

Deise come up strong against strong Cats

National Camogie League Division One

Kilkenny 3-16
Waterford 3-7

Waterford played their first ever camogie match at senior level against Kilkenny in the National League Division One match staged at Piltown, going down by nine points to their more seasoned opponents.

The Deise side must be congratulated for their perseverance during the match having been behind by 17 points at one point and converted 2-03 in the final 10 minutes to close the gap.



Waterford were somewhat unlucky to be goal down inside the first minute when Kilkenny's Ann Dalton sent in a high ball and Tracey Kiely misjudged the flight of the ball which ended up in the back of the net.

The deficit was reduced two minutes later when Waterford's Zoe O'Donoghue evaded her marker out on the wing to fire over. The next passage of play saw Kilkenny awarded a penalty which Tracey Kiely in the Waterford goal done very well to save.

A Kilkenny point was answered by a Beth Carton free before Kilkenny started to dominate possession and always had runners attacking the Waterford defence at pace.

The Black and Amber Kilkenny converted a further eight points (three of them from frees) while Waterford converted a Patricia Jackman free from distance and the opening Waterford goal was scored by Beth Carton when Catriona McGlone made a powerful run from the middle of the park. At half-time the score stood at 1-09 to 1-03 in Kilkenny's favour.

During the interval, Waterford lost Trish Jackman as she had to depart to catch her flight back to the UK.

Despite efforts to try and put the game back an hour the Camogie Association declined Waterford's request and in the second half, Waterford had to make do without the services of their top talent.



Waterford's Niamh Rockett has her way blocked by Kilkenny's Sarah Kent as she heads for goal.

The start of the second half saw two converted frees from Kilkenny's Sarah Ann Quinlan's before Aine Gannon scored Kilkenny's second goal. The Waterford defence was under continually attack and it wasn't long before Kilkenny's third goal was scored by Kate McDonald. Waterford's response was deflected point over the Kilkenny bar from a 20 meter free. As the final ten minutes started, Waterford were awarded a free on the Kilkenny 65 and Jennie Simpson delivered a high ball that ended in net for Waterford's second goal. From that point on Waterford were confident and shortly after Fiona Morrissey fired in a good ball that Niamh Ahearne was alert to and fired into the net.

Two Beth Carton points (1f) was finished off by a well taken Fiona Morrissey point while Kilkenny could only answer a solitary point. When the final whistle was blown the team had lost their first ever Senior match but many positives can be taken from the occasion and can look forward to their next match which is a home game against Limerick on 13th March.

* With thanks to Ita Murphy



Waterford's Fiona Morrissey gets away from Kilkenny's Anna Farrell during Sunday's NCL opener at Piltown.

Waterford: 1 Tracey Kiely; 2 Mairead Power, 3 Fiona Morrissey, 4 Claire Whyte; 5 Charlotte Rahe, 6 Trish Jackman, 7 Claire Murphy; 8 Lorraine Bray, 9 Iona Heffernan; 10 Kate McMahon. 11 Niamh Rockett, 12 Beth Carton; 13 Zoe O'Donoghue, 14 Jennie Simpson, 15 Caitriona McGlone.

Substitutes: 16 Brianna O'Regan, 17 Becky Kavanagh, 18 Saoirse Bonnar, 19 Aisling Power, 20 Sibeal Harney, 21 Caoimhne Drohan, 22 Sinead Cunningham, 23 Ciara Jackman, 24 Aoife Shanahan, 25 Niamh Murphy, 26 Deirdre Brennan, 27 Niamh Ahearne.

Subs used: Sibeal Harney and Aisling Power (HT) for Trish Jackman and Claire Murphy, Becky Kavanagh for Mairead Power (55 mins) and Niamh Ahearne for Zoe O'Donoghue.

Scorers: Beth Carton (1-4; 0-3f), Zoe O'Donoghue (1-1), Niamh Ahearne (1-0) and Fiona Morrissey (0-1).

