

# Portsalon Golf Club

## Hidden Gem of Links Golf

January 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 1

Portsalon Golf Club, Portsalon, Fanad, County Donegal

## Welcome to the Newsletter

So here it is, the first ever Portsalon Golf Club newsletter – that we know of! Firstly we would like to thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter. If you've got this far, the idea is to get the circulation out to as many of our members and visitors as possible and to make this a forum where you can express opinions, get information, keep track of the key dates in the golfing calendar and of course get a run down on those all important results!

It will be very much a trial and error process as we find our feet, so with that in mind, any feedback positive or constructive – let's not be negative – is more than welcome and will be valued and taken on board.

If there is anything you want to see but don't –shout. If there are things you do see and don't want to – shout. Our goal is to provide members with a useful and maybe sometimes thought provoking information source, with some light hearted entertainment along the way.

We hope you enjoy it!

## Donal and Marie Say Goodbye

With the month of January and the AGM's, the time comes to the passing of the guard from Captain to Vice Captain. While the 2012 Captain's are no doubt full of nerves and stress as they try to get things right for their year, the 2011 Captain's swan off into the sunset, assured that they have done their bit, enjoyed the experience and relieved they can get back to just playing golf!

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Donal and Marie pictured in August 2011

We are sure everyone will join us in wishing Donal and Marie all the best and congratulating them on a job really well done. Donal and Marie both excelled in their roles, represented the club with distinction over the last twelve months and of course gave us two unforgettable (or should that be barely memorable?) nights to enjoy last summer. They have paved a smooth road for Diarmuid (D.P) and Noreen to follow in the year ahead.

Comhghairdeas Donal agus Marie! Go raibh maith aguibh ar feadh an bliana iontach.

## Interview With The Past and Present

Portsalon Golf Club caught up with 2011 Captains, Donal Callaghan and Marie Gilligan and 2012 Captains Diarmuid Logue and Noreen Mc Conigley.

Here is what they had to say...

**Sum up in three words how you are feeling about your year as Captain:**

D.P: Apprehensive, positive and hopeful- I don't want to make any mistakes and I just don't want to "frick" things up!

N: Excited, optimistic and anxious. I'm really excited about the year. I'm looking forward to what it brings.

**What do you think is going to be the most enjoyable part of your year?**

D.P: I'm really just looking forward to playing Portsalon and enjoying it. I would like to get to know the members better and get to know the people around the club. Just being part of the club is such an enjoyable experience to me.

N: Being the first local Lady Captain from Portsalon I am very proud to be representing Portsalon. So to me the most enjoyable part will just having the opportunity to represent the golf club that I love.

**What are you most looking forward to?**

D.P: I am really just looking forward to having a successful year!

N: I want to have the chance to get to know the members and I would love to get more women in the locality involved in golf. I get so much enjoyment out of it and so should they.

**If you could change one thing in 2012 during your Captaincy what would you change?**

D.P: I think I would like to encourage members to take charge of their course and I would like to encourage the use of the divot bags that we

introduced in 2011. If members would each take a bag you would soon see the changes in the course. So folks, don't forget them divot bags!!

N: The burn at the second hole!! (Laughs) No, there is nothing that I would change about the club. Portsalon is perfect the way that it is. Well, the weather I would change that!

**Anything you'd like to say to the members and visitors of Portsalon Golf Club?**

D.P: Enjoy yourself! Appreciate Portsalon and what it has to offer. Look after the course and leave it in as good as condition as you found it.

N: I love Portsalon and I am so proud to be representing the club, the members and the ladies. I just hope I do a good job. The ladies are setting up a programme to encourage ladies and girls to start golf and in turn we hope to generate more lady golfers in Portsalon.

**How would you sum up your year in three words?**

D:Enjoyable, memorable and an experience. I had such a brilliant year and it was one of the most exciting and enjoyable times of my life and that is thanks to all the people that were around.

M: Fun, busy and exciting. It was go, go, go all year and I enjoyed every minute of it.

**What was the highlight of your year?**

D:The highlight of my year has to have been one of the last things that I done as Captain. It was getting the opportunity to meet and walk around Portsalon with Paul McGinley. He's a great man and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity.

M: The highlight of my year as Lady Captain of Portsalon has to have be the intermediate team getting to the Ulster Final in only the second year of entering the ILGU competition. It was an amazing opportunity for the Portsalon Ladies. They are a great team down there.

*Continued.....*

**What is your fondest memory of your year?**

D: My Captains day was probably my best memory of the year. It was a day full of excitement and the atmosphere around the club on the day was something I've never experienced before. It was a really friendly and nice atmosphere with happiness and excitement.

M: Like Donal, my favorite day was my Lady Captain's Day. It was full of great memories and I was surrounded by my family and friends.

**If you could change anything from your year what would it be?**

D: I would have made it longer! (Laughs)

M: I would have loved to have availed of the courtesy of more courses while I was Lady Captain. I just didn't have the time!

**Who was your pillar during your captaincy?**

D: Everybody was very helpful to me throughout my year, I couldn't thank just one person. I have to thank my family, friends and all the members in Portsalon.

M: I have to say everybody in Portsalon was most supportive and helpful, but my pillar was my dear Honorary Secretary Roseanne! I'm sure Diarmuid will be delighted to have her by his side this year too.

**Any advice to the incoming captains?**

D: Play as much golf as you can because you won't feel the year going in. Enjoy yourselves and enjoy the year.

M: The only advice that I can offer is to enjoy it all - as Donal said, it flies by.

**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

D: I would love to see more young golfers join Portsalon and I think we need to start some initiatives to get the young ones down. I would also love to see the Paul Mc Ginley work completed as I look forward to seeing the result.

M: Just get out there and enjoy!

Thanks for all your time guys! Let's see if we can help you out in any of your hopes and dreams! In next month's issue we catch up with Course Superintendent, John Shields.

## February Fixtures

### Captains Drive In

The Captains Drive-In will take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 10.30am. Competitors are asked to enter their name at the main office before 6pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February. NO late entries will be taken.

The Captain of Portsalon would like to extend his welcome to Otway members to the Drive-In.

### Weekly Opens

Portsalon Golf Club continues to stage weekly open competitions every Wednesday and Saturday.

### Members Competition

A members competition will take place every Sunday.

### Fees

Open Competitions:

Members €7

Visitors €15 / €20 (Midweek and Weekend)

Members Competitions: €5

*(Prices are subject to change)*

### Gaeltacht League

Donal Callaghan and his Gaeltacht League team have a busy few weeks ahead of them.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February - Dunfanaghy - Away

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February - Cloughaneely - Away

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February Rosapenna - Home

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Cruit - Away

Following the two opening matches Portsalon have 35 points from 40 points.

**To Book Contact:**

Office: 00353749159459

Book Online: [www.portsalongolfclub.ie](http://www.portsalongolfclub.ie)

Email: [portsalongolfclub@eircom.net](mailto:portsalongolfclub@eircom.net)



## Ryder Cup Star Paul Mc Ginley Visits Portsalon

Portsalon Golf Club has long been established as one of the most rewarding golfing challenges in the North West. Providing a real golfing test for players of all abilities against the beautiful backdrops of Knockalla and the Atlantic Ocean. The scenery on show is bettered only by the world class golf links on the Fanad Peninsula.

In the past twelve to eighteen months the council of Portsalon Golf Club has engaged the help of Ryder Cup star and now evolving golf course designer Paul McGinley to assist in the process of small, subtle, yet effective changes on the Portsalon banks aimed at improving the golfing experience that little bit more.

Paul Mc Ginley, together with his design team were delighted to become involved with the work at Portsalon. He has set the club some short, medium and long term design objectives for improving the playability of this magnificent course. McGinley aims to make the golf course more player friendly for both members and visitors, however not "easier".

The changes are beginning to show around the golf course, and anyone returning to visit after an absence is sure to notice these subtle changes in layout as they progress around the course.

Of course, McGinley's thought and ideas would mean little, were it not for the expertise Portsalon possesses in carrying them out. Under the watchful, expert eye of Links Superintendant John Shields these changes are being implemented and this is a course on the up. Together, John Shields and Paul McGinley have formed a creative alliance in Portsalon that is seeing the golf course evolve.

Central to their ethos is the theme that everything should be visible to the golfer; each shot must be framed in the golfer's mind before playing, with

obstacles and hazards not lurking out of sight. To this end, a number of bunkers have been closed in to remove hidden hazards on the course.

Changes that are being made in Portsalon are labour intensive. Many bunkers have been replaced around the course, with a new "riveted" sod faced style now dominating. These bunkers are much more defined than before, standing out to the eye the golfer as a warning. They are also player friendly in that they feed away towards the greens they guard, instead of grabbing all but the sweetest of shots.

Par 3's such as numbers ten and fifteen at Portsalon now have a breathtaking new look to them as players stand on the tee box. The playing experience in Portsalon is wholly improved with these changes, and more is being done on a daily basis to continue this upward curve. The McGinley team are set to be involved up to 2015 at the earliest as they continue to make their mark.

Mc Ginley visited Portsalon in January to review the work that was carried out and he expressed his pleasure at the changes that were on show.

Portsalon Golf Club is quite simply a world class golfing experience, right here on your doorstep here in Donegal just waiting to be tried.



Paul Mc Ginley pictured with Past Captain Donal Callaghan and Designer Joseph Beford

## GENTS CLUB MATCHPLAY TOURNAMENT 2012

The 2012 Club Matchplay tournament is starting a little bit earlier this year. The entry list will be posted in early February and the draw will take place in March. To be in with a chance to be the club champion and to meet some more members of Portsalon enter your name on the notice board in the main reception. The cost is €10 for Singles Matchplay and €20 per team for the Doubles. Please note that your fee must be paid BEFORE play.

Johnny Strain is the 2011 Singles Matchplay title holder beating Enda Mc Elhinney and the 2011 Doubles Matchplay title holders are Philip Durning and Chulk Mc Taggart beating Aodh Mc Cormack and Edward Mc Cleary in the final.

### Gents January Results

#### **OPEN, SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2012**

WINNER: KEVIN MC FADDEN (21) P/S 37PTS BOT  
 RUNNER UP: KEVIN MC GONAGLE (6) P/S 37PTS  
 GROSS: JOHNNY SHIELDS (4) P/S 31 GROSS  
 THIRD: CATHAL TOLAND (12) 36PTS BOT  
 CSS: 35PTS

#### **OPEN MONDAY 2ND JANUARY 2012**

WINNER: STEPHEN CONNOLLY (6) 39PTS  
 SECOND: D P LOGUE (6) 36PTS  
 GROSS: RONAN MC ATEER, CONCRAWOOD, 21 PTS

#### **OPEN SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012**

WINNER: EAMONN MCDERMOTT (4) 39PTS  
 RUBBER UP: DONAL CALLAGHAN (14) 38PTS B.O.T  
 GROSS: CONOR CONNOLLY (4) 33PTS  
 3RD: PADDY SHERIDAN (9) 38PTS  
 CSS 74-34PTS

#### **MEMBERS SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012**

WINNER: HUGH DOHERTY (19) 41PTS,  
 RUNNER UP: EAMON MC DERMOTT (3) 39PTS,  
 GROSS: STEPHEN CONNOLLY (5) 34PTS  
 THIRD: HUGH MC GINLEY (21) 39PTS.  
 CSS: 36PTS.

#### **OPEN WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012**

WINNER: EUGENE GALLAGHER (20) 38PTS  
 SECOND: CHARLIE LAPSLEY (9) 37PTS  
 GROSS: SEAMUS PATTON (5) 31PTS  
 THIRD: JOHN DOHERTY (11) 37PTS  
 CSS: 36PTS

#### **WINTER LINKS: SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012:**

##### **NETT RESULT:**

WINNER: PATRICK MC DEVITT (15) P/S 40PTS  
 RUNNER UP: PHILIP DURNING (7) P/S 38PTS  
 THIRD: BRYAN MARGEY (8) L/K 36PTS BOT  
 FOURTH: PADDY SHERIDAN (8) P/S 35PTS

##### **GROSS**

WINNER: STEPHEN CONNOLLY (5) P/S 38 GROSS  
 RUNNER UP: EAMONN MC DERMOTT (3) P/S 32 GROSS  
 THIRD: CONNOR CONNOLLY (4) P/S 31 GROSS BOT  
 FOURTH: JOHN G. MC BRIDE (0) 31 GROSS  
 CSS: 34PTS

#### **MEMBERS SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012**

WINNER: D.P. LOGUE 36PTS  
 SECOND: JOHNNY KELLY 35PTS  
 GROSS: STEPHAN CONNOLLY 31PTS  
 THIRD: CONOR MC GETTIGAN 34PTS  
 CSS: 34PTS

#### **OPEN WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012**

1ST: TONY MORRISON (16) 37PTS  
 2ND: TONY KINGSTON (13) 36PTS BOT  
 GROSS: DAVID JOHNSTON (5) L/K 28PTS  
 THIRD: JOE LOGAN (17) 36PTS  
 CSS: 35PTS

#### **OPEN SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2012**

WINNER: TONY KINGSTON (13) 35PTS  
 SECOND: PADDY SHERIDAN (8) 34PTS  
 GROSS: EAMON MCDERMOTT (3) 27PTS  
 THIRD: DANNY BANNIGAN (15) B & S 34PTS  
 CSS: 34PTS R/O

#### **MEMBERS: SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2012**

FIRST: KEVIN MC GONAGLE (6) 38PTS  
 SECOND: EAMON MC CONNIGLEY (7) 36PTSPTS  
 GROSS: SEAMUS PATTON (5) 30PTA  
 CSS: 36PTS

#### **OPEN WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012**

WINNER: BERNARD NASH 35PTS

CSS: 34PTS

### LADIES JANUARY RESULTS

#### **SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY**

1<sup>ST</sup>: SARAH NICHOLL 35PTS

#### **SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

1<sup>ST</sup>: BETTY BOAL

#### **SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

1<sup>ST</sup>: MARY BARRETT 37PTS  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: DEIRDRE O'TOOLE 35PTS

#### **SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY**

1<sup>ST</sup>: BETTY BOAL 34PTS  
 2<sup>ND</sup>: NOREEN MC CONIGLEY 33PTS

## The Greens Corner– Repairing Pitchmarks



The golf balls represent the pitchmarks on the 10<sup>th</sup> green

Repairing a pitch mark takes seconds, but leaving it can take weeks to heal. A repaired pitch mark will heal in less than 24 hours. However leaving it or repairing it the wrong way can take up to 3 weeks to recover. A pitch mark can cause the indentation to the green surface, which will affect the roll of the ball.

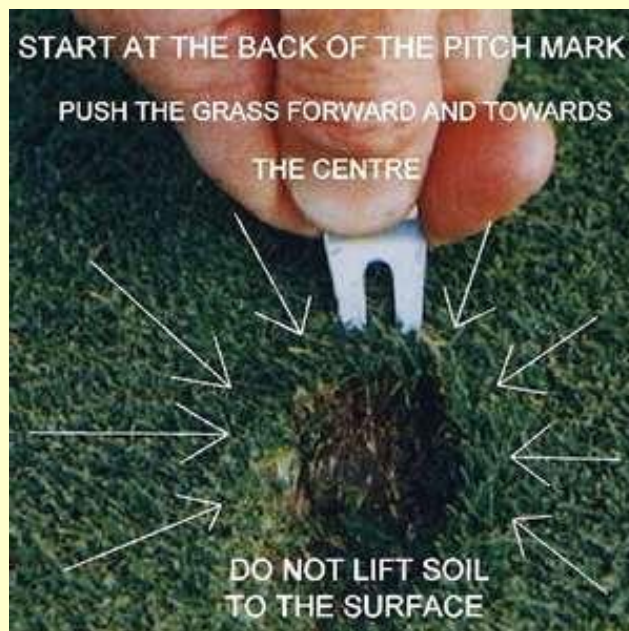
Repairing pitchmarks restores a smooth surface and helps keep the grass healthy.

### Dos

1. Insert pitch mark repair tool into the turf at the edge of the depression
2. Using a gentle twisting motion, bring the edges of the depression towards the centre
3. Once you have worked around the edges, gently tap down the repaired mark with your putter to smooth out the surface

### Don'ts

1. Do not insert the repair tool into the depression itself
2. Do not use the tool to push the centre back up as this will only tear away the roots and kill the grass
3. If your pitch mark has displaced a piece of turf, do not replace it. The replaced turf will die, delaying the healing process



So golfers, let's all start fixing our pitch marks and doing it the right way and if you have a spare moment fix a few others too.

So remember, repairing pitch marks is not just important for the health of the greens and smooth rolling of putts, it's a matter of golf etiquette.

*Course Superintendent, Johnny Shields*

### Society Special Offers

If you have a society and you are looking for somewhere to go, make Portsalon Golf Club your next destination. Portsalon will test golfers of all abilities and it provides top class food at a competitive price.

#### Special Offer

Tea/ Coffee and Light Refreshments On Arrival  
Round of Golf at Portsalon's 18 Hole Links Course  
Two Course Meal

*Based on 8 Players or more*

*Midweek: €40 Weekends and Bank Holidays: €45*

*T+C's apply*

### Donegal Links Classic 2012 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June 2012

The prestigious Donegal Links Classic returns once again in 2012. This competition is one of the most well know Links Classics on the island of Ireland. It presents golfers with a three day golf challenge playing three of the most beautiful and well set out courses in Donegal; Portsalon, Ballyliffin and Roaspenna.

Players can enjoy all three courses and a gala evening on the final night for as little as €80pp. Contact Ballyliffin Golf Club today to book your slot for the Donegal Links Classic

Telephone: 353-74-9376119

Email: info@ballyliffingolfclub.com

We look forward to welcoming you in 2012!



Brendan Roache,  
Marty Carlin and  
Pat Boyce  
enjoying the  
Gala evening  
2011

### Portsalon Golf Club Bar and Restaurant

After you complete Portsalon's 18 hole links golf course why don't you come in and enjoy the laid back, inviting club house environment.

Portsalon prides itself in the friendliness of the members so come in and enjoy some fresh fish caught in the Atlantic where Sean and his team will welcome you.

Open 7 Days a week from 11am-Close. Food served daily.

Groups and parties welcome

**Specials: Sunday Lunch- 3 Courses- €15**

Contact Sean on: 00353879974255



### DIVOT BAGS

In 2011 Portsalon Golf Club introduced divot bags. The aim of the divot bags is so that members can fill in divots on their round. You can get your bag outside the club house and you can refill it again on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> tee. "If everybody would take a divot bag and fill divots as they pass there would be a brilliant result. You can hang the bag on your trolley or take it in your buggy. Thanks to all who are doing it already and I encourage others to start!" Club Captain 2012, Diarmuid Logue.

#### Divot box on the 12<sup>th</sup> Tee



## Competition Time

Can you name all our six golfers? Place your answers on the answer sheets in the club house or email us with your answers. The winner will receive a one day entry to a competition!! T+C's Apply



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## Submissions

If you would like to send on a story, images or news for inclusion in the Portsalon Golf Club newsletter please send it onto [portsalongolfclub@eircom.net](mailto:portsalongolfclub@eircom.net) or send a hard copy to Portsalon Golf Club, Portsalon, Fanad, Co.Donegal. All submissions received will be considered for inclusion. The editor's decision is final.

**A gem of Irish golf that holds a lasting memory for every golfer of a truly outstanding golf links.**