



Longevity of service to his Club would, on its own, make to-night's "Hall of Fame" recipient a deserving candidate.

His playing career commenced in the late 1940s and in the ensuing years he proved himself to be a doughty defender - fearless, tight marking, safe-handed, reliable, consistent and dependable.

Over the years he acquired many trophies in Sevens, Tournaments and Leagues, but, among his proudest possessions, a Championship Medal in the 1950s and an All County Senior League Medal in the early '60s (1963). That doyen of defenders, the great Tom O'Hare, was at full-back for Clonduff that year and said of him, "With him as left-

back and Sean Murray at right back it took a very brave forward to advance past the 14-yard line".

Like his father before him, when playing days were over he did not turn his back on the club – instead he ploughed his energies into the advancement of his Club and the Committee of Clonduff GAC had a tireless worker for whom no task was too menial or chore too trivial – be it cutting the grass, spiking the field, gathering the footballs after matches and training sessions, looking after the jerseys, helping with transport – in short anything needing to be done – he was there to do it ... and he did it!

His fund-raising ability is legendary – from helping at Carnivals, running draws, promoting the Lotto to staging plays and other fund-raising activities he was forever in the forefront.

Himself, no mean actor, he plied his particular talent into the Club's Scór Activities and was a regular in the Club's Novelty Act, winning County and Provincial honours and reaching an All Ireland Final in 1979. His talent on the stage saw him play a leading role in the Centenary Pageant.

His long association with the games made him a shrewd judge of football and a capable mentor, so it is no surprise that he was willing to give up his time and act on different management teams in the 80s and 90s.

Like all truly greats, nothing pleased him better than to see his fellow Clubmen excel on the field of play and especially at County Level. He was always available to encourage and advise, always ready to calm nerves and provide a steadying influence.

The great Ross Carr, the hero of the '91 and the '94 All Irelands says, "Always before an important game, especially in '91 and '94, invariably on the Saturday night, the door would knock and he would be there, just to chat, calm nerves and wish me well. I will be forever grateful to him."

Never one to say no when the cause of Clonduff was at stake, it is not surprising to discover that on a particular Sunday in the mid '90s, when a Clonduff team found themselves a man short before throw-in that he was the one to solve the problem.

With trousers tucked into his socks, his workaday boots for footwear, the cap still on his head, he pulled on the beloved yellow jersey for one last time. A Clonduff man to the end ... and a Clonduff man still!

Ladies and Gentlemen I give you the latest entrant to the Clonduff Hall of Fame ...

**John Darner O'Hagan!**