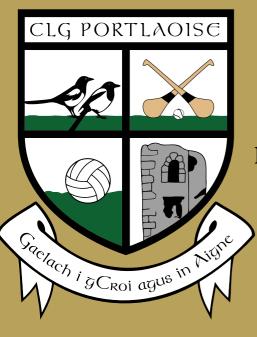


Welcome to the latest edition of the Portlaoise GAA Town Tattler, your go-to source for all the latest news, updates, and happenings in the world of Portlaoise GAA.

In this month's issue, we bring you coverage of the Portlaoise GAA Annual Golf Classic, complete with photos that capture the excitement and camaraderie of the event.



We also have an exclusive interview with Portlaoise GAA legend Noel Tynan, who shares his insights and memories of his time playing for the club and what the club means to him.

We showcase photos from the recent Eoin Fingleton Memorial competition, which saw some of our more elderly playing members bring home the silverware for the second year running.

So sit back, relax, and enjoy this month's edition of the Portlaoise GAA Town Tattler – your ultimate guide to all things GAA in the heart of Laois.

The Tattler Team PORTLAOISE GAA



Friday, 5th May The Heath Golf Club

Our Annual Golf Classic was a huge success with over 40 teams taking part. Thanks to everyone who supported. Special word for the great Jas O Reilly for being the driving force behind this event, ably assisted by JP Cahillane and John O Reilly in particular.

Thanks to everyone who took part. Also thanks to Heath Golf Club for their excellent hospitality on the day.

Major thanks to our Sponsors on the day. We encourage all of our members and supporters to support these people in whatever way they can. They are as follows:

Peigs Bar (George Plunkett) - Main Sponsor.

Coppers Night Club (Dave Power), De Bruns Bar (Stapo), (Ian Fitzgerald), Sidney Lewis, Sammy Kelly (Diageo), John Adams Car Sales, Paul Conroy Dentist, Kavanaghs Bar and Venue (PJ Kavanagh), Sean Smyth Oil Distributor, Pat Harding Butchers, Hughes Pharmacy (Jim and Deirdre Murphy), Permanent TSB (Stephen Hudson), Maggie Mays (Paul Timmons), Gerry Browne Jewellers, Browne Animal Feeds, O Neills Glass, Noel Whelan Car Sales, McKeon Stone (Niall Kavanagh), Maureen O Keeffe, Gareth Keogh, Portlaoise Juvenile Club, Lillys Bar (Kieran Lillis), Leinster Council GAA, Mulhalls Super Valu, Heath GAA Club, Pat Moran (Referee), Terry Swayne Stoneworks, Ballard Nursing Home, Portlaoise Rugby Club, Bosco's Gala, Eddie McCormack, Hume Auctioneers (John Dunne), Booth Concrete, Portlaoise Credit Union, Matty Heffernan Construction, Stradbally GAA, Portlaoise Parish Centre, Dunkeen Oil, Downeys Auto Stop, Barry Fitzgerald Solicitors, Mick Ryan Publican, Portlaoise GAA Club, Portlaoise LGFA, Portlaoise Camogie Club, Dermot Murphy Autosales, Welcome Inn (Donie Norton), Mattheew Keegan Undertaker, John Hanniffy, Ashford Tarmacadam (Damien Kavanagh), Roscrea Diesel Injection (Anthony Ryan), AD Contracting (Allan Daly), Brackens Gala, Portlaoise Cash & Carry, O Neills Glass.

On the following pages we have photographs of some of the teams who took part - how many faces can you identify?!



Friday, 5th May The Heath Golf Club





















Friday, 5th May The Heath Golf Club





















Friday, 5th May The Heath Golf Club













AND THE WINNERS WERE...

Massive congrats to the winning team of Ger Egan, Kevin Conroy, Jim McCarthy and Sammy Kelly who won with an amazing 97 points (Back nine).

In second place also with 97 points were the Heath GAA team of Seamus McGrath, Peter, Donal and Marion Booth.

Third on 95 points (Back 9) were Ronald Bradley, Ger Downey, Bill Buckley and J Dunne.

Also on 95 points were Bruno McCormack, Ray Carroll, Des Rigney and Mickey Fennelly in 4th.

In 5th with 94 points were Pat Booth, John Booth, Sean Martin and Sinead Gleeson.

And in 6th (and non GUI winners) place, on 94 points, were Chris Finn, David Finn, Paul Cahillane and PJ Murphy.



Kilmacud Croke's U11 Football Tournament 14th May 2023



Our under 11s took part in a tournament in Belfield on Sunday last organised by Kilmacud Crokes. We had games against Kilmacud, Summerhill, Cavan Gaels, Castleblayney and Monasterevin. A fantastically organised event and our boys all had a great day out. Well done to players, coaches and parents in making this happen. The future is bright.











Laois LGFA Feile 2023



Congratulations to a very talented bunch of players from Portlaoise on winning the U15 Feile competition on 30th April. They defeated a very competitive and dangerous Timahoe side on a scoreline of 4-2 to 2-3. We'll done to all the players and coaches - the future is very exciting in relation to ladies football within the club



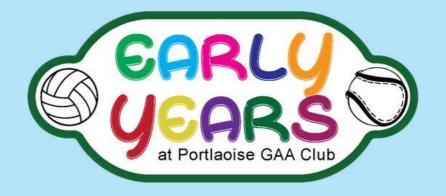












U5 GROUP Boys and Girls born 2018. Gaelic Football, Hurling & Camogie. THURSDAYS 6-7PM

Nagle Rice Sports Hall, St. Mary's CBS, Borris Road, Portlaoise. R32 C923 All equipment provided.

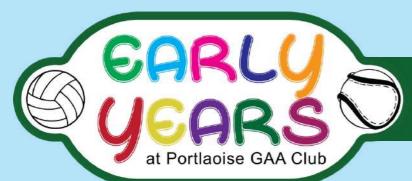


Learn the skills of Gaelic football, hurling & Camogie. Develop the fundamental movement skills which are the foundation skills across all sports.

For further information for the U5's. contact Shane @ 087 657 7256. For boys and girls born in 2017 (U6's), contact Noel @ 085 735 5614.







Under 6 Group

U6 GROUP
Boys and Girls born 2017.
Gaelic Football, Hurling & Camogie.
FRIDAYS 5:30-6:30PM

Nagle Rice Sports Hall, St. Mary's CBS, Borris Road, Portlaoise. R32 C923 All equipment provided.



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

For further information for the U6's. contact Noel @ 085 735 5614. For boys and girls born in 2018 (U5's), contact Shane @ 087 657 7256.







Laois Camogie Feile 2023



Portlaoise took part in the Laois Feile on the 22nd and 23rd April in Clonad GAA. While not ultimately successful the girls performed very well and were extremely competitive. Well done girls and coaches!



















Early Memories:

My earliest memories of playing for the club were back in the days when we used to train up on the pitch beside O'Moore Park, where Parkside is now located. At the time, Football took precedence in the club, so if you were training with the hurlers you'd have to get up early to get your spot under the trees to tog out. Once the footballers came up then, if you were a dual player, you threw your hurl in under the ditch and went on and trained with the footballers. Nobody had a car at the time, and there was no changing rooms, so you just togged out and left your clothes on the ground under the trees.

The atmosphere and craic was always great up at training. There were some great characters playing at that time, Pascal 'The red lad' Delaney, 'The Rake' McDonald, Toomy O'Reilly, Cyril O'Meara, Brian Delaney, Ned Murphy, 'The Humpston' Fitz, Larry Dunne, John Fennell, Paddy Bracken.

In one of my first training games up with footballers, I was marking 'The Humpston' Fitz, who was more of a hurling man. I was young and wiry at the time and I got a few scores off of him. The Rake McDonald didn't like this, so he let a roar at the Humpston, "Will ya pick up that little F***er!". Quick as anything the Humpston shot back; "Give me a hurl and I'll talk to him!"

I remember at that time, there was no such thing as water on the side line. So the big rush after a game or after training was to get down to the green pump on the Abbeyleix road to get a drink of water. The older stock would go on and drink their pints in town, while the rest of us took turns drinking from the green pump!

The hurlers used to train down in Malone's field on the Mountmellick road as well. I can remember a young John Taylor down there every night we were training, pucking the balls back in to us from behind the goals.

The street leagues were huge when I was young. The Green road, they had great teams in both codes. The top square had the Brownes and the Prendergasts. The Dublin road teams had the Mulhares, the Harkins, the Kellys. Then my own team in Dr. Murphys/St. Brigids. I played on those teams with my brothers Brendan, Pat and Mike, who all played for the club as well. We won Minor and under-21 in both codes. We had the Critchly's, the Bohans', Teddy Fennelly, 'Cheddar' and George Plunkett, The McDonalds, the Timmons', Aidan Tierney, Liam Breen, Pat Dempsey, Mikey Doyle. We had a lot of lads over the years that only played street leagues, and that was all. But they all put their heart and souls into it. They'd do or die for the street.









Your biggest influences:

I suppose the biggest influence on my hurling and football career was Bill Phelan, God rest him. I came to know Bill through school. He was a teacher in the Tech, where I was a student at the time. We won a Leinster Vocational school football title under Bill. He convinced me to go up and play for the club minors. I never played under-14 or under-16. Boxing took up all of my time up until then. We lost minor finals in both hurling and football 1968. St. Josephs beat us in the football and Borris-in Ossory beat us in the hurling.

Bill lived for the club. He had a green Volkswagon car, and he'd often bring some of us home after training. The only drawback was that you'd have to clear out the back seat to get in, because it was always full of hurls, footballs and jerseys. He was a great club man and the club wouldn't be what it is without all the work he did over the years.

Involvement with Club teams over the years:

I got involved with the club as a selector when my son Dennis was playing for the club at under-14 level. I was involved with those teams up to under-21 level. They were very successful, and won a Minor A football title and numerous under-21 A football titles. The B-teams reached two county finals too, at under-16 and Minor level, but they lost both unfortunately. Myself, Jim McManus, Kieran Dunphy, Eddie McCormack and Pat Ryan were involved with all those teams. They were great times.

I got involved with the Juniors then with Tom Scully, Kieran Dunphy and Jim McManus. We won a Junior A title in 2005 or 2006 I think it was, beating Park Ratheniska in the final. We won the junior league that year, too. That team were a great bunch to work with, and I honestly believe that had we been eligible to play in the Leinster junior championship, we would have been very hard to beat.

From there, I got involved with the Intermediates. We had the makings of a great team at the time, but unfortunately it was hard to keep the panel together, as some of the lads ended up playing senior football. We came very close to winning a county title with that team. I always got great satisfaction and enjoyment out of being involved with teams within the club. Jim McManus was a brilliant coach and a great man to work with, and myself, Eddie McCormack and Kieran Dunphy are still good friends to this day.











Best games and memories:

The Leinster final in 1972 was a great game. I was a sub on that team, and it was great to be involved. The All-Ireland final in 83' was a wonderful game and a great day for the club. The games against Camross in the hurling down through the years were always great games. There was never any love lost in them!

I remember we played a Leinster championship game against Moate over in Tullamore. 'The red lad' Pascal Delaney came on as a sub and I remember seeing some of the Moate players laughing at him because of his size. The first 2 balls that came into him; he buried one in the back of the net himself and set up his brother Brian for another goal. That fairly softened their cough!

We used to play Railyard down in Kilkenny in challenge matches, and those games always stood out because there was no quarter given. They were ferocious battles. But it was those games that always stuck in my memory, because the craic and the camaraderie before and after was great.

I remember my first senior hurling game at the age of 17 against Rathdowney in Mountrath. I was playing corner forward. I was taken off in the second half and Bill Phelan asked me to be his runner, delivering messages and hurls into the lads on the field. Seamie Beere was in the goals and he got badly hurt by one of the Rathdowney players and there was a bit of a flake up. Anyway, the next thing I heard 'the Humpston' Fitz tell our full back, "The next time that man comes in the square, you stand aside and let me at him"....I'll say no more after that!

We played Clonad in the championship, back in the 70's. 'The red lad' and Peter Conroy of Clonad went at it from the throw in. 'The red lad' got the better of him anyway, scored 2 goals, and Conroy was subbed for Sean Brennan. I was half forward that day and I remember Sean coming on from under the stand. He let a roar at the red lad "I'm taking you out of the game"; 'The red lad' answered him back "Be God Sean, if yacan me boy, come on". They hopped off each other, but after the match, there they both were in Mick Delaney's drinking pints together. That to me shows the beauty of the GAA. Enemies on the field, but friends off of it.





The Thumb!

We were playing Clonad in another championship match, and I was playing half-back. A ball broke out on the wing and I went for it. The ball ended up going out over the side line. It was on the Abbeyliex road side of O'Moore park. The ball came back in anyway and myself and one of the Clonad boys, I won't mention his name, started to pull hard with our hurls. Next thing Bill Phelan came down the line roaring at me to mark up. I turned to him and waved my hand at him and said "How in the name of Jaysus can I mark up with my hand like that?!". The thumb was hanging off, only a few tendons still holding it. Poor Bill went over then and broke the lock off the gate at the side of the pitch with a hurl, in a rush to get me up to the hospital. They stitched my thumb back on, but gave me no pain relief. I ended up drinking porter for the night to numb the pain.

Shortly afterwards, the footballers were playing Stradballyover on the lawn. I was on the line with Bill Phelan, and we only had 15 players. One of our lads ended up twisting their ankle, so I told Bill to give me a pair of boots and I'd go in and play corner forward, in out of the way. I kicked a point when I went in. Then the second ball that came into me, the corner back won it. I went to block him down, and that was the end of the thumb. Off it went again. That was it! I never found it after it came off the second time. Some of the smarter lads in the team maintained that a Magpie flew off with it!

Best Players:

From growing up and playing, there was nobody like 'The red lad', Pascal Delaney. He always looked after any young players coming into the senior team. The general way it was at that time, was that Teddy Fennelly would look after any of the young lads coming into the backs, and Pascal would look after the forwards. On more than one occasion, Pascal would have looked after me on the pitch. Cyril O'Meara, Harry Mulhare, 'The Rake' McDonald, they were all great players when I started out. I remember then, Mick Dooley and 'Atch' Whelan burst onto the scene. They were 2 great talents.

Tom 'Curly' Prendergast was the best footballer I ever saw playing for Portlaoise. He was a genius. Gerry and Colm Browne were two fantastic footballers. The Bohan's, Pat Critchly, 'Cheddar' Plunkett, John Taylor, 'The auld timer' John-Joe Ging, they were all great players.

In more recent times, Cahir Healy was different class. He was an inspirational player in both codes. 'Bruno' McCormackwas a genius. Peter McNulty, 'The chief' was a great player, God rest him. The two Fitzgeralds, Tommy and Barry, were great in both codes, too.







What the Club means to you:

The club means an awful lot to me. I've always loved Portlaoise and I'm very proud to say that I've been involved with the club for as long as I have. The GAA brings about a great sense of community spirit and friendship. When I think of what the GAA means, I often think about how it kept people going during the troubles in Northern Ireland. I remember us playing Bellaghy of Derry back in 1973, in Bellaghy, and seeing how much it meant to the locals up there. The GAA was always a shining light for them, despite all of the hardship and difficulties they endured.

The club of Portlaoise may not have always had a massive following, but those that do support the town are fanatical about the club. As a club, we've achieved a lot over the years, and I hope that continues. I'd love to see the hurlers back competing for top honours again soon. Hurling was, and still is, my first love, so it would be great to see our senior hurlers win another county title in the near future. To see my Grandson Ryan involved with the club gives me great satisfaction, and I hope that himself and his 2 brothers are able to get as much enjoyment out of the club as I have.

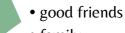
The club has always been the cornerstone of the community, and I hope that always remains the case.





SOCIAL

creating positive relationships with others



- family
- support system
- positive people

SPIRITUAL

growth of one's sense of meaning of life



- meditate
- journal
 - yoga
- religious practice
- self doscovery

CAREER

finding purpose and satisfaction in one's work



- work-life balance
- passion for your work
- positive work space

ENVIRONMENTAL

having a stimulating environment that supports wellbeing



- organise your space
- plant flowers
- spend time outdoors
- natural light

FINANCIAL

having a healthy relationship with money



- budget
- financial planning
- pay off debts



LGFA Ladies Football Blitz

Shanahoe, Sunday 14th May 2023





Portlaoise U8s and u10s who took part in the blitz

U11sTraining Session with Senior Hurlers



Our under 11 hurlers had a fantastic joint training session with our senior hurling squad recently. A special thanks goes out to Tommy Fitzgerald and his team for organizing this incredible opportunity for our young players.

This joint training session allowed our under 11 hurlers to learn from and be inspired by our senior Players. It's moments like these that ignite the passion for the sport and build a strong foundation for the future of Portlaoise GAA Club.

Annual Sean & Brian Mullins Memorial JUNE 4TH

Portlaoise GAA Grounds, Rathleague

This year we are strengthening our links with another great dual club - the famous St Vincents of Dublin. There is a strong connection between both clubs and a big part of the reason behind this was the arrival of Sean Mullins to Portlaoise back in the 1970s. Sean starred with The Town upon his arrival and was on the team that won the Leinster Club Championship in the 1976/1977 campaign...beating St Vincents in a memorable game on route to the title. Of course his brother Brian was an iconic figure in the GAA - an integral part of the great Dublin teams of the 1970s and 1980s - Heffo's Army!

Sadly both men have now departed this life - Sean died in August 2020, while Brian died in September 2022. Both clubs are coming together to honour the memories of these great men.

On Sunday June 4th - the Bank Holiday weekend - the senior hurlers and footballers of St Vincents will travel to Portlaoise to play our senior teams. There will be other teams coming to play too, including some juvenile teams. It is hoped to create a festival atmosphere around this with family fun day also. And there will be a social aspect to the evening later that night - as a large contingent of the St Vincents group will be spending the evening in town.

It is envisaged that this becomes an annual event, with Portlaoise making the trip to Dublin in 2024.

There will be two perpetual trophies for the football and the hurling.

Watch this space as we work to prepare for this event.







Seán Ó Maoláin

Rugadh agus tógadh Seán Ó Maoláin I gCluainTarbh. Dimir sé peil ghaelach agus iománaíocht le Naomh Uinseann ina blianta óga.

Bhuaigh Seán sécraobh sinsir Baile Átha Cliath peil ghaelach I mbliana 1964,66,67,70,71 agus 72. Bhuaigh



sécraobhchomórtais club Laigheann le NaomhUinseann I 1972.D'imir Seán ar an bhfoireann ÁthaCliath ó 1969 go dtí 1974.Bhí sé ag caitheamhgeansaí uimhir a sé nuair a chaill Átha Cliath an cluiche leath ceannais I sraith náisiúnta I 1972.

Tháinig sé go Portlaoise chun post mar innealtóir a thógáil I gComhairle Contae Laoise. D'aistrigh sé go club CLG Portlaoise agus dimir sé ar na foirneionatcha I na seahtóidí. Bhuaigh sé craobh Laoise I 1976 and bhuaigh sé craobh club Laigheann le Portlaoise an bhliain cheanna. Dimir Seán in aghaidha dheartháir Brian sa craobh club Laigheann I bPáircUí Mhórdha I mbliana 1976

Tar éis éirí as imirt,bhí baint aige le foirnebainistíochta éagsúla sa chlub I bpeil ghaelach agusiomaint. Bhí ról lárnach aige I gcoiste an chlub leis na blianta.

Taobh amuigh saol Cumann luthchleas Gaeil bhípaisean agus suim ollmhór ag Seán san oidhreacht, cultúr, nadúr agus ár dteanga dúchais.

Ar an drochuair, chuaigh Seán ar a suaimhneas síoraítar eis galair gairid I mí Lunasa 2020.Beimid ag céiliúradh cuimhne Seán Ó Maoláin agus a dheartháir Brian ar an gceathrú lá de mhí MeitheamhI Rathleague.

Sean Mullins was born and reared in Clontarf. He played football and hurling with Saint Vincents in his younger years. Seán won six senior football club championships in Dublin in 1964,66,67,70,71 and 72. He won a Leinster club football championship with Saint Vincents in 1972. Seán played with the Dublin football team from 1969 to 1974. He was centre back for Dublin when they lost the semi final of the national league in 1972.

Seán moved to Portlaoise when he took a job as an engineer in Laois County Council. He transferred to Portlaoise GAA club and played on the great teams in the seventies. He won a football club championship in 1976 and won a Leinster club championship with Portlaoise the same year. Seán played against his brother Brian in the Leinster club championship in O'Moore Park in 1976.

After retiring from playing Seán was associated with various management teams in the club in hurling and football. He had a central role on the club committee down through the years.

Outside of GAA life Seán had a great passion and interest in heritage, culture, nature and the Irish language.

Unfortunately, Sean went to his eternal rest after a short illness in August 2020.We will be celebrating the memory of Seán Mullins and his brother Brian in Rathleague on the 4th of June.

Eoin Fingleton Memorial

Drimnagh Castle - Saturday 6th May 2023

Portlaoise made the journey to Drimnagh Castle for the second year running to celebrate the memory of Eoin Fingleton, by taking part in a seven team competition organised by Realt Dearg - the club Eoin played for when he lived in <u>Dublin and when he taught in Drimnagh</u>.

And for the second year running a star studded Portlaoise team came away with the spoils. The likes of Tommy Fitz and Joe Phelan rolled back the years and what a supporting cast they had with them as you can see from photo below. Diarmuid Lalor deserves thanks for organising things from the Portlaoise end and he had the honour of accepting the trophy on his teammates behalf.

Well done lads - brilliant to see Eoin's memory being kept alive and well. Thanks to the guys in Realt Dearg for the magnificent organisation of this annual event.









Eoin Fingleton Memorial

Drimnagh Castle - Saturday 6th May 2023













Eoin Fingleton Memorial

Drimnagh Castle - Saturday 6th May 2023















Rathleague Clean Up Day 20th May 2023







Please give us an hour or two if you can at all on the 20th May (Saturday). Rathleague needs a little face-lift in advance of the visit of St Vincents to our club for the Sean and Brian Mullins Memorial on June 4th. Lots of jobs to be done - weeding, lifting, powerhosing, removing, painting, scraping - the list goes on. Please get in touch and we'll find you a little task!!

On Shop Duty in Rathleague..

All-Ireland LGFA Inter-County Blitz Sat May 6th 2023



The camera shy Teresa O Reilly - driving force behind the shop in Rathleague for blitzes throughout the year.



Lily, Millie, Grace and Emily - shop assistants of the highest calibre - great work girls!

DOWNLOAD THE OFFICIAL PORTLAOISE GAA APP NOW!













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

Powered by: ClubSpot

Search 'Portlaoise GAA' on:







Club 25 Winners since last edition

€50 - Sonny Keogh

€200 - Ted Donegan

Family Pack - Sonny Keogh

€100 - Imelda Fitzpatrick

€50 - Cyril Duggan

€100 - Pat Keegan

€200 - Declan McEvoy

€100 -Teresa Brown

€100 - Monica Delaney

PLAY EACH WEEK BY PURCHASING A BINGO BOOK ON WWW.CLUBBINGO.IE

Land des sich a All





Play our weekly Town Lotto on our new club app. Search 'Portlaoise GAA' on:

Winners in our Lotto over the past month as follows:











Thursday 27th April 2023 Thursday 4th May 2023

Jackpot €20,000 - No Winner



€50: David Harrington c/o Ollie Byrne

€20: George Plunkett c/o George Plunkett

€20: Nancy O'Reilly c/o Nancy O'Reilly

€20: Tom Coyne c/o JP Cahillane €20: Michael McGrath c/o CLUB25

€20: Paul O'Reilly & Ger c/o Jas O'Reilly

Promoters' Prize - Camogie Club







€50: Emma Ging c/o Ollie Byrne

€20: Caroline Byrne c/o Ollie Byrne €20: Anita Smyth c/o Seamus Smyth

€20: Caroline Begadon c/o Malcolm Nealon

€20: Vera Wrest c/o Malcolm Nealon

€20: Deirdre Haslam & Portlaoise GAA Club App

Promoters' Prize - Joe Daly





Thursday 11th May 2023

€20,000 - No Winner



€50: James Howe c/o Camogie

€20: Louise Fanning c/o Eamon Fennelly

€20: David Larkin c/o Malcolm Nealon

€20: Evelyn Murphy c/o Peigs

€20: Susan Linehan c/o Malcolm Nealon

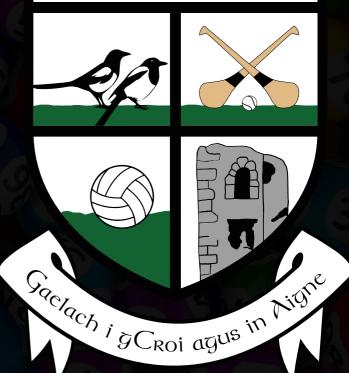
€20: Hugh Boyhan c/o Noel Hilliard

Promoters' Prize - Brian Delaney

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

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





SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!

Play Club Bingo Online - over
€5,000 in prizes to be won
every Friday night. Eyes down
8pm on Zoom (hosted by our
very own DJ Broch!)
www.portlaoisegaa.ie
Go to fundraising section on
website.
ALL FUNDS FROM BINGO GO
TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT
OF FACILITIES IN

RATHLEAGUE

Play our club lotto
Jackpot €20,000!!
www.portlaoisegaa.ie
Go to fundraising section
on our new club app.
ALL FUNDS FROM
LOTTO GO TOWARDS
DAY TO DAY RUNNING
OF THE CLUB