

# Sean Lenehan - Chairman 2000 - 2009



Born outside Tandragee, he was baptised Terence John but at home and around the Club he is known as Sean ( a cunning old Irish tradition or what ). He arrived on the Shore Road in 1956 and immediately fell under the spell of Alf in Tannaghmore and then discovered “The Hall” at the top of the road, with its new - second to none - facilities.

He and many like him were “press ganged” into a bit of voluntary labour helping the “big fellas” finish off the Shore Road site and then convert Soyes Plain into arguably the best pitch in the County at that time.

In between “volunteering” Sean played football under “wee Brian”, hurling with Alf, handball with “Big Beefer” and spent many a happy hour in the Youth Club run by Ambrose - enjoying the ceilis and the skating especially.

Alas Sean met Ann and they moved to Dublin and had three Gael Ogs of their own, but he never forgot the comradeship and the gaelteoiri of Clann Eireann, and so on his return to Lurgan in 1985 he reacquainted himself with the Club and eventually became Chairman in 2000.

The beginning of Sean’s chairmanship was literally a baptism of fire - for the Social Club went on fire and almost burnt down. However this incident had a silver lining for it galvanised the members and the committee and when it was rebuilt and under the stewardship of Big Tommy it became an integral part of the jigsaw for our future development plans for the Club and its facilities over the next ten years. Crucial to the development plan that emerged was - able and willing officers, a strong and dedicated committee, a vibrant & progressive Social & Youth Club and “gatekeepers” like Marie and later Roisin to keep everyone’s egos in check.

Thus during Sean’s tenure as Chairman - the Social Club was rebuilt and refurbished; the Hall had an extensive refit inside to bring it up to H&S standards; then the outside of the Club got a major facelift along with new fencing and a new car park for our new minibus for Mario; in 2007 we officially opened our new field incorporating a stand, floodlights & netcatchers and in the same year we fenced & secured the Hurling field; last year work began on the new pavilion and it was finished this year.

Besides the development work, Sean has been an enthusiastic participant in many Youth Club activities especially the annual play and he was delighted to be Chairman in 2004 when we celebrated the Youth Club’s 50th anniversary. He took a keen interest in all sections and was the proudest man in Armagh when our Senior team won promotion to the first division and the intermediate championship in the same year, likewise when our girls got to the All Ireland semi final in Banagher only to be squeezed out by a more experienced Kerry team.

The upsurge in hand ball over the last no. of years has been particularly pleasing to Sean since he loved playing in the big courts when he was a youngster and the incorporation of

martial arts and cycling reflects Sean's desire for an all inclusive and tolerant Club where we gain our strength from our diversity.

Sean's chairmanship was marked by the biggest overhaul of club facilities in a generation - since the "big fellas" built the Hall and laid the Field - and has left us well set for the next hundred years.