half chance into profit, while Aoife topped the scoring charts at Tymon this season.

The talented Counsel stylist, Edel Reid, will bring craft to the half-forward division, which also contains Amy Murphy and Ciara Durkin.

Durkin was also on the Regional Select who collected the Shield. Lorraine O'Connell captained the Regional crew. Her full-back colleagues are Adele Murphy, who has been such a consistent performer, and Maeve Gaynor, who was on Boden's first Senior 'A' Championship winning team of 1999.

The Regional Fab Four also sees Grainne Quinn get the call. She helped DIT to win the Purcell Cup this year. The Dub All-Star bench also has that touch of tinsel. Certainly, much for Denis Murphy and co to contemplate over the Christmas pudding.

Dubs legend Eimear finds her match in League of Ireland star Ollie

THE voice of the legendary rocker Jerry Lee Lewis filled the Brannigan household.

There was a wedding to celebrate. Eimear Brannigan married Ollie Cahill last Friday.

Ollie carved his reputation as a flying winger in the League of Ireland with Cork City, Shelbourne, Drogheda United, Shamrock Rovers and Sporting Fingal.

Eimear has long been an ambassador for St Vincent's, Dublin and Leinster. A most stylish

and versatile performer. Eimear captained Dublin to the All-Ireland Junior Championship title in 2005. It ended a gap of 30 years.

Dublin played Clare in the final.

A sun-splashed Croke Park day. The game ended in a draw.

Dublin won the replay in Birr. In the capital, the band, silent for so long, began to play again.

Dublin repeated the trick the following year.

The Dubs then returned to the big-time. Eimear's experience and wisdom would have been valued there, but injuries unfortunately came a calling.

Still, there she was out on the sideline making every tackle and encouraging the team.

That's the kind of attitude that has made her such a respected figure in the game.

The Dublin manager at the time, Dave Kennedy, was among her biggest fans.

He loved the way she could take the sliotar, and the game, by the scruff of the neck.

Eimear has also collected much gold at St Vincent's, and then came the crowning glory when she was rewarded with an All-Star in 2007.

She has also become a respected pundit on RTÉ's Sunday Game on the big camogie occasions.

Forever a star of pitch and screen.