



TRIBUNE SPORT



Bernard Shapiro (President), Derek Talbot (Under 18 Player of the Year) and Eoin Corcoran at the Renmore AFC Awards presentations.

Connacht's best performance in years at hockey inter-pros

THE Connacht Senior Ladies Hockey squad may not have won the interprovincial title over the weekend in Dublin but they certainly won the respect of the other three provinces by putting in the performance of the weekend and in return coming in a creditable joint second in the tournament.

So often in the past, Connacht were the beaten team before the tournament began. If the tournament came to goal difference, it usually meant the team that scored the most against Connacht, won the competition. Coming into this year's inter-pros, it looked as if this year was to be no different. However, Connacht's newest coach, Orla Bell, had other ideas and steered her squad towards a different goal.

Connacht's opening encounter was against the might of Ulster. With eight internationals on their squad, they started the game as expected — strongly and dominated the first half. Within five minutes Connacht had conceded three penalty corners but Ulster failed to convert. Eventually in the sixth minute, Ulster converted one of their many shortcorners and the champions for the last three years looked set to run riot.

However, Connacht stood firm and determined. Tara Browne, home from playing with her new club in Holland for the weekend, was in outstanding form and showed

everyone exactly why she is the number one goalkeeper in Ireland by making little of all the Ulster attacks.

She was ably assisted by a defence line that looked capable of blocking anything that came their way and throughout the tournament this defence of Sarah Larkin, Aisling Barry, Orla Ryan and especially Claire Deacy as sweeper dominated games where Irish international players should have easily pushed them aside. Ulster were no different. Apart from their goal in the sixth minute they struggled to get to grips with Connacht's defence and the game ended with that single goal separating the sides.

With half of the Connacht squad playing their club hockey in the Leinster league, the Leinster -v- Connacht game was like a local derby match.

Leinster, containing the best players from both Leinster and the South-East province, came into the game on the back of an easy 5-2 victory over Munster.

They like Ulster were met with determination and tight marking. With Leinster's midfield containing three Irish internationals, Connacht's plan was to mark tight in midfield and force them to make quick, rushed passes.

Connacht's midfield of Orla Canavan, Sinead Walsh, Louise O'Hagan and Emily MacNicholas stayed with the plan from start to finish.

They refused to let Leinster settle on the ball and this rattled the Leinster stars. In

defence, Claire Deacy was dominant in what was probably her best game in the Connacht colours. Leinster enjoyed over 70% of the possession in the first half but failed to open the scoring.

The second half saw them get more and more frustrated which allowed Connacht's forwards into the game and saw fine attacking moves towards the Leinster goal. Pamela Ryan, Claire Hughes, Roisin O'Connor and Helen Hughes as Connacht's forwards had thankless jobs all weekend chasing the ball and forcing the opposition defence into bad passes. They did this well and many an error resulted in Connacht's few chances on the opposition goal. The game ended in a 0-0 draw but to the Connacht players and management, it felt like a victory. The combined best of the two eastern provinces, still couldn't beat the best of Connacht.

Heading into their final game, Connacht were on a high and determined to end their interprovincial weekend with a win. Munster, inter-provincial champions five years ago were looking also to end their weekend with a win. As in the other two games, Munster applied the pressure from the whistle. They played nice flowing hockey which on any other weekend would probably have yielded goals. But this was Connacht's weekend. Claire Deacy and Tara Browne, captain and vice captain, were the stalwarts of the Connacht team and whenever, Munster came near the circle, they were foiled time and again. A quick break from defence found

Pamela Ryan just inside the Munster half and she made her way into the Munster circle and forced the penalty corner.

The shot by Claire Deacy was deflected by the Munster defence but only as far as Connacht's Jo Morris who made no hesitation in putting the ball away. With this goal under the belt Connacht's game lifted even more and Munster got frustrated. With 10 minutes remaining and under constant pressure from

Munster, Connacht's tired legs eventually gave away a penalty flick. Sarah Kelleher, former Irish Senior captain, stepped up against Browne but the Connacht keeper made a great stop. Tired legs and sore bones were quickly forgotten by the Connacht girls as they fought hard to hold onto their one-nil winning margin. It was Connacht's best performance in the Senior Interprovincials in years.

Credit for this performance must also go to the coaching staff of Orla Bell, Micheil Tijs and John Enright. With such a young squad, they are already looking forward to next season. The performance will also lift the spirits of the rest of the Interprovincial squads who had mixed results this season.

Connacht Senior Squad: Tara Browne, Mary Goode, Claire Deacy (Capt.), Aisling Barry, Orla Canavan, Orla Cunningham, Claire Hughes, Helen Hughes, Pamela Ryan, Roisin O'Connor, Louise O'Hagan, Emily MacNicholas, Jo Morris, Sarah Larkin, Orla Ryan and Sinead Walsh. The team was sponsored by C.J. Deacy and Sons, Renmore.

Top Irish Sailing prize heads West as Galway Bay Club is honoured

THE Irish Sailing Association are to present its Millennium prize to Galway Bay Sailing Club. The prize was a special initiative by the Association to encourage its constituent Clubs to increase participation in the sport at all levels.

The Galway Club won first prize against stiff competition from clubs around the country particularly on the East Coast where sailing is more established. Runners up were Bray Sailing Club and Mullaghmore SC Co. Sligo.

The prize was awarded to Galway on the strength of its successful efforts to grow the sport in the region. Commenting on the award the Commodore, Liam McGregor, from Maree said "This is a great honour for our members who have worked so hard to make sailing in Galway available to all"

The Club, which is based in Rinville, Oranmore, has set up a successful Junior Sailing Scheme which enables youngsters from as young as eight to start sailing regularly during the spring and summer months.

The club also organises week-long ISA approved courses during the summer for Juniors at various levels. The Club also facilitates adults who want to sail and many members of the local community have discovered the joy of sailing through the club. The club serves a population of over 100,000 from a 20 mile radius and provides an access point to the sea for the region. The Galway Bay Sailing club has also been to the forefront in encouraging Women to go sailing.

Long gone are the days when the menfolk put to-sea while their wives waited on the shore with the salad sandwiches and hot

drinks. Now the women in Galway Bay not only participate on equal terms during the regular racing events, but they have also set up their own women's sailing events where they take out Yachts for their regular Thursday evening women's sailing series.

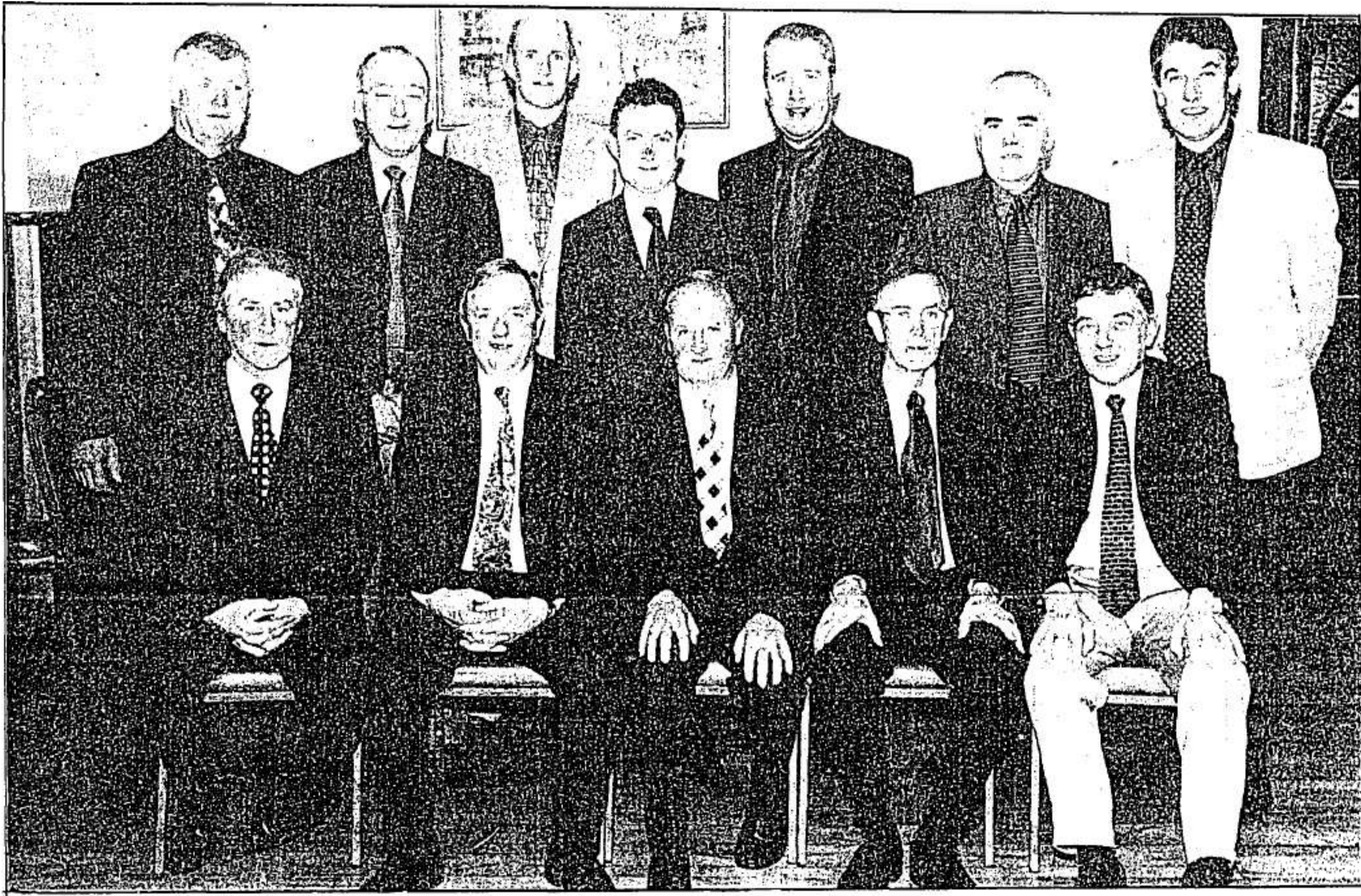
Safety has been to the forefront of the club's activities in recent years. The club has organised several safety seminars and the wearing of personal flotation devices is now part of the accepted culture of the club. The Club invested in two new Safety Boats and in addition to this they organised powerboat courses for their members to ISA Level 2 and Safety boat Levels.

Membership at the club has increased rapidly during the past three years with some 100% growth in that period. The club has worked to make sailing accessible to the widest possible range of people. During the month of April the club is organising another of its successful induction courses which is free of charge to new members.

Despite its image as an expensive sport it is still possible to go sailing in Galway at very negligible cost. The club has embarked on an upgrading plan for the clubhouse and grounds and is leading a campaign for a marine leisure complex at Rinville, with a 100 berth marina at its heart. This initiative will support all aspects of water sports including sailing, windsurfing, angling, diving among other marine activities.



SALTHILL/Knocknacarra Hurling Presentation Evening — under-12 panel members. Back row: Ciaran McCann, Ger Mulholland (Manager) and Galway hurler Hodgins. Middle row: Cian McBrien, David Elwood, Raymond Winters, Keelan Lynch. Front row: Declan Sharp, Anghus Hanley, Edwin Brennan and Brian Mannion.



Committee members pictured at the Renmore GAA Club dinner at the Sacre Coeur Hotel. Seated are Bernie Deedy, Sean Connors, Pdraig Nolan, Pat Houllihan and Frank Barrett. Standing: PJ Mitchell, Colm McGowan, Pat Burke, Liam Kelly, Frank Gaughan, Frank Loughnane, and Michael Curley.

Heineken Connacht Junior League Division I

Club	P	W	L	D	C	F	A	P
CONNEMARA	12	11	1	0	0	378	62	22
BUCCANEERS	12	11	1	0	0	315	79	22
MONIVEA	12	8	3	1	0	245	137	17
WESTPORT	12	7	3	2	0	172	138	16
SLIGO	12	5	5	2	0	116	139	12
CREGGS	12	4	4	4	0	122	184	12
CASTLEBAR	11	4	6	1	0	111	132	9
UCG	11	5	4	1	1	169	210	9
OLBC	12	4	7	1	0	144	212	9
CORRIB	11	4	6	1	0	111	199	9
GORT	12	4	7	1	0	102	210	9
TUAM	11	2	9	0	0	145	185	4
BALLINROBE	12	0	12	0	0	84	327	0

Heineken Connacht Junior League Division II

Club	P	W	L	D	C	F	A	P
BALLINA	11	11	0	0	0	183	40	22
CORINTHIANS B	9	8	0	1	0	188	59	17
DUNMORE	10	7	2	1	0	202	68	15
LOUGHREA	10	7	3	0	0	191	90	14
CONNEMARA	10	7	1	0	2	109	25	10
CORINTHIANS A	10	6	2	0	2	136	37	8
BUCCANEERS	9	4	5	0	0	71	60	8
BALLYHAUNIS	11	4	7	0	0	81	237	8
WESTPORT	10	4	6	0	0	69	247	8
CREGGS	12	3	9	0	0	82	214	6
TUAM	10	2	8	0	0	76	220	4
GALWEGIAN	10	1	3	0	6	92	103	-3
CASTLEBAR	10	1	3	0	6	6	64	-10



Laser SC swimmers taking part in the Leisure land International swim meet were Aoife Farrell, Michelle Moran, Ian Ferry and Emma Brennan.

Galway G.A.A. fixtures

- FOOTBALL—
- SATURDAY:**
 At Annaghdown: Annaghdown v Caherlistrane, M.F.L. (A), 4.30 p.m. G. Guinan.
 At Corofin: Corofin v Tuam Stars, M.F.L. (A), 4.30 p.m. D. Ryder.
 At Glenamaddy: Glenamaddy v Caltra, M.F.L. (A), 4.30 p.m. M. Carroll.
 At Mountbellew: Mountbellew-Moylough v St. Brendan's, M.F.L. (A), 4.30 p.m. T. Melia.
 At Ballinasloe: St. Grelan's v Monivea-Abbey, M.F.L. (A), 4.30 p.m. P. Delaney.
 At Headford: Headford v Kiltconly, M.F.L. (B), 4.30 p.m. V. Judge.
 At Barnaderg: Killerin v Menlough, M.F.L. (B), 4.30 p.m. C. Ward.
SUNDAY:
 At Glynsk: Glynsk v Corloon Shamrocks, M.F.L. (B), 12.00 noon. G. Guinan.
 At Clonberne: Kilkerrin Clonberne v Williamstown, M.F.L. (B), 12.00 noon. T. Gavin.
 At Kiltconnell: St. Gabriel's v Kiltormer, M.F.L. (B), 12.00 noon. F. Coyne.
 At New Inn: Sarsfields v Athenry, M.F.L. (B), 12.00 noon. L. Lohan.
 At Ballymacward: St. Kerill's v Dunmore MacHales, M.F.L. (B), 12.00 noon. P. Collins.
 At Tuam Stadium: Monivea-Abbey v Corloon Shamrocks, S.F.L. Play-Off, 2.00 p.m. M. Curley.
 Mountbellew-Moylough v Micheal Breathnach's, J.F.L. (A) Final, 3.30 p.m. V. Judge.
 At Caherlistrane: Moycullen v Clonbur, S.F.L. Play-Off, 2.00 p.m. D. Ryder. Kilkerrin-Clonberne v An Cheathru Rua, S.F.L. Play-Off, 3.30 p.m. D. Joyce.

Bearna
 The Captains' Drive-in will take place on Sunday, 11th at 2 p.m. followed by a Fourball Blitz. Entries on sheet in pro-shop. Draws for teams will take place on Wednesday, 7th March.
 Club Officers and Committees for 2001—President: Breda Barry.
 Ladies—Captain: Kathleen Kelly; Vice-Captain: Jane Colclough; Hon. Secretary: Mary Joyce; Handicap Secretary: Mary Weyer; Treasurer: Catherine Kelly; Ex-Officio: Siobhan McLoughlin. Committee: Pauline Bree, Maeve Brennan, Loretto Craeven, Olive Leonard, Anna O'Donnellan, Mary Purcell.
 Gents—Captain: Noel Curran; Vice-

for