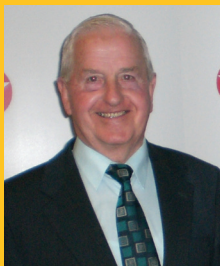


Valuing the Volunteer



John McAuley (St.Mary's Rasharkin)

Antrim GAA has been well served by many dedicated individuals since its inception in 1885, one of which is undoubtedly long-serving St.Mary's club man, John McAuley, who fits perfectly into the category "Valuing Volunteer". John, a true gentleman and lifelong Gael is one of the most recognised and genuine characters you're likely to meet in GAA circles.

The Rasharkin man, who stepped down from his role as Club Treasurer at the end of 2012 having held the position for forty-two years made an outstanding contribution to the Club over the course of a playing, refereeing and administrative career that spanned seven decades. Alongside his twin brother, Alex, John first donned the blue and amber hoops as a fourteen year old corner forward on the Rasharkin senior side of 1954. He was a playing member of the St. Mary's Junior Championship side of 1958 and represented the

Club in four Senior Championship finals.

During the years 1956-2010, the McAuley brothers have held a virtual monopoly of Club finances. Alex was elected Club Treasurer in 1956 and was succeeded by John in 1968. When John stepped up to Chairman in 1970, it was their brother, Joe, who held the purse strings for a year. John returned in 1971 and held the position diligently for forty-two years

John was a former member of the Antrim County Committee, a regular member on sub-committees within the county and a county selector in the 1980's. He found time after his playing career to represent St.Mary's as an excellent referee for over twenty years and had the honour of refereeing Antrim Championship Finals at Senior and Intermediate level.

An accomplished career in banking saw John hold posts at Managerial and Inspection level within Ulster Bank. These positions took John as far west as Mayo and as far south as Dublin and Kildare. It was during his stay in the lily white county in 1958 that he achieved Senior Championship success playing for the green and gold of Kilcock GAC, when the club claimed their fifth Kildare Senior Football Championship. No matter where John was appointed, there was always time set aside to ensure the books at St. Mary's were balanced.

John is truly steeped in the blue and amber of his beloved St.Mary's, he is renowned throughout Antrim and Ulster for his financial knowledge and outstanding dedication to Club and County. A loyal trustee of the club, his profound expertise still remains in the executive committee at St.Mary's.



1964 St Mary's Rasharkin Team with John McAuley pictured in front row, third from the right. His twin brother Alex is fourth from right.