

**GAA Oral History Project**  
**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2009
<b>Location</b>	Playwright Restaurant, Hamden, Connecticut
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat Hosey
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1939 <b>Home County:</b> Longford
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ballinalee NS, Co. Longford <b>Secondary:</b> Ely Whitney, Hamden, Connecticut <b>Third Level:</b> Real Estate, Quinnipic
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 2 sons and 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Seán Connolly's [Longford]; New Haven [Connecticut]
<b>Occupation</b>	Painting Contractor
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer, Forestry and Quarry worker [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Democrat

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seán Scollan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1925 <b>Home County:</b> Leitrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ballinamore NS and CBS Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim <b>Secondary:</b> Hillhouse High School, Ely Whitney, Hamden, Connecticut
<b>Family</b>	<b>Current Family:</b> 4 daughters and 2 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Seán Ó Heslin's [Leitrim]; New Haven [Connecticut]
<b>Occupation</b>	Labourer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer and Shopkeeper [Father]; Farmers Daughter [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Democrat

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Charlie O'Hagan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1934 <b>Home County:</b> Derry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Bancarn PS, Co. Derry
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 1 son and 3 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ballinascreen [Derry]; New Haven [Connecticut]
<b>Occupation</b>	Carpenter
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Irish Republican

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	John O'Donovan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1930 <b>Home County:</b> Cork
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Presentation Brothers, Kinsale, Co. Cork <b>Third Level:</b> University of New Haven
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married
<b>Club(s)</b>	Kinsale [Cork]; New Haven [Connecticut]
<b>Occupation</b>	Telephone Company
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Gardener [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A

<b>Date of Report</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2010
<b>Period Covered</b>	1930s – 2009
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Americas, USA, Leitrim, Longford, Great Britain, England, Cork, Derry
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Emigration, GAA Abroad, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Purchase of Grounds, Socialising, Economy, Food and Drink, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Travel, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Impact on Life, Challenges, Violence, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Pat Hosey, Seán Scollan, Charlie O’Hagan and John O’Donovan discuss their lives involved in the GAA in New Haven. The group recall their earliest memories of the GAA in Ireland and their journeys to Connecticut. They describe the founding of the club, the people involved, the development of grounds and the setting up of the community centre. They talk about the Irish community in the area, where people came from in the past and how emigration has changed through the years and down to the present. They outline life in the GAA in the area – the matches they played, their relationship with the New York Board and the socialising that occurs. Pat talks about the clubs relationship with Matt Talbots and the club’s trip to Dublin. They each describe their best memories of the GAA, their GAA heroes and their hopes for the New Haven club into the future.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:30 Pat was born in Ballinalee, Co. Longford. He came to the USA when he was 16. He had a relative in Orangetown, New Haven. He went to school for three years, he worked in a newspaper printer for 25 years and then started his own painting business. He’s married with four children and has a few grandchildren.</p> <p>01:05 Pat: Describes his involvement with football in US. He was involved in school and minor football in Ireland and it was natural that he get involved there. He met Pat Balk from Leitrim and a Cavan woman Mrs Cuddy and Jimmy</p>

	<p>McCormack from Roscommon. He went everywhere with Jimmy.</p> <p>01:45 There was no club when he came there, there was an organisation and a team and meetings were held at the Bishops Gate, Restaurant owned by Frank Hunt.</p> <p>02:25 The ground was difficult to develop. Pat became an officer and even took two children's team to Ireland.</p> <p>02:50 He played from the age of 16 to 47, which was too long. There was no hurling where he came from.</p> <p>03:05 Pat: Club began to function more a social club and now covers drama, Irish language, bag pipe band, golf, bowling, genealogy groups. He was an officer several times.</p> <p>03:50 The club is successful, the other interviewees are still very involved and active, but the club is now being run by younger people.</p> <p>04:10 Seán has been an officer and has run the festival and raffle in the past.</p> <p>04:30 John P. Scollan, but he became Seán at school in Ballinamore.</p> <p>04:50 He played school football at Ballinamore even though he could have played with Carrick-on-Shannon and played competitive football from 14 to 44. Last game of competitive football was against a Wicklow team in 1969. He was a sub on the Leitrim Minor Team when he was 16. He played senior for Na Fianna against the Eight Thomonds [regiment], Moate.</p> <p>06:00 Seán recalls getting injured and being afraid to go home to his mother.</p> <p>06:30 Seán tells how he was asked to play for Athlone against Clann na nGael, champions of Roscommon in 1941. Athlone had the pick of the army. Seán played left full back.</p> <p>07:30 He played for Athlone in 1943, 1944, 1945 in the junior championship. He never knew anybody he played with, except one fella on the opposite team. One game was at the Three Jolly Pigeons on the way out to Longford.</p> <p>08:00 It was all football with him and he went back to Ballinamore. His first game was minor at 18 and then played junior, then senior. In 1946 he was picked on the county and they went to the All-Ireland. They won a Connacht Junior championship in Hyde Park in 1946, they played Kerry in Carrick-on-Shannon in the semi-final and Down beat them in</p>
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	<p>Cavan. The All-Ireland was postponed until Cavan because of the wet year.</p> <p>09:10 Seán was dropped in Cavan for an older man, but he got on in the last ten or fifteen minutes. They lost, but he was on the senior team the following year. Lists the counties they played against in the League. He played on Peter Donohue, Barney Woods, Frankie Kinlough, Owensie Hoare, John Joe Fallon.</p> <p>10:15 He worked on the railroad, but he left for New York after reading an article about wages and living in America and Ireland. He was 22.</p> <p>10:55 Seán talks about his family situation. He met his father for the first time in June. In 1932 while walking into town with his grandfather a man on a bicycle passed him, it was his father. Seán loved his grandparents and his mother. His father went to New York after losing their farm due to drink, his mother followed him out. His aunt dyed in childbirth and his mother returned to look after him and his cousins. Tells a story about the house being auctioned.</p> <p>14:15 Seán liked football and kept playing even when he came to America and played for Leitrim in New York. He met his father for the first time in New York. Then he came to New Haven.</p> <p>14:45 He met Jim McGuinness, Eddie Brazil and Pat Bowen at a Hibernian Dance in Dec 1948. Jim said Seán looked like a fella who could play football. They decided to form a club. Ned Reynolds, the lawyer, drew up the agreement. If there was trouble the money would go to the poor boys society. Their first game was against Bridgeport at Bowen Field, a city field at the time.</p> <p>16:00 He and Larry McNamara advertised the game on the radio. They got 600 people to pay \$1 each at the game and the IRS tried to take the taxes. Jack Donohue was on the gate and managed to talk them out of it.</p> <p>16:40 It was a big thing for New Haven. Seán discusses the picture he brought. Some of them were old men when they played the first game, they were in their 50s.</p> <p>17:15 Seán played for Springtown, Boston Kerry team and New York team in 1952 that played Cork in Croke Park. He played for Boston against Meath when they won the League.</p> <p>17:50 Seán was married in Ireland and his wife and daughter came out in Nov 1948. When Seán came first there was such</p>
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	<p>a snowstorm in New York they got diverted to Boston. He went to his uncle in Providence.</p> <p>19:15 They moved into York Street and started from there and ended up with 6 children, 10 grandchildren. His wife Peggy died in 1968.</p> <p>20:00 Charlie was born outside Draperstown, Co. Derry on a farm. He went into construction and was involved with the GAA, Ballinascreen club growing up. He never played football, but they used to run dances. His cousin Willie John Halferty, Magherafelt was secretary of the South Derry Board. Charlie didn't play because 'I could trip over my left foot pretty easy'</p> <p>21:00 He came to Canada, but there wasn't many Irish around him. After two years he decided to go back to Ireland, but then he decided to visit his Aunt in New York.</p> <p>21:35 Charlie had a transit visa and a letter from the police chief in Canada and a few dollars in the Bank was all he needed. It's tougher today.</p> <p>22:20 There wasn't much work in New York even though he was in the union, in 1956 there was about 300 on the bench. The employment agency suggested he go to Connecticut, Charlie didn't even know where it was.</p> <p>23:10 Charlie met Timmy Brown and McInerney at the agency and they travelled up. After a few years they found out about the New Haven Gaelic Football and Hurling club and met a few men on Livingstone St – Eddie Brazil, Pat Mc Manus, Brother, Michael Lillis, Joe. That's how he got involved.</p> <p>24:10 Charlie: John Gaffney and Pat Hanlon suggested they have a feis. His cousin was involved with the New York 32 counties, Sheila Bradley, and she put them in touch with judges, musicians and places to get medals and trophies. The first feis was in Bowen Field. Talks about the help they got from Mike Lynch getting permits for the field.</p> <p>25:40 Pat and Mike Flaherty were involved in taking two teams over to Ireland, Under 14 and Under 16. Lists places they played – Ennis, Oughterard, Mohill, Lurgan, Cavan, Down, Longford, Dublin, Mallow. Pat Hanlon and John Gaffney were involved in coaching teams and young footballers and took a team back to Ireland too.</p> <p>26:45 John: Born just outside Kinsale, Co. Cork where he went to the Presentation Brother School. One of his teachers</p>
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was Oliver McGreevy, brother of famous names in New Haven – Tom, Frank, Mike McGreevy.

27:15 John played with district teams at school and with altar boys from the Carmelite Friary. He left home on New Years Day 1947. He served an apprenticeship in England. He was involved in running, though he attended as many GAA functions as he could. He attended a track meeting at New Eltham. He played cricket and soccer. He left 6<sup>th</sup> January 1953 from Southampton and arrived on 13<sup>th</sup> in New York.

28:30 He led a quiet life in New York but went to Gaelic Park. In July he came to Connecticut and was drafted to the army in December. In 1955 he really got involved in club, they hadn't a physical club, but they had dances and a team playing.

29:30 At that time there were people arriving who played hurling. In 1949 the football club was founded, in 1956/57 the name was changed to take account of the arrival of the hurlers.

30:05 Their treasury was building, while Richie Kerr was President. There were dances at Charlie Reilly's Restaurant every Saturday night.

30:30 They wanted their own place and some of the guys knew of the Castle Pigano club and its available hall. In 1962 they leased the hall and had dances there. They also met there after the games and ran a bar. They applied for the licence in 1962 and John remembers going to the office in Hartford. Ned Reynolds led him, Jim Cox, Frank McGreevy and Jim Strattan into hearing room, but the judge turned them down.

32:05 Ned called Frank into the back room and when Frank came out they had their licence.

32:35 They stayed there in Alling Street until 1967, but they wanted their own property. In 1967 they purchased the club at Venice Place, East Haven. John outlines the history of the building.

33:25 John: They bought it with the help of a mortgage backed by Charlie O'Hagan. In 1992 they paid off the mortgage. The ground cost \$41,500 for the building, television, tables and chairs.

34:20 John describes the road going into the club – a dirt road out in the wilderness. They've removed the mountain of rock and woods and they now have a playing field and

	<p>they've added outbuildings for storage.</p> <p>35:10 John: From 1956 the club was active in the St Patrick's Day Parade and had a float in the parade. Mike Johnston, Charlie O'Hagan and Pat Hanlon were the main people. John recalls one year when St. Patrick was the main theme. They built it, but realised that they had no statue of St. Patrick. They asked Fr McBrien in St. Mary's for the statue from the altar. Just before the 12 o'clock mass, Pat Hanlon and Mike Johnson carried the statue out to the float.</p> <p>37:40 John attributes the success of the club to a Leitrim man Felix Gill, he was only there a few years, but he was 'dynamite'. He made them feel proud of being Irish and that nothing was impossible.</p> <p>38:25 From 1963 they started field days in Bowen Field. From 1967 they added the Feis to the field day. In 1989 they went to Yale for a two day festival. It was held there for five years, before they went to the North Haven fairgrounds. They had to install their own light and water at Yale, North Haven had everything.</p> <p>40:00 Pat's first memory was being 6/7. His neighbour played minor football, Eugene Smith, he kept kicking the ball in the air and asked Pat to catch it. Pat talks about Eugene going to fight in the Korean War and got injured. In the US Mrs Cuddy invited him to a picnic at the HarryGarry, German club one Sunday. He met Pat Bowen and somebody else. They had a football and they started playing football.</p> <p>41:15 New Haven now mails over 1000 newsletters. It has football teams at Under 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 and now have an Under 8 hurling team. Pat played junior for New Haven when they won the New England Championship against St Patrick's, Boston.</p> <p>41:55 Pat tells story about losing a case of champagne out from under the bus on the way to Boston. Mike Hanlon stopped the bus and they walked back and found 3 unbroken bottles. They won the game and drank the bottles.</p> <p>42:35 Seán's mother told him he threw the first ball he got in the fire. His mother was a smoker. She collected the coupons and got them a small football around Christmas. Christmas day was a foggy day, Seán and his cousin took the ball to the meadow and by the end of the day all that was left was the bladder.</p> <p>43:45 Seán's neighbour James Gallogley gave him a pair of</p>
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	<p>football boots. Seán's were big enough to fit them when he was 9. He got him a football and they'd kick it.</p> <p>44:25 Little Jimmy Murray, a home boy, English taught him about football – how to pick it up, protect himself was all written by Joe Lennon later, even though Jimmy was all soccer.</p> <p>45:00 Jimmy Sweeney in Leitrim New York and Fr Tim Shanley wrote to Seán to go to New York. It didn't cost him anything, because he worked on the railroad and had a pass. It cost him a dime on the subway there and back. He went from Grand Central to Times Sq and to 240 St and Broadway.</p> <p>46:05 A fella from Leitrim was selling hot dogs and he always gave him a hotdog.</p> <p>46:20 Seán's grandfather was involved with Robert Emmets, the first Ballinamore Team. They put a plaque up on the AIB in 1984.</p> <p>47:00 His grandfather was a land leaguer, he was evicted and spent time in Galway jail. 'He brought me to all the games, we walked, he held my hand and we walked to the games.' Seán recalls the first Na Fianna game he watched, he walked three miles there. George Roly was playing full back for Kiltubrid, he was Seán's uncle.</p> <p>48:00 Charlie didn't play too much. They had townland teams. They weren't good enough to play in leagues, but they'd play until they couldn't see the game any more. Charlie worked on the park in Draperstown with his brother in law. The first game was Derry vs Kildare. He helped run céilí's for the club and other fundraisers.</p> <p>49:15 Charlie has been involved with the club in New Haven, helping to set up stages for the drama group and at the field days setting up the stages. Charlie, Kevin Hanratty from Meath and Gerry Ruddy from Leitrim help with the construction.</p> <p>50:00 Charlie: Pat was responsible for removing hill from ground, Charlie did some of the inside work.</p> <p>50:25 Pat: He felt they needed people who would be determined and do something about getting a field and he got John Cullinane, Clare and Joan Kennedy from Tipperary. Some people disagreed with the field, but Pat felt without it the club would lose.</p> <p>51:00 Pat dealt with the phone calls from people complaining</p>
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	<p>about blasting and noise, but says John and Joan deserve most of the credit.</p> <p>51:35 Pat's club in Ireland was the Seán Connolly's. Seán was killed at the battle of Suttonhill, Co. Leitrim. Two of his brothers, Michael and Tommy taught Pat. Jim Mannix, Kerry was another and he got him involved with football.</p> <p>52:00 John's earliest GAA memory was being coached by Oliver McGreevy at the Presentation Brothers School. John remembers one of the brothers being involved in rugby. John was an altar boy and one evening when he came into town to serve mass he saw the brother and the boys returning from the pitch with a rugby ball. John didn't even have a football. John complained to the brothers, who went to a business man. They organised a league and picked three teams and they put up a set of hurleys.</p> <p>54:00 John and his brothers were the only children who had a football at school. His father worked for a doctor who smoked Players. The cards could be saved and when they had 50 they got a ball.</p> <p>55:00 John remembers hearing people talking about the ball being lost in the long grass at the playing field in Kinsale during a match. Seán Barrett picked up a ball and scored a goal.</p> <p>56:00 John's father told him about the British restricting the playing of matches. They allowed them to play on the fields but not move from place to place with the hurleys. One Sunday morning, they were practicing, but they had to put the hurleys in the shed on the grounds and lock them up. The British over saw this and the boys brought the keys into town, but they had a match that afternoon. They met John's father coming out, they gave him the key, he took the hurleys out and took them through the fields home. That afternoon the boys going to the game stopped and collected the hurleys, but one was missing, it had fallen out. They went to Hollyhill, got a boat across the Bandon and played a game in Ballinadee near Bandon that evening.</p> <p>58:25 Pat was at school with Jimmy Fox, who became chairman of Longford County Board. Pat, his brother Seán, Jimmy, Jackie Farell and a few others were altar boys. The boys didn't pay any attention to ringing bells because Jimmy always knew when to do it, but one day Jimmy was sick and Pat recalls the events at the morning Mass that day.</p> <p>59:50 Role of the Clergy in GAA in USA: Pat says they play</p>
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	<p>very little role unless a young Irish priest comes over, but they never had any. Pat outlines the need to get young people involved, to replace the older people. 'If you don't have a structure, pretty soon you won't have a club.'</p> <p>01:00:30 New Haven has a few young people, Irish-American and Irish. The president of the Irish-American centre is from Armagh, Seán Donnelly and the president of the GAA club was born in New Haven, Patrick Lillis, his father is from Clare and mother is from Leitrim.</p> <p>01:01:15 John: In their organisation they have two clubs – The New Haven Gaelic Football and Hurling Club and the Irish-American Community Centre. The community centre started in 1983, prior to that everything was run by the GAA club, including fundraising events, but because it was not tax exempt they had to pay tax on all money they raised. There was a time they had to pay in \$10/11,000 in taxes. They couldn't get tax exemption under the GAA club so they had to found a new organisation, the community centre. They don't pay a property tax because of that, but all the club property had to be signed over to the community centre.</p> <p>01:03:15 Pat: They have a joint board the GAA club elects three, the community centre six, but the six don't dominate the three. It was necessary although a lot of people were opposed to it. Pat feels they need a new influx of members to drive the club forward, not necessarily Irish people because many of their best people are Irish-Americans or people married to Irish people e.g. Mike Johnston, a jew, was one of their best workers. Pat gives example of an Italian lady with an Irish name, Hogan, who is fluent in Irish and plays the accordion and tin whistle.</p> <p>01:05:05 Charlie: At the beginning you had to be born in Ireland to join the GAA club in New Haven. They think it was an unwritten law.</p> <p>01:05:35 Seán says New Haven was always a great community, they were from different counties, but they pulled together, not like New York and Boston where the counties had their own bars. Seán thinks John did a great job keeping the club together.</p> <p>01:06:15 Pat feels size of the Irish community was smaller than in Boston and New York, it was one club not several clubs that were rivals. They have debates at meetings, but when the meetings over its over. Seán thinks it's like the Dáil in Dublin, they all go into the bar afterwards.</p>
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	<p>01:07:15 Pat: There hasn't really been any trouble between the GAA club and the community centre. The centre is trying to develop the young teams. When the first young teams were founded they were put under the centre for fundraising because they were teaching a culture. They brought the children to Ireland and taken to drama productions.</p> <p>01:08:45 The CYC – continental youth championships – will be in San Francisco and they're bringing over 100 young people to it. They ran a huge fundraiser called Celtic Rock to pay for expense of taking them so far. It was a festival, they raised \$30,000 for the trip's transport and accommodation costs.</p> <p>01:09:45 The juvenile scene is very strong. Pat thinks parents are interested in seeing their kids play their sport and then their friends want to go to. They have dancing classes and they see the football training and they want to try that too.</p> <p>01:10:35 They have a pub, but nobody is forced to drink. John is a pioneer as are some of the other older members.</p> <p>01:11:00 The club has a bowling league, a dart league and the Irish language group was last night. 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009, is Munster night in the club. Pat and John co-host a radio show together in the area. Pat: the functions are well attended. Every week there is something. They have traditional concerts and céill's.</p> <p>01:12:10 Mr Gaelic Club was a function for the youth footballers, it's a take off on the Queen's competition. The biggest idiot is the King. The Queen's competition is involved with the parade. It starts with interviews and breakfasts first thing in the morning. The crowd just see the girls on the stage, but there are a lot of other parts to it. Lipsett and Morris were members of the West Haven club and were the finalists this year. They attend parades, festivals, banquets and do radio interviews etc.</p> <p>01:14:00 Pat talks about a competition to honour the Irish man and woman of the year. It was started in 1984. It's an elaborate function.</p> <p>01:15:10 They don't enjoy parade day in the evening as an officer. The parade in New Haven is the largest in Connecticut. They get a large crowd, but by evening they have been out since morning and they need a few policemen to make sure there is no trouble.</p> <p>01:15:45 They bring in the club All-Ireland finals from Ireland</p>
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	<p>and serve a full Irish breakfast. Every Sunday they have a match and serve breakfast. The crowd depends on counties they have emigration from.</p> <p>01:16:45 If Leitrim made it to the All-Ireland they would need a new club. The year they made it to the semi-finals it was standing room only. The finals and semi-finals are a draw and Kilkenny and Clare get big crowds.</p> <p>01:17:00 Pat: If you trace the counties back Leitrim has the largest population, next would be Clare, then Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Galway are tied. There's only half a dozen from Longford because they're loud. They don't have a big population from Northern Ireland, they tend to go to Philadelphia. Boston has a huge Galway population followed by Kerry and Cork. Emigration has changed a bit now though and there's more northern people in Boston, while there was never a team from Down, Fermanagh or Armagh in New York years ago.</p> <p>01:18:35 Pat: Gaelic football in New Haven stopped because of World War Two. Pat met an elderly Irish man, Mr McCarthy, he told Pat that there were eight teams in New Haven at one stage – Ansaunier, Kerry, Leitrim, Waterbury. One was called Mitchell's and Pat's been told one was Robert Emmets.</p> <p>01:19:25 Pat: McCarthy told him there was a fine Irish club in New Haven in Orange St, but they couldn't keep up the repayments when the depression came and they lost it.</p> <p>01:19:50 Pat: There are not a lot of other nationalities above, but you see a lot of it in the youth teams. The children bring friends along or parents bring friend's kids. They have an Italian boy and two African-Americans are playing Under 12.</p> <p>01:20:30 Pat and Seán: There is strong participation from the Irish-American community, even the supporters. Pat believes about 70% of the members are Irish-American.</p> <p>01:21:00 Pat talks about the Strackens a family of thirteen who came one every year, they knew once the mother came that she was the last.</p> <p>01:21:25 There are a lot of large families in the area: the Culloughs, Nolans, Purcells. There was an Irish pattern of emigration where one would come every year. Pat talks about this issue now as legislative provisions have not been made for that type of emigration.</p> <p>01:22:35 Pat doesn't think the recession will effect the club</p>
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	<p>too much. He talks about the retired members who would have pensions from the US and some who have them from Ireland. He thinks their prices are realistic. John doesn't see any major problem for them either.</p> <p>01:23:30 Pat: They have a young group in the club set up to look at the club's development e.g. re-modelling of the club, building a new club, buying new property etc. Seán Cox, Pat Gaffney, Mike Clifford, Jimmy Burke and Dennis Smyth are all members of that committee.</p> <p>01:24:45 Seán: Talks about his sons playing with Ballinamore and Na Fianna and then playing for Wochester in New Haven (one is called Kevin).</p> <p>01:25:40 Pat: Trends in Irish emigration effect the team in particular. They need an influx of at least half a dozen young people every year. Some of this will come from the minor programme. Wives get worried that their husbands will be hurt. Some of the women playing are now having children and getting older.</p> <p>01:26:55 Pat: The girls who play there go and play in New York with their teams. They list success of ladies from New Haven that have played in New York and Féile in Cavan last year.</p> <p>01:27:40 Pat: They start at 6 years of age. The younger ones go to the playground, but once they get involved in the game they want to play the game. John McCormack has four kids involved. When there's several kids in a family involved they become competitive.</p> <p>01:28:20 Volunteers are everything. The only paid person is the bar tender. The caretaker is provided with living facilities.</p> <p>01:28:50 Pat is against professionalism. He knows coaches are paid expense money, but in his own county he feels there are enough people that they should be able to produce a coach of their own. Eugene McGee is a coach, but was never invited to coach the Longford team.</p> <p>01:30:00 Seán feels that people won't take orders from their own county people. Pat mentions the Cork coach, he appreciates the players side but the coaches side too. Pat thinks he won't quit, he quotes him as saying 'I stand for Cork'.</p> <p>01:31:05 John as a Corkman is ashamed of the situation and sad. He doesn't know how the coach would train the team even if they did return to training now. He feels there's more</p>
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	<p>than the coach involved. He feels Frank Murphy should take a break.</p> <p>01:32:15 Seán feels the dedication of the player is crucial. The player who dedicates himself to the game should be appreciated.</p> <p>01:32:40 Pat mentions people who should be mentioned. Himself and Mike Flaherty arrive in Dublin without All-Ireland tickets every year. Pat tells the story of one year when Cork was in the All-Ireland and they couldn't get tickets anywhere. They went out to a pre-match dinner in Portmarnock, asked a man named Hegarty who told them he'd try. He left two tickets at his hotel for Pat the following morning. He never found him again and couldn't thank him.</p> <p>01:34:25 Pat tells another story about a year they were there. They asked three fellas from Hartford for tickets, but they only had one. They met a man, his wife and baby who had a ticket. He had one ticket, he only asked for the price of the ticket £8.</p> <p>01:35:33 John talks about getting sideline tickets from PJ Neville in New York. He usually got ten tickets from him, but one year the tickets arrived the day after the game.</p> <p>01:36:25 Pat talks about Pearse Park in Longford and it's newly developed state. He recalls the reopening of the park and the pipers. One piper left the band, played the national anthem. Pat describes the crowd of 8/10,000 singing along as 'powerful'. There was a group of clergy in the middle of the field, the female Church of Ireland minister from Yorkshire led the prayers, John was impressed.</p> <p>01:37:30 Pat grew up with Protestant fellas, one went on to play with the team - Tom McVihill. Another Johnny Gillard didn't get on the county team, but should have.</p> <p>01:38:00 Politics doesn't play a role in the GAA club, but a member Jim Leddy is running for Mayor of the town.</p> <p>01:38:25 One of the Leitrim lads Tommy Stratten was mayor of Cheshire, but their politics doesn't impact on club.</p> <p>01:38:40 Michael Lynch knew how to get them permits and how to get them a field so that was a big help. They tried to run a function at the Eagles Hall but it was Lynch who got them in, Lynch also helped deal with the Fire Department.</p> <p>01:39:25 Pat: There's two political parties, Pat guesses that most Irish are Democrat, but not all of them. Irish politics</p>
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	<p>plays no part and religion doesn't play a part in USA at all. They have all nationalities, which was one condition for them to get a tax exemption – they couldn't bar any nationality.</p> <p>01:40:15 As the club was formed as a football team, women could only be auxiliary members. The club was ahead of the Civil Rights debate and passed a law that anyone who was a member had to be a full member.</p> <p>01:40:47 Women are 50% of the club, though Pat thinks they sometimes get tired with the meeting and debates. 'Some of our debates, they can drag on, because you have an issue where you would have a lot of different viewpoints and everybody's got to be heard and sometimes you've got to be heard more than once.'</p> <p>01:41:05 Pat discusses the female officers of the football and hurling club and the Irish-American Community Centre. Joan Toland (Polish), Margaret Prendergast (Kerry), Anne Heinz (Donegal). They play a major role and a number have been Presidents.</p> <p>01:42:10 Role of the GAA in the emigrant community: Pat and John think it plays a major role. Pat outlines the way young people get involved and get their children involved in sports and dancing.</p> <p>01:43:00 Charlie: Tells story of son of one of the families who became the lead dancer in Lord of the Dance – Jimmy Murray. He now lives in Ireland.</p> <p>01:44:05 Pat: Billy McComiskey's family came to USA from Armagh. He's a famous musician in America. Michael Flatley competed at the New Haven Feis when he was young.</p> <p>01:44:50 Role of the GAA in their setting in America. John or Charlie don't feel it played a role when he came, Seán just wanted to play football, but Pat feels that it did. He went to school in US when he arrived. He played soccer, basketball, American football and he was the goalie on the ice hockey team, but he went to a field in Clinton Avenue to play gaelic football. He doesn't like bus trips anymore because he was on so many. They used to go to Boston to play, then they'd have dinner, a dance and then they couldn't get their teammates out of the pub. Pat remembers returning back at 7am on a Monday morning to New Haven.</p> <p>01:47:00 Pat thinks one of the biggest changes in Ireland are the facilities, he doesn't know if they train as hard as they used to. Four of his clubs best players have just left for</p>
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	<p>Australia. Pat also notices that Saturday night is a very late night, but coming home at 4am means that the players don't play the game they should play. He thinks players need more self-discipline. Players have cars now, Charlie didn't have a bicycle.</p> <p>01:48:40 Pat recalls going to minor games with the teacher and 5/6 in the car. 'Two or three cars brought the whole team.' Mrs Gilliard his neighbour used to bring a car load too. They went by bicycle too.</p> <p>01:49:40 Seán returned to Ireland in the 1960s. He sees the biggest change as the dressing room, they used to change behind a ditch and they gave their friends whatever money they had to hold. At matches they got a cup of tea and a few biscuits, that was it.</p> <p>01:50:20 'Even when we played in '47 against Roscommon in the Connacht Semi-Final we stripped out in the showgrounds where they used to show the cattle, it wasn't in the hotel we did.'</p> <p>01:50:35 The grounds have also improved. Pat recalls one of the last games he played. There was a cow in the field beside the goal posts, he went for a ball beside the goals and ended up having to get washed in a barrel of water.</p> <p>01:51:25 Charlie: Facilities and grounds have improved. In Draperstown, he helped build an entrance way and goal posts into the field.</p> <p>01:52:20 John feels that socialising is a big part and some of that is negative. An excess of drinking means that a lot of young players are lost. The players that go drinking in the club afterwards lose out.</p> <p>01:53:20 Pat: The Slashers Club have a theatre in their ground. They got EEC grant money, their application was turned down several times until the folder was an inch thick, but they got €250,000 to build the theatre as part of the clubhouse. Pat feels that the money is there, but they need somebody persistent enough to go after it. Their club have a drama group and they sell out their play for the week, Pat thinks if they got money to build a theatre they could make money for the club from it.</p> <p>01:55:35 Seán: Ballinamore didn't own a field until 1947. Seán O'Heslin was the teacher in Ballinamore and he taught Seán. Seán drew cinders from the railroad with a horse and cart to dig out drains to dry up the pitch. The river ran along</p>
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	<p>side it, and it flooded, but today they have a high ditch and pumping system. 'It was like a lawn'. They have a practice field along side it.</p> <p>01:57:25 Role of the teachers in the GAA in USA. Pat: The teachers don't play a role. In San Francisco they have managed to set up a programme in the parochial schools, but not in New Haven. Pat feels it should have happened in Boston and New York where they could have provided the coaching. Basketball and Baseball are the two big sports. Ice Hockey dominates New Haven, Pat talks about a recent game at Yale.</p> <p>01:59:30 Pat thinks there's some chance for the sport to develop in Milford where they have \$120,000 raised for the club.</p> <p>02:00:10 Rule Changes: Seán thinks the lifting of the ban is great. He would have loved to have played Australian Rules, soccer or rugby. He understands why it was done, but he's glad they did.</p> <p>02:01:00 Pat is glad that rule on the security forces is gone. It will make a contribution to bringing people together. A girl in Antrim joined the RUC and had to leave her club, she played Camogie and she had to stop. Pat feels this situation was a loss to the GAA.</p> <p>02:02:20 Charlie agrees it should have been changed. John feels the GAA was narrow-minded for too long. Pat wouldn't like to see Croke Park getting over used, even though the money goes back into the clubs. He doesn't think soccer or rugby will ruin it, but the concerts might destroy the pitch.</p> <p>02:03:25 John: 'I think bring in the foreign games to Croke Park and get rid of the concerts ... they're money raisers, but they do more damage to the surface of Croke Park than any of the rugby or soccer.'</p> <p>02:03:50 Pat thinks it's unusual that Croke Park is open but other stadiums are not. John thinks the other grounds are losing out from this. Pat thinks they shouldn't turn anyone away.</p> <p>02:04:35 Their GAA Heroes: Seán's was T.P. O'Reilly a lawyer from Belturbet, who played for Cavan. He had a great drop kick. Pat's was Mick O'Connell. Packie McGarty was another of his, a Leitrim man. He's never seen a hurler like Ring, talks about watching him play and coming straight through the hurls. He was so fanatical on the field, that he</p>
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	<p>saw nothing but the goal.</p> <p>02:07:35 Pat saw the great Kerry and Galway teams. Seán O’Neill (Down), Kevin Armstrong (Antrim), Gerry Hennessy (Longford) all great players.</p> <p>02:08:00 Seán thinks Down changed football. In 1960 they won their first Ulster Final against Cavan in Ulster – 2 goals in 2 minutes, they changed the type of football played today – faster and cleaner. In Seán’s day it was rough, they didn’t go for the ball, they went for the man.</p> <p>02:09:13 Pat lists more of his favourite players: Jack O’Shea, Teddy McCarthy, Kieran Duff, Mick Lyons, Paddy O’Brien, Victor Sherlock, Mick Higgins.</p> <p>02:09:35 Charlie: Peter Canavan, Tyrone and Anthony Tohill from Derry. Seán mentions great Leitrim players: Packie McGarty, Cathal Flynn, Noel Blessing. They were never together in the same years and emigration hurt. Pat mentions seeing the terrible twins Sean Purcell, Frank Stockwell and Sheehy from Kerry.</p> <p>02:10:25 Charlie: The problem was that people could come to New York and play with their county team there, and that was detrimental to their home teams.</p> <p>02:10:35 Pat: Paddy McAndrew, Bill Carlos, Gerry O’Malley. John agrees that O’Malley was great. Seán says Bill Carlos played his first game in the Connacht Final 1941 for Roscommon against Galway. Bobby Beggs was a Dublin man playing for Galway. He was hit 55 yards out. He got up and put it over the bar.</p> <p>02:11:30 Pat: Jim Hannify senior from Longford who played for Galway. John: Gerry O’Malley from Roscommon and the O’Reillys from Cavan – Tom, PT, John Joe. Dan O’Keefe the Kerry goalie. Seán mentions the goalie Tom Burke. Pat: Mick Langan.</p> <p>02:12:25 Favourite Memories: John’s was the 1992 All-Ireland. He didn’t see it, but he went up to the club and heard that Donegal had won. He couldn’t believe it. He’d like to ask people their biggest surprise result e.g. Louth beating Cork. Hubert Reynolds was a Leitrim man.</p> <p>02:13:55 Pat’s was winning the New England championship, it took two years of hard training. He didn’t play much in the final but had played all year. Another memory was ruined on him. He had just arrived, he was 17 New Haven were playing Hartford and he didn’t understand the rivalry. He was playing</p>
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	<p>well in the first half, but at half time they told him he was playing on Jim Foley, an All-Ireland medal winner from Kerry. He couldn't play properly after that.</p> <p>02:15:25 Seán: Playing against Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1946. The selection committee wanted him to let somebody else in his place, but they left him on and they won by eleven. Seán cried he was so pleased. They dropped him for the All-Ireland final and put on somebody who played in 1938. They put Seán in, for the last ten minutes and he didn't let the ball pass the 21.</p> <p>02:17:15 In 1947 they should have moved the junior team to senior. Their average age was 21, some were only 19. Players like PJ Dolan, Kevin Herrity, the oldest was 22 Faulken.</p> <p>02:17:45 Pat: Gerry Hennessy's son was a policeman in New York, but he died suddenly.</p> <p>02:18:15 Charlie's taking the Under 14 and Under 16 team back to Ireland in 1985. It was a great experience.</p> <p>02:18:45 John: After the war and people coming over in the late 40s and 50s, the club had the first kids playing minor Gaelic football in 1964.</p> <p>02:19:35 Pat coached the Under 14 team and knew the Under 16's they took over. They developed a minor programme because the numbers emigrating were dropping off. They were very good. They had a lot of fundraising for the trip.</p> <p>02:20:20 They had played in Longford and were going from Cavan to Lurgan, but people got worried about going to Northern Ireland so they had to discuss the visit with the parents. The parents voted to go. When they arrived in Lurgan, they found the club beyond McKeon's pub, where they had a disco that night. Everybody from the pub came out and applauded the bus as they went past.</p> <p>02:22:30 The teams played in all four provinces, they used personal contacts in Longford, Kerry, Leitrim, Galway. Pat feels it was powerful. When they arrived in Longford they had an extra pole put up with the American Flag. The bus was stunned.</p> <p>02:23:30 The kids that went on the tour still stop him today. Joe Conty was one of their best players. The coach of the team in Thurles wanted him to play for them. He's a pilot now. Four of the players in the team went on to play for New York</p>
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	<p>in the All-Ireland Minor Championship – Jimmy McKenna, Andy Burke, Brian Drone. Andy Bourke played against a player with the same name in Tipperary.</p> <p>02:25:10 Pat tells the story of trying to get through Roundstone in Connemara. The regatta was on, but the boys started picking up the cars and moving them to let the bus through.</p> <p>02:26:00 Every club went out of their way for them. Charlie stayed with a neighbour of Pat's in Longford – McGreal's. The kids stayed with the families in their own homes.</p> <p>02:26:35 Pat tells the story of the Matt Talbots trip to the US. They came out without enough money and ended up playing the New Haven team every night for two weeks. The families kept them for the two weeks. When they heard the New Haven team were going to Dublin they wanted to reciprocate and instead of going to Thomas Davis club in the foothills, they stayed with the Matt Talbots. They had a reception at the Sunnybank Hotel, Glasnevin. Pat was one of the last people there but the Matt Talbots were standing outside. Pat knew something was wrong and grabbed Brendan Crawley and asked him why there were no seats for the Talbots team. The Talbots team insisted on paying for the meal, but couldn't afford to eat themselves.</p> <p>02:30:30 Brendan rang Pat one night at 2.30am to tell him he won the Sweepstakes. Pat donated it to the club. When he went home for Brendan's wedding, the chairman of Matt Talbot's club presented Pat the envelope that night. To Pat those inner city kids were the best people.</p> <p>02:31:45 Disappointments: Pat's is that there isn't a strong junior team in the area. There will be in a few years. Pat feels that they need the people from Ireland, because they learn a different type of game. Pat believes that if they were in Ireland for a year they could play with anybody. Lots of players played other sports McKenna brothers, Kevin Rothsby, Gethins, fellas who played football and ice hockey.</p> <p>02:33:10 Seán didn't have any disappointments. Some of the best players he met were Irish-Americans e.g. Jackie Brennan, Jackie Hughes, Mike Cummins, Murphy, the O'Donnells. 'I just loved football, I didn't care whether I won or lost as long as I was playing, that was my opinion about football and it's still the same.' Someone told Pat the roof of the club could fall in so long as Seán had a team out kicking football. Seán's first question to new people was 'Do you play</p>
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	<p>football?'</p> <p>02:34:10 Billy Murray was a great player. He was less than 100 pounds, but it didn't matter how hard they hit him. He was from Clare and wrote a book Michael Joe that was banned in Ireland. He was in the University of Iowa.</p> <p>02:35:20 Charlie: In Derry he's disappointed that they didn't pursue the young players in the countryside, they only focussed on the town players.</p> <p>02:35:55 Pat would have liked to see New York develop a facility like Chicago and Boston.</p> <p>02:36:05 John is disappointed that the ban was in existence when he was growing up, but he feels the GAA helped him socially through his life and in many ways.</p> <p>02:36:30 Challenges for New Haven in the future: Pat chairs the growth in membership committee for March. The challenge is to grow the club. There is no debt or mortgage left on the facility, but if they want to develop they need a healthy budget. Pat thinks the membership might be about 1400 people, but he doesn't see why it's not 2000. Another club has 5000 members, but Pat wouldn't like it to grow that big, it would get too big. The other club has a full size restaurant, they don't want that. Pat thinks another 300 members would be good. With new members you get new people interested in taking part in the administration.</p> <p>02:39:25 Seán: New Haven was started by a group of young fellas who were only there a year. If New York had done the same it would be amazing, but they could never agree. Seán feels New Haven deserves more credit than any other club in America.</p> <p>02:40:00 Pat: They just had emailed the plans for new Philadelphia facilities – a building and two fields, in Limerick township. Ulster dominates there. They have bought 11 acres, but it is 45mins away from Philadelphia. Pat says Boston's facility didn't grow out of the GAA, it grew out of people in the GAA who saw what could be done.</p> <p>02:41:40 Rockland County are also building, the Irish moved from New York up there. They are building on an asylum. They are spending \$1.5million on it. New York got \$1million from the GAA and \$1.5million from Manhattan College all they had to raise was \$500,000.</p> <p>02:42:45 Seán spoke to Sean Kelly when he was last home. He wanted Nickey Brennan to come over to New Haven, but</p>
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	<p>he didn't.</p> <p>02:43:25 Pat discusses Canton and how people who get involved in the centres from outside the Irish community become tourists and that brings its own revenue.</p> <p>02:44:20 What the GAA means: John: It helped him socialise, kept him fit, meeting so many great people. Charlie agrees about the social side, the camaraderie. Seán had two loves football and his wife. Pat attended a lot of sports, but the day he stood in the newly developed Pearse Park listening to the crowd singing the national anthem with the lone piper was a great feeling. He's Irish. He's proud of America and was in the army, he wonders where Ireland might have been without being able to emigrate to America.</p> <p>02:46:50 Pat discusses the rivalry with Hartford. Seán says Hartford were Kerry and everybody wanted to beat Kerry. The biggest crowd Seán ever seen was in Rice field between New Haven and Fr Burke's Galway team and Erin's Hope from Boston in a football and hurling double header.</p> <p>02:48:00 Seán says it was a vengeance game, after New Haven beat them in a game where they should have won.</p> <p>02:48:15 Bridgeport, Hartford, Springfield, Holyoak had teams when Seán arrived, they had their own league. They weren't supposed to play in Boston and New York at the same time. They played as New Haven in New York and St. Vincent's in Boston and sometimes they got drawn on the same day and had to get a postponement, but they were playing every week.</p> <p>02:49:00 Seán remembers going to Long Island to play and the Tipperary referee having a row with him. He threatened to turn Seán into the New York GAA.</p> <p>02:49:30 Pat talks about Boots Finn. He always had boots over his shoulder, ready to play. He emigrated to London. There were two papers in town, Vincent Gill was a reporter, he heard that Boots was coming home for the junior final. The headline was 'Boots coming for final'. Everybody came to see him. He got a 50 yard free and kicked it over the bar.</p> <p>02:50:50 Seán played with every team he could – he lists them, but he just loved the game. At 35 or 40 the boys at home had quit, but they were still playing over there.</p> <p>02:51:45 The last game Seán played was with Bray Emmets in Wicklow in a junior semi-final, he was 44. He played full</p>
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	<p>forward and got a goal and a point.</p> <p>02:52:00 Pat: Larry McKenna was a great footballer and he worked for a brewery in the town and had a landscape business on the side. A woman asked him to pull out shrubs for \$5 each he just pulled them out of the ground.</p> <p>02:53:05 Pat remembers his friend Johnny Lynn a great player in London.</p> <p>02:53:15 John's proudest moment was the opening of the field in New Haven. It was their Croke Park. It's used for a lot of things.</p> <p>02:53:55 Pat thanks Brendan Crawley for taking the interviewer to meet them.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input 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 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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Pat:</b> Played from the age of 12 to 47. Won a New England junior championship.</p> <p><b>Seán:</b> Played from 1930 – 1969. Won a Ballinamore league. Played for Leitrim in an All-Ireland Junior Final (1946).</p> <p><b>Charlie:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>John:</b> Played from 1940 – 1975.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Pat:</b> Club: President, Vice-president of Irish American Cultural Centre (IACC), Festival Chairman 8 years, Entertainment Chairman. Involved in field development.</p> <p><b>Seán:</b> Club: President (4 years); Bar Controller (Permitee 4 years); Vice-President (4 years).</p> <p><b>Charlie:</b> Club: President, Feis Chairman.</p>

**REFERENCE NO.** AM/1/4

	<b>John:</b> Club: President (9 times); IACC President; Festival Chairman (3 times)
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 02:54:14
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed:        \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date:            \_\_\_\_\_23/02/10\_\_\_\_\_