

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2010
<b>Location</b>	PJ's home, near Riverstown, Co. Sligo.
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Patrick J Quigley
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1940 <b>Home County:</b> Sligo
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Knockalassa NS, Co. Sligo <b>Secondary:</b> Ballymoate Vocational School, Co. Sligo
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 8 siblings <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife, 2 daughters & 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Knockalassa GAA [Sligo]; Shamrock Gaels [Sligo]
<b>Occupation</b>	Paper shop owner
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fine Gael
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	FCA

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<b>Date of Report</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1883 - 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Sligo
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Bribery, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>PJ discusses his many years of involvement with Sligo GAA. He recalls playing with his local club, Riverstown, when he was growing up, before joining the recently-formed Shamrock Gaels. Injury curtailed his playing career at a young age, but he embarked on an administrative career within the Association that saw him progress from the club board to the county board to the Connacht Council to Croke Park. PJ also sat on various committees and recalls what the decision-making process was like and how things have changed over the years. He also spent some time refereeing and because of that he was part of a group that went on a trip to the United States. The local club is a vital part of the community and PJ talks about the contribution of Shamrock Gaels and the interest they take in the welfare of some of the more vulnerable members of the community. He also talks about his many trips to Croke Park over the years, especially a particularly special one in 2009, when he was presented with a Presidential Award for all he had done for the GAA over the years.</p> <p>00:20 Born on the N4 near Knockalassa school in 1940.</p> <p>00:40 Moved to Riverstown after he got married.</p> <p>00:45 Grew up in a farmhouse.</p> <p>01:05 GAA in the area when he was born. Success of Knockalassa before he was born.</p> <p>01:35 Riverstown the underage team when he was growing</p>

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	<p>up. Success on the field.</p> <p>02:35 Junior team in Knockalassa and Souey. Shamrock Gaels forming.</p> <p>02:55 Not playing adult football because of a serious knee injury.</p> <p>03:15 Knockalassa and Souey players intermingling.</p> <p>03:45 Junior team formed in Knockalassa in 1966 and becoming chairman.</p> <p>04:00 How they fared on the field. Rivalry with Souey.</p> <p>04:15 John McGarty and Noel Mulaney suggesting in 1972 that the two clubs join together. Meeting held to discuss idea.</p> <p>05:10 Brother-in-law playing for a Shamrocks team in London. Naming the new club Shamrock Gaels.</p> <p>06:10 Ten people from each club forming first committee. PJ chairman. Leo Kierens made secretary.</p> <p>07:00 Opposition to the amalgamation. Gerry Keaney not pleased. Objections they made. Overcoming that.</p> <p>08:00 Gerry Keaney changing his mind and eventually becoming chairman.</p> <p>08:30 Young players joining Shamrock Gaels. Success on the field.</p> <p>09:10 Having their own facilities.</p> <p>09:45 Pitches they used before amalgamation.</p> <p>10:15 Winning club pitch of the year award.</p> <p>10:35 Fundraising. Organising a soloing run from Croke Park to Sligo.</p> <p>12:10 Getting grants from the National Lottery.</p> <p>12:45 Becoming chairman at 31. Being a member of Sligo minor and senior boards. Refereeing.</p> <p>13:25 Going to the United States with other referees.</p>
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	<p>Refereeing National League and Championship matches.</p> <p>13:55 Becoming involved in refereeing due to his work with the east divisional board. Michael Frank Regan secretary.</p> <p>14:30 Refereeing a 1975 county final.</p> <p>14:55 Trip to the United States. Visiting an aunt. Family looking after the business at home. Cities they visited.</p> <p>16:45 Who went on the trip. Pádraig Lang head of referees in Sligo. Clint Foley involved.</p> <p>17:20 Funds raised to cover costs.</p> <p>17:40 Games held in Los Angeles.</p> <p>17:50 Staying in a private house in Los Angeles. Going to Mass. Visiting the sights.</p> <p>18:45 Meeting a priest he knew, Fr Jarlath Cullinan in Los Angeles.</p> <p>19:35 Going to a baseball game.</p> <p>20:20 Weather in Los Angeles.</p> <p>21:00 Visiting San Francisco.</p> <p>21:10 Spending a night in Mexico.</p> <p>21:45 Experience of San Francisco.</p> <p>23:00 Getting a Presidential Award at Croke Park in 2009. Marty Morrissey MC. Larry Quinn there.</p> <p>24:10 Father's GAA involvement. Born in 1883. Family business.</p> <p>24:40 Being on the Connacht Council.</p> <p>27:00 Father playing football and reaching county finals in the 1930s.</p> <p>27:45 Father involved in picking teams in the 1930s. Man named Bernard not happy after he wasn't selected for a team. Voicing his displeasure at a meeting.</p>
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	<p>29:20 Getting his first car in 1963. Bringing his father to games.</p> <p>30:20 First visit to Croke Park in 1958. Derry and Dublin contesting the All-Ireland final. Cycling to Ballymoate and taking a train to Dublin. Length of train journey. Stops along the way.</p> <p>31:40 Man talking about how people travelled to Dublin.</p> <p>32:10 Impressions of Croke Park.</p> <p>32:30 Driving to Croke Park a few years later. Going to the National Ballroom in Parnell Square. Staying with cousins.</p> <p>33:05 Dance on a Saturday night.</p> <p>33:25 Going to Croke Park. Buying fruit on the way. Big crowds at Croke Park. Watching the game.</p> <p>34:30 Crowd moving when there was a score.</p> <p>34:45 Kncokalassa formed in 1966 and getting his first tickets for Croke Park.</p> <p>35:20 Getting 10-year tickets for Croke Park.</p> <p>35:40 Being in Games Administration in Croke Park and ringing Seán O'Leary about 10-year tickets.</p> <p>36:30 Son-in-law, Seán Bruadar interested in taking over the tickets.</p> <p>37:40 Sitting beside the McKnights of Armagh at Croke Park for ten years with the tickets.</p> <p>38:15 Sitting beside a Kerry man.</p> <p>38:55 Demand for tickets when he was on the Connacht Council. Swapping hurling tickets for football tickets with Pat Egan.</p> <p>39:35 Bringing the family to an All-Ireland final.</p> <p>40:00 Tony Keady affair - Galway hurler who played with two different counties. What that was like.</p> <p>40:55 Role in Games Administration from 1989-1991. What</p>
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	<p>they did. Seán McCague and Ramsbottom chairmen in different years.</p> <p>43:20 Being asked to be chairman of activities in Sligo by John Higgins as Seamus Cummins of Calry did not want the position. Duties involved.</p> <p>44:15 Shamrock Gaels in a league final around the time of the solo run from Croke Park. Problems that caused.</p> <p>45:50 Challenging aspects of his administrative career. Selecting a referee for the All-Ireland final. Proposing a Leitrim man to referee a final. Efforts to secure votes of others.</p> <p>48:40 People he has met over the years. Joe McManus, Willie Maloney, Tom Harden, Peter Cooney good friends of his in Sligo.</p> <p>49:50 Peter Quinn President when he was in Croke Park. Tommy Moran of Leitrim a good friend.</p> <p>50:40 Micheál Kierans refereeing at the time they selected the Leitrim referee.</p> <p>51:35 Political nature of GAA administration.</p> <p>52:05 What his club meetings were like.</p> <p>53:10 Club attitude to underage teams celebrating in pubs.</p> <p>53:40 Going to a Bord na nÓg function in The Heritage. What that was like.</p> <p>54:55 Other clubs bringing underage cups to local pubs to be filled.</p> <p>56:10 Neighbouring club winning a final and visiting many pubs.</p> <p>56:30 Being a Pioneer.</p> <p>56:55 Changes he has seen in players over the years.</p> <p>58:00 Impact of emigration on the club over the years.</p> <p>58:55 Cost of running the club and what they do to raise funds.</p>
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	<p>01:00:25 Role of club in the community.</p> <p>01:00:50 Local man dying whilst watching a game. His son dying years later. Club rallying round to support the family.</p> <p>01:03:50 Club starting a fund for community member affected by illness so that he could go to Lourdes. Auxiliary Archbishop of Melbourne there.</p> <p>01:10:00 Maintaining the fund so that others could be helped, often at Christmas.</p> <p>01:11:50 Women cooking for club events.</p> <p>01:13:05 Importance of GAA to the community.</p> <p>01:14:00 Importance of volunteerism in the club.</p> <p>01:15:25 Enjoying being chairman of the club when it was first set up.</p> <p>01:16:00 Being given an award by President Nicky Brennan in 2009.</p> <p>01:16:25 His friend Alec Taylor's art gallery. Former US President John F Kennedy's sister opening the gallery.</p> <p>01:17:05 Alec Taylor asking him to start a musical group in 1965. Alec's brother Sidney playing too. Ivan Fraser of singing. Christy O'Grady from Gorteen playing the keyboard.</p> <p>01:19:55 Playing a dance in on St Patrick's Day.</p> <p>01:21:45 Playing in lounge bars in the area.</p> <p>01:23:00 Saving the money he made.</p> <p>01:25:05 Name of the band. Ending his involvement and reasons for that.</p> <p>01:26:10 GAA involvement and its effect on his home life.</p> <p>01:27:00 Award he got in 2009.</p> <p>01:28:00 Difficult decisions that were taken down the years.</p> <p>01:30:20 Club getting a loan from Croke Park. Getting advice</p>
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	<p>from a Longford man on how to handle it. Bringing that advice to a meeting. Larry Quinn taking this on board. End result.</p> <p>01:32:35 More decided in county board meetings when he was first involved. Board picking teams.</p> <p>01:33:00 Junior team being picked by Sligo County Board and Mick Frank Keohane representing the club - of a goalkeeper, Johnny Vincent. Tom Kilcoyne reacting to a suggestion.</p> <p>01:34:50 Diluted impact of county boards. Reasons for that.</p> <p>01:35:15 Change in nature of conventions.</p> <p>01:36:35 Increased formality of meetings.</p> <p>01:37:05 Lifting of the Ban. Sligo voting against it and then being the first county to play soccer players - David Pew and Gerry Mitchell.</p> <p>01:39:45 Opening of Croke Park.</p> <p>01:38:55 Playing soccer as a teenager for Ballymoate. Roscommon Herald at a game taking photos. Taking action so that his face would not be recognised.</p> <p>01:41:35 How strictly the Ban was enforced. Going to games in the Showgrounds.</p> <p>01:42:20 Relationship between soccer and the GAA in the area.</p> <p>01:42:50 GAA disappointments - attitude of certain players. Playing Ballinamore of Leitrim in a replay in Markievicz Park in 1990. One of their players injured playing soccer the evening before.</p> <p>01:44:30 Happy GAA memories.</p> <p>01:45:25 Maintaining his involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:46:30 What the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:47:50 Hopes for the future of the GAA. Need for leaders like Peter Quinn.</p> <p>01:48:25 Qualities needed to be a good chairman.</p>
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	<p>01:49:30 Being secretary of the divisional board when Mickey Frank Regan was chairman. Proposal that a dance be held.</p> <p>01:51:15 Refereeing a game featuring Curry. Tom Coleary a priest, playing with Curry. Giving a free against him. Tom's reaction.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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</p> <p><input checked="" 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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from age 11 yrs – 18 yrs. Sustained an injury in 1952.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Chairman of Knockalassa GAA, 1966 – 72; Chairman of Shamrock Gaels GAA, 1972 – 1976; Chairman of East Sligo Divisional Board, 1972 – 74; Secretary of East Sligo Divisional Board, 1970 – 72; Member of Sligo County Board, 1966 – 92.</p> <p>Member of Connaught Council 1989 – 93; Member of GAC 1989 – 1992.</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio   <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:54:36</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

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**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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012