

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	N/A
Date of Interview	11 th Feb 2011
Location	N/A
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat Tomany, Peter Makem and John Makem
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: N/A Home County: Armagh
Education	N/A
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Derrynoose GAA [Armagh]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	25 th July 2012
Period Covered	1950s-2000s
Counties/Countries Covered	Armagh
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Challenges, Alcohol, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Pat Tomany and brothers Peter and John Makem are all Derry-noose-based members of the GAA. All three plot the high and lows of the club's fortunes in the 1960s – from the winning of the Dean Keown cup in 1960 and the junior championship in 1963 to the demise of the club after 1964 in the face of emigration. Peter Makem talks about the enthusiasm and excitement of seeing grown men togged out for the first time in the mid-1950s when football was started up in the area after an absence of almost 20 years. He talks about joining the team in 1963 and being part of the winning junior championship team of that year. Peter also talks about his interest in Armagh county football and his role in helping restore organisation to the county set-up in the early 1970s. He further notes the contribution the 1977-82 generation of players made to the subsequent success enjoyed by the Armagh teams.</p> <p>By the early 1970s, football in Derry had restarted and John Makem discusses the club's achievement in winning a junior championship in 1973. He also reflects on the casual approach of the team manager, the relaxed attitude to training, the fun that was had competing in tournaments across Armagh, the players pride in representing their area and the support they received from the wider community. John Makem also discusses the benefits to the individual of participation with a local club and the bonds that still exist between players who once played together. All three interviewees consider the challenges facing the club at a time of economic recession and rising emigration and they each reflect on the changes in Gaelic football over the decades, from the catch and kick game that they practiced and enjoyed</p>

	<p>to the possession game then in vogue.</p> <p>00:00:10 (Pat) Discusses his beginning of his involvement with Derrynoose in 1957 when he was of Minor age. Talks about playing until 1964 and how they performed – includes reference to the structure of competitions in Armagh and to memorable games.</p> <p>00:02:24 (Pat) Discusses some of those he played alongside in the late 1950s, early 1960s and the management he played under.</p> <p>00:03:10 (Peter) Talks about attending his first football match, on the day that Derrynoose restarted in 1955. Mentions seeing men 'toggled out' for the first time, to walking up to Kelly's field and to the opposition arriving in a bus.</p> <p>00:03:51 (Peter) Refers to the green and white colours of the Derrynoose jerseys at the time.</p> <p>00:04:10 (Peter) Comments on the strangeness and excitement of the experience of attending football match in Derrynoose.</p> <p>00:04:20 (Peter) Says that this was the first football game in Derrynoose in 15 to 20 years and comments on local players who would have played elsewhere in the absence of a team.</p> <p>00:04:50 (Peter) Talks about 'grown men' toggled out and how strange it was and the procuring access of a field from John Kelly. Mentions that players could 'disappear' into a corner.</p> <p>00:06:20 (Peter) Refers to away matches and notices in chapel.</p> <p>00:06:35 (Peter) Talks about travelling the 'country' to watch matches across Armagh.</p> <p>00:07:00 (Peter) Mentions learning his football in Derrynoose school, purchasing a suitably sized ball, the focus on basic skills and the influence of the teacher.</p> <p>00:07:35 (Peter) Says he played Armagh Minors before he played for Derrynoose, c. 1962. Mentions the club always placed him corner forward and the difficulty of making an impression.</p> <p>00:08:32 (Peter) Coming from a junior club and playing with lads from other clubs with Armagh.</p> <p>00:09:00 (Peter) Playing for the 1963 team and the absence</p>
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	<p>of training.</p> <p>00:09:25 (Peter) Refers to the quality of forwards on the 1963 team and names some of the individuals. Contrasts Derrynoose's approach to training with that of Forkhill.</p> <p>00:10:40 (Peter) General comments on the appetite for football in Derrynoose and the quality of players available in the early 1960s.</p> <p>00:11:15 (Peter) Impact of emigration and the demise of football in the club.</p> <p>00:11:45 (Peter) Talks about following Armagh county teams and attending 'infamous' game in Leitrim when the county had only 13 players in 1974. Mentions the fall-out from that incident on the county board and the response it drew.</p> <p>00:13:02 (Peter) Mentions meeting with a group to discuss the problems of Armagh football – refers to factionalism and divides between north and south Armagh.</p> <p>00:13:30 (Peter) Discusses his decision to become involved with Armagh county team, identifying the problems and addressing them. Mentions getting John Morrison in to train team and Gerry O'Neill to manage.</p> <p>00:14:45 (Peter) Refers to reversal in Armagh's fortunes, getting to All-Ireland final in 1977.</p> <p>00:14:50 (Peter) Says his role was in organising and making sure players attended training and were happy. Tells story of a party in hotel to overcome north-south divide.</p> <p>00:16:12 (Peter) Mentions the contribution of the class of 1977-1982 to the making of the All-Ireland team in 2002.</p> <p>00:17:05 (Peter) refers back to the romance of the Derrynoose achievement in the early 1960s, to secure a field and win a junior championship.</p> <p>00:18:04 (Peter) Comments on the courage of the founders of the Derrynoose club and what it involved, Says they were working on 'the clippings of tin'.</p> <p>00:19:45 (John) Looks at photograph of 1960 Derrynoose team – winner of Dean Keown Cup - and recalls its influence on the future development of club.</p> <p>00:20:55 (John) Tells story of non-presentation of medals from 1960 and the decision to hold onto the Dean Keown</p>
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	<p>Cup.</p> <p>00:21:35 (John) Talks about getting team re-started in 1970 and the handing back of the Dean Keown Cup.</p> <p>00:22:40 (John) Comments on 'the surge of youth' in the area in the late 1960s, getting funding and jerseys, ending up in the same field and enthusiasm generated in the area.</p> <p>00:23:20 (John) Recalls predicting the winning of junior championship at a meeting at the beginning of 1973.</p> <p>00:24:02 (John) Talks about playing tournaments across the county and beyond during the early 1970s. Lists some of the tournaments and mentions the success enjoyed and the fitness that resulted.</p> <p>00:24:45 (John) Talks about going to pubs and singing songs after tournament. Tells story about returning home from a tournament in Ballybay. Emphasises the fun and craic they derived from playing.</p> <p>00:25:35 (John) Talks about Tomas Hughes, and his casual approach to team management. Talks about him smoking on the sideline and his pep talk before the 1973 junior final.</p> <p>00:26:11 (John) Discusses the social bond between players, the pride in representing Derrynoose and support from local community, manifest in the attendances at dinner dances. .</p> <p>00:28:05 (John) Talks about 'special link' with the 1973 players. Mentions also the men who had passed on from the club in the 1960s.</p> <p>00:28:55 (Pat) Mentioned his belief that, as a minor, he would be 'well looked' after by stronger men on team.</p> <p>00:29:30 (John) Challenges the idea that Derrynoose is small – talks about the size of the catchment area and the numbers in the local primary schools.</p> <p>00:30:15 (Pat) Discusses existing economic travails and the pressures it places on GAA clubs, especially in relation to emigration.</p> <p>00:31:00 (Peter) Talks about emigration 'as a factor of Irish life' and reflects on the qualities required within a club – qualities of leadership and a willingness to encourage others. Mentions the status and personal value to representing your community in football. Comments also on the 'sense of belonging' and the role the GAA has played in community.</p>
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	<p>00:33:20 (Peter) Talks about need to keep club going in the face emigration, unlike what happened in Derrynoose in 1964. Remarks that a 'whole generation of footballers was wasted' in the 1960s.</p> <p>00:35:20 (John) General reflections on football in Derrynoose and his enjoyment of playing for 13 or 14 years. Contrasts the commitment involved in Gaelic football past and present. Remarks also on the individualised styles of different teams and Derrynoose's preference for 'catch and kick'. Says that the possession game has become standard.</p> <p>00:37:35 (John) Tells story of a player, a corner back, in Kelly's field who lost possession after running 80 yards.</p> <p>00:37:55 (Pat/John/Peter). Discussion around the desirability of the catch and kick approach to Gaelic football over possession game. Reference is made to the Tomas McCreesh and his power as a fielder.</p> <p>00:39:30 (John) Talks about James Keenan, who owned a quarry, and the discussions of football at work. A number of other stories (humorous) about James are also told. (laughter)</p> <p>00:43:35 (Pat) Mentions being trained Fr. Murnaghan at St. Patrick's College, with games of 13 a side.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Involvement with Derrynoose began in 1957; continued playing until 1964 (Pat)</p> <p>Started playing with Derrynoose in 1963, winning junior championship that year. Also played with Armagh Minors. (Peter)</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Involved in the organisation of the Armagh county senior team in the 1970s (Peter)</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:44:17
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____

Date: _____