



County: Brenda Rice

Nominee: Limerick

Brenda Rice got involved with Regional Community Games 35 years ago when her daughter started taking part at local level.

Brenda had a very good tutor in the late Gerry Burke R.I.P who was passionately involved in Community Games at many different levels. Brenda learned from the master.

Brenda has been involved in the games in a variety of different roles. Back in the early 1980's her main involvement was at local level in the promotion of the local sports evening and also in helping out with the various team games that the area was involved in. Brenda has been involved in various positions on the Regional Community Games committee over the past number of years and rarely misses a meeting. Brenda had a passion for the games and on one occasion got so excited that she forgot to bring home her buggy from the sports field. I am reliably informed that she did bring home the child.

Regional Community Games have had a number of representatives at the various competitions at National level over the past number of years. This involvement has involved much hard work at area level and Brenda has always been at the heart of that work. She has been involved in organising fundraising and sponsorship in the weeks leading up to the Munster and National Finals. When the trip to Mosney or Athlone required managers for the weekend she was always on hand to act as "Mammy" to all the competitors for the weekend. She left nothing get in the way of carrying out her duties as manager for the weekend. On one particular weekend in Mosney when Brenda had an accident and fell on the footpath. Brenda had to go to Drogheda hospital and receive treatment for a broken nose. Brenda was still back on duty next morning and despite her injuries was back over to the track to look after the needs of the competitors.

Regional Community Games has hosted the County Athletic Finals over the past number of years. Brenda has taken over the catering for this event and you can be guaranteed that nobody goes home hungry. From early morning she is preparing tea, scones and sandwiches for officials at the gate or indeed anyone that might need a cuppa. Over the years she has gathered a team around her to make arrangements for the weekend. Volunteers are rounded up, sandwiches, cakes, scones and lots of goodies are prepared for the weekend. Regardless of the weather the activities of the weekend will go ahead and come hail or shine the familiar sight of Brenda arriving on the field is always very welcome. Volunteers can be seen converging on the car and they are all treated in a kind and caring way by Brenda and her team. Everybody volunteering is guaranteed the best cup of tea/coffee and a variety of cakes and sandwiches. Over the past number of years it is sometimes evident that some of the competitors may not have much food with them for the day. Brenda has often discretely treated a number of competitors to a selection of good food and looks after the children as she would look after her own.

When the event is over Brenda will be on hand to help out with the clean-up and will already be talking about what we should be doing for next year. Many people operate at the frontline of many organisations and while this is necessary we sometimes forget about all the work that goes on behind the scenes. Brenda is one of those people who operate behind the scenes and without these kind of volunteers many organisations would not continue to operate. Sometimes it is easy to do this work for a year or two but it takes a special kind of person to continue this work for years and years and long after your own children have gone from the games.

Brenda is one of those people who has continued to work behind the scenes for many years. For her work and dedicated commitment for the last 35 years at local, county and as manager at national level, Brenda would be a worthy winner of this award.