

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	21 st Feb 2011
Location	The Village Inn, Ballinabrackey, Co. Meath
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tommy Quinn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1959 Home County: Meath
Education	Primary: Castlejordan Secondary: St. Mary's, Edenderry, Co. Offaly
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 children
Club(s)	Ballinabrackey GAA
Occupation	Bord na Mona Employee
Parents' Occupation	Labourer [Father]; Teacher [Mother]
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paddy Moore
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1943 Home County: Meath
Education	Primary: Castlejordan Secondary: St. Finian's College, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 children
Club(s)	Ballinabrackey [Meath]; Cuchulainns [Dublin]; Ardclough [Kildare]
Occupation	Printing and Packaging Company Operator
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Ardclough; Castlewarden Golf Club; Horse Racing Ireland

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Kavanagh
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1965 Home County: Meath
Education	Primary: Castlejordan Secondary: Edenderry VEC, Co. Offaly Third Level: Athlone Regional Technical College; Waterford Regional Technical College
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 children
Club(s)	Ballinabrackey
Occupation	Publican
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Vintners Association; Edenderry Rugby Football Club

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Christy Cooney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Meath
Education	Primary: Castlejordan Secondary: Oaklands Community College, Edenderry, Co. Offaly
Family	Siblings: 5 sisters & 5 brothers Current Family if Different: Married with 7 boys
Club(s)	Ballinabrackey
Occupation	Carpenter
Parents' Occupation	Bord na Mona [Father]
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jim Cooney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1953 Home County: Meath
Education	Primary: Castlejordan Secondary: Oaklands Community College, Edenderry, Co. Offaly
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Married with one son and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Ballinabrackey
Occupation	Bus Driver, Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housekeeper [Mother]
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Youth Club, Community Alert

Date of Report	6 th August 2012
Period Covered	1926 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Kildare, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA, Australasia, Australia
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Alcohol, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Five members of the Ballinabrackey GAA Club reflect on their involvement with the club and the county. They discuss their memories of club and county glory, the impact of their location of Ballinabrackey on the border of Meath, and mention various renowned club footballers during their lifetime. They also consider their highlights with the GAA and their views on the flaws within the organisation.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:57 Tommy recalls his memories of the GAA: winning the Meath Under-14 Division 2 Championship in 2003 in Navan, with Danny Cooney, Christy's son playing. His earliest memories: no transport to go to games in Boyne Park. Describes his son driving him to Boyne Park for the 1985 final, his first time attending a game in Navan. His father's interest in football. Recalls in 1967, Peter Moore, Paddy's brother, winning an All-Ireland Senior Football Final medal for Meath. Peter Moore playing in a match televised by RTÉ in 1968 during Meath's tour of Australia. Moore named Player of the Series.</p> <p>02:39 Paddy recalls his earliest memories. Attending many football matches. Men training in the back field of his house. Mentions Fr Hetherton who played for Cavan, winning the All-Ireland Senior Football Final in 1952. Fr Hetherton playing under an assumed name because he was a student. Played under name of Peadar Smith, marking Christo Hand, getting five frees. Paddy recalls meeting Fr Hetherton years later in Birmingham when his son played against St. Patrick's.</p>

	<p>Describes a gathering in his house one night in 1953. Lists players in attendance: Fr Hetherton; Paddy's first cousin Paddy Moore who played minor for Meath in 1952; Dennis McNamara who played for Meath and travelled with Meath to America in 1951; Jimmy Donoghue, who played on Meath minor team in 1954; and Paddy Mitchell, also on that team. His admiration of them.</p> <p>05:48 Christy recalls his earliest memory: Ballinabrackey GAA Club playing in a seven-a side tournament in Edenderry in 1959. Kevin McNamee and Peter Moore playing for Meath at the time, Kevin's knee injury. Also recalls Peter Moore returning from Croke Park to a bonfire and celebrations in Boyne Park after winning the 1967 All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Christy himself, aged 19, playing with Peter Moore in 1972, whom he idolised. Ballinabrackey winning the junior championship title that year. Family home near Boyne Park, cutting through the hedge to Boyne Park from garden with Ger Grehan, Danny Flynn, and Seamus Brennan. Discusses his involvement with underage teams. Winning championship after 25 years.</p> <p>08:09 Jim recollects a time when there was no transport for going to Boyne Park. When he was in national school, going to the barracks field, Brennans' field, in Ballinabrackey, playing football after school until dark. Watching Peter Moore and Kevin McNamee, and Paddy and John Moore. In early 1970s, his involvement in committee, and in 1977, starting underage football in the club. Recalls progress of Under-10s and Under-12s and in 1995, Ballinabrackey winning the Under-12 league. His son and Danny Quinn on team. Describes further underage success. Also reflects on his involvement in the mid-1980s with the minors, winning an All-Ireland in 1990. His roles of deputy vice chairman and selector. Mentions his satisfaction watching Graham Geraghty, Conor Martin, Enda McManus play in Croke Park.</p> <p>11:28 John recounts his earliest memory: Ballinabrackey named Meath Junior Champions in 1972. In national school when Christy Cooney brought the county cup back. Describes the build-up to the 1972 final, the first time in 46 years for the club to reach the final. Aged seven. Recalls Offaly boys bringing in Sam Maguire, explains the intense rivalry between Meath and Offaly because they are border counties. Disappointment when Offaly won the All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Students from both counties in the school. Explains that the parish was divided in the early 1990s, creating two clubs: Offaly's Clonmore Harps and Meath's Ballinabrackey. Clonmore Harps winning junior championship</p>
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	<p>this year. Ballinabrackey winning the Leinster championship.</p> <p>14:14 Christy recalls the anxiety in his family home the night before the 1972 championship final. Paddy Hickey and his parents saying the rosary after a few drinks. They discuss going to mass before a game.</p> <p>15:10 Jim mentions pub owner Willie O'Toole's fear of closing the pub late after a match.</p> <p>15:49 Paddy discusses the 1926 Ballinabrackey team. His father playing with his three brothers, several of them getting on Meath junior team that year. Describes how in the 1972 Junior Championship Final, he and his two brothers played. Their pride. Mentions Christy Cooney's skill in the goals, also Jim O'Connor's skill. Also mentions Tom O'Connor and his cartilage operation. Considers the importance of football at a time when there were few other distractions. Celebrations. Disappointment if they lost.</p> <p>18:05 Jim briefly outlines the history of Boyne Park. Acquisition of club grounds from the Land Commission in the early 1940s. Little initial development. Building pavilion and dressing rooms since.</p> <p>19:08 Paddy discusses the fierce rivalry between Meath and its bordering counties: Offaly, Westmeath, and Kildare. GAA supporters from all four counties drinking in one local pub. They discuss the different songs sang when different counties won. After Offaly winning the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship in 1971, Sam Maguire cup was painted on the road in Ballinabrackey. Banter. Friendly rivalry. Importance of beating neighbouring county.</p> <p>21:38 Christy reflects on the strength of the underage structure Jim established and the need for continued effort. Players from six years old. Strong committee.</p> <p>22:38 Jim mentions several talented footballers who failed to win medals: Johnny Dunne, Martin McGrath, Pat Connolly, Johnny Donoghue. Paddy describes the disadvantages of being on the outskirts of the county. Thirty miles from Navan.</p> <p>24:37 Paddy explains how their location gives them a stronger sense of club identity. Club loyalty. John describes their good fortune of being part of a winning county.</p> <p>25:25 Jim discusses his attendance at county board meetings, other members' awareness of Kevin McNamee and Peter Moore. Both playing for Leinster too.</p>
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	<p>26:23 Paddy recounts the history of the club. Neddy Mitchell, Finn Glennon's dedication to club. Mitchell a close friend of his father, Paddy Moore, both running the club in the 40s and 50s. Recalls visiting Neddy in recent years, drinking whiskey, reminiscing about old times.</p> <p>29:00 Recounts some of Neddy's stories about the club, which started in 1922: sending postal order to Thompsons in Liverpool for a football, which sparked interest in the club. Training in Mitchells Field. Winning the championship in 1926. Describes Mitchell's skill.</p> <p>32:00 Paddy explains that Clonmore Harps started before Ballinabrackey. Outlines Clonmore's successes. Rhode top club at the time. Mentions a man named Smullen dying in a match in Edenderry, Rhode withdrawing from championship, Harps going on to win. Ballinabrackey GAA Club starting officially in 1922. Mentions Neddy talking about Colm O'Rourke as a tough championship footballer.</p> <p>34:51 John recalls, before Clonmore Harps, a team called The Old Russell's, Paddy's half-brother's father played with them, Neddy Weir. John mentions the Russell family. Paddy mentions Tom Russell; Paddy Mitchell told him about Tom. Mentions Tom Mitchell's Cross. Paddy mentions Peter Duffy who played with the Old Russell's. John mentions Rich Thompson, an honorary member of the club who knows its history.</p> <p>38:08 Tommy mentions Finn Glennon and Neddy Mitchell. John mentions Pat Mooney. Tommy discusses Neddy's devotion to the club. John mentions Joe Carroll. Tommy mentions John Quinn, a local schoolteacher who was an authority on the GAA. Paddy recounts losing a final in 1948 to a team which was rumoured to have 16 men on the pitch. Ballinabrackey failing to reach a final from 1926 to 1948. Tommy reflects on the club's lack of historical records.</p> <p>40:22 Paddy mentions Jodie Gunning whose brother played for Ballinabrackey, minor for Meath, and then later for Offaly. Jodie also playing for Offaly. John mentions Padraig Dunne who played for Offaly and Clonmore Harps. Also mentions Patsy Murphy playing minor for Ballinabrackey and then for Rhode. They discuss some negative reactions to players representing different counties. John mentions Ballinabrackey losing players to Westmeath: Anthony Coyne, Collins, Giles. Jim mentions John Joe Flynn playing for Westmeath in 1949. Christy mentions two Fox's. Paddy ponders loyalty to the village, John discusses loyalty to school friends. Jim explains</p>
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	<p>how Ballinabrackey was at a disadvantage.</p> <p>44:48 John explains that when the parish was split between Meath and Offaly, families living in Offaly were initially not allowed to play for Meath. Allowances given. Their children's loyalty to Offaly. Jim describes winning junior All-Ireland championship. Mentions John Hurley, goalie with Meath, Trevor Bannon allowed to play for Meath because they started playing for Ballinabrackey.</p> <p>46:57 Jim describes the club's dressing rooms in the early years. No toilets, bringing bucket and cup to Ollie Hogan's. Paddy recalls changing by the ditch or in a car. When dressing rooms were built in 1970 there were just two changing rooms. John describes togging out under trees. Paddy recalls the inadequate gear: recounts a specific incident of a player fixing his boot with nails and twine. Poor communication about matches. Jim recalls Neddy travelling by bicycle to inform players of matches. Christy mentions the progress from lace ball made of leather to today's footballs. Paddy explains the difficulty of playing with a wet ball. They describe having one football in the club.</p> <p>53:05 They consider when the ball changed from the lace ball. Paddy says 1975, Jim says early 1970s, describes an eye injury from a lace ball. Jim mentions watching Kildare's Mick McKeever playing in a Dublin vs Kildare Leinster Final in 1970s, with a white football in use. John mentions the use of the lace ball up till 1980s. Christy describes Peter Moore giving him a pair of football boots that came up to the ankle.</p> <p>55:05 Paddy recalls his brother travelling to matches in Croke Park in 1948 on top of a lorry-load of turf. Jim Hickey driving. John recalls Neddy Weir's story about playing match in Trim, Tom Coyne driving lorry, prank played on them by Longwood team at the dry dock. Paddy recalls hackney man Sean Groom who drove people to matches in his Morris Minor in the early 1960s or late 1950s. Recounts a post-match drinking session in a pub in Trim, getting punctures on the way home, walking home. Mentions Gerry Mahon and Mick Glennon. Christy remembers his father discussing cycling to Croke Park, returning next morning. Forty-six miles. Bad roads.</p> <p>58:54 Paddy recalls getting lifts in cars to matches. John recalls getting buses to matches. Paddy mentions Maurice Coffey's van. Christy mentions men on their Honda 50s. Mentions Bob McNamee riding his Honda 50 home in 1972. Also mentions his brother, Pat Cooney, and Jim Cooney and John Kavanagh had Honda 50s. Christy discusses the length</p>
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	<p>of the county. Paddy explains that in the early years, there were divisions in the county.</p> <p>01:00:55 Paddy recalls the first match he played in Navan was the county final in 1963. Mentions Eamon McNamee playing in 1961. Strength of team then. Beating Clara from Offaly. Also mentions Kevin McNamee. Outlines successes and failures of Ballinabrackey then. Recounts a dispute in a game between his brother Luke Moore and the referee Jackie Andrews. Mentions Gerry Mahon. Christy explains that for underage teams, travelling by bus to matches was fun. Stopping at chipper or shop for treats when they won.</p> <p>01:05:47 John recounts a story of the 1970 Leinster Final between Meath and Offaly. Mentions Jodie Gunning being taken off. Supporters travelling by bicycle from Rhode, Offaly, leaving Croke Park when Offaly was winning and celebrating in the pub. Meath's victorious comeback.</p> <p>01:08:15 Christy describes Jack Geraghty, who had transistor, throwing the radio in the air in excitement and smashing it. John reflects on Jack Geraghty's contribution to the club, doing collections at gate. Jim remembers Jack Geraghty's involvement in athletics with John Joe McCormack too.</p> <p>01:10:44 Paddy explains Rhode was the main rival in the early years of Ballinabrackey, when he was playing. Some rivalry with Clonard. John mentions Clogherinkoe. Christy recalls the rivalry in 1972 when he was working with Clonard supporters, Ballinabrackey winning the final. They also mention rivalry between Ballivor and Ballinabrackey in the past. John discusses rivalry with Longwood. Recounts story of Father Dan returning home from Australia and acting as a referee in a match between Ballinabrackey and Longwood. The fierce abuse he endured. Also mentions Stoney Burke. John discusses refereeing himself, his opinions on Longwood.</p> <p>01:14:24 They describe various fund-raising efforts: race nights, auctions, hunts, sponsored walks, pony-racing, Jim recalls a major fundraising bid to build a pavilion in 1990 when Pat Dunne was chairman: King of the Castle, with Nick Cooney, Tom Groom and Tommy Swords as candidates. Raising £30,000. Pushing a bed from Dublin to Tullamore to collect money. No permits, being questioned by gardaí. His wife and other women travelling to race meetings in Newbridge and Mullingar to sell raffle tickets. Three committees working hard at fundraising. Paddy describes céilís in the 1950s and 1960s in Flanagans in Edenderry.</p>
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	<p>Less expensive to run a club then. Grand National draw. Annual dinner dance. Explains that club work was done voluntarily then.</p> <p>01:20:26 Christy describes the impact of the recession in 1985 on the club. Losing the core of a good team; for example, John Swords, the Hogans and Donoghues to emigration. Families emigrating. Paddy mentions Jimmy Donoghue, who played for Meath senior football team in the 1950s and emigrated young. Losing players who moved to Dublin. Jim mentions losing talented player Ger Grehan who went over to his uncle Fr Mahon, in 1972. Christy discusses the challenge of returning to the sport after a break. No loss of players during the Celtic Tiger. Paddy recalls players being lured to America to play with the Offaly Exiles in 1950s and 1960s. Mentions Dinny Mac and Kevin McNamee who went to the Offaly Exiles. Huge loss to junior club. Bad for morale.</p> <p>01:24:14 John ponders the effect of the current recession on club. Their goalkeeper getting on the Meath junior team, losing his job, and emigrating to Sweden for work, still returning home for matches. Jim mentions Joe Bannon in England, among other talented players who recently emigrated. Aaron Conlan going to England.</p> <p>01:26:07 John explains the club's sole focus on football. Recently re-formed ladies football. Ballinabrackey ladies team successful in late 1980s, winning three championships then. Jim's wife involved in the 1980s. Lack of commitment then. Young ladies team now. Ladies football have their own committee. John's wife was from Dunboyne and had played against Ballinabrackey years ago. She had marked Angela Finn in the women's county final in 1993.</p> <p>01:28:36 They reflect on the club's relationship with the county board. Christy describes an amicable relationship. Mentions Barney Allen, chairman. Tommy describes a more mixed relationship. Jim discusses clubs making excuses not to play a game. John mentions a recent county board meeting in which the chairman offered assistance with financial problems of clubs. John outlines Ballinabrackey's healthy financial position, after winning junior title and Leinster title. Paddy compares the cost of the running costs of the Meath county boards to those of Kildare, Cork, and Kerry, with reference to a recent newspaper article. Jim discusses his belief that Meath manages money well.</p> <p>01:33:32 Christy mentions John Quinn, a great Irish speaker in the club. The majority of Irish speakers in the club no</p>
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	<p>longer alive.</p> <p>01:34:17 They discuss the songs associated with the club. Jack Mooney wrote a song for 1972 to mark the championship win. Kevin Hogan's song from 1985. A song for 1977. Tommy mentions Mary Carroll who wrote a poem for winning Under-21s. John mentions Darren Cahill who claims the club's latest song is on YouTube.</p> <p>01:36:44 They discuss their fondest memories of the GAA. Tommy recounts Ballinabrackey's 2010 successes, including winning the junior football championship and Meath's Club of The Year title.</p> <p>01:37:30 Jim describes his GAA highlight: the underage team he trained making a late comeback to beat Carnaross in a match in Enfield. Discusses Father Flynn mentioning him at mass the next day. Recounts a humorous story from an Under-10 match in Longwood.</p> <p>01:40:10 Paddy discusses his highlight: a trip to Galway with the club in the late 60s, early 70s. Explains the origins of some players' nicknames; for example, Christy Cooney nicknamed Peter Bonetti after Italian goalkeeper. Also recalls trip to Achill in 1972 after divisional final, motivated to come back and win the Meath Junior Championship. Socialising in pub. Paddy's brother Peter Moore starting the tradition of GAA trips away.</p> <p>01:43:46 Christy recalls a serious bus accident on a trip to Achill. John Butler Kennedy hospitalised, Sean Kennedy injured. Paddy Moore chairman. Paddy explains how these weekends united players.</p> <p>01:45:24 Christy discusses his greatest memory: playing in the 1972 club final with Paddy, winning championship. Celebrations on their homecoming. Also mentions the Under-14 championship final in Navan against Ratoath, making a late comeback to win.</p> <p>01:46:24 Paddy describes the enthusiastic support of people in Ballinabrackey: attending away matches and fundraising. Recalls supporters walking or cycling to matches in the 1950s, keeping up this tradition. Discusses voluntary efforts of trainers and coaches. John mentions this year as his best memory. His pub, a GAA pub, also thriving.</p> <p>01:50:43 They name their GAA heroes. John mentions Colm O'Rourke; Tommy chooses Peter Moore; Christy also names Peter Moore, recalls playing with him when Moore was</p>
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	<p>captain in 1972. Peter cherishing his junior 1972 medal more than the 1967 All-Ireland medal. Jim also picks Peter Moore, describes Peter's involvement with various clubs, including Rosemount, Ballycumber, Ballinabrackey, and Rahan. Mention him playing on match shown on TV, the TV went off. Paddy names Colm O'Rourke. Also mentions Jack Quinn and Matt Kerrigan. Paddy praises camaraderie of participation in the GAA. Describes Kevin McNamee's skill as footballer. Also praises Finn Glennon, his brother Peter Moore, Gerry McEntee, and Paddy O'Brien. Recalls his first time in Croke Park, 11th June 1954, Meath beating Wicklow in the first round.</p> <p>01:57:50 They reflect on their biggest GAA disappointments. Jim mentions cost of entrance fees to matches, ineffectual smoking ban, and inconsistency in rules. Specifically mentions the GAA asking Meath to decide whether to stage a replay after the contentious 2010 Leinster Final between Meath and Louth. John describes a dispute over points scored in a recent All-Ireland club semi-final. Discusses the need to tighten up rules. Recounts various match disputes. His belief that GAA senior officials refuse to make decisions themselves. Lack of consistency in rule enforcement.</p> <p>02:00:49 Jim mentions Sean Kelly, chairman of Munster Council and President of GAA, deciding against a replay in the dispute between Tipperary and Kerry. Compares it to Kelly refusing to make a decision between Meath and Louth.</p> <p>02:01:52 Christy discusses the unsuitability of the pitch in the All-Ireland Junior Club Championship semi-final this year in Kenagh, Longford. Lack of respect for players and supporters.</p> <p>02:04:39 Paddy mentions the 2010 Leinster Final between Meath and Louth. His views on how the Meath County Board should have responded. Describes the dramatic progress made by the GAA. Mentions the foreign games ban as an example of improvement in attitude. Praises Sean Kelly for advancing the GAA, particularly for opening Croke Park to rugby. Disappointment of losing championship in 1963.</p> <p>02:07:13 Tommy mentions the All-Ireland Junior Club Championship semi-final in Kenagh as well. Poor state of grounds an insult to both clubs. No fence around field. Health and safety risks.</p> <p>02:08:36 They reflect on what their involvement in the GAA has meant to them. Tommy discusses his pride in the organisation. Secretary of the club. His son Danny playing</p>
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	<p>Under-21, scoring a winning goal in the county final.</p> <p>02:10:03 Paddy discusses his hopes for the National League and the championship. Looking forward to matches at the weekend. Meeting people at matches, reminiscing about old times. Camaraderie. His interest in other sports, such as golf and horse racing and rugby, but GAA his main passion. GAA giving members discipline and pride. Its benefit as a leisure pursuit. Socialising in pub after games.</p> <p>02:12:05 Christy reflects on his passion for football. Mentions the efforts of trainer Pascal Kellaghan from Rhode for the club. The underage team's hard work. Support from people. The fun of being involved at underage level.</p> <p>02:13:44 Jim ponders his progress through the organisation. From underage level to refereeing and chairman of minor board. Satisfaction of seeing Graham Geraghty, Trevor Giles, Enda McManus advance in the 1990s. His involvement again in the club after stepping down from county board. Training Under-8s. Pride in being involved with young players. Attending a hurling match in Navan.</p> <p>02:16:21 John discusses the significance of the GAA in Ballinabrackey, the heart of the community. Running a pub frequented by GAA supporters since 1996. The pub selling tickets for the weekly Ballinabrackey GAA Lotto.</p> <p>02:18:10 Paddy explains that the GAA serves to unite Irish people. Creates enduring bonds. Jim discusses the advantage of Ballinabrackey focussing solely on football. Some members playing soccer and rugby. Christy describes the parents' satisfaction that their children are involved in the club. Jim mentions the start of Foróige club for local children. Paddy discusses the success of an amateur sport. Bringing Australian visitors to Croke Park: their fascination at football and hurling, size of stadium.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p>Tommy:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Paddy:</p>

	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ </p> <p>John:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): __Sponsor_____ </p> <p>Christy:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ </p> <p>Jim:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): ____Meath Young Referee of Year____ </p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Tommy: N/A</p> <p>Paddy: Played for 20 years. Won a junior club championship with Ballinabrackey in 1972.</p> <p>John: Played from 1977 – 1985. Won a spring league 1984/1985.</p> <p>Christy: Played for 20 years. Won 2 leagues and 3 championships</p>

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	<p>1972, 1977 and 1985.</p> <p>Jim: Played for 7/8 years. Won a championship and league in 1977.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Tommy: Club secretary for 4 years.</p> <p>Paddy: Was involved in administration from 1969 – 1974. He was club chairman in 1973 and 1974.</p> <p>John: Has been involved in administration since 1989. Club: Vice-chairman and Delegate to County Board.</p> <p>Christy: Has been involved in administration since 1972. Club: Vice-chairman, underage chairman.</p> <p>Jim: Has been involved in administration since 1975. Club: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO County: Minor Board Vice-chairman, Minor Board Chairman (3 years), Hearings Committee, Management Committee.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:21:59
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the GAA Oral History Project on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the GAA Oral History Project the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____06/08/12_____