

## Ladies to the Fore



Launching the 7-A-Side in 2012: Back Left: Toirdealbhach Ó Lionáird, Gerardine Nagle and Don O' Donoghue. Front Left: Mary McCarrick, Tom Tobin, George O' Callaghan and Colette Casey.

In 1999 the 7-a-side moved from its spiritual home in the 'Áras' pitch to the club's home ground in Woodlawn. At the time people thought that the 7-a-side would come to an end as a result of the move but the tournament continued to thrive and this year's event was the 17<sup>th</sup> year of matches in the Woodlawn pitch. Huge credit is due to a number of ladies who got involved in the organisation of the tournament in its new home. Geraldine Nagle, Mary McCarrick, Colette Casey and Lorraine Fleming were to the fore and subsequently as members of the club's committee. As well as providing two pitches for matches, the Woodlawn venue also provided a clubhouse facility for the 2002 event where the shop became the main focus as the 'organisational hub' of the tournament.

## **Gerardine Nagle**

Gerardine attributes her involvement with the club to 1999 to when she took up on a request by the committee for more involvement from parents in the running of the club. Her son Trevor played with Athletic and she felt it would be nice to give something back to the club. “I began by volunteering to help in the shop at the 7-a-side and this I did up to last year 2014, along with making sure the First Aid supplies were sufficient and administering First Aid when needed. In short, I did whatever was needed including traffic control when things got particularly busy!”



**Gerardine and Martin O' Neill at the opening of the Kerry District League All- Weather Pitch in 2015**

Gerardine also reflects on the involvement of her family with the 7-a-side and club events. “My family played a big part in my time with the club especially my daughter Tara, nieces Lorraine, Amanda, Danielle and Chloe. We could not have run important events without them as they were always available at a moment's notice to ensure that everything ran without a hitch”.



**Gerardine at the 2010 7-A-Side with from left: Tom Tobin, Danielle Nagle, Mary McCarrick, Don O' Donoghue, Colette Casey and Mary McCarrick.**

After joining the committee in 2008 she has represented the club on the KDL and Kerry SchoolBoys/Girls Leagues as a Child Welfare Officer and is currently also Vice Chairperson of the latter. Gerardine's longevity as a passionate, committed and

thorough club person is reflected in her philosophy. “In my years with Killarney Athletic I have gained an abundance of knowledge on the day-to-day running of the club and indeed at county level. I have also learned the great commitment, dedication and satisfaction that it takes in being a volunteer, but above all I have made life-long friends.” Read Gerardine’s full account here: [Ger Nagle and Killarney Athletic](#)

### **Lorraine Fleming**

The aforementioned Lorraine followed in her father Tony Fleming’s footsteps and took up an officer position in the club in 2010. She is always available to play her part as best she can. She has contributed handsomely in areas including assistant treasurer. Lorraine displays an admirable work ethic and efficiency in carrying out her responsibilities when fundraising, organising club merchandise and in a variety of roles at the 7-a-side, most recently taking responsibility for the running of the shop. In her own words: “I first joined Killarney Athletic in 2009 helping my aunt Gerardine Nagle in the shop at the Annual 7-A-Side Tournament or any other events that were been held in the club as this was always a family affair for us.

Don O’ Donoghue was chairman at the time and Colette Casey was Secretary. When Don retired from the chair Tom Tobin then became chairman and that's when I became a committee member.



**Lorraine on Fashion Show duty in 2010**



My role in the committee was Fundraising Officer. The first event I helped organise was a very successful fashion show. To date I still organise our Annual Quiz Night, which is still a huge success. Other events which I'm involved in running are our Annual Race Night, street and church collections.

In 2012, I took up the position of Assistant Treasurer to Basil Sheerin. It was in this year I undertook the biggest Fundraising challenge to date which was our 300 member club draw. As a result of my hard work, dedication and the contribution I gave in making this our most successful fundraiser to date, the club gave me the honour of becoming Club person of the Year 2013. I also make a huge contribution in the running of the Annual 7-A-Side Tournament i.e. running the shop, gate, annual BBQ and any other jobs that need doing. I started out in the club just lending a helping hand which lead me to become a committee member, with this came great responsibility in the day-to-day running of the club.



**Lorraine and her sister Amanda keeping the crowds fed at the 7-A-Side in 2011**

Without people like us volunteering our club gates would not be open. I would encourage anyone who does have a little time to give, to get involved in what is a very rewarding job.

I would like to wish Killarney Athletic a very happy 50th Anniversary and here's hoping to another 50 more!

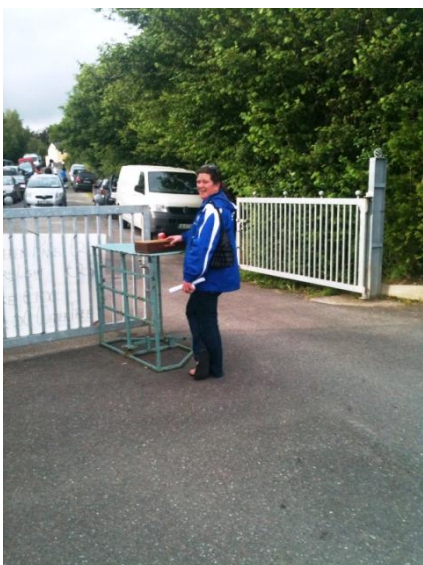
Lorraine Fleming

## Mary McCarrick



Wayne Rooney and Mary

Mary joined the club committee in 2002 when her two boys Joseph and James played for Athletic. Mary has spent 13 years at the helm of the club's public relations and has done a fantastic job in giving a voice to the many activities taking place within the club. Mary is best described as always being very positive, available and willing to tackle all the jobs at hand while managing to gather and compile the bits and pieces in the club's activities on a weekly if not daily basis, all year round.



She has contributed significantly to the club's fundraising initiatives and will still be involved despite recently passing on the baton to Alan Daly who is also following on a family line of dedication to the club. Joe Daly is the present Vice Chairman of the club and Theresa, Louise and Laura also deserve mention for their assistance in club activities.

### **Colette Casey**



**Colette and John Giles**

Colette's first active involvement with the club started in 2004 when she volunteered to help out with the organisation of a street collection for the schoolboys/girls teams. Her interest came through her son David's involvement who was a very talented underage player with the club. But it would also be fair to say that her family ties with the club meant that she was never too far from hearing about Killarney Athletic in the Casey household. Her brother Vince would be on the shortlist of the club's greatest contributors while her late father Paddy RIP always kept the best interests of the club to the fore while involved with the Áras Phádraig committee group. As well as serving as Child Welfare Officer she recalls taking over the secretary position from Tom Tobin when Tom became Chairman of the club in 2010. "I was approached to take over as secretary and I was greatly honoured to accept. With this position I was involved with underage and senior teams and management from all around the county and outside. I made many friends within my time as secretary which lasted 3 years. I also helped out with the finances and fundraising within the Club." Highly organised and dedicated by nature, Colette's contribution to the organisation and running of the 7-a-side over the past number of years cannot be overstated. Colette, along with her sister Deirdre, are also to be highly praised for the organisation of the club's annual Barbeque and family days.



**Tom Tobin and Colette at the 50 Years at the Half Moon Celebration**

On the playing front, Eilis Loughrey deserves credit for her contribution as a coach with some of the girls' teams in 2007/08. In echoing Marie Moynihan's involvement, she brought an extra dimension to the organisation of soccer for the girls in the club at the time.

All in all, the club is very proud of the contribution of its female members to date. There are too many people to mention and this is merely a snapshot, but matches, events and day-to-day activities simply could not be run without the input of those who have contributed, in whatever way. We look forward to your continued dedicated involvement into the future.