

THIS IS
“GAA STORY”
CAVAN!



ROUNDERS **CLUICHE CORR**

Rounders is a bat and ball game and it is not that dissimilar to baseball. Indeed it is now generally accepted that baseball is derived from rounders in some form or other, as it has been played on this island for a couple of hundred years and was most likely brought over to America by the early settlers. Although rounders was included in the original GAA charter in 1884 it never took off at any organised level. In the latter half of the last century, particularly from 1970 onwards, the occasional club emerged but usually the lack of organised competitions meant that few lasted.

The game was played in many primary schools in the country where space permitted and it was as a result of this and the involvement of numerous teachers that the game of rounders grew to be popular in Community Games competitions. Following on from this some underage clubs were formed.

The dominant club in Cavan for years has been Erne Eagles. The club was founded in 1985 by sisters Maeve and Fidelma Sheridan two primary school teachers from Ballyheelan. They organised underage teams for boys and girls principally to participate in Community Games competitions. After a few years Seán Hughes from the Gowna club got involved and he has made an outstanding contribution to the game with Erne Eagles, in Cavan and nationally, coaching teams and helping significantly to grow the game. Similar to football and hurling, rounders also allows players of a higher calibre to compete on the national stage, however instead of inter-county teams, players from each county are selected to play with their province in an annual inter-provincial competition. Seán has coached Erne Eagles to be one of the most successful clubs in the country and many of their players have won numerous All-Ireland and All-Star awards.

The other dominant Rounders club in Cavan is St Clare's based in Cavan town. They too have provided great opportunities for many young people to play the game and they have achieved many successes since their establishment. Some of these achievements include winning the Senior

All-Ireland Ladies' championship and also the prestigious Senior Gary Kelly Cup in 2010, the Senior All-Ireland championship in 2011 and the All-Ireland mixed junior championship in 2021. In their first three year as a senior club they won 19 GAA All-Star awards their most recent in 2021. A lot of credit for their successes is due to the hard work of their coach Jason Brady and his sister Sharon who work hard at promoting the game and coaching the young players.



The late Dympna Reilly began playing Rounders with her club Erne Eagles when she was nine years of age and continued to be involved up to her untimely passing. She played under13, under 15, minor and senior and went on to win five All-Stars, two senior women's All-Irelands, two senior Mixed All-

Irelands, and numerous National, Provincial and Community Games medals. She was Chairperson, Development Officer and PRO at various times of her club and she served as PRO on the National Rounders Council for many years.

She did immense work over the years in promoting the game at club, county and national level. In 2018 Dympna passed away suddenly. The All-Ireland Mixed championship trophy has been renamed The Dympna Reilly Cup in her honour and it was fitting that her club Erne Eagles were the inaugural winners defeating Glynn/Barntown of Wexford in June 2021. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.