

TOWN TATTTLER

Vol 6 - Issue 6



C'MON THE TOWN



BEST OF LUCK PORTLAOISE



FÉILE

SINCE 1871
JOHN WEST
EAT STRONG. GO STRONG.



Important Rathleague Update – Operations and Matches etc

A Following a meeting of the club sub-committee overseeing construction site logistics in Rathleague, the situation regarding the use of facilities over the coming weeks has been reviewed.

The grounds remain an active construction site and, as a result, a number of pitches continue to be impacted by barriers, restricted access and ongoing works. (All except pitch 4). Accordingly, all arrangements remain subject to change at short notice as the project progresses.

Throughout this process, the club has maintained regular engagement with the site contractors to ensure that all decisions relating to pitch access and usage are made with appropriate regard to health and safety requirements. The safety of players, officials, volunteers and spectators remains the club's primary consideration.

To provide as much playing capacity as possible, it has been agreed that Pitch 4 will open on a trial basis for matches on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only.

Given the limited availability of playable pitches, senior teams will be given priority access. The Club Group will determine all subsequent allocations and priorities. These decisions will be based on the availability of facilities and the overall needs of the club.

Until further notice, coaches and team mentors who may have midweek championship fixtures or other competitive games scheduled for Rathleague are advised to actively explore alternative venues. Given the constraints currently affecting the grounds, the club cannot guarantee pitch availability outside the arrangements outlined above.

All pitch bookings must continue to follow standard club procedures and be submitted through Dermot Costelloe. No bookings or arrangements should be made outside of this process, as it is essential that the club maintains a clear overview of pitch usage and availability during this period. Members are asked to respect these arrangements and understand that flexibility and cooperation will be required from all teams during this time. Our priority is to ensure the safe operation of the grounds while facilitating as much playing activity as possible.

Further updates will be issued as the situation develops.



Laura Bergin interviews Des Rigney

Interview by Laura Bergin with Des Rigney an all round athlete in swimming and athletics. He played corner back for Portlaoise hurlers and played in the Leinster Final in 1987, played minor and underage, also played a bit of senior football , played intercounty for Laois. Coached Portlaoise and other club teams. A great rugby player for Portlaoise rugby also played with Greystones and Buccaneers and coached rugby teams. Played in Leinster 4 ball Golf for Portlaoise golf club and finally a well known musician and now he’s passed this sporting ethos to his two sons Luke and Harry who also played underage for Portlaoise Gaa and Laois and now play rugby for Portlaoise and Terenure.

Des: My name is Des Rigney , we were born and reared i suppose in the front row of St Brigid’s, No. 4, and we were blessed because we had a swimming pool, and a twenty acre field in front of us that had a full length hurling pitch, at one stage there was a four hundred meter running track there and it was a town park, so there were slides, swings, there was a tennis court and when the athletics took it over there was a shot put and high jump, so we were blessed with everything right across the road from us.

Laura: God I don't remember half of them Des.

Des: Oh yeah sure Eileen Hayes used to get the athletics going and eventually though you represented Laois,represented your club...

Laura: And what did you play in the Portlaoise club?

Des: No athletics thing first of all, that took off and then the swimming had a club going and we’d go to Butlin’s for competitions where you represented Laois and I have to say

the 1st year we went was 1978 and I was one of three medal winners that year, I won a Silver medal, yeah and two other ladies won Bronze,yeah and the athletics was there, but ah Bill Phelan, Lord Rest him, Kitty Phelan lived in No 9 and we lived in No 4 and Bill was always in around with Kit and and Tom at the time and then he’d be coming in picking up Oliver and Denis to bring them up to the GAA Club and of course back then he was looking for lads to go play hurling and play football. He had an auld Hillman Hunter or something like that and he’d come down around the front of St Brigid’s and we’d all be outside playing and as bad as it sounds he’d throw about ten or twelve of us into the car and bring us down the Green Road or where ever it was back then to play hurling and a bit of football and that’s what kick started it all off for us all really.

Laura: What age were you back then?

Des: oh I’d say I didn’t hold a hurl till I was about twelve.

Laura: Did you play in any of the Féilles?

Des: Oh we went to Cork, I do remember going to Cork for an U14 for a weekend, not very successful to be honest, that’s all I remember then. I remember it because it clashed with a big Athletics event, the same weekend and I had to make a decision, thirteen years of age and I remember my mother saying , make up your own mind and I wanted to travel so I went to Cork, so I chose the Feile over the athletics that weekend. We won under 12s, under 14s, under 16s and under 17s and we came to minor and we were beaten in the 1st round.

Laura: And this was all hurling?

Des: oh all hurling for me, I played a small bit of football but only , I have a senior football medal which I won in 1990 but I didn’t kick much football to be honest, back then I was fit as a fiddle you see and they were short numbers so i was

dragged in and that was fine and it didn’t bother me. We won the county final that year, we beat Ballyroan in the final in 1990 I’m fairly sure. We won the hurling the previous year and won the hurling the following year so there was a gap year there so we won the football, ha ha, just to get a medal home.

We were always blessed with the sport and blessed with the hurling in particular and everyone in our house done a small bit of hurling, well Brian didn’t do a lot to be honest as he was a small bit big.

Laura: oh I read that...6”5’

Des: so I remember playing 7s, there was 7s football competitions over in Castletown and we were over there one year, the whole lot of us were playing and we used to start Brian in midfield to throw him in for(the throw in) and then take him back off again, we wanted someone that could kick a ball. It was a bit of fun, a bit of a crack for us and sure when the GAA Center was going it was brilliant up there after matches, after county finals, there was no better place to be.

Laura: That’s right, it was great for socialising, and everyone was friendly.

Des: Yeah, 100% it was brilliant.

Laura: What is your best memory of a win?

Des: I suppose in 1987 , well my first game in 1985 John Taylor was unlucky to be sent off playing for Laois.

Laura: oh I remember that, lost an All Star because of it.

Des: correct which was an awful injustice I thought. Well anyway John had a stepped down for the county final and I was drafted in for the county final, my 1st senior match ever



to play was in the county final, so we were beaten by Camross by a point I think it was but anyway the following year was 1986 and Noel the brother had got married the day before the semi final against Errill and anyway I got sent off in the semi final, so that wasn't a great year. The following year Pat Critchley took over training us in 1987 and Pat's training methods were totally different, there were no running laps. He had us running up and down with a ball, everyone had a ball, it was brilliant, it was different and everyone clued into it if you know what I mean. We beat Clonad in the county final in 1987, we beat them quite well, but we went all the way to the Leinster Club Final that year and we were beaten by a late goal in that against Rathnure, that was a great for us and a great memory.

I suppose as well and we went on a solo run then for a little while there that was 87. Then in 1988 Camross beat us by a point but in 1989 we won again, in 1990 we lost and in 1991 we won again and at that stage I think I was starting to wind down, I'm afraid the legs were beginning to go a little bit. Probably getting to the Leinster Final against Rathnure below in Kilkenny was a great year. I think the football's won the same year. We'd have been the only club ever to play in both in one year. That would have been in 1987, we lost by a goal and they won. I was a minor in 1984 and both the minors and the seniors won the county final in both codes. I don't think that's ever been done since by any club in the country.

Laura: Who would you say was the best player in your opinion in Portlaoise club or county or any other county?

Des: You can't look beyond John Taylor, he was head and shoulders above anyone really but I suppose a close second to that would have been Pat Critchley and what he achieved and people under estimate the full back position, it's not something that you can train for, you have to be a natural in that position. John Bohan was a fantastic full back and Cyril Duggan was a fantastic full back. You couldn't move John

Taylor in full back, as good as he was you couldn't do that, because he's not a full back, you couldn't move midfielders back or full forwards back, it's a specialised position and John Bohan was brilliant at that and I thought Cyril Duggan was brilliant at that so to answer your question, John Taylor I suppose and Pat Critchley and John Bohan a very close second.

Laura: Any players in any other counties.

Des: Well not so much other counties, if I stick with Laois and back to that full back position I think Bill Maher Rathdowney was incredible as well and very much under estimated, again a very hard position. I hurled with Bill myself, I would have been a corner back and Cyril Duggan the other side and Bill Maher full back, that was the late 80s mid 80s somewhere and Bill would have been a great hurler, very under estimated. So Niall, Niall was some hurler, incredible, he was so unlucky with his injuries and then lucky to get back playing. He was exceptional.

Laura: Any funny stories?

Des: Not really. Well the year of the row? Do you know about the year of the row, it was in 1989 against Camross. Sparky Lalor of Durrow was referring and he was probably the only Referee that never feared Camross so because of him the match was carried on, any other referee would have abandoned it. It only started off with two or three lads and went on to about twenty

Laura: oh that's the one Cheddar was involved in with Big Ger Cuddy?

Des: yes he was knocked over and he got a terrible hiding by Big Ger who stood over and beat him, bad ass's as they say, but I got a six months ban for that, I was innocent, the first time I was ever banned in hurling or any sport but the match was re started and we went on to win the match and Niall

went onto get Man of the Match so it was a good outcome I suppose, but again back then Camross were big strong fit lads but they bullied their way through a lot of teams but we put it up to them, physically we were taking them on also and hence that day the match was re started and we won the match and sure that was great.

Laura: Speaking about Niall there, he went off to play "Shinty" in Scotland against Scotland?

Des: I think he was picked a couple of years in a row back then, sure he had a fierce strike of a ball, like John Taylor, a different strike of a ball than a normal fellow. He went for a couple of years.

Laura: That was unusual.

Des: yeah I won't say it's a very different game but they have different hurls as well. They're huge yokes. I think the Scots were using hurls because their stick is a different stick Laura: that's right it's curved.

Des: yes a big curve and much longer I think, yeah you'd get an awful strike of the ball with one. Yeah he went over, but he used to go to San Francisco as well to hurl, himself and Cyril Duggan and a few of them, worked there during the day and hurled at weekends, for the summer, for three or four months like. And it was great for them, go see some of the world.

Laura: Apart from the hurling you went on to play Rugby?

Des: Yes I enjoyed the rugby, it probably suited - me better in one sense because I was going from the hurling into the rugby, I was going in fit and vice versa, I was coming out of the rugby and going into the hurling fit. Yeah we ended up going up to Greystones-Wicklow at the start of it. I followed Brian, Brian was up in Greystones and I ended up being



Captain up there for a year around 89/90-92/93.

Laura: How did you keep it all going?

Des: Ah sure look we loved it, that was it you see, we loved it, the training and the comradery and the pints at the weekend and we ended up going back to The Buccaneers-(amalgamation of Athlone and Ballinasloe) then for the last couple of years, we played three or four years down there and that was great crack all together.

We trained down in Athlone. I was back living in Portlaoise at the time, I had lived in Dublin for a few years when I was playing with the other crowd. When I came back to Portlaoise we used to travel up to Athlone on Tuesdays and Thursdays for training and play matches at the weekend and we were quite successful as we joined Division 3 and we won Division 3 and we got promoted again the following year into Division 2 and then into Division 1 and I was convinced that we played in 2 All Ireland Semi-Finals but some lads told me it was only the 1.

We definitely played in 1 anyway against Cork and Ronan O’Gara was playing , he kicked us off the field in the second half and that was the end of it down there and that was brilliant. At that stage now around 2000/2002 the legs were completely gone.

Laura: Ha Ha I’m not surprised. You played Intercounty yourself, didn't you?

Des: I did, I played for four years at Intercounty and back then it was all knock out, if you know what I mean. Now we got on well in the league, the league ran through the winter and it was a heavier ground so it suited me, but then the championship came around say June/July but it was complete knockout so we never got past the 1st round. So it was four years and four knock outs.

Laura: You also trained teams?

Des: I coached Ballinakill in hurling and I coached Kiltotton for a year and in Rugby then I coached Portlaoise for four or five years and I also coached Newbridge for a year.

Laura:Then you went on to something completely different? You played with “The Mere Mortals”!

Des: I played base guitar with “The Mere Mortals” and I played saxophone with a band called “Soul Set”. Angie McNulty , Tony Tynan and a few and Tony’s son was on the drums I played base guitar with “The Mere Mortals” originally “The Drowning Fish” and our 1st gig was in the Portlaoise GAA center in Portlaoise. That’s right Ollie Plunkett, Paul Marron, Paul Brophy, Dick Duff and Pat Critchley were also involved. We recently got together again and we actually played a few gigs there lately.

Laura: Oh you weren’t up in Wolfhill with them were you?

Des: hahaha. I was. I was up there two or three times now at Leeche's Pub. They liked us up there, yeah, a very quiet little small place but yet there was a nice crowd.

Laura: You were down at Féile too?

Des: Yes Féile I think the very 1st Féile back in 1990 also and we played at that and the best part of that was you had back stage passes for the weekend you see, yeah so we got to meet the likes of Van Morrison and The Hot House Flowers and all them boys, we got to meet all of them.

Laura: I remember the Flowers playing up in the Club. Liam Ó Maonlaí

Des: Yes Ollie organised all of that to be fair to him, sure your talking 35/40 years ago now, we done support for Van Morrison, he would have been a lot bigger back then.

Laura: Oh, Van Morrison was great!

Des: They were great auld times.

Laura: Yes sure I remember Fiachna O Braonain, he has a radio show now and Liam and the lads, well, I used to cater for the bands with a few other girls and I remember one night Liam stood at the door of the hall in the clubhouse and Tommy Keogh God rest him had spread the slippy stuff on the dance floor and Liam ran and skated right across to the kitchen door, ah sure they were great times.

Laura: Now just before you go! Your son plays rugby?

Des: The two boys. Oh Luke did play underage for the club , Cyril Duggan is our nextdoor neighbour and Cyril has a young lad Cathal and he’s the same age as Luke so when they came to under 7s-under 8s Cyril was their coach and Cyril, he’s a great man to organise things and he pulled me onboard with him of course so they played under 7s under 8s. He played Féile, he played with Laois Under 14s but he’s a big man and when he got to 15yrs/16yrs he was nearly too big for hurling because they were fast little lads you know but he played . I remember distinctly going down to Erril one Saturday morning with the Laois 14s and they played Tipperary and there were only three Laois lads able for them, the pace of the game was incredible for that level and so he knew then himself and he turned to Rugby which suited him better, So he plays Rugby now with Terenure in Dublin, so he’s going well at that. Luke’s doing quite well, he played for Irish clubs and County last year. He’s a big lad so he won’t be turning to hurling anytime soon although Luke was talking about going back to Junior hurling last year. So Harry plays for Portlaoise and Luke for Terenure. Harry would have come from an underage club set up as well and then he moved on. He moved to Shannon first, then he moved up to Dublin.

Laura: In golf then you played in a mixed four ball for Portlaoise Golf Club in 2024?



Des: That's right and we won out Leinster and we went to a quarter final and then an All Ireland Semi Final against a Club from Clare but we lost, yeah but we won out Leinster that year. It was a great achievement, anything in golf is hard so to win out anything is great. So that was a great year and a great crack, and again you're competing.

Laura: Anyone we know on that team in golf?

Des: Yes you know Ray Carroll? He was on that team it was mixed you see, so I played with a lady called Elaine Redmond, she was my partner and like that we were unbeaten until the semi final. Sure you can stay going at the golf as long as you can and Paddy Fitz Lord rest him used to say. that golf is not a sport as there's nobody marking you ha ha. That's what Paddy would say, that's a great saying, a great quote yeah from Paddy. "There's nobody marking you.

Laura: That's it now Des. Thanks for all that!

Des: How long was that?

Laura: Ah, 23 minutes ...

Des: God you wouldn't be that long in a Garda Barracks!





CLG PHORT LAOISE



LAOIS SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS - 1987

Sunday, 13 September 1987 - O'Moore Park



Portlaoise 2-13 v 1-5 Clonad

*Back (l. to r.): Noel Rigney, Cyril Duggan, Des Rigney, Pat Hooban, Sean Delaney, Pat Critchley, Martin Cashin, John Bohane;
Front (l. to r.): Seamus Plunkett, Matthew Keegan, John Taylor, Paul Bergin, Sean Bergin (Capt.), Pat Cleary, Billy Bohane, Mick Bohane;*



CLG PHORT LAOISE



LAOIS SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS - 1989

Replay - Sunday, 15 October 1989 - O'Moore Park



Portlaoise 0-12 v 1-4 Camross

Back (l. to r.): *Seamus Plunkett, Des Rigney, Cyril Duggan, John Hanniffy, Jimmy Keenan, Pat Critchley, Nollaig Rigney, John Bohane (Capt.);*
Front (l. to r.): *John Taylor, Tommy Fitzpatrick, Matthew Keegan, Niall Rigney, Ger Hoey, Paul Bergin, Liam Bergin;*



CLG PHORT LAOISE



LAOIS SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS - 1991

Sunday, 21 September 1991 - O'Moore Park



Portlaoise 1-14 v0-7 Clonad

*Back (l. to r.): Seamus Plunkett, Des Rigney, Pat Critchley, John Hanniffy, Sean Bergin, Cyril Duggan, Noel Rigney, John Bohane;
Front (l. to r.): Tommy Fitzpatrick, John Taylor, Eamon Murphy, Niall Rigney, Paul Bergin, Pat Fitzpatrick, Liam Bergin;*



CLG PHORT LAOISE



LAOIS SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS - 1998

Sunday, 20 September 1998 - O'Moore Park



Portlaoise 0-13 v0-11 The Harps

*Back (l. to r.): Des Rigney, Des Killeen, Eamon Murphy, Eamon Fennelly, John Hanniffy, John Gleeson, Brian Murphy, Cyril Duggan;
Front (l. to r.): Tommy Mulligan, Diarmuid Mullins, Tony Bergin, Niall Rigney (Capt.), Joe Phelan, Brian Bohane, John Taylor;
Mascots: Colm Gleeson, Darragh Rigney and Shane Cuddy;*



2026 Summer Camp Registration Now Open

Bookings are now open for our 2026 Gaelic Football and Hurling summer camps, led by senior footballer and club GPO Josh Hogan.

Because of ongoing construction work at Rathleague the camps will be held at the St. Mary's CBS Campus, Borris Road, Portlaoise.

- **Under 7 and Under 8 Camp:** 7, 8, and 9 July from 9.00am to 1.00pm
- **Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 Camp:** 14, 15 and 16 July from 9.00am to 1.00pm
- **Under 5 and Under 6 Camp:** 21, 22 and 23 July from 9.00am to 10.30am

Cost

€30 per child for club members.

€60 per child for non club members.

To register your child/children please fill out the form [here](#).

Payments should be made through Revolut with the name of your child/children as the reference after the registration form has been completed.

For payments details or to arrange an alternative payment or bank transfer, contact Josh on [083 194 0412](tel:0831940412) if you would like to.

Places are limited so early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.

PORTLAOISE GAA

SUMMER CAMPS

REGISTRATION OPEN

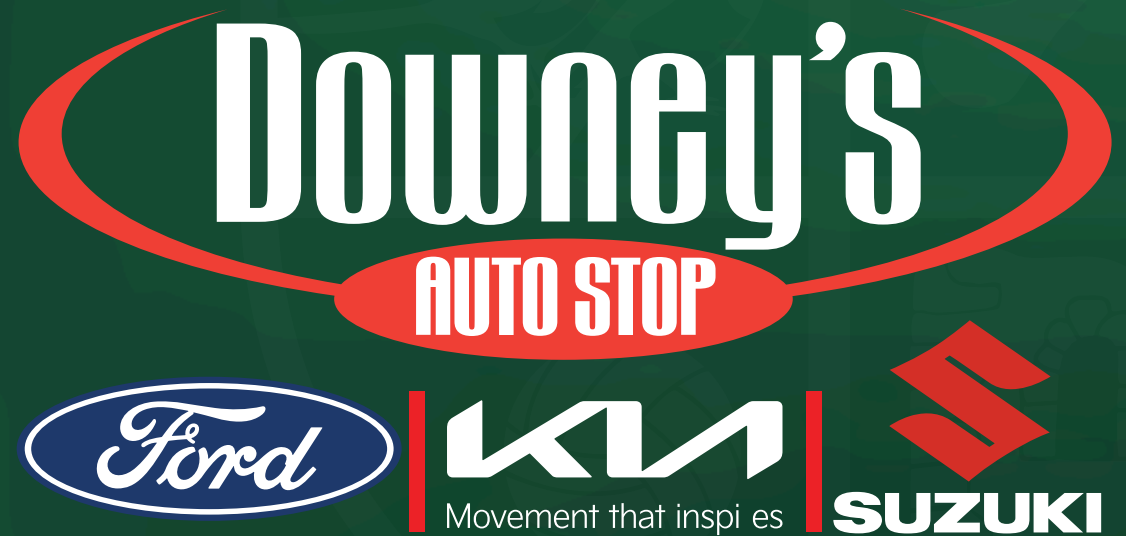
HELD ON THE ST. MARY'S CBS CAMPUS

LED BY SENIOR FOOTBALLER AND CLUB GPO
JOSH HOGAN

COST:
€30 CLUB MEMBERS
€60 NON CLUB MEMBERS

CLG PORTLAOISE

Gaelach i gCroi agus in Aigne



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Féile Hurling Roundup





Féile Hurling Roundup

Our U15 hurlers represented Portlaoise with great pride at Féile na nGael 2026, competing in Division 2 alongside strong opposition from Carlow, Westmeath, Armagh, Derry, Down, Meath, and Kerry.

The lads got their campaign off to the perfect start with a hard-earned victory over Ballinkillen (Carlow) on a scoreline of 1-6 to 1-3.

Next up was Keady Lámh Dhearg (Armagh) in a physical but fair contest played in excellent spirit. With Fionn Delaney in outstanding form from placed balls, the team ground out a 0-8 to 0-6 win.

Ballyduff (Kerry) followed, despite losing their opening games, they proved very formidable opposition. Trailing at half-time, the lads showed great determination to rally and secure a fine 1-11 to 1-4 victory.

The semi-final saw us face a physically imposing Navan O'Mahony's side. In a tight and tense encounter, Portlaoise edged through on a scoreline of 0-6 to 0-5 to reach the Cup Final.

Clonkill (Westmeath) awaited in the final, having impressed throughout with victories over Camross, Mount Leinster Rangers (Carlow) and Kevin Lynch's (Derry). A slow start left us trailing 2-6 to 0-4 at half-time. Goals from Jack Reilly and Fionn Delaney brought us back within two points, but after a long and demanding day in glorious sunshine, it wasn't to be, with Clonkill finishing stronger to win 2-11 to 2-6.

While the result didn't go our way, reaching the final was a superb achievement and the players can be immensely proud of their efforts, skill and determination throughout the weekend. A sincere thank you to Borris-in-Ossory/Kilcotton GAA for having their grounds in magnificent condition and to all their volunteers for the excellent organisation of the event. Thanks also to the referees and umpires, and to all involved in making Féile na nGael such a special competition each year.

The day concluded with a very enjoyable meal in the Killeshin Hotel, shared with our victorious Camogie team, rounding off a memorable occasion for all involved.

Great credit must go to Brian Devaney and Ed O'Dwyer who were assisted by Brian Bohan and Mick Bowe on how the team were turned out and performed not just on Saturday but over the year so far. There are certainly green shoots in hurling circles in the club.





National Féile Success for Our U15 Camogie Team

June will long be remembered as a special month for our U15 camogie squad, who produced a magnificent series of performances to capture the National Féile na nGael title and bring the coveted title back to Portlaoise.

The girls travelled to Myshall, Co. Carlow, where they began their campaign in impressive fashion. Victories over An Port Mór (Armagh), Myshall (Carlow) and Nurney (Kildare) saw Portlaoise top their group, with the team displaying excellent teamwork, skill and determination throughout the day.

Having negotiated the group stages with three convincing wins, attention turned to the semi-final against Burren Rangers (Carlow). In what proved to be a physical and competitive contest, Portlaoise remained composed, producing another outstanding display to secure their place in the final with a 5-05 to 0-01 victory.

The final against Loup (Derry) was a fitting conclusion to a remarkable day. Portlaoise settled quickly and controlled proceedings from the outset, leading 1-02 to 0-00 at the interval after an excellent first-half performance. Despite the warm conditions, the girls continued to work tirelessly for one another, showing tremendous resilience and commitment before finishing strongly to record a deserved 2-07 to 0-00 victory and claim the National Féile title.

Winning a National Féile is a tremendous achievement and reflects the dedication shown by the players throughout the year, together with the guidance and commitment of the management team. It was a proud day for everyone connected with Portlaoise Camogie and one that will live long in the memories of all involved.

Congratulations to every player and member of the management team on a fantastic accomplishment and for representing the club with such pride both on and off the field.





Portlaoise 2-7 v 0-0 Loup (Derry)

Back (l. to r.): Sofia Murphy, Emma Moran, Aisling Condon, Aine Bannon, Amelia King, Robina Reinika, Aisling Young, Alanna Cahill, Eve Montgomery, Lucy Marum McStay, Aoibhe O Shea, Anna Scully, Freya Byrne, Kate Hynes, Beth Lindsay;
 Front (l. to r.): Amelia Knowles, Keeva Phelan, Saoirse Kavanagh, Olivia Canavan, Ellie Fennell, Ellie Sandgrove, Chloe Johnston, Sara Cully, Sasha Lawless (Co-Capt.), Emily McEvoy (Co-Capt.), Darcy Carroll, Sarah Skehan, Ruth Gorman;

**LAOIS 1: UNDER 14****Aoibhe O Shea, Darcy Carroll,
Olivia Canavan****LAOIS 2: UNDER 14****Sofia Murphy****LAOIS 3: UNDER 14****Amelia King, Anna Scully,
Sarah Skeeahan, Saoirse Kavanagh**

Portlaoise Well Represented Across Laois U14 Camogie Teams

A huge well done to all of our U14 camogs who proudly represented Portlaoise and Laois last month. Representing Laois 1 were Aoibhe O'Shea, Darcy Carroll and Olivia Canavan, who reached the Cup Final before being narrowly beaten by Kilkenny.

Sofia Murphy lined out with Laois 2 and also reached the Cup Final, where they were defeated by Kildare. Playing with Laois 3 were Amelia King, Anna Scully, Sarah Skeeahan and Saoirse Kavanagh. Their side put in a superb effort in the Shield Final, only to be edged out by Louth.

To have so many Portlaoise players representing their county at this level is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication they put in throughout the year.

Well done girls. We are all incredibly proud of you and your efforts in the blue and white of Laois.



Our U11 Camogie girls were brilliant at the Celbridge U11 Blitz this month with 2 teams proudly representing the club!

They played against Celbridge, Cuala, Dunboyne & Ardclough. Ratoath, Maynooth, Moorefield & Clondalkin Round Towers. The girls showed great skill, heart and real Portlaoise pride in every match. The teamwork, work rate and determination on show were great to watch, and they gave a great account of themselves from start to finish.

We're so proud of how they represented the club.

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THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION
An Cumann Camógaíochta



Some great camogie was on display by our U9 girls in a camogie blitz in Clonad this month. The girls showed fantastic enthusiasm, skill and teamwork throughout the games, with plenty of great scores, tackles and passages of play on show. Most importantly, everyone enjoyed themselves and continued to develop their camogie skills.



Under 10 UCD Camogie Blitz

Our U10 camogie girls enjoyed a wonderful day at the recent blitz in UCD, representing Portlaoise with great enthusiasm, skill and sportsmanship throughout.

The girls played brilliantly in every game, showing how much they have developed while working hard for one another and enjoying every minute on the pitch. They were a credit to themselves, their coaches and their families.

With glorious sunshine throughout the day, there was a fantastic atmosphere as the players made new friends, created lasting memories and, most importantly, had great fun together.



U12 Girls Impress at Mol an Óige Blitz

Our U12 girls travelled to Naas GAA this month to take part in the Mol an Óige Blitz, enjoying a fantastic day of camogie against teams from across the country.

The blitz provided a wonderful opportunity for the girls to test themselves against new opposition, with some excellent skill, teamwork and determination on display throughout the day. The team grew in confidence with every game, producing some outstanding performances as the day progressed.

Their hard work was rewarded with a victory over the hosts, Naas, in their final match, rounding off a thoroughly enjoyable and successful day.



Portlaoise Girls Shine for Laois Schools in Parnell Park

Well done to Ellie, Keeva and Lily, who proudly represented Portlaoise and Laois Schools in the Cumann na mBunscol competition in Parnell Park this month.

The girls enjoyed a fantastic day of football, helping their team to an outstanding record of four wins from four matches against strong opposition from across the country.

CUMANN
NA MBUNSCOL





LGFA U14 'A' League Semi-Final: Portlaoise 2-4 v 1-4 Timahoe

A place in the final secured for our U14 girls this month in the LGFA U14 'A' League Semi-Final

Portlaoise produced a determined performance to overcome Timahoe on a scoreline of 2-4 to 1-4 in a hard-fought contest. With very little separating the teams throughout, the girls showed great composure and resilience when it mattered most to book their place in the county final.

Well done to all the players and management on a fantastic achievement. We wish the squad the very best of luck in the final which takes place in the next few weeks.



LGFA U14 'C' League Semi-Final: Portlaoise 6-13 v 3-6 Timahoe

Our under 14 girls Portlaoise booked their place in the U14 'C' League final earlier this month with a brilliant semi-final win over Timahoe in Timahoe yesterday evening.

Well done to all the players and management on a fantastic achievement. We wish the squad the very best of luck in the final which takes place against Ballinakill at Annanough GAA Saturday, 4th July at 4.30pm.



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The inaugural Paddy Fitzpatrick 7-a-Side Tournament

The inaugural Paddy Fitzpatrick 7-A-Side Tournament took place in Rathleague earlier this month, with 35 of our U15 footballers taking part across five teams.

There was great craic and plenty of laughs from the first throw-in, but as the morning progressed and the trophy came into sight, the competitive edge certainly emerged among both players and managers. The standard of football on display was excellent, with every player getting plenty of game time throughout the tournament.

Kerry

Manager: Paul Cahillane
Zac Bowe, Sean Kitson, Fionn Trotman, Danny Kerry, Tiernan O'Dwyer, Brooklyn McCarthy, David Tiwo.

Donegal

Manager: Kevin Swayne
Oisín Larkin, Sam Breen, Finn Byrne, Adam Keogh, Kian Glynn, Tadgh Graham, Luke Devaney.

Dublin

Manager: Ben Dempsey
Max de Plása, Alex Graham, Rian O'Sullivan, Danny Guidera, Noah Clear, Ryan Fennell, Eoin Dunne.

Laois

Manager: Kieran Lillis
Logan Fitzpatrick, Harry Marum, Ivan Perepecajs, Gearóid Trotman, Craig Dunne, Lee McStay, Jack Reilly.

Galway

Manager: Josh Hogan
Tom Priede, Rhys Cuddy, Senan Niland, Eoin McNamara, Dylan Fitzpatrick, Noah Finn.

Armagh

Manager: Benny O'Connor
Lennon Brown, Oisín Delaney, Cian McGowan, Nathan Place, Sam Yorke and Max Whelan.

After a series of closely contested games, it was the Galway team who emerged victorious. Team captain Noah Finn had the honour of accepting the Paddy Fitzpatrick Cup from Paddy's wife, Imelda Fitzpatrick, following the final game.

Congratulations also to Ryan Fennell, who was named Player of the Tournament. The award was selected by the management teams and was a fitting recognition of an excellent morning's football.

A huge thank you to our managers Paul Cahillane, Kieran Lillis, Kevin Swayne, Josh Hogan, Benny Carroll and Ben Dempsey for giving up their time and helping to make the event such a success.

Most importantly, well done to all 35 players who embraced the spirit of the day, represented themselves brilliantly and made the inaugural Paddy Fitzpatrick 7-A-Side Tournament a fantastic occasion.

Congratulations to our winners and here's to many more years of the Paddy Fitzpatrick 7-A-Side Tournament in Rathleague.





Thank You to Our Féile Sponsors

As our camogie and hurling squads proudly represented Portlaoise GAA Club at the National Féile na nGael, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the businesses and individuals whose generosity helped make the weekend such a memorable occasion.

Our U15 Camogie squad was proudly supported by Hume Auctioneers, Martin Reddin Construction, Beechfield Healthcare, Ballyhyland Construction, Portlaoise Golf Club and Prograss Bio. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents who so generously contributed towards the purchase of the squad's gear. Your support ensured our players travelled to Féile looking and feeling their very best.

Our U15 Hurling squad would like to thank Hume Auctioneers for their continued support of all aspects of Portlaoise GAA Club. Sincere appreciation is also extended to Terry Swayne (Portlaoise Stone), Graham Peavoy (Peavoy Auctioneers), Barry Fitzgerald (Barry Fitzgerald Solicitors), Paul Conroy (Jessop Street Dental Practice), Protection & Prosperity Financial Services and Paul Brown (Touch of Glass) for their generous sponsorship of the team's Féile gear.

The generosity of our sponsors and supporters plays a vital role in providing opportunities and memorable experiences for our young players. On behalf of everyone in Portlaoise GAA Club, thank you for your continued support and investment in the future of our club.



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**



Club GPO Corner

Reminder again that our aim in all schools is to try and progress each child's skills in football and hurling while making the sessions as enjoyable as possible for all the children involved.

The Past Month

Scoil Bhríde: 1st class and 3/4th class have completed their football blocks.

Gaelscoil: The Juniors and senior infants have finished out their blocks.

Educate Together: 2nd class, 4th class, 5th class and some of the remaining 3rd classes have finished out their hurling block.

Holy Family Senior School: 4th class have completed their football block.

Holy Family Junior School: Senior infants and 1st class are still finishing out their last few weeks of GAA. As mentioned last update, with the extra support from the TY students, all students in Holy Family Junior school will do a dual session every week.

St. Mary's CBS Portlaoise: Both our first-year footballers and second year footballers won their Leinster B finals.

Our first-year hurlers made a great start to their campaign beating St Fergal's Rathdowney and Roscrea CC to progress into the semi-finals. Unfortunately, the lads lost out in the semi-final, concluding their campaign.

Our 2nd year hurlers had Leinster C success, securing themselves a South Leinster title after narrowly beating Bagenalstown by a single point.

Huge thanks to all the teachers and mentors along with the players, who put in a huge amount of effort and time into a very successful campaign across both teams and codes this year.

The Next Month

Scoil Bhríde: 1st class and 3/4th class will start into their hurling blocks next week.

Gaelscoil: 1st and 2nd class will start into their block and 3rd class are now into their 2nd block.

Educate Together: Senior infants and the remaining 2nd & 6th class will finish their hurling blocks over the next few weeks.

Holy Family Senior School: 4th class will start and finish their hurling block and hopefully we will get 5th class in for the remainder of the year. The hurling sessions on Friday mornings for Cumman na mBunscoil students will continue.

Holy Family Junior School: Senior infants and 1st class will finish out their block and then junior infants and 2nd will finish out the school year. As mentioned earlier, with the extra support from the TY students, all students in Holy Family Junior school will do a dual session every week.

St. Mary's CBS Portlaoise: The Post primary school season has now concluded, students are now preparing for their end of year exams.

Other school updates: We are planning to run some 2nd, 3rd and 4th class blitz days in football and hurling to finish out the primary school year. This will give some of the younger classes who don't get to play Cumann na mBunscoil a great chance to represent their primary school and get to play the games they have been practising all year.

Other Updates

Nursery: Our u5 and u6 Town Tigers have finished their indoor season and are now heading out to the pitch as the weather improves. U6s are out at the St Mary's CBS and Scoil Chríost Rí campus on Sunday mornings at 10am, while the u5s are there on Fridays at 6pm.

Juvenile Teams: All of our underage boys and girls teams are well into their league campaigns.

Laois GAA Programs: The Ó Módrha Óg (football) and Setanta (hurling) programs are starting now the 26th and 27th of May. The programs are for u10, u11, u12 and u13 boys. There will be one session a week and the programs will run for 6 weeks. It's a great opportunity for players to enhance their abilities and make new friends in a safe environment. It's also a great chance for volunteer coaches to receive valuable insight and experience to help them on their coaching journey.

As always, I can be reached by phone at **083 194 0412** or by email at **Josh.Hogan.po.laois@gaa.ie**. If any coach or parent needs a hand with anything, no matter how big or small, please don't hesitate to let me know. I'd be happy to help.



Summer Water Safety

Adult supervision is crucial to keeping young people safe in, on and around the water, but have you ever thought about whether the colour of your child's swimwear could make a difference in preventing drowning?

If the worst does happen, being able to quickly find a child in the water could save vital seconds and make the difference between a fatal and non-fatal incident.

How many of us pick our children's swimwear based on how it looks, their favourite colours or who their number one character is right now?

The colour of the swimwear makes a huge difference as to whether they can be seen even on the surface of the water, let alone if they are underwater.

Look around the poolside next time you're at your little ones' swimming lessons – blue, white, and red will be seen in large numbers.

Then pay particular attention to what happens when they are swimming along, and even when they dive to the bottom to reach for a sinker.

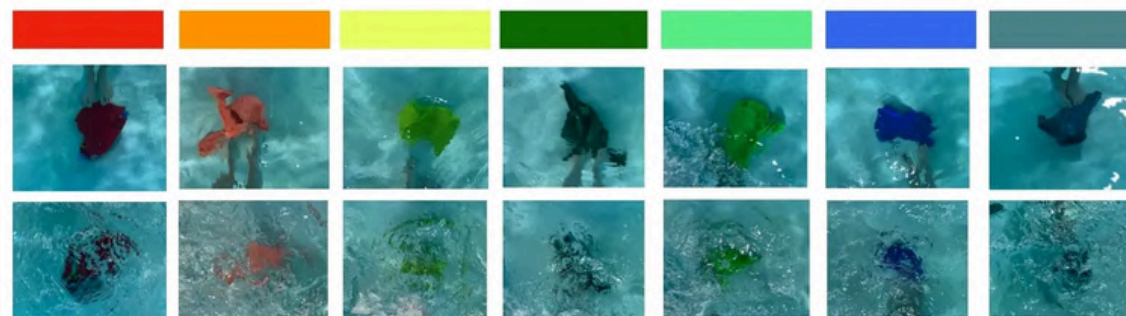
The child almost vanishes before your eyes!

The safest colours for swimwear

The colour of the bottom of the pool will make a difference BUT neon colours – orange, green, pink and yellow – will always be easier to see in a swimming pool than the colours mentioned above.

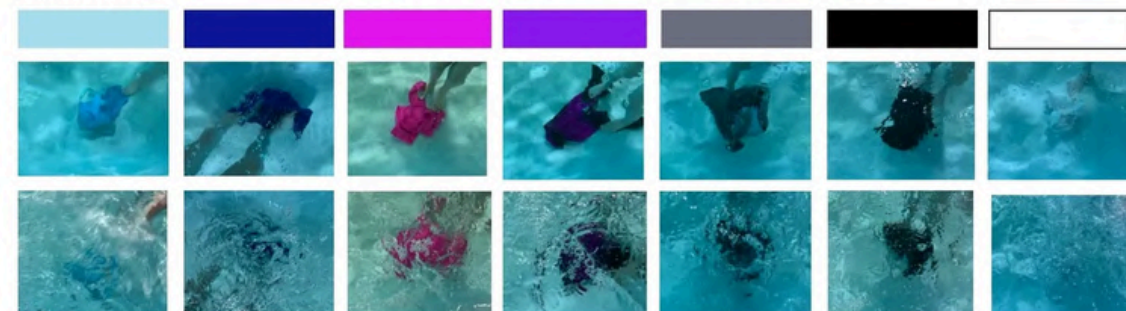
If you're going swimming in an outdoor setting, the results are the same. The caveat for this is that open water settings, such as beaches and rivers, also come with various hidden dangers such as tides and currents which need to be considered when making your choice.

So now you know, when buying your child's swimwear, think bright, neon, contrasting colours.

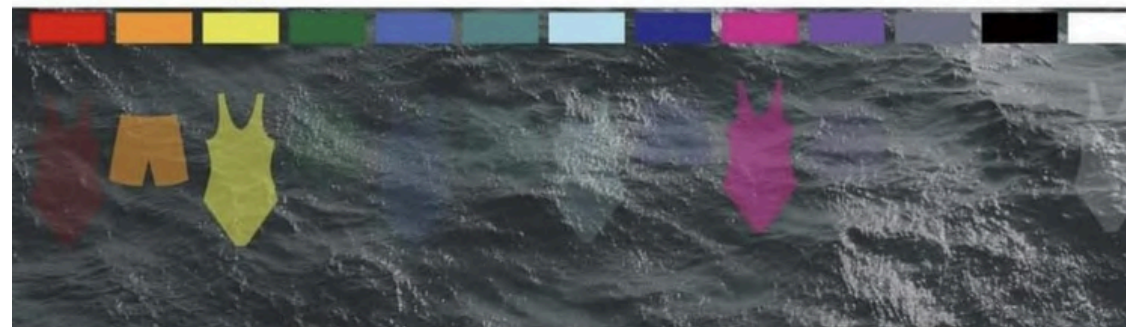


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In the Lake





An raibh tú sa Ghaeltacht riamh?

Were you in the Gaeltacht before?

Bhí mé....chaith mé trí seachtaine ag freastal coláiste ghaeilge ar an Oileán Chléire ó chósta Chorcaigh.

I was....I spent three weeks attending Irish college on Cape Clear Island off the Cork coast.

Cad a bhí ar siúl agat gach lá?

What did you do each day?

CIORCAL COMHRÁ MEITHEAMH *JUNE USEFUL PHRASES*

Bhí ranganna againn gach maidin agus bhí cluichí againn gach iarnóin.

We had classes each morning and we had games every afternoon.

Gach oíche bhí céilí againn.

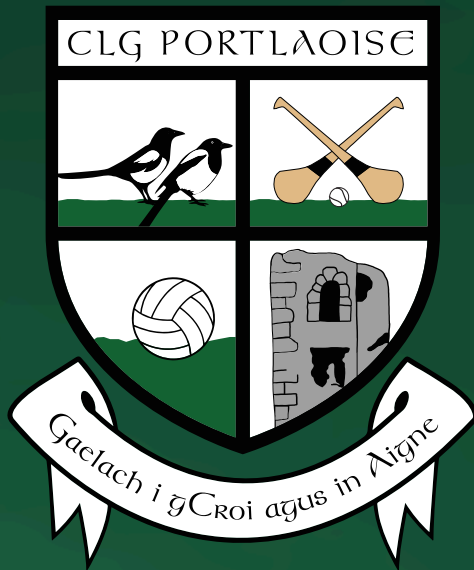
Every night we had a céilí.

Go minic bhí seans againn chun snámh sa chuan.

We often got the chance to go swimming in the harbour.

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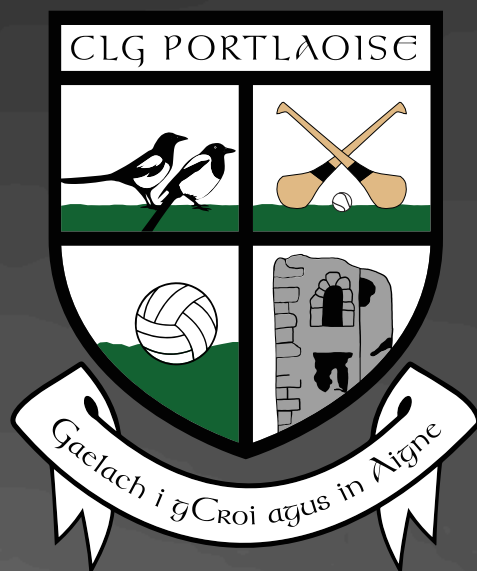


"Portlaoise GAA"

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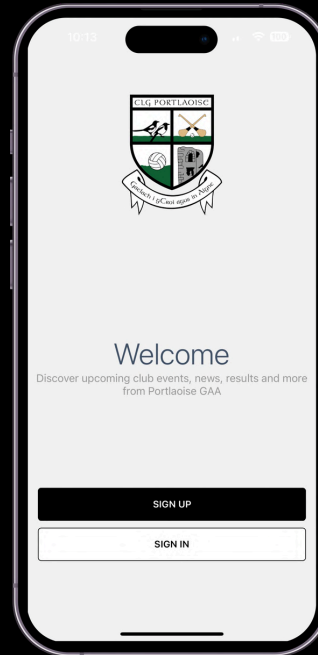
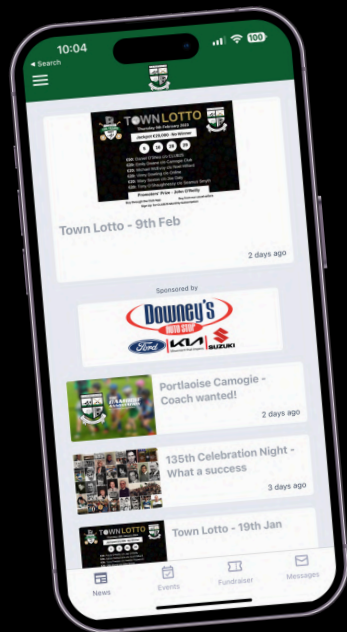
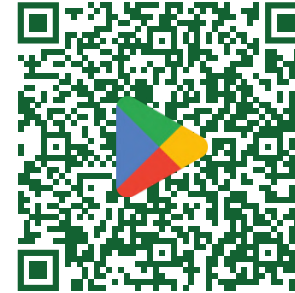


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Thanks to everyone who supports our fundraising efforts through the Town Lotto (day to day running costs), and Club Bingo (development). It is greatly appreciated.

If you have any feedback in relation to the newsletter, or if you would like to contribute to it, please contact info@portlaoisegaa.ie