

HALL OF FAME 2008



In 1984, Paddy Buggy reminded readers of the "Century of Service" booklet that the primary purpose of the GAA is the promotion of our native pastimes and the advancement of our native, music, dance and splendid cultural traditions.

The philosophy enunciated by the then President was but a declaration of the principles that actuated our founders 125 years ago and became an intrinsic part of the GAA Charter as it evolved and developed over the decades.

How best to deliver these lofty ideals was often the focus of debate, but due to the herculean work and calibre of people like Down's Tony Williamson and Cork's Derry Gowan, the cultural venture of Scór evolved and counties and clubs throughout the nation

were encouraged to co-operate and enthusiastically participate in what would become the GAA's most popular annual competition.

As always, Clonduff GAC answered the call! Since its inception we have, over the years, helped, promoted and encouraged this most Irish of activities to grow, prosper and become imbedded in the psyche of Gaelic thinking in Gaelic Clonduff. Indeed, through the ebbs and flows and the wanes of Scór, Clonduff has been to the forefront earning from the late T P Murphy, the singular accolade "Clonduff is a great GAA Community - as close as possible to the ideal".

Many of us will remember the first Parish Scór in 1971 with the friendly townland rivalry making it a huge success ... our first County Title ... the All Ireland Scór na nÓg in 1993 when nine young dancers from Clonduff won both the All Ireland Cíili and Set Dancing competitions ... the Senior Set Dancers reaching the All Ireland Final in Castlebar in 2003 and, of course, in Centenary Year, 1984, our Instrumental Musicians reaching the All Ireland Final.

We recall our successful quiz teams, our singing and recitation successes but Yes, we had our disappointments too. We remember the disappointment when our Novelty Act - The Matchmakers - was beaten in the South Down Final in Newry Town hall but then a week later, in front of a huge crowd in Drumaroad, that disappointment turning to joy when we won the County Final. The Ulster Semi Final was in Newbridge in County Derry and the Final in the Lyric in Castleblaney. Referring to that Ulster Final, P D. Kearns wrote in our Club History "The cheers must have been heard back in Hilltown when Clonduff were announced the winners".

Over the decades many County, Provincial and All Ireland titles have deservedly come our way in the many and various disciplines associated with Scór. In this the 40th year of Scór, we salute all those winners, mentors and indeed all those who, in whatever way, participated and partook, all of them deserving our thanks, praise and adulation. No doubt, in the future, they will all be deservedly honoured.

Tonight, however, it has been decided to present the coveted 'Hall of Fame' Award to three people. Their achievement can and has been equalled but it cannot be duplicated because no-one can ever again be the FIRST to win an All Ireland Senior Scór title for our Club. Those fortunate enough to be in the Glentworth Hotel in Limerick on that 1977 night will never forget the excitement, pride and celebration, which followed that magnificent achievement.

To-night we honour, salute and congratulate the three ladies concerned!

Ladies and Gentlemen, our first All Ireland Scór winners!

Mary, Eileen and Anne, you are worthy recipients of the Hall of Fame Award!