

Dean Anthony Davies

He was the product of an era when terms such as corporate branding, strategic plans and development models were unheard of. He and his peers were more pragmatic, they were quick to realise when something had to be done and simply went out and did it. It was a philosophy which served him well and became a guiding principle throughout his long association with the GAA family which he has served so well for so long.

As a player he was a fast, tough and tenacious forward picking up a Down Senior Championship medal playing with Glenn in 1959

After a few months in Glenn he went as a curate to Newry and Fr Jack Lynch sent him to 'sort out that crowd up in Ballyholland'.

Cognizant of the fact that youth is the real strength of our association and discovering that the club he was next involved with had no juvenile strategy, he immediately set about organising and managing a schoolboy's team. It was his usual pragmatic solution to a situation that needed remedying. It proved successful too. From that school boy team of his, two names emerged that would become household and earn All-Ireland Senior Football medals in the late sixties.

His playing days over, he then turned to management and helped guide his newest club to an Intermediate Championship in the early sixties.

He was an able administrator at Club, Divisional and County level and was honoured by the Clubs of South Down when they elected him Chairman, a position which he carried out with honesty, integrity and dignity. Later he was to pen a comprehensive history of the GAA in South Down which to this day remains an invaluable source of reference to anyone engaged in the compilation of club histories.

Realising that our language, music and dance are the defining and distinctive features of our Gaelic way, he was an enthusiastic exponent of the Scór and CCD activities, organising events, venues and adjudicators and cajoling clubs to participate.

His other life-time love was Camogie and here again his contribution is immense. His Camogie CV is impressive. He was manager/coach to the first (and only) Ulster College Camogie team to win an All-Ireland Senior Colleges Championship - Sacred Heart, Newry in 1971

He was PRO to the Down Camogie board, President of the Down Camogie Board and is President of the Ulster Colleges' Camogie Council.

When on the 8th of September 1995 the Clonduff GAA signed his transfer form he brought with him to our club a lifetime of experience, unqualified enthusiasm, inspirational leadership, a love of all things Irish and Gaelic, and other outstanding qualities which he has applied assiduously at all levels in the day to day running of our club.

Whether it was a juvenile game down in the field or parking cars on the night of a carnival he is always there.

In a busy schedule he still finds time to attend the club meetings where his contribution is always valued, he has made a major contribution to the history of Gaelic Games and Culture in Down, having transferred from Armagh at his Ordination on 31st May 1959

Someone once said we make a living out of what we getbut we make a life out of what we give..... that is Dean Anthony Davies!