



**YVONNE O'BYRNE of CIT and Cork Harlequins Hockey Clubs and Ireland Senior Squad, is the latest winner of the very successful Southside & District Sports Award for December sponsored by the Cork International Airport Hotel (Main Sponsors) in association with Awards Sponsor Gerald McCarthy and Media Partners RedFM.**

Yvonne took up hockey when she went to Mount Mercy as it is the main school sport. She made the Senior A team when she was just 14 as a 2nd year student (2006), and the team went on to win the Munster Senior Schools Cup and the Kate Russell All Ireland that year with Mount Mercy. Yvonne captained the Mount Mercy Senior A team in 2010.

Yvonne has played with Munster U16, U18 and U21 teams from 2006-2013 and captained each of these teams in 2008, 2010 and 2013. She played with the Munster Senior team in 2011 when Munster won the Senior Interprovincial tournament. There hasn't been another Senior competition held since then. Yvonne has played with Ireland U'18 in 2010 and U'21 teams in 2012 and she played with an Ireland A Senior Development Team in 2012 in challenge games against England.

Yvonne's club is Cork Harlequins, which she joined in 2008. The Club made it to the IHL finals in 2010, the only Munster team to ever achieve this. Cork Harlequins won the Munster Division 1 League in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2013. Yvonne was captain of the Division 1 Ladies team in the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 seasons.

She has received Munster Hockey Branch "Player of the Year" awards for U'18 in 2010 and for U'21 in 2012.

For CIT, Yvonne has been a bursary student since 2010. She has captained the Ladies Hockey team for the last 2 years at inter-varsities. The CIT Ladies Hockey team won the Chilean Plate competition at varsities last year in 2012 and has won the mixed inter varsities in 2012 and 2011. Yvonne has recently been called up to the Irish International Senior Hockey Squad for the first time. She is on the squad alongside her fellow CIT colleague Cliodhna Sargent.

