





Downey's Continue Their Outstanding Support of Portlaoise GAA

We would like to take the opportunity to once again thank Downey's, who remain our main adult section club sponsor and continue to provide tremendous support to Portlaoise GAA.

The new kits are another continuation of the strong bond between the club and Downey's, a relationship that has played an important role in supporting our adult teams across the club.

Our sincere thanks go to Richie Downey, Paddy Downey and everyone at Downey's Autostop for their continued commitment and generosity. Their ongoing support is hugely appreciated by everyone within Portlaoise GAA, and we are very proud to have Downey's associated with the club.



Specsavers

Specsavers Portlaoise

Vision & Hearing Partner of CLG Phort Laoise for 2026



Specsavers Portlaoise and Portlaoise GAA Club Partner for Pitch Perfect Health

Specsavers Portlaoise and Portlaoise GAA Club have teamed up in a community partnership to highlight the importance of good vision and hearing, both on and off the pitch. For more than 15 years, Specsavers Portlaoise has been providing eye and hearing care to local families, and this collaboration with Portlaoise GAA Club is a natural way to support the wellbeing of the local community.

For Brian Duffy, director and optometrist at Specsavers Portlaoise, the partnership is a perfect match. *"Portlaoise GAA Club is at the heart of the community"* says Brian. *"This community-based partnership is a natural fit because we share the same values: supporting local families, encouraging healthy lifestyles and investing in the wellbeing of our community."*

Phil Scully Commercial manager of Portlaoise GAA Club agrees: *"Our partnership with Specsavers Portlaoise has been incredibly positive. Their support helps us provide opportunities for players of all ages. It's local people supporting local businesses that, in turn, invest back into the community."*

When playing sport, split-second decisions can make all the difference. That's why both Specsavers and Portlaoise GAA Club believe peak performance starts with looking after your hearing and vision. *"Players rely on clear vision to judge the flight of the ball, assess distances, and react quickly,"* explains Brian. *"Good peripheral vision, depth perception, and contrast sensitivity all play an important role, particularly in fast matches and changing weather."*

Phil Scully adds: *"So much of what players do depends on seeing clearly. Hearing is just as vital. Communication is huge on the pitch, from calling for the ball to hearing coaches. Being able to hear clearly helps players make better decisions and keeps the game safer."*

Specsavers Portlaoise has grown significantly since opening in January 2011 with just one test room and five staff. Today, the practice features a team of 33 dedicated staff, including 10 qualified optometrists and hearing experts, operating seven days a week. Despite this growth, their customer-first approach remains unchanged. The store features cutting-edge Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) technology, a 3D eye scan that can detect serious conditions like glaucoma and macular degeneration years before symptoms appear. *"The most important advice I can give is not to wait until you notice a vision problem before having your eyes examined,"* urges Brian. *"Regular eye tests us to detect changes early, when treatment is most effective."*

As a locally owned business, the team at Specsavers Portlaoise is proud to keep the community healthy, safe, and winning, both on and off the pitch. To book an appointment with Specsavers Portlaoise, you can call at (057) 866 4802, pop into store: 9-10 Lyster Lane, Portlaoise, Laois, R32 Y313, or visit their website at www.specsavers.ie/stores/portlaoise.



Brian Duffy
Optometrist / Director - Specsavers Portlaoise



Our U14 Hurlers won the 2012 All-Ireland Féile na nGael Final v St Johns Belfast in Croke Park in Specsavers Portlaoise sponsored jerseys



Laura Bergin interviews Craig Rogers

Laura Bergin sits down with former Portlaoise and Laois footballer Craig “Rodgie” Rogers to look back on a remarkable playing career, the friendships forged along the way and what wearing the green and white has always meant to him.

Craig Rogers was a prominent footballer for both Portlaoise and Laois and one of the most decorated players of the modern era.

Primarily a forward, Craig was a key member of the Portlaoise side that achieved the historic nine Laois Senior Football Championships in succession from 2007 to 2015, captaining the team to a record-breaking fifth consecutive title in 2011. He also collected senior county medals in 2004, 2017, 2018 and 2019 and was part of the Portlaoise teams that won Leinster Senior Club titles in 2004 and 2009.

His honours stretched well beyond senior club football. He captained Laois to the 2003 All-Ireland Minor Football Championship, represented Ireland at U18 International Rules level, won a Dublin Senior Championship with UCD and, long after his senior days had ended, helped Portlaoise win the Junior A county title in 2022.

Laura: Craig, tell me how your love of the GAA came about. You lived on Clonminam Road, a stone’s throw from the Portlaoise GAA grounds and O’Moore Park.

Craig: First of all, it was an absolute honour and privilege every time I got to wear a Portlaoise jersey. It didn’t matter what match it was. Every time I pulled that jersey on, I felt special. What stays with you afterwards are the friendships, camaraderie and brotherhood built up over the years. Those

bonds last a lifetime and, for me, that is one of the really special things about Portlaoise GAA.

I was born in Knockmay and we moved around a little before coming back into Portlaoise when I was 15, to Clonminam Road. Páirc Uí Fhaoláin was beside O’Moore Park at the time, where the Laois training centre is now, and my memories are of summer days meeting lads from all over town. We’d cycle up, kick footballs around, chat and spend the day there.

O’Moore Park was on the doorstep too. I could walk up with my dad or my two younger brothers and watch Laois or Portlaoise.

One memory really stands out. In 2002, we won the Laois Minor Championship on the Saturday evening. The following day I stood at the Town End in O’Moore Park watching the seniors beat St Joseph’s in the county final. I watched lads like Wooly, Ian Fitz, Kevin Fitz and Conroy and remember thinking, “This is exactly what I want to do. I want to play senior and win county finals.”

A year later, I was playing with the senior team. I’ll never forget that.

Laura: You were part of some hugely successful Portlaoise and Laois underage teams. How important were those years?

Craig: They were massive. I’m a firm believer that some of those Minor and U21 games formed the backbone of the team that eventually won nine senior championships in a row.

We played U21 championship games in the depths of winter in places like Ratheniska and Timahoe. The wind would be blowing straight down the field, the pitches would be muck and sometimes footballing skill went out the window. It

came down to will, determination and doing the simple things right.

Before our group, lads like Mick Nolan, Bruno, Aidan Fennelly, Kevin Fitz and Ian Fitz had come through winning U21 championships. Then our group came through, followed by another generation of young players. Put those groups together and you had the nucleus of that nine-in-a-row team.

We had brilliant mentors too. Jim McManus, Pat Ryan, Noel Tynan, Kieran Dunphy, John Mulligan and Mick Lillis are just some who taught us about character and determination.

One person who was beside me through practically all of it was Cahir Healy. We went through so many of those club and county successes together. When you talk about character, dedication and someone you’d want beside you when things got tough, Cahir was that man. It’s an amazing friendship and bond to have.

Laura: You actually began your career with Ballyroan before transferring to Portlaoise. I’d say there was plenty of slugging over the years with your cousin Michael John Tierney! Your brother Murry also went on to win plenty with Portlaoise.

Craig: That’s right. I owe a lot to people in Ballyroan. John Lalor in particular was an absolute gentleman and was the first person who really got me into Gaelic football.

My mam is a proud Ballyroan woman and her family are GAA mad. My grandparents lived right beside the Ballyroan pitch, so I spent a huge amount of time there with M.J. Tierney, my brother Darren and neighbours, playing soccer and Gaelic football.

Funny enough, when John Lalor first asked me whether I played in the backs or forwards, I knew more about soccer



and loved slide tackles, so I said the backs! I started as a half-back and eventually centre-back. I'd actually recommend that to any young player, play as many positions as possible because it gives you a much better understanding of the game.

But I had always loved Portlaoise. My dad brought me to Town matches when I was young and I loved the white and green jersey. I remember watching Martin Delaney and being fascinated by his passing. I watched Brian Mulligan coming through underage and thought he was the king at the time.

Eventually I knew I wanted to test myself at Portlaoise. The transfer itself became fairly complicated, but thankfully it was eventually sorted. Soon afterwards my family moved back into Portlaoise and everything fell into place.

Later, to get to play senior football alongside my brother Murry was brilliant. Playing with your family is really what the GAA is all about.

Laura: In 2009 you were part of the Portlaoise team that defeated Garrycastle 1-9 to 1-5 in Tullamore to win the club's seventh Leinster Senior Club Football Championship. You scored two points that day. Of all the medals and victories, where does that one rank?

Craig: The 2009 Leinster final is a very special memory. We were down to 14 men after The Chief, Peter McNulty, was sent off. I didn't even realise at half-time that he had been sent off!

That second half was just a typical Portlaoise performance, full of character, spirit and a huge amount of skill.

For me, the 2009 team was probably the best Portlaoise team I played on. We had the perfect blend of older and younger players, talent, character, pace and power. It was a

phenomenal squad and everyone got on so well.

We used to train at seven o'clock on Saturday mornings and a group of us would go for breakfast afterwards in Egan's. They were the years that created bonds we still have today.

When the final whistle went against Garrycastle, it almost felt more like accomplishment than surprise. We had believed from early that year that we could do it. John Mulligan was manager, Martin Parkinson and Alan Daly were involved, Pat Ryan was doing the training and we were in great physical shape.

It remains one of my top three memories in a Portlaoise jersey.

Laura: How do you look back now on that extraordinary run of nine consecutive senior championships?

Craig: It was incredible. The team changed over those nine years as younger lads came through, but the quality never dipped. The new players gave us another lift and another purpose.

That team also had an unusual ability to flick a switch. There were games where we might start slowly and find ourselves well behind, but somebody would say the right thing at half-time and ten minutes later the game could be completely different.

One Leinster game in Longford really sticks with me. We were well behind at half-time, the rain was lashing down and the conditions were horrendous. We came back, forced extra-time and Chi Chi kicked a score from underneath the terrace in Pearse Park. I can still hear the noise from the Portlaoise crowd.

The support on those Leinster away days was phenomenal. Buses of Portlaoise people travelled everywhere. Those are

the sounds and memories you never forget.

Laura: What victories stand out most, and are there defeats that still hurt?

Craig: The 2007 county final against Stradbally was huge. After the disappointment of 2005, it felt like redemption. We were completely focused and produced a brilliant player-led performance.

Winning the Dublin Senior Championship with UCD in 2006 was another great memory. We beat St Vincent's in the final and I got to play alongside some of the best players from around the country. I also spent a couple of summers playing in Chicago and was lucky enough to win Chicago and North American titles.

But I always knew I was just one part of one of the greatest teams Laois club football has ever seen, playing alongside some of the greatest footballers Portlaoise has produced.

The losses? The 2005 All-Ireland Club Final against Ballina is number one. We lost by a point and didn't perform. I still believe we should have been All-Ireland champions.

The 2010 All-Ireland semi-final against Kilmurry-Ibrickane hurts too, and personally the 2007 All-Ireland U21 final against Cork is another. We were two points ahead before conceding a late goal and losing by a point. We won so much, but we probably should have won even more.

Laura: In 2019 you scored the winning penalty against St Pat's of Wicklow as Portlaoise became the first club to progress through a penalty shootout in the Leinster Club Championship. What were the nerves like walking up to take the decisive kick?

Craig: There weren't any nerves. I had been taking penalties for Portlaoise for years and you just go through your



routine.

The year before, I had a late penalty saved against Kilmacud Crokes that would have brought the game to extra-time. I still think it was a good penalty, but the goalkeeper made a great save.

So when the St Pat's game went to penalties, I was putting my hand up again. I decided to go fifth because I was one of the more experienced players and knew that, if it got that far, there would be pressure.

I studied the goalkeeper and decided to take some pace off the shot, keep it low and put it right into the corner. Thankfully it worked.

It was lovely to have that bit of redemption from the year before. And again, I'll never forget the roar from the Portlaoise supporters after it went in. Hopefully they enjoyed the bus journey home!

Laura: You also represented Ireland at U18 level in the International Rules series in Australia in 2004. What was that experience like?

Craig: Incredible. To represent your country, travel to Australia for three and a half weeks and play alongside the best young players in Ireland against lads who were on their way to becoming Aussie Rules stars was an unbelievable opportunity.

The game itself was so fast and intense. I loved every second of it. We won the series 2-1 and I think we were the first Irish team at that level to go to Australia and win.

Again, I link that opportunity back to Portlaoise. Because the club was successful, I got opportunities with Laois. Because Laois were successful and we were winning Leinster and All-Ireland titles, I got an opportunity with

Ireland.

Portlaoise were incredibly supportive with fundraising and anything I needed to make the trip happen. That is the club in a nutshell, supporting its own.

Laura: There's also a story involving a certain Portlaoise man and your Leaving Cert!

Craig: There is! I was in sixth year in Portlaoise CBS and the Irish team trained every Friday morning in Ballymun. Unfortunately, I had double Business Studies every Friday morning with Adrian White, so I missed nearly all of those classes.

One morning when I finally appeared, Adrian asked for my homework diary, wrote a note for my parents about how many classes I had missed, handed it back and said: "Now take your Leaving Cert out of the bin!"

I went to Australia, missed even more school, came back, sat the Leaving Cert and ended up getting a B1 in Honours Business Studies.

When I met Adrian afterwards he told me, "I always knew you could do it, you just needed a kick up the ass!"

Even if I could go back and do it all again, I'd do it exactly the same way. Representing Ireland is an honour I'll never forget.

Laura: Finally Craig, is there anything you'd like to add before we finish?

Craig: It was the honour of a lifetime to wear the Portlaoise jersey. I'd like to think I always wore it with pride and represented it to the best of my ability.

For any young player reading this, understand what it

means to play for Portlaoise GAA. There is tradition and history behind that jersey and so many legends who wore it before you. Your responsibility is to eventually take it off and leave it in a better place for the next group.

There is pressure and expectation that comes with playing for Portlaoise, but embrace it and enjoy it. Try to be successful, but have fun doing it. Make friends, create bonds and build those brotherhoods because they are the things that last forever and help form you as a person.

I also want to remember one of the greatest players our club ever had, Peter "Chief" McNulty. Chief was a huge part of our team and of so much of our success. He was taken far too soon. He was with us for many of those successes and, after he passed away, he was there with us in spirit for the rest. He should never be forgotten.

I'd also like to express my sincere condolences and a massive thank you to the Fitzpatrick and Dowling families. Their loss has helped create what will be an incredible future for so many young players in the club, and I think everyone in Portlaoise is thankful to them for turning something so tragic into something so beautiful.

Finally, I want to thank every player, manager, coach, selector and kit man I had the privilege of being involved with. Every one of them had an impact on me, whether they realised it or not.

We all understood that we were part of something special at Portlaoise GAA. That hunger to come back year after year and try to succeed is difficult to find.

So thank you to everyone who shared any part of that journey with me





CLG PHORT LAOISE

LAOIS U21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2007

Saturday, 13 December 2008 - Páirc Mochua, Timahoe



Portlaoise 0-9 v0-7 The Heath Gaels

Back (l. to r.): Willie Conroy, Paul Cotter, Jo Jo Salmon, Christopher Mulhall, Conor Boyle, David Browne, Craig Scully, Adrian Kelly, Zach Touhy, J.P. Seale, Evan Prendergast, Brian Glynn, Cahir Healy;

Front (l. to r.): Brian Dunne, Brian McCormack, Brian Smith, Danny Reddin, Colin Rochford, Craig Rogers (Capt.), Mark Kavanagh, Paul Cahillane, Kieran Lillis;

Scorers: Paul Chaillane 0-3 (3f), Zach Tuohy 0-1, Brian Smith 0-2, Kieran Lillis 0-1, Craig Rogers 0-1;



CLG PHORT LAOISE

LAOIS SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2004

Sunday, 10 October 2004 - O'Moore Park



Portlaoise 0-15 v0-6 Emo

Back (l. to r.): Brian Gaynor, Enda Coleman, Shane McManus, John Hanniffy, Martin Delaney, Eoin Bland, Ian Fitzgerald, Brian McCormack, Sean Cotter, Michael Nolan, Danny O'Shea, Brian Fitzpatrick, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Cahir Healy, Diarmuid Mullins, Michael Fennelly;

Front (l. to r.): Pádraig Malone, Tommy Mulligan, Fergal Norton, Larry Fitzpatrick, Brian Mulligan, Peter McNulty, Tommy Fitzgerald, Colm Byrne, Cian Dowling Byrne (Mascot), Colm Parkinson (Capt.), Craig Rogers, Barry Fitzgerald, Aidan Fennelly, John Delaney, Liam Óg Phelan, Mark Brophy;



CLG PHORT LAOISE

LAOIS SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2007

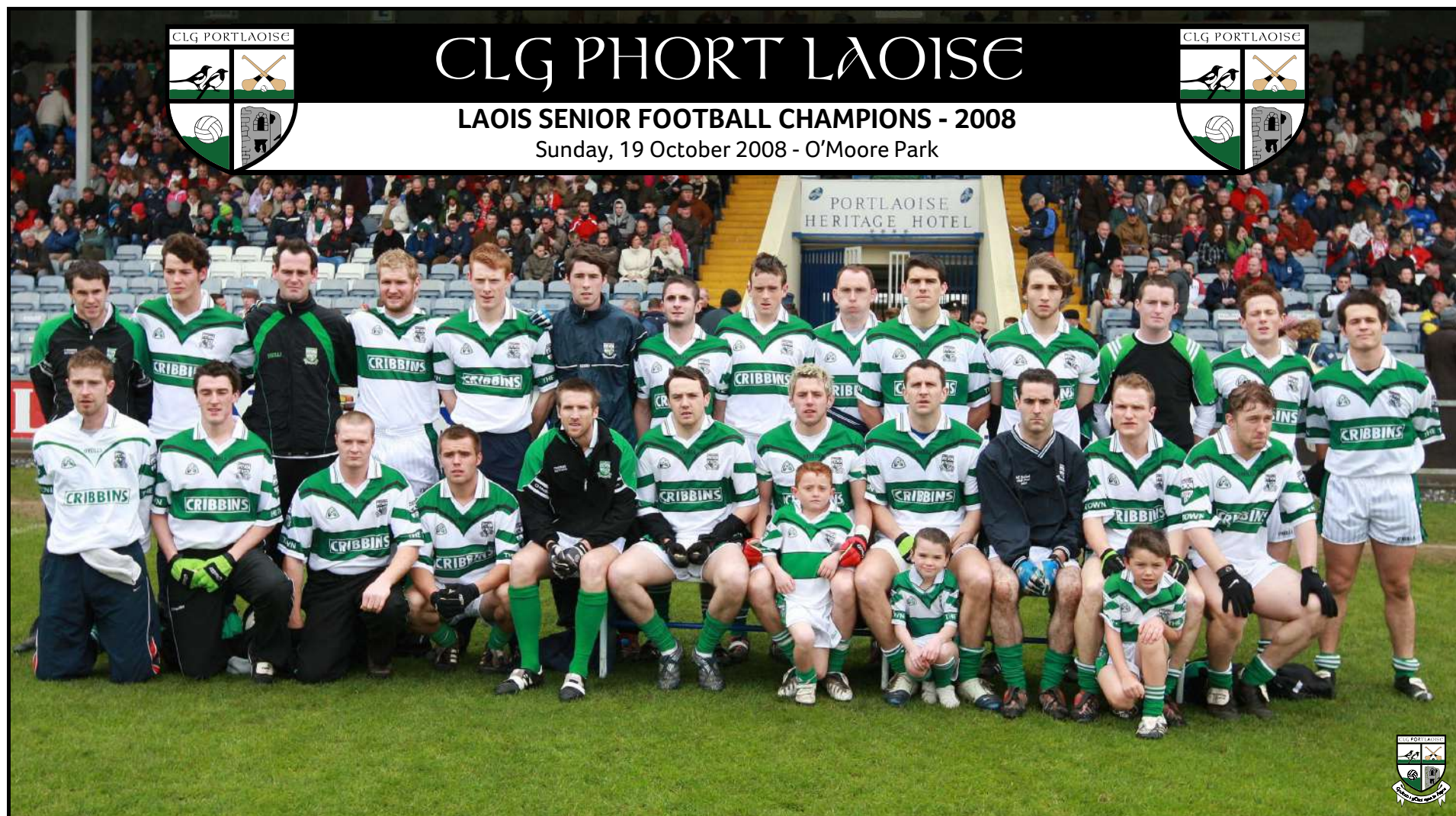
Sunday, 14 October 2007 - O'Moore Park



Portlaoise 1-14 v0-7 Stradbally

Back (l. to r.): Conor Boyle, Tommy Mulligan, Fearghal Fennell, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Brian Glynn, Sean Cotter, Barry Fitzgerald, Colin Rochford, Mick Nolan, Adrian Kelly, J.P. Seale, Brian McCormack, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Shane McManus, David Graham, Zach Tuohy, Jack Fennell, Brian Gaynor, Michael Fennelly;

Front (l. to r.): Shane Beere, Malachy McNulty, Paraic Phelan, Danny Reddin, Colm Parkinson, Brian Mulligan, Tommy Fitzgerald, Eoin Bland (Capt.), Craig Rogers, Aidan Fennelly, Cahir Healy, Peter McNulty, John Delaney, Brian McCormack, Liam Phelan, Kieran Lillis, Tommy Scully, Fint Walsh; **Mascots:** Glen Dowling, Gavin Fitzpatrick, Ogie Brown;



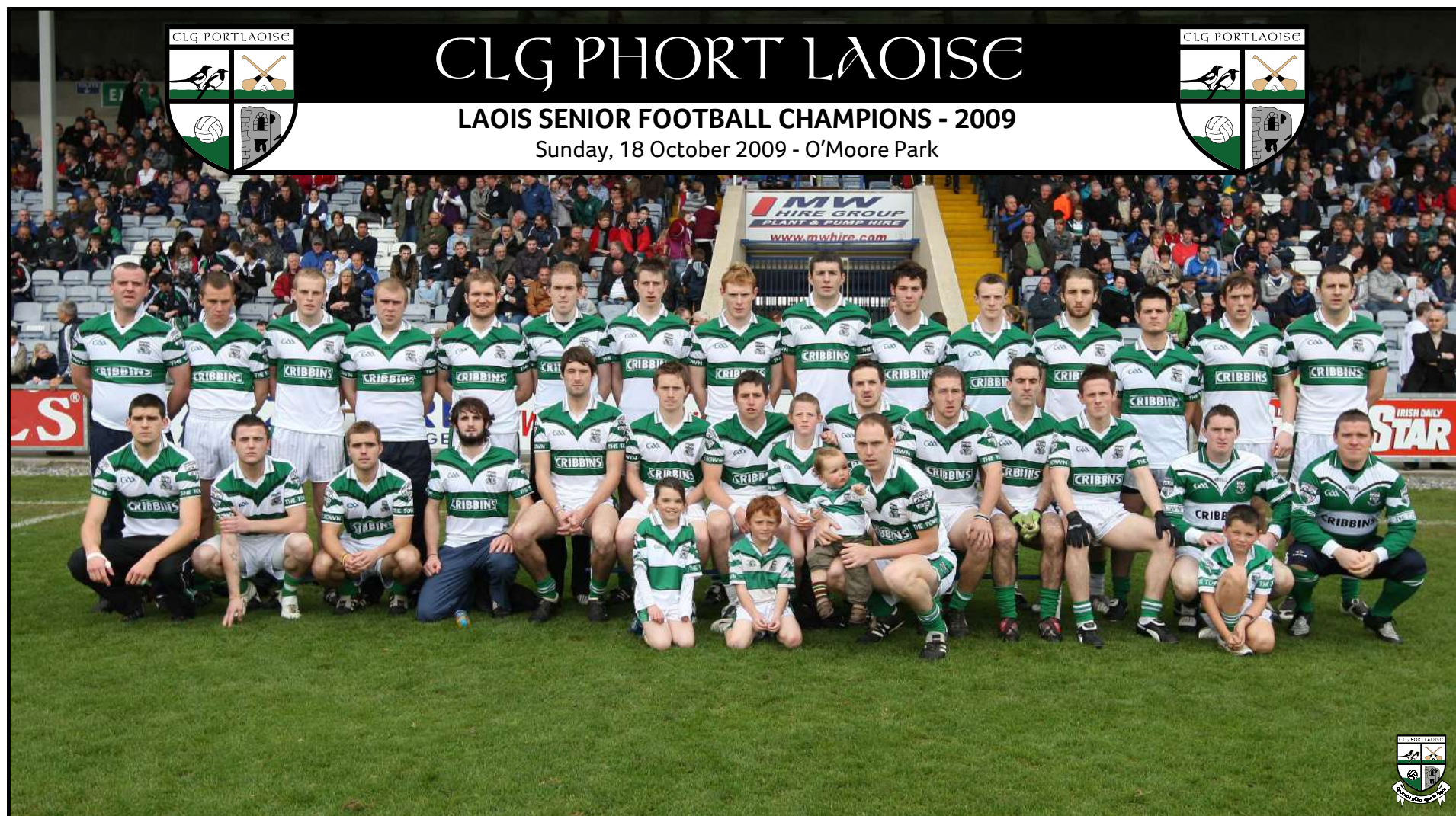
Portlaoise 2-14 v 1-7 Timahoe

Back (l. to r.): Eoin Bland, Paul Cotter, Sean Cotter, Barry Fitzgerald, Brian Glynn, Conor Boyle, Brian Smith, Kieran Lillis, Brian McCormack, Shane McManus, Zach Touhy, Mick Nolan, Peter McNulty, Malachy McNulty;

Front (l. to r.): Colin Rochford, Tommy Scully, John Delaney, Danny Reddin, Colm Parkinson, Brian Mulligan, Craig Rogers, Kevin Fitzpatrick (Capt.), Aidan Fennelly, Tommy Fitzgerald, Cahir Healy;

Mascots: Ogie Brown, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Glen Dowling;

Scorers: Peter McNulty 1-3 (2f), Brian McCormack 0-3, Colm Parkinson 0-3, Barry Fitzgerald 0-3 (3f), Craig Rogers (0-2);



Portlaoise 1-9 v 0-8 Arles-Kilcruise

Back (l. to r.): Colm Byrne, Brian Seale, Christopher Higgins, Danny O'Shea, Barry Fitzgerald, Jack Fennell, Stewart Nerney, Brian Glynn, Adrian Kelly, Paul Cotter, Mark Kavanagh, Zach Touhy, Malachy McNulty, Kieran Lillis, Kevin Fitzpatrick;

Front (l. to r.): Shane McManus, Ricky Maher, Danny Reddin, Brian Smith, Conor Boyle, Paul Cahillane, Craig Rogers, Brian Mulligan, Cahir Healy, Aidan Fennelly, Peter McNulty, Mick Nolan, Tadgh Murphy. **Front:** Brian McCormack (Capt.) with mascots Aoife Fitzpatrick, Ogie Brown, Cian Dowling Byrne, Aaron McCormack, Glen Dowling;

Scorers: Paul Cahillane 1-1 (1-0p, 1-0f), Zach Tuohy 0-2 (2f), Adrian Kelly & Peter McNulty 0-2, Brain McCormack & Craig Rogers 0-1;



CLG PHORT LAOISE

LAOIS SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2010

Sunday, 17 October 2010 - O'Moore Park



Portlaoise 1-08 v 0-8 Arles-Kilcruise

Back (l. to r.): Jack Fennell, Tommy Fitzgerald, Christopher Higgins, Brian Glynn, Brian McCormack, Stewart Nerney, Conor Boyle, Adrian Kelly, Graham Brody, Zach Touhy, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Kieran Lillis, Barry Fitzgerald.

Front (l. to r.): Eoin Browne, Brian Smith, Colm Byrne, Craig Rogers, Mick Nolan (Capt.), Paul Cahillane, Brian Mulligan, Hugh Coghlan, Cahir Healy, Eoin Bland, Malachy McNulty;



CLG PHORT LAOISE

LAOIS SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2011

Sunday, 16 October 2011 - O'Moore Park



Portlaoise 1-12 v 1-6 Graiguecullen

Back (l. to r.): Mick Nolan, David Seale, Jack Fennell, Christopher Higgins, Graham Brody, Mark Kavanagh, Stewart Nerney, Conor Boyle, Brian Glynn, Adrian Kelly, Eoghan Whelan, Shane McManus, Kieran Lillis, Malachy McNulty, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Colm Parkinson, David Browne, Eoin Bland;

Front (l. to r.): Paul Cotter, Brian McCormack, Brian Gaynor, Ian Fitzgerald, Fearghal Fennell, Brian Smith, Barry Fitzgerald, Paul Cahillane, Brian Mulligan, Craig Rogers (Capt.), Tommy Fitzgerald, Hugh Coghlan, Cahir Healy, Zach Touhy, John Delaney, Brian McCormack, Aidan Fennelly. **Mascots:** Aaron McCormack, Millie Rogers, Joshua Finn;



CLG PHORT LAOISE

LAOIS SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2012

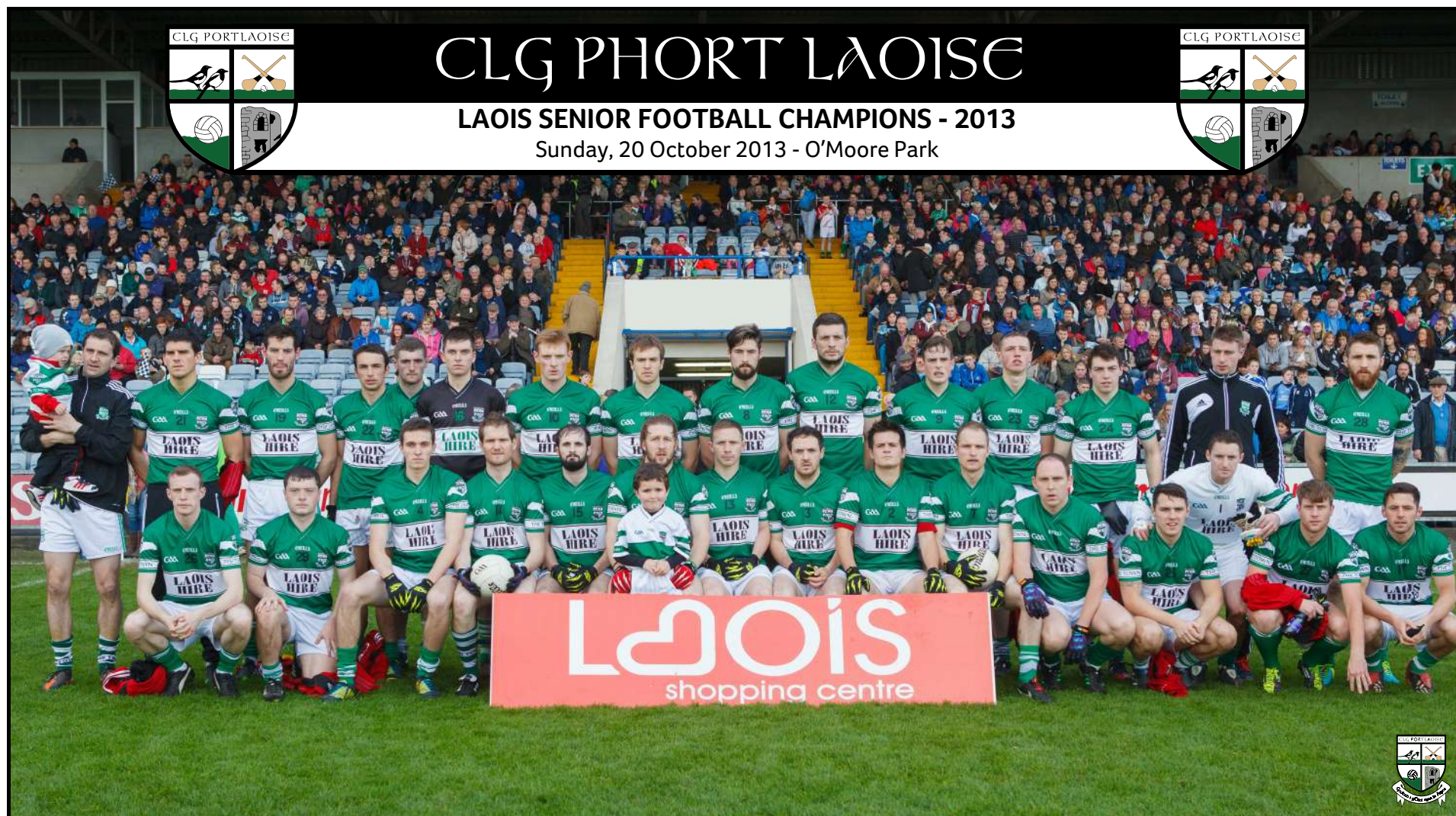
Sunday, 21 October 2012 - O'Moore Park



Portlaoise 1-13 v 0-9 Arles-Kilcruise

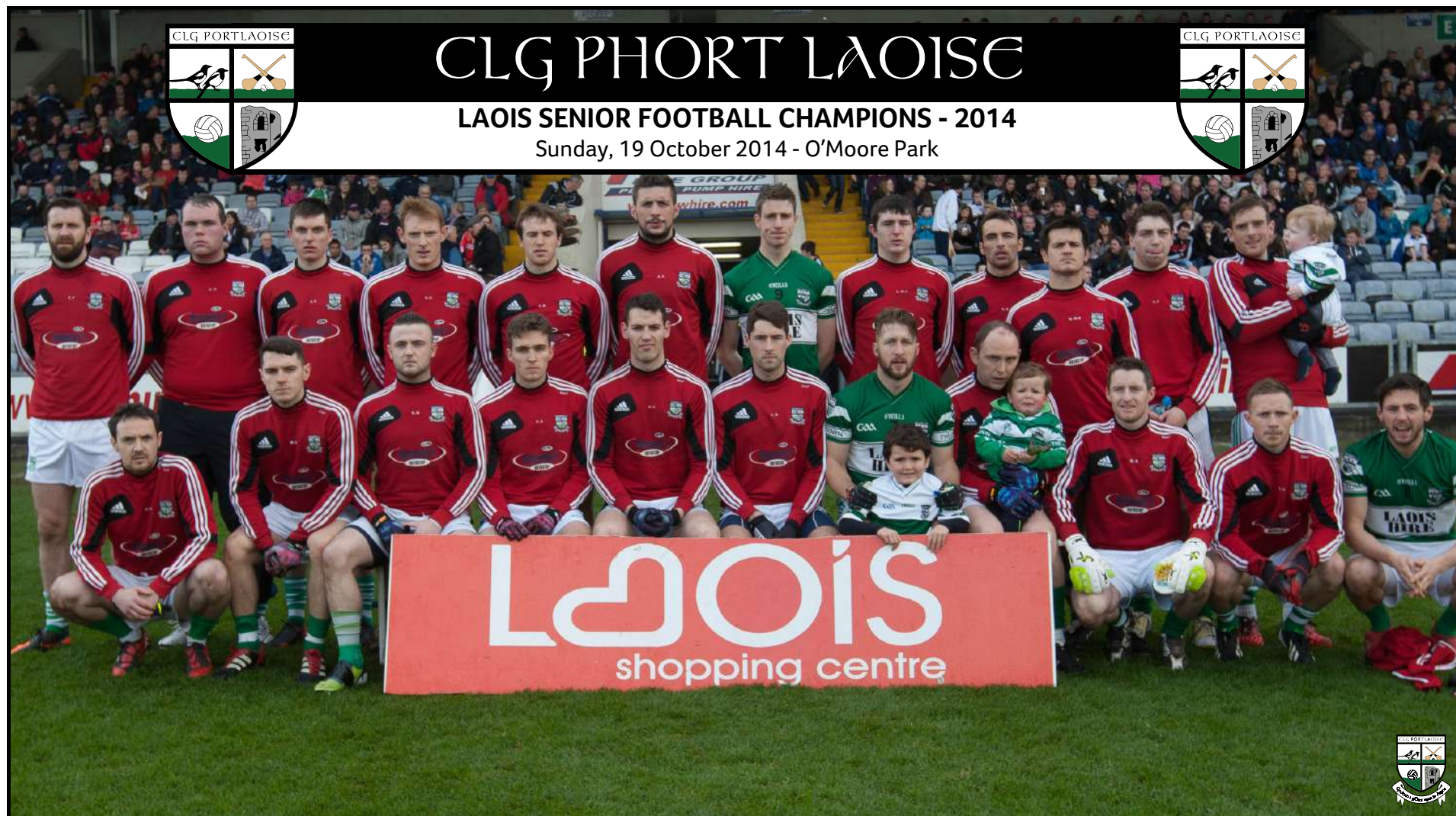
Back (l. to r.): Kevin Fitzpatrick (with Dylan Fitzpatrick), Mick Lillis (Mentor), David Seale, Christopher Higgins, Barry Fitzgerald, Eoghan Whelan, Jack Fennell, Liam McGovern, Graham Brody, Brian Glynn, Conor Boyle, Adrian Kelly, Paul Cotter, Stewart Nerney, Malachy McNulty, Kieran Lillis, Zach Tuohy, Ricky Maher.

Front (l. to r.): Brian McCormack (with Aaron McCormack), Brian Gaynor, Mark Kavanagh, Fintan Walsh, Jo Jo Salmon, Dean Cullen, John Delaney, Craig Rogers, Hugh Coghlan, Paul Cahillane, Brian Mulligan (Capt.), Brian Smith, Tommy Fitzgerald, Cahir Healy, Mick Nolan, Murray Rogers;



Portlaoise 2-8 v 1-8 Arles-Killeen

Back (l. to r.): Kevin Fitzpatrick, Shane McManus, Paul Cotter, Gareth Dillon, Dean Cullen, Graham Brody, Brian Glynn, Eoghan Whelan, Conor Boyle, Adrian Kelly, Kieran Lillis, Darragh Duggan, Eoghan Feane, Stewart Nerney, Zach Tuohy;
Front (l. to r.): Mark Kavanagh, Dean Lynch, David Seale, Barry Fitzgerald, Brian Smith, Cahir Healy (Capt.), Paul Cahillane, Brian Mulligan, Malachy McNulty, Tommy Fitzgerald, Brian McCormack, Murray Rogers, Michael Nolan, Christopher Mulhall, Craig Rogers;
Mascots: Dylan Fitzpatrick, Aaron McCormack;



Portlaoise 2-14 v 0-9 Arles-Killeen

Back (l. to r.): Kevin Fitzpatrick, Shane McManus, Paul Cotter, Gareth Dillon, Dean Cullen, Graham Brody, Brian Glynn, Eoghan Whelan, Conor Boyle, Adrian Kelly, Kieran Lillis, Darragh Duggan, Eoghan Feane, Stewart Nerney, Zach Tuohy;

Front (l. to r.): Mark Kavanagh, Dean Lynch, David Seale, Barry Fitzgerald, Brian Smith, Cahir Healy, Paul Cahillane, Brian Mulligan, Malachy McNulty, Tommy Fitzgerald, Brian McCormack, Murray Rogers, Michael Nolan, Christopher Mulhall, Craig Rogers;



CLG PHORT LAOISE

LAOIS SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2015

Replay - Saturday, 24 October 2015 - O'Moore Park



Portlaoise 2-13 v 0-7 Emo

Back (l. to r.): Brian McCormack, Adrian Kelly, Brian Glynn, Jack Brown, Ciaran McEvoy, Gareth Dillon, Richard, Downey, Frank Flanagan, Graham Brody, Dean Cullen, Eoghan Whelan, Ricky Maher, Eoghan Feane, Liam McGovern, Colin Finn, Chris Finn, David Holland, Zach Touhy.
Front (l. to r.): Paddy Downey, Kevin Fitzpatrick, John Kavanagh, Brian Smith, Conor Dunphy, David Seale, John Delaney, Kieran Lillis (Capt.), Conor Boyle, Brian Mulligan, Cahir Healy, Craig Rogers, Paul Cahillane, Paul Cotter, Michael Nolan, Brian (Bruno) McCormack;



CLG PHORT LAOISE

LAOIS SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2017

Sunday, 15 October 2017 - O'Moore Park

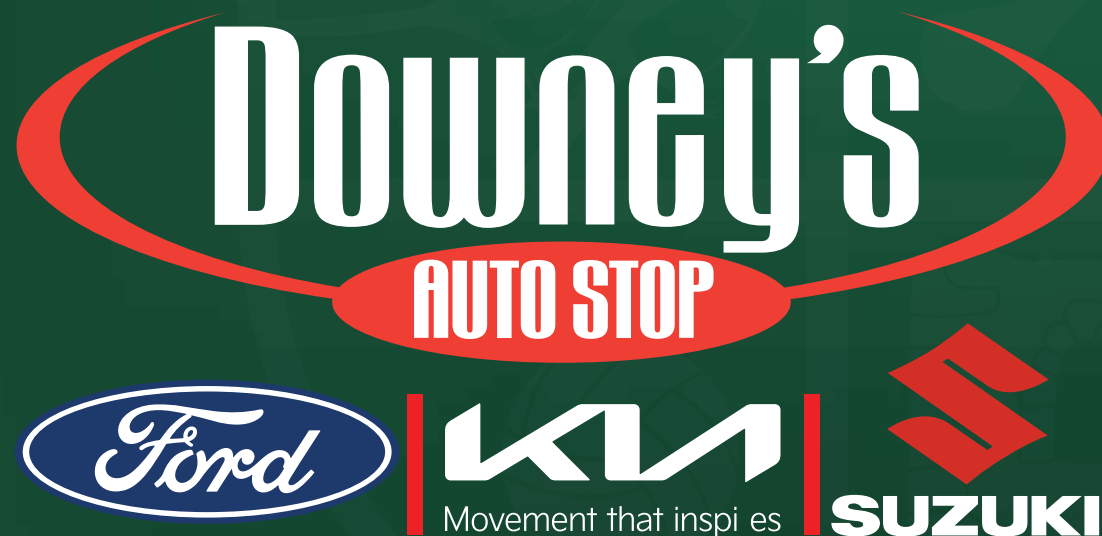


Portlaoise 3-13 v 0-10 Ballylinan

Back (l. to r.): Kevin Fitzpatrick, Jack Brown, David Seale, Brian McCormack, Gareth Dillon, Rickie Maher, Graham Brody, Adrian Kelly, Frank Flanagan, Shane Smyth, Dean Cullen, David Holland, Kieran Lillis, Ronan Molloy;

Front (l. to r.): Michael Nolan, Áindle Mac Gearailt, Ronan McEvoy, Brian Smith, Paddy Downey, John Kavanagh, Chris Finn, Scott Lawless, Conor Boyle (Capt.), Brian Mulligan, Conor Dunphy, Benny Carroll, Jason Maher, Paul Cahillane, Ciaran McEvoy, Craig Rogers;

Mascots: Conor O'Reilly, Caoimhe O'Reilly, Danny Breen, Séan Powders, Aaron McCormack, Ben McCormack;



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HURLING

Well done to our Laois U14 hurlers

A massive congratulations to our club representatives Tyler Whelan, Mikey McGrath, Tadhg Bohan, Zac Bowe and Danny Kerry, who were part of the Laois U14 side that won the League Shield last month at the Centre of Excellence.

The lads helped Laois to victories over Westmeath and Meath on their way to claiming the Shield.

It's always a proud moment to see our young players representing their county, and everyone in Portlaoise GAA is delighted to see the lads enjoying success in the blue and white.

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THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION
An Cumann Camógaíochta

Festival Success Highlights Growth of Portlaoise Camogie

It was a fantastic month for our young camogie players, with our Under 11 and Under 12 girls enjoying great success at the DS Sport Teamwear sponsored Laois Camogie U12 League 2026 – Festival of Camogie in Clonad GAA.

Our Under 12 2014 panel produced a brilliant performance to overcome Clough Ballacolla in the Ard Éireann Final, rounding off a great day of camogie for the girls.

There was also a brilliant showing from our two Under 11 teams, particularly impressive as all of the girls still have another full year at Under 12 level ahead of them.

Portlaoise Green finished their day by overcoming Banríon Gaels in the Aghaboe Final, while Portlaoise Black also reached their final, narrowly losing out to Banríon Gaels in the Oakvale Final.

To have so many young players representing the club and competing so well is another very positive sign of the continued growth of camogie within Portlaoise GAA. The numbers, enthusiasm and development across these age groups continue to go from strength to strength, with another generation of girls enjoying their camogie in the white and green.



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THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION
An Cumann Camógaíochta

Bright Future for Portlaoise Camogie as U11s Shine at Festival of Camogie

A massive congratulations to both of our Under 11 Camogie teams who took part in the DS Sport Teamwear U12 Festival of Camogie last month.

Both teams put in a huge effort throughout the day and represented the club brilliantly. Portlaoise Green finished off a fantastic day by overcoming Banríon Gaels in the Aghaboe Final, while Portlaoise Black also reached their final, narrowly losing out to Banríon Gaels in the Oakvale Final. It was a brilliant showing from this talented group of young camogie players, particularly as all of the girls are still Under 11 and have another full year at Under 12 level ahead of them. The future of camogie in Portlaoise is certainly looking very bright. Well done to all the players and coaches on a fantastic day.



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THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION
An Cumann Camógaíochta

Club Camogie Blitz

A fantastic morning of camogie in Rathleague this month as 165 girls from U7 right through to U16 took part in our Club Camogie Blitz.

The standard of camogie was excellent across every age group, with plenty of skill, teamwork and great games on display throughout the morning.

A highlight of the day was the inaugural Town Cup, which produced a very evenly contested game. The Greens, captained by Darcy Carroll, eventually came out on top to become the first winners of the competition.

A huge thank you to all of our coaches for the time, effort and enthusiasm they have given throughout the year. Mornings like today are a great reflection of the work being done across our camogie section and the continued growth of the game within the club.

Well done to all 165 girls who took part and made our first Club Camogie Blitz such an enjoyable morning.



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THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION
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THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION
An Cumann Camógailochta

Club Camogie Blitz



Underage League Success

It was a hugely positive period for our underage ladies footballers, with our U14 A, U14 C and U16 A teams all reaching their respective league finals.

Our U14 A girls came away with the silverware after a great contest against near neighbours The Heath in Annanough. Portlaoise eventually secured an eight-point victory, with captain Saoirse Reddin accepting the trophy on behalf of her teammates.

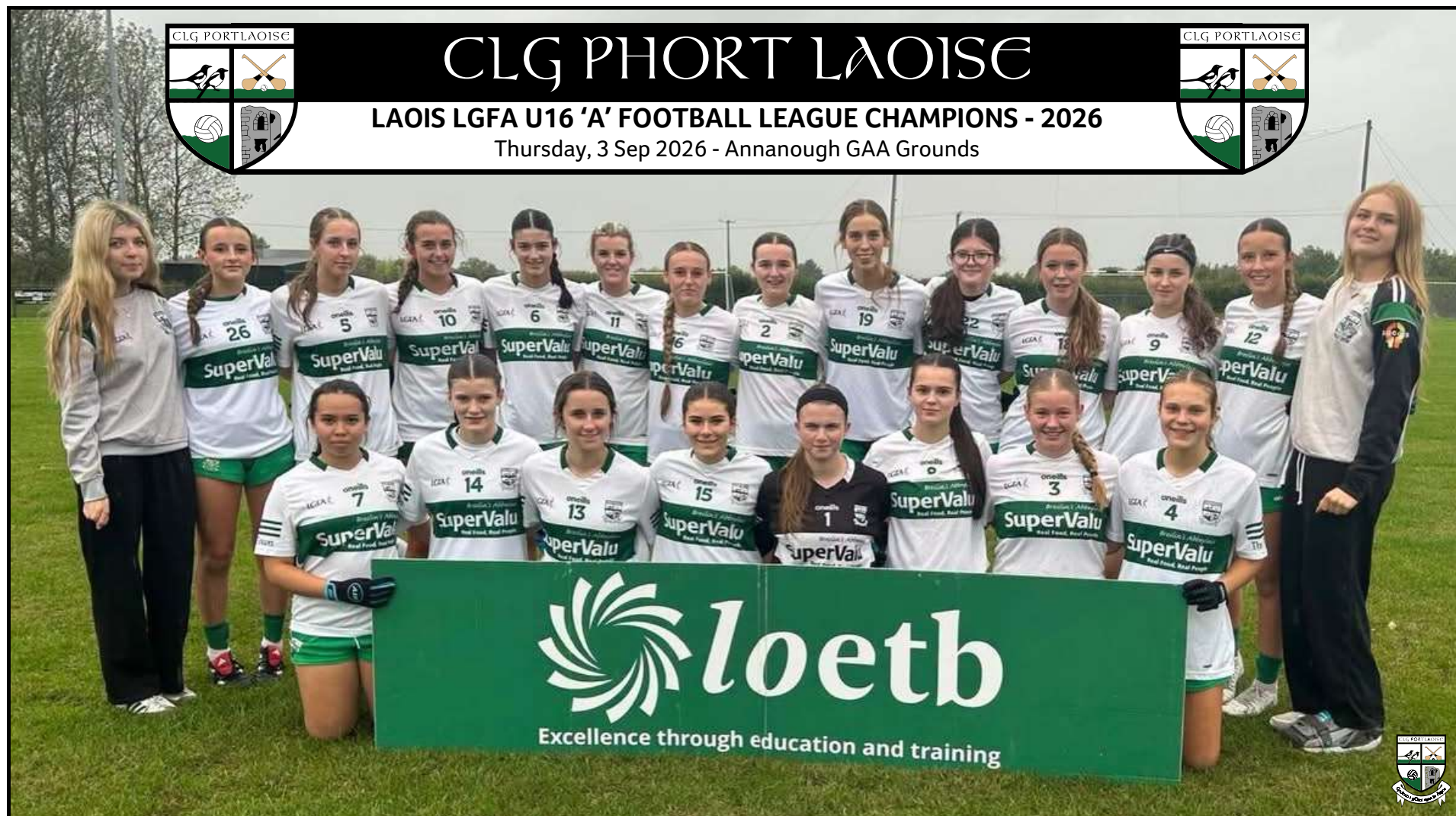
There was disappointment for our U14 C team, who lost out to a strong Ballinakill/Crettyard combination in their league final. Despite the result, reaching both the A and C finals was a fantastic achievement for the age group and a real credit to the large group of talented players and their coaches.

The success continued for our U16 girls, who faced big rivals Park Ratheniska in the LOETB U16 A League Final in Annanough. Played in horrendous conditions, Portlaoise had to dig deep against a determined Park Ratheniska side before eventually securing a 1-11 to 1-7 victory.

Captain Freagh Stanley had the honour of lifting the cup as the U16s completed another excellent league campaign.

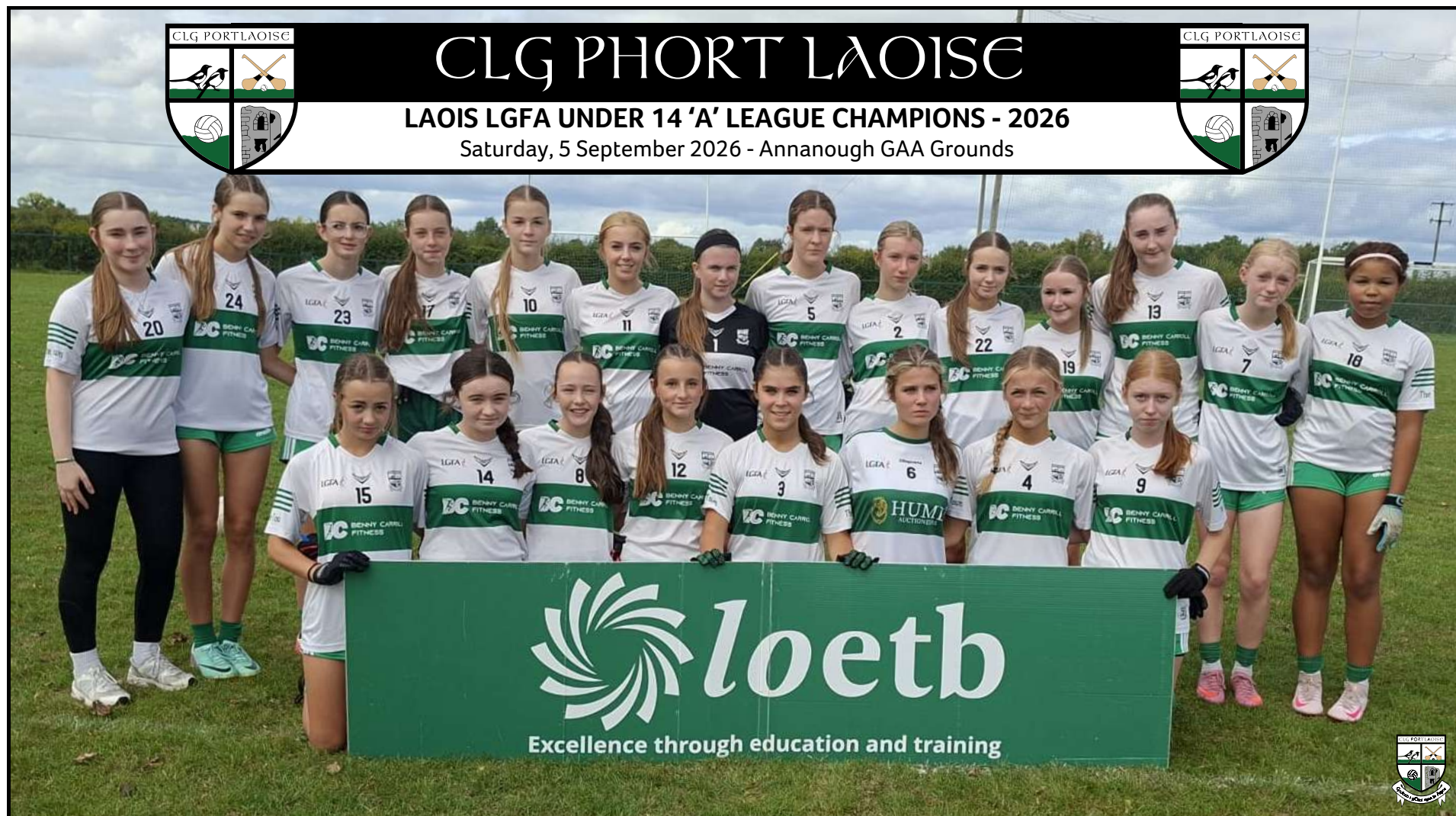
With two league titles secured and three teams contesting finals, it has been a very encouraging campaign for our underage ladies football section. Congratulations to all the players and coaches involved, and best of luck to the girls as they turn their attention to the championship.





Portlaoise 1-11 v 1-7 Park Ratheniska

Back (l. to r.): Abbie Thompson, Grace Malone, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Molly Jane Dempsey, Alix Culleton, Ellen Fitzpatrick, Kayleigh O'Callaghan, Sarah Walsh, Ellen McGree, Massie Dollard, Zoe Carton, Kara Powders, Katie Holland, Gráinne Coleman;
 Front (l. to r.): Freagh Stanley (Capt.), Beth Donoughue, Eve O Gorman, Sarah Donoughue, Darcy Carroll, Kara Phelan, Lucy Mulhall, Samanta Stalbe;



Portlaoise 4-7 v 1-8 The Heath

Back (l. to r.): Leah Kavanagh, Grace Carey, Ella Doocey, Lily Malone, Leana Weldon, Aimee Conlon, Darcie Carroll, Sarah Brown, Robina Reinika, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Kayla Flynn, Sarah Winters, Chloe Johnson, Milan Broomfield ;
Middle Row (l. to r.): Lucja Gosh, Aoibhinn Brennan, Keeva Phelan, Grace Malone, Saoirse Reddin, Olivia Canavan, Sofia Murphy, Aoibhe O'Shea;

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LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Fingallians GAA Football Féile

What a fantastic day our U10 girls had at the Fingallians GAA Football Féile in Swords earlier this month. They showed brilliant skill, teamwork and determination while representing Portlaoise with great pride, playing teams from Down, Antrim and Meath. Between rounds, the girls enjoyed a BBQ, plenty of fun, songs, ice cream and medals—making memories to last a lifetime.

Thanks to the coaches and parents for travelling on the day and supporting this great group



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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**

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Portlaoise
club le chéile
1887

Portlaoise U10s retain the Eddie Hanrahan title in Clonmel

Well done to our U10 footballers who retained the Eddie Hanrahan title in Clonmel at the end of August.

A brilliant achievement by the players and coaches, and a great way to round off the summer.

A big thank you to Clonmel Commercial for hosting us and for their hospitality on the day.

Well done to all involved. An Baile Abú!



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Pont Laise
club le châte
1887

U11s Enjoy Successful Dual Blitz in Ashbourne

Our U11 boys enjoyed another successful blitz in Ashbourne over the weekend, with a busy day of action across both codes.

The lads played three rounds of hurling in the morning before switching codes for three rounds of football in the afternoon. Despite a long day, they kept battling right to the end, producing some fantastic displays across the pitch with brilliant scores, determined defending and plenty of teamwork.

The Town were very well represented throughout the day, and the players can be very proud of their efforts in both hurling and football.

A big thank you to Donaghmore/Ashbourne for the invitation and for hosting a great day of underage action. Well done to all of our players and coaches involved.



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U10 Boys Take Gold at Rathvilly Tournament

Our U10 boys enjoyed a fantastic day at the Rathvilly Rising Stars Football Tournament, producing some excellent football throughout the competition.

In the group stages, Portlaoise faced Tinryland, Gorey and Rathvilly, putting in three very good team performances to win all three games and progress to the final.

There they faced a strong Carnew Emmets side, but our lads rallied once again to come out on top and take home the gold.

A brilliant achievement for the players and coaches and a great day of football for the group.





THIS
MONTH

A Healthy Lunchbox

HEALTHY
BODIES LEAD
TO HEALTHY
MINDS!

PACKING A NUTRITIOUS LUNCH FOR YOUR CHILD CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THEIR FOCUS, ENERGY LEVELS, AND OVERALL WELL-BEING THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DAY. A HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH SHOULD INCLUDE A BALANCE OF WHOLE GRAINS, LEAN PROTEINS, FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND DAIRY OR ALTERNATIVES TO ENSURE YOUR CHILD GETS THE NUTRIENTS THEY NEED.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS FOR BUILDING A BALANCED, NUTRITIOUS LUNCH:

WHOLE GRAINS: SWAP OUT WHITE BREAD OR PROCESSED GRAINS FOR WHOLE WHEAT BREAD, TORTILLAS, OR WRAPS. YOU CAN ALSO TRY INCLUDING WHOLE GRAIN CRACKERS, BROWN RICE, OR QUINOA FOR VARIETY. WHOLE GRAINS PROVIDE LONGER-LASTING ENERGY, HELPING YOUR CHILD STAY FOCUSED DURING LESSONS.

LEAN PROTEINS: INCLUDE LEAN PROTEINS LIKE TURKEY, CHICKEN, OR PLANT-BASED OPTIONS SUCH AS HUMMUS, BEANS, OR TOFU. THESE HELP BUILD AND REPAIR TISSUES WHILE KEEPING HUNGER AT BAY. FOR EXAMPLE, A TURKEY AND AVOCADO SANDWICH OR HUMMUS WITH VEGGIE STICKS ARE GREAT CHOICES.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: COLOURFUL FRUITS AND VEGGIES NOT ONLY MAKE THE LUNCHBOX MORE APPEALING BUT ALSO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL VITAMINS AND FIBER. CARROT STICKS, CUCUMBER SLICES, OR BELL PEPPERS WITH A SIDE OF FRUIT LIKE AN APPLE, GRAPES, OR BERRIES WILL ENSURE YOUR CHILD GETS A GOOD MIX OF NUTRIENTS.

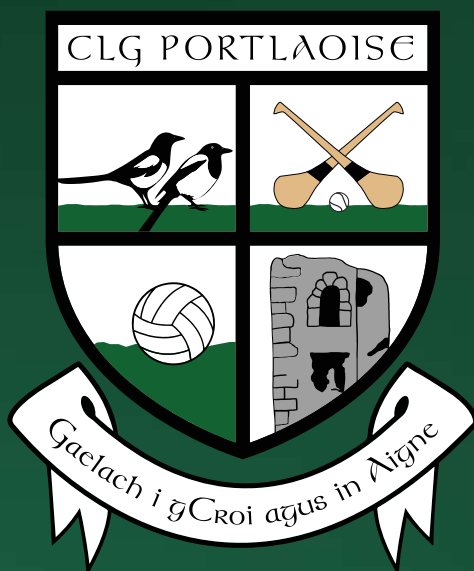
DAIRY OR ALTERNATIVES: YOGURT, CHEESE, OR DAIRY-FREE ALTERNATIVES LIKE ALMOND OR SOY MILK PRODUCTS ARE GREAT ADDITIONS. THEY PROVIDE CALCIUM AND OTHER IMPORTANT NUTRIENTS FOR GROWING BONES.

HEALTHY SNACKS: INSTEAD OF PROCESSED SNACKS HIGH IN SUGAR AND SALT, OPT FOR NUTS, SEEDS, WHOLE GRAIN CRACKERS, OR A HOMEMADE TRAIL MIX. THESE PROVIDE A SATISFYING CRUNCH WITHOUT COMPROMISING NUTRITION.

HYDRATION: ENCOURAGE HYDRATION BY INCLUDING A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE IN THE LUNCHBOX. STAYING HYDRATED HELPS WITH CONCENTRATION AND PREVENTS FATIGUE THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

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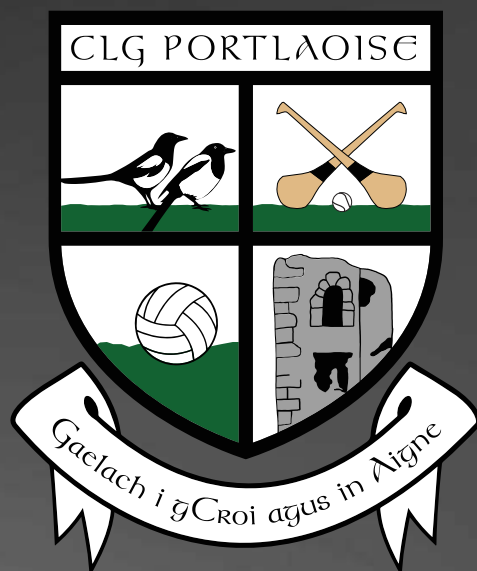


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Thanks to everyone who supports our fundraising efforts through the Town Lotto (day to day running costs), and Club Bingo (development). It is greatly appreciated.

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