

TOWN TATTLER



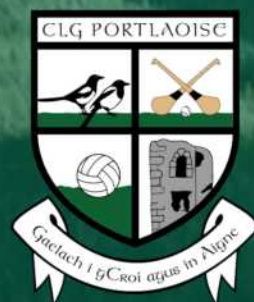
PORTLAOISE GAA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 9



FEATURED THIS MONTH

- ZACH TUOHY - KING OF THE WORLD
- PORTLAOISE LADIES - CHAMPIONS!
- IN CONVERSATION WITH TOMMY FITZGERALD
- GREAT NIGHT AT MINOR FOOTBALL REUNION



EDITORIAL ISSUE #9 2022

What an emotional few weeks its been and where do you even start. Heartbreak for our hurlers and footballers. The hurlers had early chances against favourites Abbeyfeix and not converting these came back and bit big time. But they showed plenty of ability and the talent is there to get Portlaoise back competing in the senior ranks for sure.

Our footballers were immense against reigning champions Portllington. They put in a huge shift and were in control for most of a very tense game. Little things conspired against us and this was a heartbreaking defeat. The lads have proven that they are not far away and lots of young players have come to the fore which is heartening to see.

We were cheered up hugely with the superb Laois championship win by our ladies who put on a display full of grit, skill and determination to dethrone St Conleths in an excellent final. A proud day for the club to be champions of Laois again. Best wishes to all involved in the upcoming Leinster Campaign.

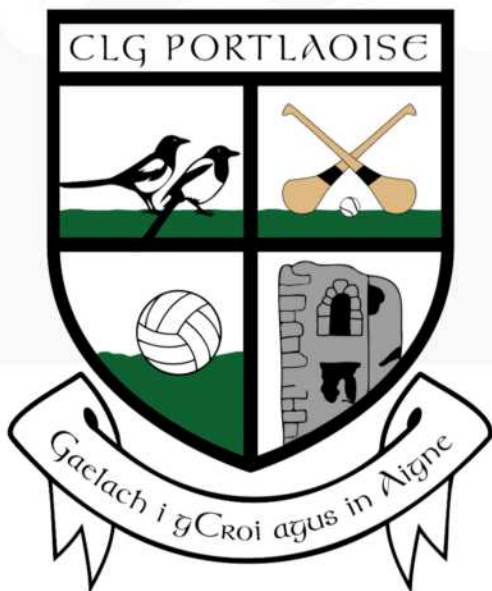
And then.....our club was catapulted onto the national and indeed world stage by the achievements of one of our own - the great Zach Tuohy. A few words can do no justice to the achievements of this proud son of Portlaoise. A warrior for Geelong Cats who has just become the second ever Irishman to win the Grand Final of the AFL, on his 250th appearance. He is now 2nd on the all time list of AFL appearances by an Irishman, just 14 behind the legendary Jim Stynes. Zach proudly draped himself in the Town flag and his town and club were at the forefront of his mind in his most glorious moment. Zach we salute you and thank you most sincerely for bringing such honour to your club and your town - not to mention your county and country. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating you. Some big matches still to come.....Minor hurlers in county final on Thursday 6th Oct in COE, Junior Footballers in County Final on 9th Oct in OMP. Ladies out in Leinster on 16th Oct in Rathleague.

The year is rolling on and the evenings are drawing in - but Portlaoise GAA is alive and well..

Enjoy issue #9

Cmon the Town!

The Tattler Team
PORTLAOISE GAA



LAOIS MINOR B HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 2022

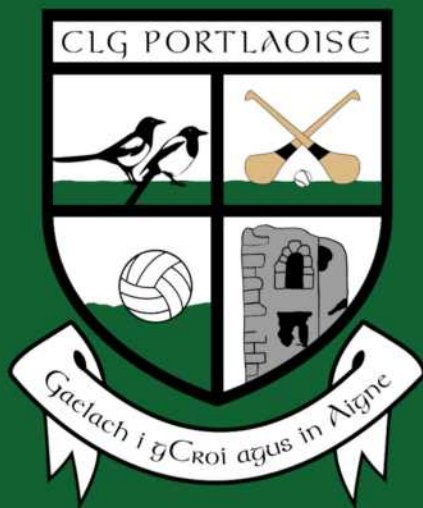
Thursday 6th October - 7.15pm
LOETB Centre of Excellence



PORTLAOISE V PARK RATHENISKA-TIMAHOE

LAOIS JUNIOR A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 2022

Sunday 9th October - 2pm
MW Hire O'Moore Park



PORTLAOISE V BARROWHOUSE



**For Fixtures and Results
please visit
www.portlaoisegaa.ie**

TOCZ



Can all sections make sure to send their results to the relevant PROs who will link in with Richie Coss who looks after the website for us.

**Results can be sent directly to Richie also - he mans the club mailbox
info@portlaoisegaa.ie**





PORTLAOISE GAA



Join "The Town" for Hurling and Gaelic Football on
Sunday mornings between 10.30-11.30 in Portlaoise GAA
Club, Rathleague

Well-organised GAA activities for boys and girls born
2015, 2016 and 2017 with room for all the family to watch
and enjoy the fun and games

Sunday Super Sports Fun & Games

Join Us!

Portlaoise GAA Club Rathleague

Eircode R32 Y160

Sunday Super Sports

U5's, U6's & U7's

Boys & Girls Born 2015, 2016 & 2017

C'MON THE TOWN



We are looking forward
to welcoming all our
existing & new members





Zach Tuohy

Geelong Cats & Town Legend



The career of Zach Tuohy is beyond the wildest dreams of most of us mere mortals.

Since he left these shores for a professional career in Australia in 2010, he has grafted and competed and excelled and inspired to become one of the great players in Australian Football.

A proud son of Portlaoise it's mind blowing to think he has eight senior football championship medals with the Town - a number of them won as he travelled back to star with the Town post-AFL season - as well as having played 250 games in the AFL, second only to the great Jim Stynes - a landmark he is firmly on course to surpass.

Last weekend, with the Geelong Cats, he won the Grand Final in Melbourne - only the second Irishman in history to do so - and in his most glorious moment he draped himself in the green and white and roared loudly for all to hear 'C'mon the Town!'

What a fantastic thing for all of us to see...the local boy who made it big but never forgot where he came from or the experiences that helped make him in the man he is today. Who knows what might have happened if we had been lucky enough to get over Portarlinton last week in the semi-final...he is due home this week and it may have created the opportunity for Zach to don his beloved green and white once more...how great would it be to see that happen once again.

For now we simply want to congratulate Zach on his unprecedented achievements and thank him for honouring us on the international stage.

Noel and Marie and all the clan must be bursting with pride, as is everyone associated with Portlaoise GAA Club. Bravo Zach



Zach celebrating victory in the AFL Grand Final with brother in law David Finn, Louise Bergin - David's cousin, and former town teammate Dean Cullen!





TOYOTA

GRAND FINAL
2022



| | | | |
|--|----|----|-----|
|  | 20 | 13 | 133 |
|  | 8 | 4 | 52 |

PRIDE
OF THE
TOWN



**Laois Scór Sinsir will be held
at the "LOETB"
Centre of Excellence
Páirc Uí Mhórdha
on Friday October 7th at 8pm.**



Scór is a GAA competition that combines all the colour and rivalry of Gaelic Games with the social/fun element of Ireland's traditional past-times. The competition was established by the GAA in 1969 with the aim of promoting Ireland's traditional pastimes and culture while offering club members the chance to meet up, have fun and represent their club during the winter months while Football, Camogie and Hurling had ceased.

There are eight events/disciplines in Scór that cover all aspects of Irish culture:

1. Figure/Céilí Dancing
2. Solo Singing
3. Ballad Group
4. Recitation/Scéalaíocht
5. Nuachleas/Novelty Act
6. Instrumental Music
7. Set Dancing
8. Table Quiz.

If you are interested please contact Tommy Mulligan on
087 2939077





PORTLAOISE



Laois Senior Football Champions 2022



Portlaoise 2-5 v 0-10 St Conleth's

Saturday 24th September 2022
MW Hire O'Moore Park



Back Row: Aoife Conlon Hyland, Aoife Hanniffy, Deirdre Phelan, Fiona Dooley, Shauna Dooley, Kirsten Keenan, Sarah Fleming, Sarah Anne Fitzgerald, Grainne Moran, Aisling Kehoe, Grainne O'Reilly, Rebecca Keane, Eireann Brennan, Charlie Walsh, Chloe Norton, Aedin Dunne

Front Row: Laura Nerney, Leah Loughman, Rebecca Reddin, Alison Taylor, Aoibhe O'Brien, Susie Delaney, Shaunagh Jackson, Ellen Healy, Ciara Byrne, Sinead Murphy, Amy Byrne, Jessie Saunders, Aishling Saunders (Captain)

Scorers: Shaunagh Jackson 1-1 (0-1 free), Ellen Healy 1-0, Fiona Dooley 0-2, Susie Delaney 0-1, Sarah Anne Fitzgerald 0-1



Congrats to our senior ladies on reclaiming champion status in Laois for 2022. In an extremely hard-fought game in O'Moore Park on Saturday last they ground out a nail-biting one point win over defending champions St Conleth's. There were great performances all over the pitch and it was fantastic to see the whole club out supporting the girls.

The Town march on to the Leinster Championship now where they face Eadestown (Kildare) in the first round. Hopefully we can go one step further than that memorable maiden campaign in 2020 when the ladies made it to the Leinster Final only to be beaten by perennial winners Foxrock Cabinteely.

Best wishes to Stephen Duff, his management team, and all the players - the club is proud of you and behind you all the way.

Cmon the Town Ladies!



PORTLAOISE



Laois Senior Football Champions 2022



Portlaoise - Laois Ladies Senior Football Champions 2022



Pat Loughman getting the colours up..



Visiting the schools and inspiring the next generation



Young supporters out on the pitch



Laura Nerney sharing the moment



What its all about... the Lulu Carroll trophy for the champions of Laois



Happy days for Ellen Healy and Leah Loughman



Celebrating with the fans

THANK YOU!

get well soon



Portlaoise GAA Club would like to thank our very own Catherine Fitzgerald for a much appreciated donation to the club recently - she donated it towards the Annual Golf Classic. Thank you Catherine!!



Best wishes to Catherine Doyle, a stalwart of the club, pictured here with Chairperson of Portlaoise LGFA Olga Loughman, after last weeks county final. Catherine had a bad break on her arm recently whilst out jogging. Wishing you a speedy recovery Catherine!

Laois Senior Hurling Champions 2004

October 2nd, 2004



Portlaoise 2-8 Castletown 0-7

Back: Roc Scully, Liam Phelan, Eoin Fingleton (RIP), Brian McCormack, Barry Fitzgerald, Dermot Costello, Noel Costello. Middle: Mark Phelan, Niall Rigney, John Mulligan, Geoff Phelan, Eoin Browne, Paul Scanlon, Colm Clear, Tommy Fitzgerald, Eamon Fennelly, Brian Mulligan, Joe Phelan (Capt.), Tommy Mulligan, Cyril Duggan, Jamie Fitzpatrick.

Front: Darren Murphy, Mark O'Sullivan, Derek Delaney, John Hanniffy (with his son, Sean Og), Pat Fitzpatrick, Broughan O'Reilly, Alan Kingsley, Sean Cotter, Keith Murphy, Mick Bowe, Cahir Healy.

Mascot: Cormac Rigney.

Huge congrats to Ellen Healy and Erone Fitzpatrick who have just been selected on the All Ireland Ladies Intermediate Team of the Championship. Ellen is a lynchpin on our ladies football team in the club and this caps a hugely successful year for her, following the county final success last week. Erone is hugely talented member of our Camogie panel.

Ellen is, of course, a sister of club legend Cahir and what a contribution these siblings have made to the club. Erone too has strong family connections to Portlaoise GAA - her uncle Gus won multiple hurling championships with the town in his younger years. Well done Ellen and Erone!!



TG4 INTERMEDIATE TEAM OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP 2022



1

Goalkeeper
EIMEAR BARRY
Laois



2

Right Corner Back
SARAH HARDING KENNY
Wexford



3

Full Back
 AISLING DONOHER
Laois



4

Left Corner Back
TARA KELLY
Clare



5

Right Half Back
RACHEL WILLIAMS
Laois



6

Centre Half Back
RÓISÍN MURPHY
Wexford



7

Left Half Back
ELLEN HEALY
Laois



8

Midfield
 AISLING REIDY
Clare



9

Midfield
LAURA FLEMING
Roscommon



10

Right Half Forward
CAITRÍONA MURRAY
Wexford



11

Centre Half Forward
LAURA-MARIE MAHER
Laois



12

Left Half Forward
ERONE FITZPATRICK
Laois



13

Right Corner Forward
MO NERNEY
Laois



14

Full Forward
 AISLING MURPHY
Wexford



15

Left Corner Forward
FIDELMA MARRINAN
Clare

Ciorcal Comhrá

Próifil Imreoir

Ainm: Aishling Nic Sandair

Aois: Tríocha bliain d'aois

Leasainm: Saunders

Post: Múinteoir bunscoile

Scoileanna ina d'fhreastail tú: Scoil Mhuire agus Scoil Chríost Rí

Caithimh Aimsire: Imrím Peil Ghaelach agus is maith liom a bheith ag traenáil san ionad aclaíochta

An clár Netflix is fearr leat: Is aoibhinn liom The Last Kingdom agus taitním Suits go mor liom faoi láthair

Banna ceoil is fearr leat: Westlife

An áit is fearr le dul ar laethanta saoire? Lanzarote nó Albuferia

Cén áit ar an bpáirc is fearr leat? Aon áit sa chúlaí ach an áit is fearr liom ná leathchúlaí

Do thionchar is mó: Mo Chlann, agus mo bhainisteoir, gan dabht.

Cé hí/hé do laoch spóirt? B'fhéidir Katie Taylor. Is inspioráid í.

An t-imreoir Cumann Luthchleas Gaeil is fearr leat: Is fearr liom Cora Staunton. Tá sí dochreidte. Is imreoir an-sciliúil í agus tugann sí a saol don sport.

Comhairle d'imreoirí óga: Bí ag éisteacht le do chóitseálaithe, bain taitheamh as do chuid spóirt agus ná bí buartha má dhéanann tú botún.



Próifil Imreoir

Ainm: Proinsias Ó Flanagáin

Aois: 24

Leasainm: The General

Post: Mac léinn ollscoile

Scoileanna ina d'fhreastail tú: Gaelscoil Phortlaoise agus an CBS

Caithimh Aimsire: Spórt, an taisteal agus am a chaitheamh le mo chailín/chaide

An clár Netflix is fearr leat: Brooklyn 99

Banna ceoil is fearr leat: Dylan Feane

An áit is fearr le dul ar laethanta saoire? An Fhrainc

Cén áit ar an bpáirc is fearr leat? Lánchúlaí

Do thionchar is mó: Mo chairde/chlann

Cé hí/hé do laoch spóirt? Le Wasp

An t-imreoir Cumann Luthchleas Gaeil is fearr leat: Lee Keegan

Comhairle d'imreoirí óga: Is iontach an rud é a bheith ag imirt/traenáil le do chairde, bain taitheamh as!



FRÁSAÍ ÚSÁIDEACHA

USEFUL PHRASES

Nach raibh an foireann na mban go h-
iontach an Satharn seo caite sa
chluiche ceannais? -Weren't the
ladies super in the county final last
Saturday

Cathain a bheidh
siad ag imirt arís? -
When are they
playing again?

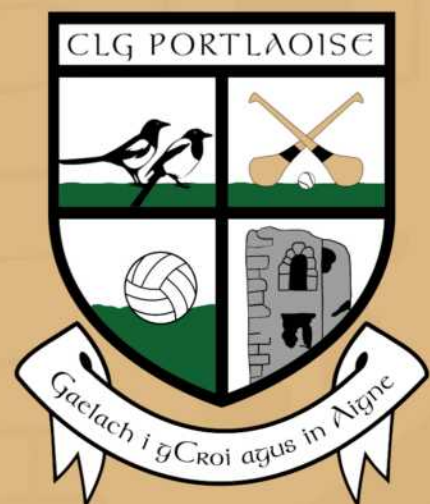
Cé a bhí do laoch an
cluiche? -Who was
your player of the
match?

Bhí siad.....bhí na cosantóirí an laidir
agus fuair na tosaí cúpla scóranna
gleoite -They were...the defenders
were very strong and the forwards
got some lovely scores

Fiona Dooley.....bhí sí
sármhaith i lár na páirce -
Fiona Dooley...She was
excellent in midfield

Seanfhocail - Old Sayings

Beidh siad ag imirt i
gceann coicíse i
Rathleague i gcraobh
Laigheann -They are
playing in a fortnight in
Rathleague in the
Leinster championship



A photograph of Tommy Fitzgerald, a Portlaoise GAA player, leaning against a large, textured rock. He is wearing a white long-sleeved jersey with green accents. The jersey features the 'onells' logo and the number '17' on the chest. A green band across the chest has 'DOWNEY'S' in white. On the left sleeve, there is a 'KIA' logo and a 'GAA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS' patch. On the right sleeve, there is an 'AIB' patch and a '#TheToughest' hashtag. The background is a dark, rocky wall.

TOMMY FITZGERALD

This interview with Tommy was first published in our club history book 'Cmon the Town' in 2015.

What were your first memories of Portlaoise GAA?

It's a funny one really. It's the infamous row between Portlaoise and Camross in the 1989 county final. I was five/six years old at the time and I was sitting in the old stand in O'Moore Park. I don't remember anything of the game! Apart from that, my earliest memories are the mini-leagues or street leagues that were played

during the summer months.

Early Heroes?

Like a lot of young Portlaoise boys at the time, my hero was John Taylor. I remember John Costello, Sean Mullins, Mick Reynolds and a few more good men taking us down to Kilkenny to play James Stephens before a Laois v Wexford game in Nowlan Park. I can still recall all us 8/9 year olds chanting

Taylor's name en masse. Niall Rigney, Cyril Duggan and the Bergins were big names at the time and also ones that we all looked up to. I just missed out on the golden era of the football team of the 80s but we all grew up on stories of how good that team was, especially names like "Curly" Prendergast, Atch Whelan and the Brownes.

Unsung heroes?

Too many to mention. These people make a club. They do the unseen work, the unglamorous but necessary work to keep the club ticking over. I remember especially people like Sean Mullins, John Costello, Joe Daly, Joe Phelan Snr, Mick Reynolds and many others who ran a very successful juvenile section at the time. The work they started led to Portlaoise winning senior championships years later.

Best players down through the years?

I can only recall teams of the early '90s onwards so I can't include club legends like Curly, Atch, Pat Critchley, the Bohanes, the Brownes etc. Over the years when I've been playing senior and the years in between, we've been blessed with some outstanding players in both codes. In football we've had Tom Conroy, Ian Fitzgerald, Wooly, Bruno, Cahir Healy, Kevin Fitz, Mickey Nolan and so many more exceptional players and servants to the club. In hurling we had Taylor, Niall Rigney, Paul and Liam Bergin, Cyril Duggan, Joe Phelan, Cahir Healy and many more.

Characters?

Some good ones! I'll just list a few and I'll let you fill in the gaps yourselves. Jimmy Wrest, Brochan Reilly, Teddy Fennelly Junior, Wooly, Malachy McNulty, Stapo Brown, Eoin 'Stu' Browne.

Funny memories?

Paul 'Walla' Brown's speech in the

changing room before the 2002 Junior 'B' county football final. There wasn't one mention of football or the game in his speech. It was comedy gold. The match video shows the Portlaoise lads entering the field in fits of laughter. Portlaoise won the match comfortably after! Paul 'Walla' Brown's speech in the changing room before the 2002 Junior 'B' county football final. There wasn't one mention of football or the game in his speech. It was comedy gold. The match video shows the Portlaoise lads entering the field in fits of laughter. Portlaoise won the match comfortably after!

Memories of Underage.

Too many to mention. I was fortunate enough to play in county finals in both codes the whole way up from u12 to u21, winning the majority of them. The Minor Hurling final we won in 2001 is a particularly fond memory. John Taylor managed us that year and unfortunately we haven't won a minor since. I was captain for the football final a week later when we were hottest of favourites. We were awful on the day and were turned over by a Crettyard/Ballinakill combo.

Biggest influences?

It's very hard to identify any one individual, as I came under the influence of many excellent coaches, managers, selectors and players. Tommy Conroy had a big influence on me on the football field. He was captain in 2002 when I first came on to the

panel and he was then manager in 2004 when we went all the way to Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day. He's very intelligent and thorough, and he instilled a lot of confidence in me.

Highlight of club career.

It was probably the day I won my one and only senior hurling medal in 2004. Castletown were going for a record 6 in-a-row and they'd beaten us in the final the previous year. I never saw a Portlaoise team as focussed or as well prepared as that day and we ended up convincing winners. It was a special feeling after the final whistle went and my only regret is that I never got to experience that emotion on the field with a Portlaoise hurling team since. We went on to complete the double the following week when we beat Emo in the football final. Beating Crossmaglen Rangers in the All-Ireland semi-final the following February was a great day also, especially considering their status in club football. There was a huge Portlaoise/Laois following in Parnell Park that day and I think they all enjoyed it!

Biggest disappointment?

There have been a few too many disappointments unfortunately. Obviously losing three senior hurling finals on the trot between 2007 and 2009 is especially disappointing. I was captain for two of those, and the 2008 final in particular still hurts. Considering we were short a few key players, we actually hurled very well on

the day. Unfortunately the referee decided to play an extra minute or two and a Rathdowney/Errill free won it with the last puck of the game. In total, I've lost five senior hurling finals, which is hugely disappointing.

In football, St. Patrick's Day 2005 is a day I'll never forget for the wrong reasons. We were on a high after blitzing everyone in Leinster and squeezing past Crossmaglen in the semi-final. However, we failed to turn up on the day and we never reached the same heights as previous days. To play so poorly and to lose by a single point was sickening. I was quite poor myself on the day and it still hurts looking back on it.

What would your aspirations be for the club in 20 years time?

I hope to see the club realising its full potential, both on and off the field. I'd love to see Portlaoise GAA club being the club of choice for parents and the children of Portlaoise, a club which proactively recruits and retains new members and instils a love of our games and our club in them. At the moment I feel we're underachieving in that regard. Unfortunately, where we were once the number one choice for parents and children of the town, we seem to be playing second fiddle of late to other sports. We have a product, ethos and tradition that other clubs would die for. However, we need to be more proactive in attracting new members. Our senior wins over the years in both codes were built on the foundations laid by winning countless juvenile titles. In recent

years, that conveyer belt has dried up and we are not producing the same volume of quality players we once did. The fact that we have not won a minor hurling final since 2001 is an indictment of the complacency or neglect of juvenile structures in recent times, especially in hurling. But the U21 win in 2015 and the minors beaten in the final in a replay must give us hope for the hurling.

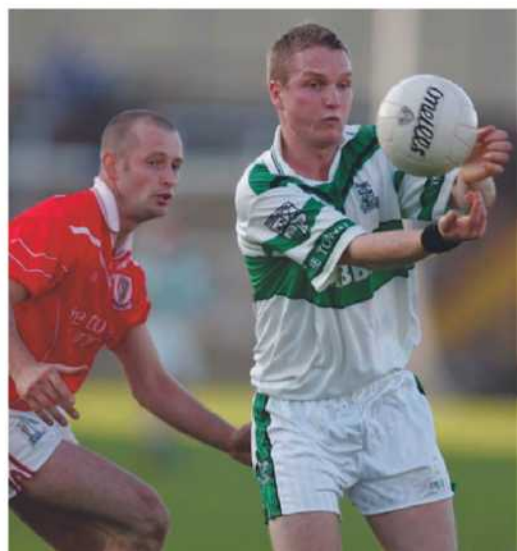
In 20 years time, I'd love to see greater numbers of juveniles playing our games, with the correct structures and supports in place to develop and nurture their talents. I'd love to see a culture of volunteerism, where former and current players, supporters and administrators give their time, energy and talents freely. I'd love to see a club that the people of Portlaoise are proud to be associated with and they come in large numbers to support The Town on and off the field. Finally, I'd love to see our senior teams being in a position to challenge for Leinster Finals in hurling and football on a regular basis.



Tommy Fitzgerald holds off Graigue's Shane O'Neill in the 2011 county final.



Tommy Fitzgerald has plenty of markers in the 2009 Laois SHC Final.



Tommy Fitzgerald hand passes to a colleague in the 2008 football final.



Senior Hurling 'A' Champions 2015. SHC A Final.

Back: Denis Kavanagh, Roch Scully, Joe Geaney, Shane Smyth, Eoghan Nealon, Joe Phelan, Eoin Costelloe, Tony Byrne, Colm Gleeson, Chris Lynch, Darragh Rigney, Ciaran McEvoy, Cahir Healy, Philip Roche, Gary Bergin, Frank Flanagan, Caolan Murphy.

Front: Bertie Walsh, Eoin Rochford, Sean Culleton, Niall Gleeson, Keith Murphy (Capt), Aaron Bergin, Tommy FitzGerald, Noel Costelloe, Cian Taylor, Eoin Phelan, Dean Lynch, Rhys Murphy, Craig Haslam, Pauric O'Neill, Daniel Delaney.



20 YEAR RE-UNION



Portlaoise Minor Football Team - Laois Minor Football Champions 2002

The champion minors of 2002 had a re-union in De Bruns Bar on Saturday 24th Sept and it was a fantastic evening of memories and camaraderie..



2002 Laois Minor MFC Final

Portlaoise 1-12 Stradbally Parish Gaels 0-13

The 'Town' won the clubs 21st Minor Football title by overcoming Stradbally Parish Gaels in the final by two points. Portlaoise had to pull out all the stops to clinch the title. They led by a point at half time but it took too late points from Peter McNulty (RIP) to secure victory at the end.

Portlaoise: Brian Farrell; Dan O Shea, John Delaney, Cahir Healy; Jamie Fitzpatrick, Brian Mulligan, Mark O Sullivan; Eoin Fingleton (Capt) (RIP), Keith Lalor; Brian Bowe, Sean Cotter, Shane McManus; Peter McNulty (RIP), Barry Fitzgerald, Craig Rogers.

Sub: Declan O Loughlin.



20 YEAR RE-UNION

A great evening of memories and friendships renewed - here are some of the pics of the people who attended on the night





PORTLAOISE



Laois LGFA U14 A & C Champions 2022



Congrats to our U14 Footballers who won both the A and the C championships yesterday 1st October. This shows the hard work that is being done on the ground and it's a great sign for the future of ladies football in the town.

Well done to all the players in both grades and to managers Mark Brophy & Joe Byrne, their management teams and everybody involved.

C'mon the Town!!

Laois Ladies U14 A
Champions 2022

Portlaoise 1-11
Timahoe 0-8



Laois Ladies U14 C
Champions 2022

Portlaoise 4-1
St Conleth's 1-5



TOWN SOCIAL CLUB



Our new Town Social Group is coming together thankfully - led by the muinteor Tommy Mulligan.

There are representatives from all sections on board and everybody is welcome. Please reach out to Tommy on 087-2939077 if its something that would interest you.

Next on the agenda is a club table quiz which is in Mick Ryans which will be held on Friday 28th October

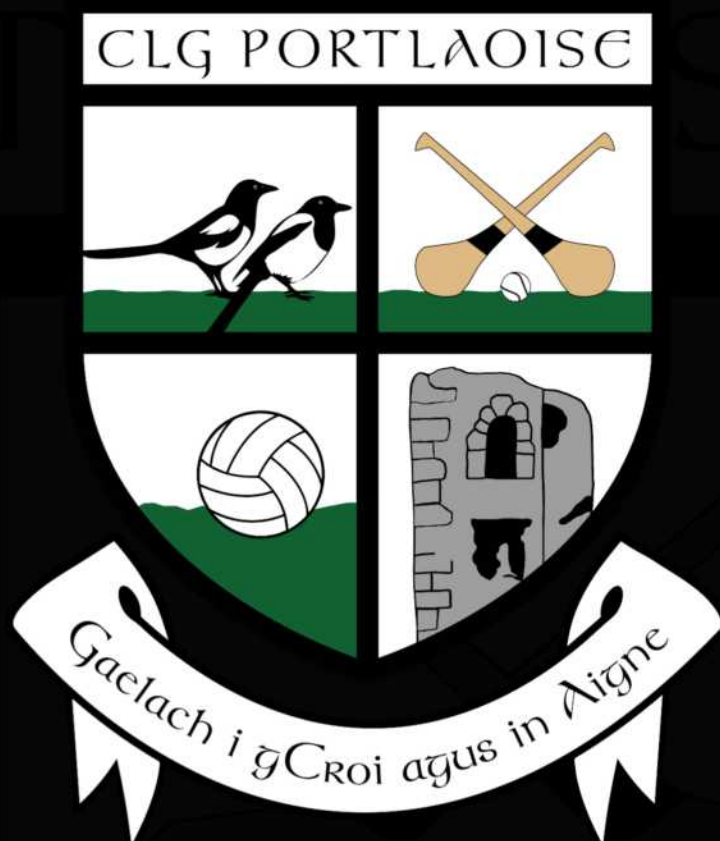
And in late November we are planning a big night to celebrate the 135th Anniversary of the foundation of the club....what a road we have travelled since. Watch this space for news on how we intend to mark the occasion



ONE CLUB

Thanks to everyone who supports our fundraising efforts through the lotto (day to day running costs), and bingo (development). It is greatly appreciated.

If you have any feedback in relation to the newsletter, or if you would like to contribute to it, please contact pro.portlaoise.laois@gaa.ie



Play Club Bingo Online -
over €5,000 in prizes to be
won every Friday night.
Eyes down 8pm on Zoom
(hosted by our very own DJ
Broch!)

www.portlaoisegaa.ie
Go to fundraising section on
website

TOWN LOTTO

Play our club lotto - Jackpot
€20,000!!

www.portlaoisegaa.ie
Go to fundraising section on
website