

Portlaoise GAA Club Newsletter

TOWN TATTTLER

Vol 3 Issue 8

In Memory of Eoin & Dylan Fitzpatrick



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Hi everyone,

The year is flying along and our teams are busy as they fight to progress in their championships...best of luck to all teams.

In this months Tattler a really sad event left a dark cloud over the club and community. The tragic passing of Eoin and Dylan Fitzpatrick was a huge shock - the Fitzpatrick and Dowling families are dyed in the wool townies. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of Eoin and Dylan. May they rest in eternal peace.

Also sincere sympathies to the Phelan and Scully families on their sad losses in the past month.

Our second Walk for the Town is scheduled for 22nd/23rd September and we hope to tie the finish of this in with a family friendly social night too. Watch this space.

Leprino Foods Ltd have come on board as a sponsor for the year and we give some details of that.

Our Gaelic for Mothers and Others organised their first ever blitz and this was an overwhelming success. Well done to all involved.

We go back to 1982 for our archives this month. See how many faces you recognise!

Our 2003 minor footballers had a nostalgic reunion and we've some pictures from this and Dennis Tynan has a piece on it.

There's lots more so we hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Tattler. Any feedback or contributions welcome as always.

The Tattler Team
PORTLAOISE GAA





Eoin & Dylan Fitzpatrick R.I.P.

July 17th was a dark day for our club.

One of our own Eoin Fitzpatrick, and his cherished son Dylan, tragically passed away in an accident while holidaying in Turkey.

Memories of Eoin playing for Portlaoise are vivid. He was a hurler first and foremost. But he played plenty of football too – especially in his juvenile days. Soccer was also a big love of Eoin’s. He was a scoring forward. More than anything he had what looked to be a very natural skill. Except like many who seem to have a natural skill, it was natural because of the amount of times he practiced it. He was left handed and stood out for his skill and style. He had great balance, terrific first touch, that little jink, and a predator’s eye when it came to putting that ball into the back of the net or over the bar.

On his recent visit home, club legend Cahir Healy was calling in to see the Fitzpatrick family. He was unsure of the house as it was many years since he was there when Eoin and Cahir were two kids with a shared dream. How he knew he was in the right place is very poignant – the dents in the garage door from the ball being relentlessly pucked against it. The dents are still there and Cahir remembered them from bygone days.

Cahir adds: *‘My abiding memory of playing with Eoin with the club and school was his skill. Beautiful first touch. A Typical left handed corner forward! That skill he had wasn’t by accident. I remember being out in his house one day and he had the ball out pucking against the garage door. I looked on in horror as he had the garage door with more dents in it than that car in father Ted! He just laughed at me as each puck put a new dent in it. Eoin was a great friend and great fun to be with. Brilliantly quick witted too!’*

Eoin was a proud town man and this was instilled in him from an early age. His dad Frank has been a great advocate of the club and a stalwart in his constant support. His mam Rita is an integral part of ‘Mná na gClub’ – that great band of women who fed and watered so many of our players and our teams over the years after matches and trainings. Women such as Antoinette Prendergast, Catherine Fitzgerald, Maureen O Keeffe, Marie Daly, Imelda Fitzpatrick, Claire Rigney, Ann Mulhall, Ann Scanlon, and others too. Rita was in the middle of this crew and the stories and yarns are still being told and are the stuff of legend.

And just like Frank and Rita did with Eoin, Eoin too passed on the heritage of Portlaoise GAA. His eldest son Cian is a star player with our U15s. A really talented young player and one to watch out for into the future. We can only imagine how hard it has been for Cian – we hope that our club can be a place where you know you have really strong support into the future.

Our sincere sympathies go to the immediate Fitzpatrick family – Frank, Rita, Maryse, Ciara and Aideen. And to Mark and Travis as brothers and uncles in laws of Eoin and Dylan. To nieces and nephews and cousins Abi, Kandeece, Charlie, Lily and Artie. To Dylan’s mam Claire on her unimaginable loss, to Claire’s parents and Dylan’s grandparents Liz and Andy, Dylan’s favourite uncle, Andrew – another club stalwart. And never to forget Eoin’s partner Suzie and her two children Jake and Leon who were on holidays, along with Cian, with Eoin and Dylan at the time of the tragedy.

Portlaoise were lucky to have called upon the services of Eoin in a number of finals down through the year. Not all finals were won but Eoin gave his heart and soul for the cause in each and every one of these games as he did anytime he pulled on the club jersey.

Eoin’s final appearances:

- 1999 U12 A Football:** Portlaoise CBS 1-4 v 1-5 Mountmellick.
- 2000 U14 A Hurling:** Portlaoise 3-6 v 1-5 Rathdowney.
- 2001 U14 Féile Hurling:** Portlaoise 2-7 v 0-2 The Harps.
- 2001 U14 Féile Football:** Portlaoise 0-10 v 1-2 Graiguecullen.
- 2002 U16 A Hurling:** Portlaoise 3-9 v 0-7 Clough/Ballacolla.
- 2003 U16 A Hurling:** Portlaoise 4-9 v 2-8 Kilcotton.
- 2003 U16 A Football:** Portlaoise 2-10 v 1-9 Ballylinan/Glanmor.
- 2003 Minor B Football:** Portlaoise 1-7 v 4-5 Courtwood.
- 2018 Junior C Hurling:** Portlaoise 1-13 v 0-7 Ballyfin.
- 2018 ACHL Div 5 Hurling:** Portlaoise 0-12 v 1-12 The Harps.

But it’s not all about the winning. Some great players gave long service with very few medals to paint the picture of the journey. The memory of Eoin will remain vivid for any of us who were lucky enough to have known him and to have seen him play. Like David Brown earlier this year – Eoin will remain forever young in our thoughts and in our hearts.

Rest in Eternal Peace Eoin and Dylan.





It was a great sadness to hear of Eoin and Dylan passing after that awful accident in Turkey. It was a great pleasure to be involved with Eoin from a young age up to minor with the hurling. He was a great hurler with a super attitude. Talking to a lot of players around the funeral time that hurled with Eoin up along and they all had great memories of him and the fun and laughter he brought to the set up. Eoin and Dylan will be very sadly missed and may they rest in peace. - **Liam Bergin**

I have to say it was a pleasure to be involved in training Eoin. He was a very dedicated, determined and very skillful hurler. He always had a smile or grin on his face and he would no doubt have the last word. Rest In Peace Eoin and Dylan - **John Bohan**



Portlaoise 2003 Minor Football team reunion. Peigs Bar, August 11th, 2023

The sands of time wait for nobody. In the blink of an eye, the raucous celebrations of a joyous county final victory over St. Josephs/Barrowhouse in Stradbally in December, 2003, were well and truly cast into folklore. Replaced instead, with the gathering of that victorious 2003 Minor-A football panel for their 20 year reunion in Peigs bar, on Friday, August 11th.

An oceans worth of water had passed under the bridge since that momentous day in Stradbally, when an utterly dominant Portlaoise team had overcome the challenge of their opponents with relative ease, as they had done in all of their matches leading up to the final. And so, a second Minor-A football title in a row was secured by the Town. No easy feat.

The Minor B footballers had also done very well that year, overcoming some impressive teams such as Portarlingotn and St. Josephs, to reach their own county decider. It wasn't to be on the day for them though, as they were beaten by Courtwood in the final in Timahoe. Many of that panel would go on to play for the A-team later that year, and were an important part of the victorious Minor-A panel.

In the 20 years that followed, life, as it tends to do, played out in many mysterious ways. Different paths were taken, families and careers were nurtured and grown. And sadly too, some journeys concluded well before their time. History weighed heavily, with many stories and memories to be shared. Yet, as the panel slowly began to gather in Peigs, we were all cast back to our youth. A warm embrace or a hand shake broke the ice, and we were once again the minor football panel of 2003.

The laughs and the pints were in full-flow, as was the banter, with no quarter sought or given. An impromptu 'reeling in the years' overtook many conversations, with memories of old and stories of how life had played out over the past 20

years being shared. Both county finals, particularly the minor B final, were dissected and analysed, and all was well. As well as the panel and management, we were joined by some stalwarts and great servants of the club, including club Chairperson Teddy Fennelly, Eddie McCormack, Paddy O'Shea, Seamus and Catherine Fitzgerald, Liam Dunne and George Plunkett, proprietor of Peigs, who put us up for the night and was a gentleman as always in how he catered for us and looked after us all.

Once the goujons and cocktail sausages had been worked through, we retired to Aunty Nora's, where a few words and presentations were to be shared. Led by 2 town legends, the indomitable Cahir Healy and Danny O'Shea, our Captain in 2003, some beautiful words were spoken, followed by a presentation to all of the management team who looked after us that year. Managers Pat Ryan and Jim McManus, who unfortunately couldn't attend on the night, and selectors Noel Tynan and Kieran Dunphy. A small token presented to each man to say thanks for the many hours of their time and guidance that they gave us.

Special mention was also given in remembrance of those who have sadly gone before us; most notably, Peter 'Chief' McNulty and Eoin Fitzpatrick. To see their Dad's Malachy and Frank there on the night was fantastic. Two young men, taken far before their time; their memory and names will forever remain embroidered within the rich tapestry of Portlaoise GAA Club. And so, after a few group photos, we continued celebrating and reminiscing into the small hours of the morning, before eventually parting ways once more.

Nights like this are priceless in so many ways. They should be treasured and celebrated. Too often in life we focus on only today and tomorrow, forgetting to nurture memories

from the past. The GAA is often called a family, and celebrations such as this do justice to that statement. Here's hoping we're all here to share many more memories and good times in the years ahead.

A special word of thanks to the following people in particular: Cahir Healy for organising the reunion, George Plunkett for providing the venue and food, John Murphy for the fantastic document he put together, charting the rise of this team from under-12 to Minor, Richie Coss for designing the certs that were presented to the management team, Paul Monahan for the frames for the certificates, and Teddy Fennelly Jnr for attending and speaking on behalf of the club on the night.







Club

Football

Hurling

Camogie

LGFA

G4M&O

Juvenile

Health & Wellbeing

Archives

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Portlaoise celebrates winning the minor football championship in Stradbally on Saturday

Photo: Aif Harvey

Saints are swamped as Portlaoise win again

Portlaoise 3-11 v St. Joseph's/Barrowhouse

What a day. The eagerly-awaited Laois minor football final at Stradbally, which promised an early goal over made the opening ten minutes so difficult. Captain Barrowhouse (Joseph St. Joseph's/Barrowhouse) and his team to the back the night was only a few yards, and save the team their third try in succession.

All 11 players being brought was no more than the county team side showed as they were just a different class. With so many county minor players on view they lived up to their reputation and gave a 2-1 goal to the scoreboard in the first ten minutes of the game.

In the eight minutes the ball cover was just the red and white with Portlaoise coming to ease after some quick play. St. Joseph's were never better than a goal.

With the ball being swung and with their attack on for a few of the way.

All incident winners Peter McNulty, Barry Fitzgerald, Craig Rogers and Darren Dunphy were not in the game and into the night with a few more to come. Portlaoise were off to a three and St. Joseph's Barrowhouse led to answer.



Peter McNulty scores for Portlaoise against St. Joseph's/Barrowhouse in the minor football championship final at Stradbally on Saturday

BY JACK NOLAN

There All Ireland winners Colin Kelly, Eoin Butler and Cathal Fleming were all awarded and it was an uphill struggle from the opening ten minutes to compete with their opponents.

Barrowhouse opened in a different fashion in front of a large crowd and in perfect sunny December conditions they had found the net four times in ten minutes.

Peter McNulty was involved in everything that he opened with a powerful free after Barry Fitzgerald was fouled and from a superb punt he was well wide for the opening goal.

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Barry Fitzgerald on the attack



Man of the Match, Cathal Healy receives his award



Man of the match captain Danny O'Shea raises the cup



PORTLAOISE GAA CLUB

LAOIS MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2003

Portlaoise 3-11 v 0-7 St Joseph's/Barrowhouse

Saturday 6th December 2003 - Stradbally GAA Grounds



Path to the County Final
Quarter Final: Portlaoise 5-15 v 1-07 Wolfe Tones
Semi Final: Portlaoise 2-15 v 2-04 Ballylinan Gleanmore

Team Mentors
Managers: Pat Ryan & Jim McManus;
Mentors: Noel Tynan & Kieran Dunphy;



Panel: Shane Corbett, Paul Monaghan, Darren Timmons, Mark Phelan, Brian Dunne, Cahir Healy, Larry Fitzpatrick, Shane McManus, Daniel O'Shea (Capt.), Peter McNulty (R.I.P.), Craig Rogers, Paddy Ryan, Danny Reddin, Barry Fitzgerald, Darren Dunphy, Conor Fingleton, Gary Dunphy, Wayne McFall, Eamon Callaghan, John Murphy, Fintan Walsh, John Dunne, Denis Tynan, Paul Collins, Keith Murphy, Paul Bonham, Colin Rochford, Derek Delaney, Joey Delaney, Richie Graham, Brian McCormack, Eoin Fitzpatrick (R.I.P.), JP Seale, Jack Fennell, Damien Lambe. Mascot: Conor Dunphy



Leprino Foods

We are delighted that Leprino Foods EU Limited and Portlaoise GAA club have agreed a sponsorship deal. As part of this Leprino have sponsored jerseys for our Minor Hurlers and Footballers, provided funds for our very important Town All Stars section, and have also provided funds to support the development of our Early Years initiative.

Portlaoise clubman James Timmons, who is Logistics Coordinator with the company, was instrumental in opening the door to this relationship and we want to thank him for his help. The club met with Naomi Ryan, who is the HR and L&D Manager for the company, and Naomi was extremely helpful in supporting and securing some vital funds for our club. Naomi has a particular keen interest in the work that our Town Allstars have been doing with children who have special needs. This programme has helped provide a much needed social and sporting outlet to these children, as well as support for their parents.

Leprino is based in the National Enterprise Park, Togher, Portlaoise and on this site alone 137 staff are employed with roles varying from General Operatives, Maintenance Engineers, Automation Engineers, Quality assurance and Technical personnel. The plant is fully operational for the past 3 years, and is the largest supplier of mozzarella cheese in the EU. It supplies to Apache, Domino's, Papa Johns & Pizza Hut. If you are eating a pizza the cheese is most likely from Leprino Foods Ltd.

The Leprino Foods Mission is "to make every customer feel like our only customer through our core values of Quality, Service, Competitive price and ethics".

Representatives from the company recently called to Rathleague to have a look at our facilities and to partake in a photo opp to unveil the sponsorship.

Amongst the visitors from Leprino were the aforementioned James Timmons and Naomi Ryan as well as Geraint Evans (Operations Manager) & Fergal McGrenaghan (Engineering Manager).



The sponsorship agreement includes assistance for the clubs Town Allstars initiative. Pictured here are James Timmons (Leprino and Portlaoise GAA), Fergal McGrenaghan (Leprino), Breda Murray (Town All Stars), Jas O'Reilly (President Portlaoise GAA), Naomi Ryan (Leprino), Sal O Dwyer (Town All Stars), Eamon Fennelly (Chairperson Portlaoise GAA) and Geraint Evans (Leprino). In front are Grace and Harry from the All Stars.



President of Portlaoise GAA club receiving a newly sponsored Minor jersey from Naomi Ryan of Leprino Foods Limited. Pictured here are (l to r): Geraint Evans (Leprino), James Timmons (Leprino and Portlaoise GAA), Fergal McGrenaghan (Leprino), Jas O'Reilly (President Portlaoise GAA), Naomi Ryan (Leprino), Eamon Fennelly (Chairperson Portlaoise GAA), Jennifer Fitzpatrick (Portlaoise GAA), Liam Breen (Portlaoise GAA) and Brendan Keogh (Portlaoise GAA).



Pictured at the launch of Leprino Foods/Portlaoise GAA sponsorship agreement are as follows (l to r): Roch Scully (Minor Hurling Manager), Geraint Evans (Leprino), James Timmons (Leprino and Portlaoise GAA), Aidan Fitzpatrick (Minor Player), Fergal McGrenaghan (Leprino), Jas O'Reilly (President Portlaoise GAA), Naomi Ryan (Leprino), Eamon Fennelly (Chairperson Portlaoise GAA), Jamie Gorman (Minor Player), Brian Dunne (Minor Football Manager), and Jake Byrne (Minor Player)



Rathleague Update

Our new floodlight poles are up on Pitch 4 – lights will be added to them in coming weeks.

Ball catching net poles are almost ready to go on Pitch 5.

The walking path can now be fully completed. We couldn't finish this until the big poles were installed as the heavy machinery would have caused too much damage. We will launch the official opening of our walking track, which is also lined with solar light poles, at our upcoming **Walk for the Town** on September 22nd/23rd (more details in this edition). This will be an excellent amenity for the club.

As you have probably heard our weekly online Bingo has finally come to an end. In next months edition we will shine the spotlight on the people who were involved in this and the stats behind one of the best fundraisers our club has ever undertaken. Massive thanks and credit to the people involved in that – it has given our club a chance from a development perspective.

Our fundraising team, together with our development team, are continuing to focus on what needs to be achieved and are already working on the next ideas to move us closer to our targets. We will provide members update in due course.





The Portlaoise GAA Town All Stars are an inclusive GAA team set up in 2021 by a group of determined parents and club committee members, with the intention of giving children with additional needs the opportunity to be a part of a team and to learn to play sport in a safe and adapted environment.

Sal o Dwyer, Aine O'Sullivan and Kimberley Keogh being the first 3 parents on board having first hand experience of what it means to have opportunities like this available to families were determined to get it up and running. With the support and backing from the club and a few other volunteers "The Town All Stars" were created and in September 2021 we had our first training session.

Our original plan was to start out with 15 kids and 10 coaches but with a big demand for spaces and a growing waiting list we decided to add a second session every week and split the group in 2 and soon we had 2 groups of 15 kids and as coaches we were thrilled to be able to give this chance to so many kids and their families. Over time we formed many friendships and bonds amongst coaches, kids and parents and we could see we had something really special happening.

Our sessions consist of teaching the kids drills and skills around GAA such as kicking and throwing the ball, hand passing and many games. We also work on balance and coordination using all kinds of equipment like hoops, ladders, stepping mats, balance beams etc. we help with hand eye coordination and help the kids to communicate with both

us coaches and other kids around them too.

We use stations in our sessions in which we put all these things into practice and overtime the kids become familiar with them and their understanding of how to do each task has improved immensely. We start off each session with a 10min warm up and then move on to 3 stations at 5 min each. We then have a quick clear up in which we get the kids to help out and we finish off with 10 mins of parachute at the end, this the kids really love as they all get involved together and they love the counting down and the excitement as the parachute is flung in the air and all the balls go flying they scream with delight and go running to gather them all up and go again. This is a fabulous way to end our sessions each week and everyone goes home happy.

Town All Stars has given so many families and their children a chance to be part of GAA in ways they didn't think would be possible and the aim would be for this to be the case for many years to come. Some of the kids that started out with us have even gone on to play in a more competitive side of GAA and to know that their time with the all stars was a massive contribution towards that is a great feeling for us and part of the reason why we do what we do. Please god many more will follow in these footsteps over the years too.

On the 22nd of August 2022 a massive opportunity came our way and our all stars team got the chance to play in Croke Park, a place all kids dream of playing in and here we were living the dream. They held a massive inclusion open day and many teams from all over Ireland took to the pitch and had a chance to show off all the hard work we had put in since we started. We played football, hurling, and many games and parachutes. We got to eat our lunch in the stands and take pictures pitch side. We met some lovely people and it was truly a fantastic experience for us all. Please god it wont be the last time we see Croke either.

Over the past 3 years the All Stars have gone from strength

to strength and with a current count of 28 kids we are improving every year. Last year we were really blessed with receiving a jersey for each child through the very kind sponsorship of Mark O Dwyer @cleanfreaks car valeting and then again this year with the sponsorship of socks and shorts to match the jerseys, all the kids were made up and thrilled with their full portlaoise gear, we really look the part now. A massive shout out to Mark for these kind gestures we are very grateful to him. We were also very lucky this year to have been sponsored a signed football for each of the kids and a fun day out in the coming weeks from Glanbia. We are so blessed and thankful to them also for their kind gesture also.

The Town All Stars would not be possible without the fantastic team of coaches I have working with me every year. They give their time voluntarily every week and they wouldn't have it any other way. We have built some strong friendships along the way and we work fantastic together too. These coaches are Elaine, Charlie, Breda, Christy, Denise, Clare, Tommy and myself Sal and I want to thank them all now for their continued support, kindness and guidance over the years its always a pleasure to work with you all. I would also like to take this time to thank all within Portlaoise GAA for their continued support of both us coaches and the all stars over the years. There has never been anything to big an ask and we are really blessed to be a part of such a fantastic and supportive club.

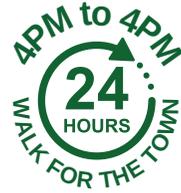
To be a part of something as wonderful as the all stars on a weekly basis has been and absolute pleasure and privilege. I have learned so much over the years and so much from each of the kids too. We have formed some great relationships and friendships amongst coaches, kids and parents and I absolutely love what I do as do we all.

I'll finish by saying.... I can honestly say there is no place I would rather be on a Sunday morning than Rathleague surrounded by the town all stars.

"Come on the Town"

Sal O'Dwyer xx

SEPTEMBER
22



WALK FOR
THE TOWN

IN AID OF





Walk 4 The Town 2023

We will be running our 24 hour Walk 4 The Town again this year, beginning at 4pm on Friday September 22nd and finishing on Saturday September 23rd at 4pm.

Our participants will be doing 5km loops around the walking track out in Rathleague.

The raised money will this year go towards the amazing Town All Stars.





Under 16 & Minors Update

Our U16s and Minors are busy mid season. Both have won all there games so far. Pictured below are our minor stars.





G4M&O Blitz

We hosted our first ever Gaelic for Mothers & Others Blitz held in Rathleague at the end of July. The rain managed to stay away and the sun even made an appearance.

We would like to thank everyone that helped make this day possible. Firstly to our G4M&O committee for organising the day and for all your hard work the last few weeks - Andrea, Tracy, Aoife, Pauline and Nikki.

Thank you to all the teams that joined us for the occasion:

Kildangan Nurney Gaelic 4 Mothers & Others, Borris Kilcotton, Rathangan, Abbesside, Park Ratheniska Ladies Gaelic Football Club, Eire Og, St Mary's Rochfortbridge Gaelic 4 Mother's & Others and Clonoulty Rossmore

Thanks to Portlaoise GAA and their groundsmen for having the place in tip top condition as always. Teddy, Dermot and Tommy for reffing and helping keep things moving along.

Joanna Michalska for giving us a very enjoyable warm-up with Zumba, not only were the players dancing, so we're the kids and supporters.

Sean Brown for supplying the well stocked and much needed bar.

Bonito Burrito for their delicious food truck. It went down a treat.

Mick Delaney and the ice cream van. There was plenty of happy children.

Jason our Physio for the day who did an amazing job.

Charlotte Fitz for being our official photographer for the day, capturing some great action shots

Ricky Martin for shooting some epic shots from his drone. John Bergin for supplying us with the microphone, speakers and music. Our LGFA refs Sinead, Shannon, Katie and Aoibheann.

And we just wanted to give a special thank you to all the families and friends who came out and gave their support.



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SUNDAYS - 10AM - 11AM

Boys and Girls born 2018.
Gaelic Football, Hurling & Camogie.

Nursery Pitch,
Rathleague,
Portlaoise.
R32 Y160
All equipment provided.

HAVE FUN

BE PART
OF A TEAM

MAKE FRIENDS

BE ACTIVE



Learn the skills of Gaelic football, hurling & Camogie.
Develop the fundamental movement skills which are the foundation skills across all sports.

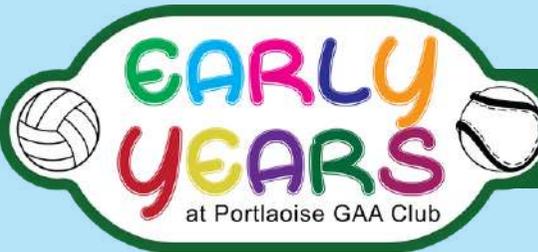
For further information for the U5's.
contact Adrian @ 087 992 8089.
For boys and girls born in 2017 (U6's),
contact Noel @ 085 735 5614.

**THE
CAMOGIE
ASSOCIATION**
An Cumann Camógáíochta



LGFA
LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL





EARLY YEARS
at Portlaoise GAA Club

Under 6 Group

SUNDAYS - 10AM - 11AM

Boys and Girls born 2018.
Gaelic Football, Hurling & Camogie.

Nursery Pitch,
Rathleague,
Portlaoise.
R32 Y160
All equipment provided.

HAVE FUN

BE PART
OF A TEAM

MAKE FRIENDS

BE ACTIVE



Learn the skills of Gaelic football, hurling & Camogie.
Develop the fundamental movement skills which are the foundation skills across all sports.

For further information for the U6's.
contact Noel @ 085 735 5614.
For boys and girls born in 2018 (U5's),
contact Adrian @ 087 992 8089.

THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION
An Cumann Camógaíochta



LGFA
LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL





Donaghmore/Ashbourne Under 8 Dual Blitz

Our Under 8 boys recently took part in an exhilarating Dual blitz alongside a spirited visiting team from Co. Meath, Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA.

Despite the wet weather, the excitement and camaraderie were unwavering! Braving the elements, our young athletes showcased their skills in both hurling and football. From impressive strikes to agile moves, the pitch was alive with the energy of budding champions.

A huge shoutout to our incredible Under 8 parents who went above and beyond, curating a delectable spread that catered to both teams. Nourishing bodies and fostering friendships – you truly scored a winning goal!

Special applause to Mother Nature for her unpredictable downpour, and to Pitch 6 for standing strong against the rain. The opposition from Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA couldn't help but admire our resilient grounds – a testament to our the work and dedication to our ground keepers.

Rain-soaked but unbeaten in spirit, Portlaoise GAA Under 8s and Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA showcased the true essence of sportsmanship.





Under 8 & U10 Camogie Blitzes

Our Under 8s and Under 10s have been involved in blitzes over the last number of weekends.

It's great to see so many girls getting involved and thanks to all the other clubs for taking part.





Under 8 LGFA Blitz

Earlier this month our Under 8 girls went over to the Killeshin to take part in a blitz.

It was a wet morning but our girls had a great time despite the weather.

Thanks very much to the Killeshin for hosting the blitz.





Under 9s Leading the way!!

Under 9's and senior hurlers had a puck around before training this month.
The Under 9's gave the older lads a few tips!!





Under 11s representing the Town with pride.

Our Under 11 hurlers pictured after 2 very competitive games against Clonad last week.





Fionn Delaney

Fionn Delaney recently represented Kilkenny at half time of this years All-Ireland hurling final.

A student at Holy Family, Fionn was picked to play during the INTO Cumann na mBunscoil GAA Respect Exhibition Go Games in Croke Park. What an honour for Fionn, his family, school and club.

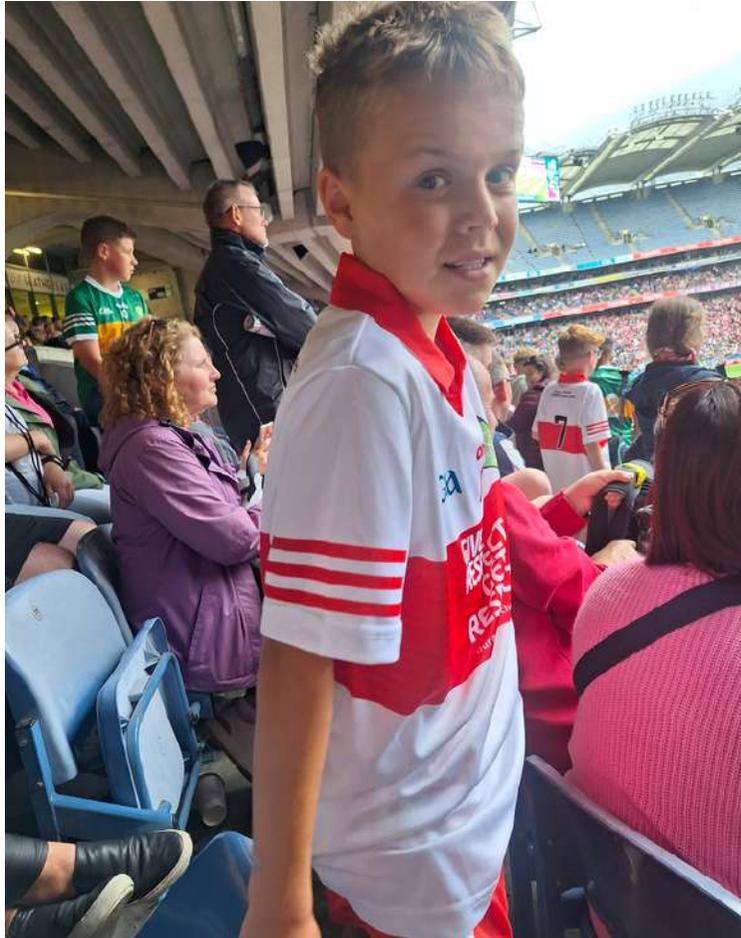




Ryan Fennell

Ryan Fennell also got the chance to play at Croke Park. He represented Derry at half time of the Derry v Kerry All-Ireland semi final.

This was again for the INTO Cumann na mBunscoil GAA Respect Exhibition Go Games. Hopefully many more days out to Croke Park to come for Ryan.





Smoke-Free GAA Clubs

The GAA are encouraging all clubs to become smoke-free which means no smoking on the entire club grounds, including E Cigarettes.

The GAA is the heart beat of every community and we at Portlaoise GAA Club believe that this type of initiative will not only raise awareness but also protect people from second hand smoke, reduce smoking initiation rates among young people and increase the amount of people seeking help to quit.

The government have announced that Ireland will be completely smoke-free by 2025 and the GAA are becoming leaders in the sporting sector. Already 60% of Healthy Clubs have taken the leap and gone completely smoke free, setting a positive example for all our members.

Aims:

- To create a smoke and e-cigarette free club environment
- To protect the health of all individuals involved with the club as well as visitors to the grounds by keeping them safe from all smoke/e-cigarette related harm.
- To positively impact upon smoking behaviour
- Break the cycle of children learning the habit through adults/role models
- Create a safer GAA grounds atmosphere for everyone involved, especially children
- Minimise tobacco and electronic cigarette related litter





1982 U12 Football



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**An bhfuil do thicéid Féile
Electric Picnic agat?**

*Have you got your Electric Picnic
Festival ticket?*

**Tá gan amhras! Is í an Fhéile EP an
buaicphointe mo bhliana!**

*Yes without doubt! EP festival is the
highlight of my year!*

An mbeidh tú ag campáil?

Will you be camping?

CIORCAL CÓMHRA LÚNASA *USEFUL PHRASES*

**Nílím cinnte fós....tá puball
agam ach braithfidh sé ar an
aimsir.**

*I'm not sure yet...I have a tent but
it will depend on the weather.*

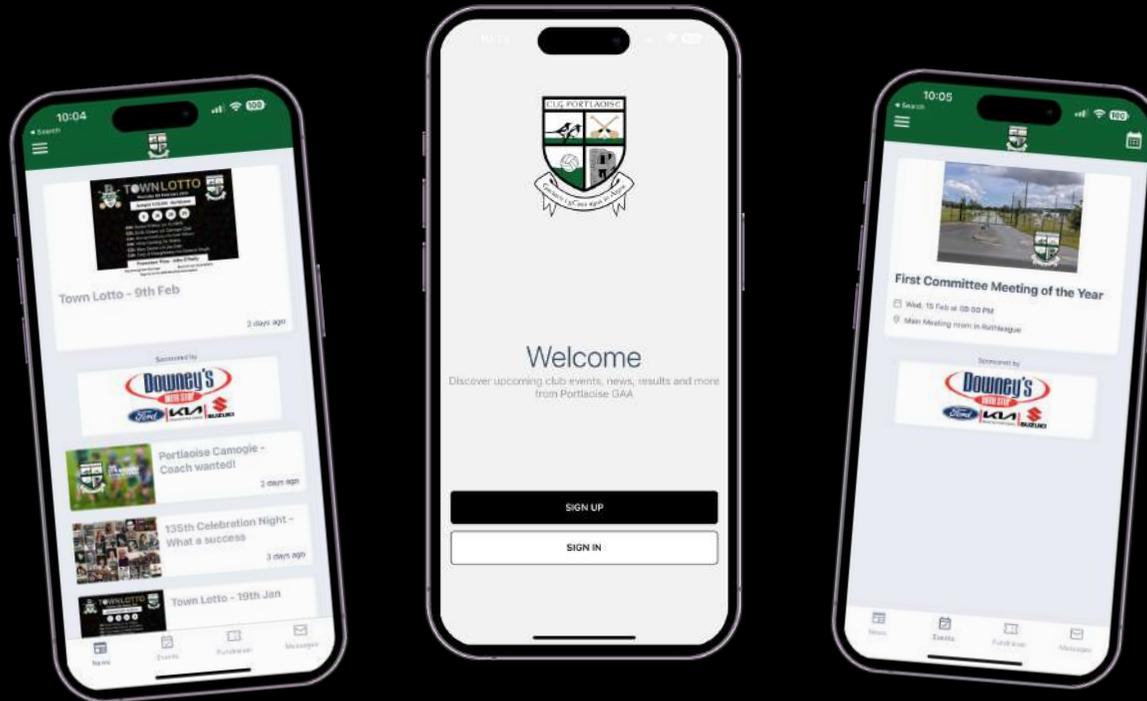
**Cad atá tú ag tnúth leis thar an
deireadh seachtaine.**

*What are you looking forward to over the
weekend.*

**Táim ag tnúth go mór leis Paolo Nutini
agus The Killers ar an bpríomh stáitse.**

*I'm really looking forward to Paolo Nutini
and The Killers on the main stage.*

DOWNLOAD THE OFFICIAL PORTLAOISE GAA APP NOW!



Keep up to date with all Town news including fixtures and results by registering for the Portlaoise GAA App today !!!!



Search 'Portlaoise GAA':





TOWN LOTTO

Thursday 20th July 2023



€20,000 - No Winner



- €50: Emily Dwane c/o Camogie
- €20: Cindy Brophy c/o Seamus Smyth
- €20: Mark Ryan c/o Club App
- €20: John Keane c/o CLUB25
- €20: Karen Carroll c/o Club App
- €20: Eilish Bowe c/o Eilish Bowe

Promoters' Prize - George Plunkett



TOWN LOTTO

Thursday 27th July 2023



€20,000 - No Winner



- €50: Seamus Smyth c/o Seamus Smyth
- €20: Alison Dargan c/o Club App
- €20: Rio Ollie Carroll c/o Camogie
- €20: Rose Rowe c/o Eilish Rowe
- €20: Mick Lyndsey c/o CLUB25
- €20: Cathal Neville c/o Club App

Promoters' Prize - Seamus Smyth



TOWN LOTTO

Thursday 3rd August 2023



€20,000 - No Winner



- €100: Pattie Keogh c/o Sonnt Keogh
- €20: Cindy Quigley c/o Seamus Smyth
- €20: Ollie Byrne c/o Ollie Byrne
- €20: Paddy Kavanagh c/o Jas O'Reilly
- €20: Alison Rowan c/o Imelda Fitzpatrick
- €20: Caroline Byrne c/o Ollie Byrne

Promoters' Prize - Eilish Bowe



TOWN LOTTO

Thursday 11th August 2023



€20,000 - No Winner



- €50: Wayne Connaughton c/o Noel Hilliard
- €20: Ann & PJ Tierney c/o Liam Breen
- €20: Liam Dollard c/o Noel Hilliard
- €20: Ken McHugh c/o CLUB25
- €20: Caroline McCormack c/o Jas O'Reilly
- €20: Fiona Cuddy c/o Club App

Promoters' Prize - Liam Breen

Play our weekly Town Lotto on our new club app.

Search 'Portlaoise GAA' on:



TOWN LOTTO

Thanks to everyone who supports our fundraising efforts through the Town Lotto (day to day running costs), and Club 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 info@portlaoisegaa.ie

**ALL FUNDS FROM
TOWN LOTTO GO
TOWARDS DAY TO
DAY RUNNING OF
THE CLUB**

Jackpot €20,000!!

**Go to fundraising section
on our club app to play.**



**Search
'Portlaoise GAA'**

