

Rainy old days



Sean O'Duffy shelters Kitty McGrath during a camogie match

It was February 1946 and the unfortunate members of the UCD camogie team took to a waterlogged pitch to challenge UCC in the final of the Ashbourne Trophy.

Kitty McGrath, a science student, found herself in goal and Cork failed to score against the Dublin team that day.

McGrath came from an illustrious sporting background: her father was a hurler for the Clare team that won the All Ireland in 1914.

"As the rain got heavier I was approached by a man with an umbrella," she recalls. "I didn't know him but he stood with his umbrella over me for the duration of the match, which we won. His name was Sean O'Duffy."

O'Duffy was indeed a staunch advocate of camogie and went on to have the prestigious O'Duffy Cup named after him. McGrath, on the other hand, went on to be a golfer and married a Cavan footballer.

—Louise Holden