

A TRUE GAEL – JERRY QUINN RIP

5th December 2012 will live long in the memory of the Gaels of Clonduff, Down, Ulster and indeed the whole country. News started filtering through that Jerry Quinn, at the age of 71, had unexpectedly passed away in the early hours.

Exactly one month earlier on 5th November 2012, Jerry was a very proud joint winner of the Hall Fame Award at the Clonduff 125 celebrations, sharing the award with his long-time friend Fintan Mussen. And at the end of that month he attended the South Down Awards in his role as Press Photographer, Club PRO and first and foremost a staunch member of Clonduff GAA club

Over the years, Jerry held nearly every office within his beloved Clonduff Club and had also been involved in many teams, he was a McNamee Award winner for the Club's 100-year history in 1988. There is no doubt that Jerry Quinn was a dedicated member of Clonduff GAC, he didn't ask someone to do a job that he would not have willingly done himself.

Jerry also fulfilled many roles on the Down County Board including two years in the Chair 2004-2006. And he also was involved in the production of the Down Year Book that also picked up a McNamee Award.

As a journalist and correspondent with the "County Down Outlook" Jerry did a great service to the Clubs of the area, ensuring that games were covered in the Press and arriving at their presentations to ensure that the moments were captured on camera. He actually presented himself in their office early every Monday morning to ensure that the GAA got a fair coverage and as his colleagues can no doubt confirm, many times the paper would try to scale back Jerry's notes to save space – it was never allowed to happen. If a club had gone to the bother to send him in their notes, they would make their way to the pages. He did everything he could for the Association.

At a time when it was not as fashionable Jerry Quinn was keeping the GAA to the fore in media coverage in the South Down Area and beyond. Jerry was also a member and past chairperson of the Ulster GAA Writers Association.

Jerry had a great love for the GAA and this love was a reflection of the ethos of our Association, he loved his County and he loved his Club Clonduff. In the words of relative and fellow journalist Niall McCoy 'Jerry would have walked to Kerry and back for Down, but he would have walked to Kerry and back ten times for his beloved Clonduff.

To his wife Maura, daughter Ursula, sons Shane, Francis and Niall, his grandsons Brendan and Senan, his brothers, sisters and large family circle we extend our sincerest sympathy – we all share your loss.

Ár dheis Dé go raibh a anam.