

## Moate Community School U16 girls kick off the season.

By Grace Kelly

On Wednesday last the U16 girls of MCS began their season championship campaign against Ballymahon in Hogan Park. Accustomed to rain and wind, the girls had to adjust to the glaring heat of the hottest day of 2011. Who would have thought! The play began with a speedy opening point from Ballymahon's first play. Moate responded immediately with Lisa King stealing the kick out. Moments later Maireád Fox found herself, ball in hand tearing down the field with goal in sight. A tap into Alice Duffy looked promising but the Ballymahon defence proved too strong for the initial attack. However, the joint efforts of Zoe Nugent and Alice Duffy saw Moate regain the ball. Quick thinking led to a pass to Fox who placed the ball neatly in the back of the net. This was the boost Moate needed. With admirable mettle the Ballymahon girls responded with an impressive goal of their own. Not long before half time Izzie O'Neill scored another goal for Moate, followed quickly by another from the team work of O'Neill and Fox.



Early in the second half the Ballymahon girls took full advantage of the increasing wind with a couple of inspiring points, despite the best efforts of the Moate back line. Moate made a number of switches with Emma Collins and Stephanie Moran coming onto the park. This was a high scoring, high tempo and entertaining game which, despite Moate's impressive goals and many displays of superb teamwork, resulted in a victory for the Ballymahon girls with a score line of 5-12 to 5-6. The pressure is now on for the Moate girls who must win their next game to stay in the championship.