

Evening Echo SPORT

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Don't be a dummy on bet calls



Robert O'Shea

THE LONGSHOT

CONGRESS will have the final word but we may have now seen the passing of the 'dummy team' era.

No longer will A. Mannequin or Sham O'Toole be listed in the programme. Gone is the day when a fella with his leg hanging off is named in a starting 15.

One of the final mind games in the bainisteoir's locker could be whipped away from him, another card they love to hold pressed to their chest removed.

The jury was out on the benefits of trying to confuse opponents — or more often, journalists — but certain bosses persisted, presuming perhaps that the practice might make them look shrewd.

Yet, as any poker player will tell you, bluffing usually only works when you don't have the reputation as a bluffer.

Worse, it often made buying the programme redundant, unless you were interested in finding out the wing-back's favourite food was steak and chips and favourite movie was *The Shawshank Redemption*.

There might be one casualty who we would be sad to see disappear, none other than A.N. Other, that stalwart of teams up and down the country. How he never got an All-Star boggles the mind.

Strangely enough, top-level soccer has never seen the need to bamboozle rival coaches with spoof line-ups. The only time I recall a player's appearance being in doubt right up to kick-off involved Ronaldo in the 1998 World Cup final — and that was probably because of a panic attack (conspiracy theories tell us Nike insisted Mario Zagallo include the striker in his team despite the fact he nearly swallowed his tongue earlier in the day).

You're not going to have any managers in tonight's Champions League hoping to keep his opposite number second-guessing about who he's going to send out on the pitch. Or handing a number nine jersey to his left-back.

Moving along to that point where we actually give some odds, yesterday we pointed out that five teams were offered at 9-1 or better to win last night. So lopsided are the games tonight, that figure reaches six — with Ajax the same price to beat Barca at home looking like the best value.

Messi's down to start, but who knows, they might spring him on as an impact sub.

Recommendation: We'll take Maribor, BATE Borisov and APOEL Nicosia to win. No wait, those are dummy selections. Go Sporting Lisbon and Porto to draw their games and Man City, Munich, Chelsea and PSG to win. BetVictor offer 33-1 on that.



Rena Buckley, winner of the Auld Triangle/Muskerry GAA Sports Award for September, pictured with members of Inniscarra Camogie Club following the presentation by sponsor, Michael O'Riordan (right) of the Auld Triangle.

Picture: Mike English

AWARDS

By Kevin Murphy

THE Auld Triangle and Muskerry Sports Star Award winner for the month of September was Rena Buckley.

The Inniscarra dual operator has enjoyed an incredible season and was given the award in recognition of her outstanding performance in the All-Ireland Camogie final against Kilkenny.

Rena was joined by her family and friends but her special guest of honour was her grandmother Rena who is 96-years young.

It has been an incredible year for ladies football and camogie and Briega Corkery was also in attendance.

The duo had soldiered together for many titanic battles and both All-Ireland cups were on display. Muskerry chairman JJ Long congratulate Rena on her magnificent season while Tracey Kennedy congratulated the Muskerry Board on this awards' initiative, saying these kind of schemes are very important and even more important that they are run at local level.

After the meal, John Feeney, chairman of the awards commit-

Buckley is the dual of Muskerry

tee, had a few words with Rena. John asked her about the two All-Ireland finals and what her feelings were on them.

She said in relation to the camogie final that they did have a plan but the team got flustered during the first-half and went in five points down at half-time.

Paudie Murray and Matthew Twomey had a few words of wisdom for them at half-time and that did the trick, refocusing on their

gameplan and that worked! With regards to the football final, nothing went right from the start which included being dispossessed easily and missing scores.

Again, at half-time refocusing on the game plan that Eamon Ryan spoke about the night before... perseverance, perseverance, perseverance.

Rena started her camogie and football career in Berrings National School under the watchful eye of

principal Paul Olden.

Rena also spoke about the huge commitment to sport and her daily life which consists of work, train and rest.

Rena is a fantastic role model and enthuses about her daily routine of work, training and playing.

Congratulations to Rena, a worthy recipient of the Auld Triangle and Muskerry Sports Star Award.

Glenryan come out on top in both games

THIS week's featured game in the Pat Lynch Memorial in the Don Association sponsored by Heineken Ireland is the game between the Glenryan 1 and the Hollyhill Inn.

First in for the Glenryan were Corny Mahony and Tom Higgins, who were up against Mick Tobin and John Riordan of the Hollyhill and after some great games, Corny and Tom came out on top for the Glenryan to go one up.

Next in for the Glenryan were Sean Donoghue and Dave Dineen up against two very

experienced players in Michael Moore and John Twomey of the Hollyhill with both pairs playing some outstanding cards with the Hollyhill pairing going on to win and level the match. Last and final pairing was Alan O'Mahony and Ray Chisholm of the Glenryan playing Trevor Buckley and Micky Dunne of the Hollyhill Inn and after some very close games, Alan and Ray went on to win for the Glenryan 1. The Glenryan 2 had a great win over the Bridge Inn after some great games played.

DON NOTES

By Damien O'Sullivan

The Glenryan 2 team was Owen Barrett, John Paul Twomey, Thomas Golly Flynn, Mick Forde and Martin and Tommy Byrnes. Another great game was played in the Beer Garden in a top of the table clash, as the Beer Garden took on Cionnaighs and after three very good games of cards, the Beer Garden went on to win. The Beer Garden team was Noel Walsh, Pat O'Leary,

Con O'Brien, Paddy Firmo, Mick Walsh and finally Mick Callaghan, who is back playing after a spell on the sidelines. The Beer Garden 2 also won against the Laurel Bar.

The other games in Section 4 saw Johnnys defeat the Chimes and Residence 1, who are undefeated, won against Ma Dulleas. The Residence team was Pat Mason, Mick Twohig, Finbarr Donovan, Eric Healy, Frank Cadogan and Gary Crowley. The Residence 2 also top their section after defeating

the Bellvue. Sextant lost their first game when they lost to Quinlans 2, and Quinlans 1 were beaten by Tom Lynchs. In Section 3, the Old Reliable beat the Sportsmans to collect their second win. The Don Association would like to thank our sponsors Heineken Ireland for the evening provided last Wednesday in the Kiln and especially Jim Cashman and the staff of Heineken Ireland. Also, next week's meeting is in the Hollyhill Inn at 8.30pm.