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2008 Ladies Championship Final

Crucial goals the difference as Killoe overcome Clonguish to regain the county title

**Killoe 3 – 9
Clonguish 0 – 7**

Two goals in the first half from Sabrina Hackett (penalty) and player-of-the-match Edel Quinn proved to be the decisive scores as Killoe gradually got the better of the title holders Clonguish in the Ladies County Final played at the floodlit Monaduff grounds, Drumlish on Friday night last.

Neither team needs an introduction, with an abundance of current and past county players in action for the finalists. In a repeat of the 2007 decider, the large crowd in attendance were treated to a most entertaining encounter even though Killoe ran out comfortable winners in the finish.

This was by no means an easy success for Joe McCormack's side. The game was a rollercoaster with both teams enjoying periods of dominance and there were many fine displays from the players on the field – particularly the impressive Edel Quinn who scored a goal and seven points for Killoe.

Others to figure prominently for the new county champions were Helen Carrigy, Catherine Lynch, sisters Jacinta and Elizabeth Brady and Ann Marie Bratten while best for a gallant Clonguish side were Ann Burke, Edel McGann, Una Flynn, Mairead Moore and Linda Quinn.

The game began with a shaky start for both teams, with numerous failed attempts before the opening score. Clonguish's Ann Burke pointed twice in quick succession to give the 2007 champions the best possible start to the final. Clonguish were having the better of the opening exchanges with Linda Quinn, Una Flynn and Edel McGann all unfortunate not to add to the lead while Mairead Moore was in flying form for Clonguish, cleaning up in the backline.

Edel McGann slotted over for Clonguish's third point with ten minutes gone on the clock. Killoe were struggling and finding it difficult to settle and only for Louise Clarke in goals they would have been on the wrong end of a larger deficit. Clarke was very steady in between the posts, pulling off a particular impressive save from the boot of the experienced Una Flynn.

Siobhan McGowan added another point for Clonguish and with fifteen minutes gone the 2006 champions Killoe had yet to register a score. But a key moment in the game saw Anna McDonnell taken down en route to goal and Sabrina Hackett stepped up to convert the penalty for Killoe's opening score of the game after seventeen minutes.

This was followed up by another goal from Edel Quinn after superb work from the midfield duo of Elizabeth and Jacinta Brady. This masterpiece of a shot saw the opposing keeper cruelly lobbed in superb style. All Clonguish's hard work and

dominance had been wiped out in those three minutes, and they found themselves trailing where they had once been in control.

Killoe then had a point from Ann Marie Bratten, who was the playmaker for much of the first half. Orla Doherty entered the fray for Killoe, making a significant impact from her introduction. Doherty's roaming moves forward were instrumental in the next Killoe point which saw her linking up with Jacinta Brady and Sabrina Hackett before supplying Quinn for a fine point to conclude the scoring in the first half to leave Clonguish trailing by 2-2 to 0-4 at the break.

The second half saw tactical changes for Clonguish with Edel McGann moving to midfield and Siobhan McGowan occupying a position in the half-forward line and this reaped reward with a point from Una Flynn. This was followed up moments later with another point from a free converted by Ann Burke to narrow the gap.

Killoe were next to score with the instrumental captain Elizabeth Brady providing the impetus for an Edel Quinn point. But Clonguish continued to apply the pressure at every available opportunity and were it not for a fantastic block from Orla Doherty preventing a certain goal you would have to feel that the game could have gone the other way.

As it turned out, Clonguish managed just one more score during the remainder of the contest, despite having more than their fair share of possession. The bounce of the ball began to move in the direction of Killoe, with their talented forward line displaying moments of class as the game went on.

Jacinta Brady at midfield found herself on the end of a wayward kick-out, which she cleverly fisted across the goalmouth finding Alison Kenny who finished the ball to the Clonguish net. Further intelligent play saw Quinn picking out Ann Marie Bratten for her second point of the day.

Quinn was to add four more points to her tally while Clonguish could only manage one further score from Ann Burke. Killoe thus made amends for the bitter disappointment of defeat in last year's county final and will now go on to meet the Offaly champions away in the Leinster Intermediate Club competition on Sunday next.

KILLOE: L Clarke; M Brady, A Brady, F Toher; H Carrigy, C Lynch, N Devaney; E Brady, J Brady; S Hackett (1-0, penalty), E Quinn (1-7), S Treacy; A McDonnell, AM Bratten (0-2), A Kenny (1-0). **Subs:** - S Sorohan, T Brady, M Carrigy, O Doherty, M O' Reilly, C Carrigy, E Kiernan, B Fox, M Linnane, O Toher.

Management: Joe McCormack, Francis Brady.