

Vol 5 - Issue 10

# TOWN TATTLER



# CLUB AGM



**SUNDAY NOV 30TH**

**2.30PM**

**PARISH CENTRE**





# Josh Hogan - Club GPO

Josh Hogan has worn the green and white for as long as he can remember. A Laois footballer and a proud Portlaoise man, he has come through the club the whole way and is now taking on a new role off the pitch as Portlaoise GAA's Games Participation Officer. It is a natural fit. Josh knows the club, he knows the town and he knows what young players need to enjoy their football and hurling. In this piece we look at the journey of a current senior footballer who is now stepping into a job that will link the schools, the nursery, Town Tigers and Town Óg with the wider club.

**What is your new role with Portlaoise GAA, and what will it entail?**

My new role with Portlaoise GAA is club GPO (Games Participation Officer). Among many things, I will support the coaches involved with our Town Tigers and Town Óg teams, co-ordinate coach education workshops, oversee club activities over the school breaks and holiday periods and provide a smooth pathway for players from school to club.

**What do you see as the main challenges in the role?**

The main challenges in this role I see are providing a smooth pathway for kids from school to club. So if a child does enjoy playing GAA in their school they are able to join their club and continue to have fun.

**How will you measure success in it?**

By the number of children I get involved and keep involved in the club over my time in this role.

**What is your GAA background?**

I'm a Portlaoise and Laois senior footballer.

**What are your earliest GAA memories?**

Going to watch Portlaoise win county titles with my Grandad and Uncle.

**Who would you say were your biggest influences?**

Joe O'Callaghan, Adrian White and Paul Cahillane.

Learned great lessons about life and GAA from all of them.

**What are your greatest GAA memories?**

Winning the Laois U14 A Féile Final (2017) and heading to Monaghan and Cavan that year for the Féile.

**What does the GAA mean to you?**

Portlaoise GAA for me is all about community and friendship. It's a place where I can compete as part of a team and also spend time with friends playing a game I love to play.



New club GPO - Josh Hogan



Laois Féile Peile na nÓg Champions - 2017.  
Josh is pictured fourth from the left in the back row.

# GAA INJURY

## Logging Through Foireann

As of **1 June 2025**, all players who sustain an injury while playing or training must self-report the injury through **Foireann**. This is a change from the previous system, which was managed by the **Club Injuries Officer**.

**Important:** It is the **responsibility** of the **injured player** to start the process on **Foireann**. For **underage players**, the **parent** or **guardian** must start the process. The **club cannot log injuries** anymore unless the player or the parent/guardian has begun the report in Foireann.

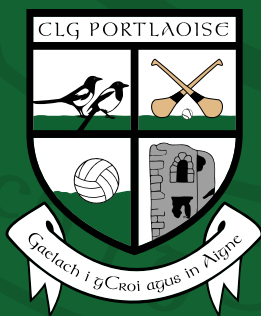
The **GAA** has published an in-depth **guide** showing how to complete this.  
The guide can be found [here](#).

If you are struggling to find your Foireann login details, email the Club Secretary at [secretary.portlaoise.laois@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.portlaoise.laois@gaa.ie)



# FIONA DOOLEY

**LAOIS LGFA  
SENIOR PLAYER  
OF THE YEAR**



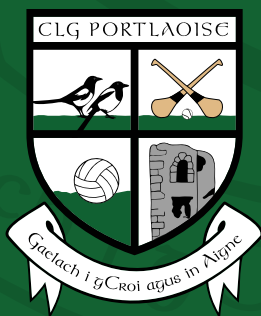
Congratulations to Fiona Dooley who has been named Laois LGFA Senior Championship Player of the Year.

A brilliant season from Fiona in the white and green and great to see her performances recognised at county level.

She will receive her award on Saturday 22 November in the Midlands Park Hotel.

# LARA CULLETON

**LAOIS LGFA  
MINOR LADIES  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR**



Congratulations to Lara Culleton who has been named Laois LGFA Minor Player of the Year alongside Graiguecullen's Mia Branagan.

Well done Lara on a brilliant season.

Lara will receive her award on Saturday 22 November in the Midlands Park Hotel.



## LAOIS SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM OF THE YEAR



**Deirdre Phelan**



**Ellen Healy**



**Ciara Crowley**



**Fiona Dooley**



**Gráinne Moran**



## LAOIS JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM OF THE YEAR



**Aoife Hyland Conlon**



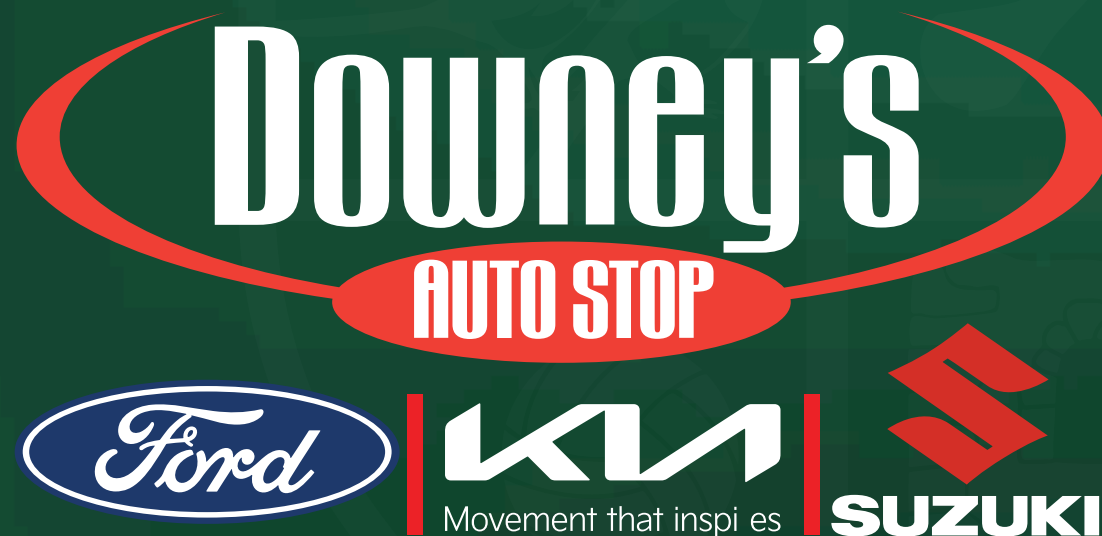
**Amy Byrne**



**Sarah McDonald**



**Ann Mulligan**



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**LGFA**  
LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

## Laois LGFA MFC Round 2: Portlaoise 6-9 v 2-10 Timahoe





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LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

# Laois LGFA MFC Round 4: Portlaoise 4-7 v 1-7 St. Brigid's





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LADIES GAEILIC FOOTBALL

# Laois LGFA SFC Final: Portlaoise 3-11 v 1-11 St Conleth's

The Town are county champions again. Portlaoise claimed the Laois LGFA Senior title for the fourth time in six years after a strong win over holders St Conleth's in Stradbally earlier this month.

It's the fourth straight season the sides have met at this stage. We won in 2022 and 2023 and St Conleth's took it last year, and this time the Town finished the job.

St Conleth's opened with two points before Ellen Healy replied. From the kick-out Alison Taylor won possession, found Aisling Kehoe, and she set up Gráinne Moran to score the first goal. They levelled quickly and then hit 1-2 to edge ahead. We responded at once when a Moran free dropped into the square and Kehoe finished a goal. Moran added a free and it was tight to the break. Points from Taylor and Kehoe put us in front briefly before late St Conleth's points left it level at half time, 2-6 to 1-9.

We started the second half well. Healy and Kehoe landed points to push us two clear. St Conleth's cut it to one, but the next spell belonged to Portlaoise. Ciara Crowley, Fiona Dooley and Moran added points, and the defence held firm. Keeva O'Reilly dealt calmly with a dangerous ball, punching clear at a key moment. With St Conleth's down a player late on, Moran converted the free, then struck her second goal and another point to seal it.

Full time brought great scenes in white and green as the Town lifted the Lulu Carroll Cup once more.

## Final score

Portlaoise 3-13

St Conleth's 1-11

## Scorers

Portlaoise: Gráinne Moran 2-4 (0-2 frees), Aisling Kehoe 1-3, Fiona Dooley 0-2, Ciara Crowley 0-1, Alison Taylor 0-1.

St Conleth's: Aoibhe Byron 0-7 (0-3 frees), Claire Fox 1-0, Naomi Luttrell 0-2, Eva Galvin 0-1, Shifra Havill 0-1.

## Portlaoise

Keeva O'Reilly; Ella McNulty, Deirdre Phelan, Sarah Fleming; Ciara Crowley, Aishling Saunders, Rebecca Reddin; Fiona Dooley, Ellen Healy; Alison Taylor, Aisling Kehoe, Grainne O'Reilly; Leah Loughman, Gráinne Moran, Suzie Delaney.

Subs: Lara Culleton for G O'Reilly half time, Shauna Dooley for Loughman 51, Faye Brown for Crowley 58.

## St Conleth's

Claire O'Connell; Ola Haastrup, Fiona Dempsey, Gráinne Cotter; Aoife Cummins, Áine Haberlin, Mary Cotter; Shifra Havill, Aoife Kirrane; Marie Byrne, Eva Galvin, Naomi Luttrell; Aoibhe Byron, Claire Fox, Emma Lawlor.

Subs: Courtney Finlay for Lawlor 42, Becky Fenlon for Luttrell 57.





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LADIES GAEIL FOOTBALL

# Laois LGFA SFC Final: Portlaoise 3-11 v 1-11 St Conleth's





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LADIES GAEIC FOOTBALL

# Laois LGFA SFC Final: Portlaoise 3-11 v 1-11 St Conleth's







# CLG PHORT LAOISE

**LAOIS LGFA SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2025**

Saturday, 11 October 2025 - Bill Delaney Park, Stradbally



## **Portlaoise 3-13 v 1-11 St Conleth's**

**Back (l. to r.):** Emma Dunne, Amy Byrne, Aishling Saunders, Tory Byrne, Leah Loughman, Gráinne Moran, Keeva O'Reilly, Sarah Fleming, Alison Taylor, Ellen Healy, Ella McNulty, Lara Culleton, Abbey Louise Byrne, Gráinne O'Reilly, Doireann Brennan;

**Front (l. to r.):** Suzie Delaney, Deirdre Phelan, Rebecca Reddin, Fiona Dooley, Aisling Kehoe (Capt.), Shauna Dooley, Aoibhe O'Brien, Ciara Crowley, Leah Brennan, Sarah McDonald, Faye Brown;

**Scorers:** Gráinne Moran 2-4 (0-2 f), Aisling Kehoe 1-3, Fiona Dooley 0-2, Ellen Healy 0-2, Ciara Crowley 0-1, Alison Taylor 0-1;

**Management:** Kevin O'Grady, Ryan O'Grady, Lorraine McCormack, Mark Brophy, Eimear Kehoe, Alyssa Velles, Olive Murphy;





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# Laois LGFA U16 'A' Final: Portlaoise 1-7 v 0-5 Park Ratheniska

Portlaoise are this year's Laois LGFA Under 16 A champions after a hard-fought win over Park Ratheniska in Stradbally earlier this month. The final was the curtain-raiser to the senior decider.

Park Ratheniska started the brighter and were three points up inside eight minutes, all from the boot of Mia Delaney, as they bossed early possession. Portlaoise settled when Molly Jane Dempsey clipped their first score off her left. Moments later came the game's turning point. Ellen Fitzpatrick slipped a clever pass to Leah Brophy and her shot flew into the top corner. Dempsey tagged on two more before the break and Portlaoise led by three at half time, Brophy's goal the difference.

Fitzpatrick stretched the lead on the restart and Portlaoise threatened another goal, with Dempsey just wide and Brophy striking a post. Park Ratheniska replied through Delaney to keep it a one-score game. When Park Ratheniska did break through, Portlaoise keeper Kate Scully stood tall with a brilliant save from Erin Kavanagh to preserve the clean sheet.

From there Portlaoise finished strongly. Sub Kayleigh O'Callaghan made an instant impact, winning a kick-out and setting up Kara Powders for a tidy point. Brophy added two more, one from play and one from a free, to bring her tally to 1-2. Kavanagh pulled one back with ten to play but Portlaoise's defence was rock solid, shutting down space and seeing it out to the whistle.

## Final score

Portlaoise 1-7

Park Ratheniska 0-5

## Scorers

**Portlaoise:** Leah Brophy 1-2 (0-2 frees), Molly Jane Dempsey 0-3, Ellen Fitzpatrick 0-1, Kara Powders 0-1.

**Park Ratheniska:** Mia Delaney 0-4 (0-2 frees), Erin Kavanagh 0-1.

## Portlaoise

Kate Scully; Samantha Stalbe, Sarah Walsh, Lucy Mulhall; Kara Powders, Alix Cullenton, Caitlin Fitzpatrick; Grainne Coleman, Kara Phelan; Amarachi Obi, Ellen Fitzpatrick, Leah Brophy; Molly Jane Dempsey, Aishling Dowling, Sarah Donoghue.

Subs: Rachel Kelly for Walsh, Kayleigh O'Callaghan for Dowling (both 40), Emma Scully for Dempsey (61).

## Park Ratheniska

Cara Deegan; Anna Szwaglis, Moya Ramsbottom, Kate Ging; Riona Dunne, Molly Fitzpatrick, Sarah Cunningham; Saffron Adams, Mary O'Hara; Adah Ramsbottom, Mia Delaney, Charlotte Lawlor; Erin Kavanagh, Maeve Kelly, Kate Conroy.

Subs: Grace Fennelly for Kelly (HT), Lily Reid for Szwaglis (40), Lucy Keenan for Lawlor (54).

## Referee

Kevin Phelan, St Brigid's.





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## Laois LGFA U16 'A' Final: Portlaoise 1-7 v 0-5 Park Ratheniska





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## Laois LGFA U16 'A' Final: Portlaoise 1-7 v 0-5 Park Ratheniska







### Portlaoise 2-8 v 0-7 Sarsfields

Back (l. to r.): Alix Culleton, Kara Phelan, Molly Jane Dempsey, Leah Brophy, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Ellen Fitzpatrick, Gráinne Coleman, Aishling Dowling, Clodagh Delaney, Emma Scully, Ruby Coyle, Katie Moore, Kate Scully;  
 Front (l. to r.): Sarah Donoghue, Adella Jacob, Amarachi Obi (Capt.), Lucy Mulhall, Kara Powders, Abbey Thompson, Emma Glennon, Sarah Walsh, Kayleigh O Callaghan, Emily Kelly, Rachael Kelly;





# Laois U15 'A' FC Final: Portlaoise 2-10 v 1-12 Mountmellick Parish Gaels

What a finish in O'Moore Park. The Town were crowned U15 county champions this month after a cracking game that went right to the wire. With the clock deep in injury time, Ethan O'Connor showed serious bottle to curl over a 63rd minute free and seal it for Portlaoise.

The lads flew out of the blocks. Danny Breen finished to the net early and O'Connor tapped over two frees to settle us. Mountmellick got on the board after 11 minutes, but scores from Noah Finn and Fionn Delaney pushed our lead to six. Mountmellick came roaring back with 1-2, their goal from Dan Blanc and points from Fionn Burke. We steadied. Maksymillian Piech clipped a point and then Delaney struck for our second goal to open daylight again. A Burke free and an O'Connor reply left it Portlaoise 2-6 to 1-4 at the break.

The second half started tight, no score for 11 minutes until Piech nudged us on. Mountmellick answered with a Burke two pointer to spark their purple patch. Though O'Connor hit back with a free, the momentum swung and Mountmellick reeled off six on the trot to edge one ahead entering the closing minutes.

The lads dug in. From the next kickout we won clean ball around the middle, worked it through the hands and found Breen for the equaliser. Extra time looked likely until O'Connor stepped up again and split the posts from distance to bring the cup back to the Town for the first time since 2022.

## Final score

Portlaoise: 2-10

Mountmellick Parish Gaels: 1-12

## Portlaoise scorers

Ethan O'Connor 0-5 (frees), Danny Breen 1-1, Fionn Delaney 1-1, Maksymillian Piech 0-2, Noah Finn 0-1.

## Portlaoise Panel

Danny Breen, Thomas Brennan, Dylan Clear, Fionn Delaney, Luke Devaney, Tadgh Doheny, Eoghan Dunne, Aaron Egan, Eoghan Fennell, Ryan Fennell, Noah Finn, Dylan Fitzpatrick, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Darragh Ging, Tadgh Graham, Conall Lalor, Brooklyn McCarthy, Culainn McEvoy (Capt.), Lee McStay, Ethan O'Connor, Tiernan O'Dwyer, David Owuso, Maks Piech, Oisin Reddin, Tadas Sirvaitis, David Tiwo, Max Whelan;

Massive credit to both teams for a savage contest. Fair play to our lads and mentors.







# CLG PHORT LAOISE

LAOIS U15 'A' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2025

Saturday, 18 October 2025 - O'Moore Park



## Portlaoise 2-10 v 1-12 Mountmellick Parish Gaels

**Back (l. to r.):** Luke Devaney, Tiernan O'Dwyer, Conall Lalor, Maks Piech, David Tiwo, Max Whelan, Noah Finn, Lee McStay, Ethan O'Connor, Fionn Delaney, Tadas Sirvaitis, David Owuso, Dylan Clear, Culainn McEvoy (Capt.), Oisín Reddin;

**Front (l. to r.):** Eoghan Dunne, Tadgh Doheny, Ryan Fennell, Tadgh Graham, Danny Breen, Dylan Fitzpatrick, Aaron Egan, Eoghan Fennell, Darragh Ging, Brooklyn McCarthy, Thomas Brennan, Eoin Fitzpatrick;

**Management:** Kevin Fitzpatrick, Jason Lalor, Owen Delaney, Fearghal Fennell;



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# Laois U13 'A' FC Final: Portlaoise 4-14 v 5-7 Na Fianna Óg

The Town are U13 county champions again after a thriller in O'Moore Park this month. Portlaoise led for long spells, soaked up a late surge, and finished four clear at the end.

We hit the ground running. Mikkus Simmons clipped the opener and soon after Ben McCormack buried our first goal. Sam Brown added from play and McCormack tapped a free. Na Fianna Óg steadied through Eoin McDonald, but McCormack answered in style with back to back two pointers, pushing us nine up at 1-7 to 0-1. The opposition rallied with a goal from Oisín Kerrigan and two McDonald frees to close the gap.

Just before the break Ben struck again. Another two pointer, then a superb finish for his second goal inside half a minute. We turned around in great shape, 2-9 to 1-3.

After the restart Lorcan McBride pointed and then cracked in our third goal to stretch it out again. Na Fianna Óg came hard. Goals from Conor Moore and Eoin McDonald had them right back in it, only for Kerry to stand tall with several sharp stops. We settled when Ned Fox finished a tidy move after a lovely pass from McCormack. They kept coming, picking off points, and we traded scores through a McCormack free and a Fitzpatrick two pointer. Two late goals for Na Fianna Óg from Charlie Conway and Luke McDonald cut it to four, but the clock was our friend and the lads saw it out.

Serious shift from the full panel, plenty of cool heads when it mattered, and back to back Under 13 championships for the Town.

## Final score

Portlaoise: 4-14

Na Fianna: Óg 5-7

## Portlaoise scorers

Ben McCormack 2-9 (three two pointers, 0-2 frees), Lorcan McBride 1-3 (one two pointer), Ned Fox 1-0, Sam Brown 0-1, Mikkus Simmons 0-1.

## Portlaoise Panel

Tadhg Bohan, Zac Bowe, Sam Breen, Lennon Brown, Sam Brown, Noah Clear, Logan Peters Fitzpatrick, Ned Fox, Paudie Fox, Kian French Glynn, Danny Kerry, Sean Kitson, Harry Marum, Lórcan McBride, Ben McCormack, Ronan O'Gorman, Rian O'Sullivan, Tom Priede, Aiden Scully, Mikuss Simsons (Capt.), Tyler Whelan, Sam York;







### Portlaoise 4-14 v 5-7 Na Fianna Óg

Back (l. to r.): Sam Breen, Ned Fox, Sam Brown, Ronan O'Gorman, Ben McCormack, Rian O'Sullivan, Tyler Whelan, Lórcan McBride, Mikuss Simsons (Capt.), Paudie Fox, Sam York, Sean Kitson;

Front (l. to r.): Aiden Scully, Tom Priede, Zac Bowe, Lennon Brown, Tadgh Bohan, Danny Kerry, Noah Clear, Kian French Glynn, Harry Marum, Logan Peters Fitzpatrick;

Management: Barry Fitzgerald, Brian Bohan, Brian McCormack, Mick Bowe;



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# MFC Final: Portlaoise 1-11 v 1-12 Crettyard Spink





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## Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 13





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## Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 13





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# Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 16





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# Juvenile Scene This Month - Minor





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# 2025 Silver Healthy Club Award for Portlaoise GAA

Portlaoise GAA is delighted to confirm that the club has been awarded Silver Healthy Club Status through the GAA Healthy Clubs initiative. This recognises the work the club has been doing to support the health and wellbeing of our members and the wider community through our policies, partnerships, programmes and facilities.

Well done to everyone in the club who has played a part in this over the last few years. A special word of thanks to Karen Monaghan and Claire O'Gorman who attended the awards night and collected the certificate on behalf of Portlaoise GAA.

This work has included the smoke free zone in Rathleague, the Aclaí fitness groups and the player welfare working groups, along with a range of other initiatives that put people first.

Maith sibh go léir.





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# CLG PHORT LAOISE

## LAOIS MINOR 'A' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 1976

Sunday, 3 October 1976 - O'Moore Park



### Portlaoise 3-12 v 1-6 Graiguecullen

Back (l. to r.): Donal Dunne, Sean Bergin, Dermot Corcoran, Maurice Prendergast, Pat Bennett, Pat Critchley, John Bohane, Joe Keenan;

Front (l. to r.): Leo Gorman, Eamon Conroy, Gerry Browne, Seamus Plunkett (Capt.), Sean Conroy, Noel Prendergast, Ger O'Brien;

Subs: Brian Colgan, George Phelan, Jim Lewis, Eamon Maher, Tim Keightley, P.J. Conroy, Michael Dollard, Seamus Brennan, Michael Critchley



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# CLG PHORT LAOISE

## LAOIS MINOR 'A' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 1981

Sunday, 4 October 1981 - Mill Field, Portarlinton



### Portlaoise 2-6 v 1-8 Portarlinton

*Panel: Ger Rowney, Joe Dunne, Seamus Brennan, Paul Ging, Pat Preston (Capt.), Joe Brennan, John Duggan; Sean Fitzpatrick, Brendan Carroll, Dan Reddin, Liam Bergin, Stephen Conroy, Christy Cahill, Pat Delaney, Paul Moran, Eugene Rigney, Liam Brown;*



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# CLG PHORT LAOISE

## LAOIS MINOR 'A' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 1993

Sunday, 17 October 1993 - O'Moore Park



### Portlaoise 0-11 v0-2 Graiguecullen

**Back (l. to r.):** Brochan O'Relly, Ciaran Connell, Pdraig Malone, Joe Carmody, John Fennelly, Michael Fennelly, Fergal Norton, Fergal Donogher, Damien Lynch, Stephen Donegan, Declan Dunne, Keith Dempsey, Willie Carmody, Teddy Fennelly (manager).;

**Middle (l. to r.):** Paddy Howe (selector), Paul McNulty, Peter Malone, Brian O'Leary (Capt.), Adrian Carroll, Ollie Fennell, Martin Delaney, Trevor Shore, Dominic Malone, Martin Parkinson (Selector);

**Front (l. to r.):** Damien Donohue, Ian Fitzgerald, Christy Bannon, Aidan O'Reilly;



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# CLG PHORT LAOISE

## LAOIS MINOR 'A' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 1995

Saturday, 28 October 1995 - O'Moore Park



### Portlaoise 2-16 v0-6 Ballylinan

*Back (l. to r.): Martin Parkinson (Mentor), P.J. Kavanagh, Eoin Bland, Joe Carmody, Niall Collins, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Owen Delaney, Jason Lalor, Aidan Connell, Declan Daly, Colm Fennelly, Dominic Malone, Noel McNulty, Martin Delaney, Brian Delaney (Mentor);*

*Front (l. to r.): John Meaney, Fearghal Fennell, Mark Brophy, Diarmuid Mullins, Tommy Mulligan, Fergal Wynne, Ian Fitzgerald (Capt.), Darragh Dunne, Colm Parkinson, Bernie Conroy (Physio);*

*Scorers: Ian Fitzgerald 1-5 (0-2f), Colm Fennelly 1-3, Declan Daly 0-2, Kevin Fitzpatrick 0-2, Fergal Wynne 0-2, Owen Delaney 0-2;*



# Laois Scór na nÓg 2025 - 9th November

Laois Scór na nÓg takes on Sunday 9th November at 4pm in the LOETB Centre of Excellence Portlaoise.

This competition is open to all GAA members under 17 years {17 on 01.01.25} who can dance, sing, tell a yarn, play an instrument or be part of a novelty group.

So why not get your club involved? For your information, Scór competitions are organized along similar lines to hurling and Gaelic football championships where the following events take place:

- Rince Fóirne (Céilí Dancing)
- Amhránaíocht Aonair (Solo Singing)
- Ceol Uirlise (Instrumental Music)
- Aithriseoirecht/Scealaíocht (Recitation/Storytelling)
- Bailéad Ghrúpa (Ballad Group)
- Leiriú (Novelty Act)
- Rince Seit (Set Dancing)
- Tráth na gCeisteanna {Table Quiz}

The winning team in each event will go on to compete in the Leinster semifinals on Saturday 22nd November whilst the Leinster Final takes place a couple of weeks later.

For more info, Noel @ [irishculturalofficer.laois@gaa.ie](mailto:irishculturalofficer.laois@gaa.ie) or the county board @[administrator.laois@gaa.ie](mailto:administrator.laois@gaa.ie)

Free entry to all competitions - le do chlub féin  
**Laois GAA Scór & Cultúr**  
**Scór na nÓg**

**Open to all U17 club members**

**Clárú/Pre-registration: [irishculturalofficer.laois@gaa.ie](mailto:irishculturalofficer.laois@gaa.ie)**



• Table Quiz • Set Dancing • Ballad Group  
• Instrumental Music • Céilí Dancing •  
Solo Singing • Recitation/Storytelling •  
Novelty Act • Raffle on the day •

**4pm, Sunday November 9th 2025**  
**LOETB Centre of Excellence R32 X9X4**



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**Oíche Shamhna shona duit.**  
*Happy Halloween to you.*

**An bhfuil tú ag imirt bob nó bia?**  
*Are you going trick or treating?*

**Scríob an bia amach as an bpuimcín.**  
*Scoop out the inside of the pumpkin.*

## **FRÁSAÍ OÍCHE SHAMHNA** *HALLOWEEN PHRASES*

**Cheannaigh mé culaith oíche shamhna.**  
*I bought a Halloween costume.*

**Táim gléasta ar nós vaimpír/taibhse/cailleach.**  
*I'm dressed like a vampire/ghost/witch.*

**Bain sult as do chóisir Oíche Shamhna**  
*Enjoy your Halloween party.*





# Leinster Champions 1889

from an article by Teddy Fennelly titled 'The Gallant Laois men of 1889'

In what must remain one of the most fantastic achievements of any club or county in the entire history of the Association, the Maryborough men of 1889 were fixed to play two major championship matches on the same day. I have never seen anything to indicate that it ever happened before or since and have not heard anyone even suggesting that it did. But that was precisely what this Maryborough side faced on Sunday 13th October, 1889.

They were fixed to play Wicklow champions, Bray Emmets, in the Leinster semi-final, and should they manage to succeed this stiff test, they had to turn out again some minutes after the conclusion of that game against a fresh Newtown Blues side from Louth in the final.

To say it was unbelievable is hardly overstating the case, but here again it proves that fact is stranger than fiction. It was almost three months since Maryborough had defeated Wolfhill in the county final and now, if they hoped to win the provincial title they had to beat two of the top teams in Leinster on the same afternoon! And that's exactly what they did!

The Leinster Express of 19th October 1889 takes up the story:

*The members of Maryboro' Football Club left home by the evening train on Saturday, 12th, accompanied by a number of the most promising Gaels of the town, to take part on the following day in matches to be played on the St. Patrick's Grounds at Inchicore for the championship of the province...*

*The weather was beautifully fine for this season of the year and enabled two or three thousand spectators present to thoroughly enjoy the sport ....*

*In point of physique it would be hard to beat the Queen's County*

*men all of whom were splendid specimens of bone and muscle, looking extremely well in their green jerseys and stockings and white buckskin breeches. Winning the toss, Maryborough decided to play for the city goal which gave them the advantage of the fairly strong breeze... Maryborough took first blood by scoring a point.. The Emmets' goalkeeper now kicked out the ball without the authority of the referee and the Maryborough men getting on to it quickly sent it between the goalposts. A long dispute occurred over this eventually ending in it being allowed to stand as a disputed goal.*

Maryborough had six points to spare at the break. Emmets improved on the resumption and cut the leeway but the Queen's County men finished strongly to win by 0-9 to 0-4.

After being allowed an hour to recover, the Maryborough men were back on the field to play Louth champions, Newtown Blues, who had defeated the Dublin champions, Faugh-a-Ballaghs, some weeks previously. The report added: *Few thought that the Queen's County men would have a look in against Newtown Blues, as two matches in the one evening are somewhat too trying for any ordinary team but, contrary to all expectations, they played most brilliantly and in better style if anything against the Wicklow champions, defeating the Louth champions by three points to two. It was a wildly exciting and brilliant game throughout and taking this into consideration it is a pity that it must be designated the roughest match that has yet been kicked at Inchicore. There was entirely too much tripping, catching and general fouling .....*

The game started at half past three and the Blues, winning the toss, opted to use wind advantage. The Maryborough defence played brilliantly and conceded only two points in the opening half. The shoe was on the other foot on the restart and the Queen's County champions scored three points and were awarded the provincial title. *"The winning of two matches in the one evening by Maryborough is certainly a most creditable performance"*, the report concluded. The team was the same, with one exception, as that which played in the earlier match

but the report did not reveal the "exception".

The Maryborough team was listed by the Leinster Express as follows: J. Delany, (Captain), J. T. Whelan, William King, T. Cushion, T. H. Cushion, P. Cushion, D. Cushion, M. Cushion, J. Fleming, J. Walsh, J. Teehan, T. Shiel, J. Murphy, N. Maher, P. Brady, J. Troy, D. Drennan, J. Dunne, J. Connor, T. Conroy;

You will note that only twenty names were published in this brief era of twenty one a side. In any case, the team listed, in fact, bore little relation to that which lined out on that famous day in Inchicore.



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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](mailto:info@portlaoisegaa.ie)