

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Vincent McNaughon
Date of Interview	15 th Feb 2011
Location	N/A
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	James Christy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Armagh
Education	Primary: Derrynoose N.S. Secondary: Armagh College
Family	Siblings: 4 sisters Current Family if Different: 3 boys, 2 girls
Club(s)	St. Mochua's, Derrynoose GAC [Armagh], Na Fianna, Middletown [Armagh]
Occupation	Retired
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	15 th July 2012
Period Covered	1960s - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Armagh, Antrim, Down, Offaly
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Managing, Coaching, Education, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Challenges
Interview Summary	<p>Jimmy Christie opens the interview by discussing efforts to revive Gaelic football in Derrynoose, Co. Armagh, in the early 1970s. The game had, he says, previously ‘faded away’.</p> <p>Christie’s introduction to football comprised, for the most part, of informal games in Kelly’s field, though he would have looked up to some well-known local players who would have played with a successful Derrynoose team in the early 1960s. Christie, aged 21, was chosen as club captain in 1973 and he charts the success of the club in that year’s junior championship and his subsequent call-up onto the Armagh county team.</p> <p>As well as Gaelic football, Christie was a keen hurler. He touches on the tradition of camogie and tells of being brought to play in 7 a side hurling tournaments across Armagh. An underage county player, Christie would play his minor and adult hurling with Keady and Middletown and would also represent the Armagh senior team from 1978 to 1984.</p> <p>Throughout his discussion of his own football and hurling playing days, Christie references key individuals who made a contribution to his own playing career and to the development of the clubs he was a member of. He concludes the interview by contrasting the GAA scene in Derrynoose in 2011 with that of the 1970s and 80s and stresses the need for greater commitment among younger players to ensure a restoration of the club’s on-field fortunes.</p> <p>00:00:05 Discusses his first involvement in football as a teenager in the late 1960s.</p> <p>00:01:01 Recalls some of the individuals involved with the Derrynoose GAA at that time – John and Eddie Makem – and the ‘urge to get something going’ in the 1970s after a short ‘dormant’ period. He mentions that football had earlier ‘faded away’.</p>

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	<p>00:01:46 Refers to the involvement also of Sean Flanagan and efforts to get the club registered by the Armagh county board.</p> <p>00:02:28 Refers to absence of structured underage football in Derrynoose, save for the primary schools. Recalls informal games of football in Kelly's field - playing 'backs and forwards', for example - and the age profile of those involved.</p> <p>00:03:45 Mentions Tomas Hughes and his role in the early 1970s as Treasurer and later Manager. Other names are also mentioned.</p> <p>00:04:10 Refers to the return of individuals who would have been part of the 1963 club team. Mentions looking up to some of the club players in the early 1960s.</p> <p>00:04:50 Starting in 1973 and getting to junior championship final.</p> <p>00:05:10 Refers to his appointment, aged 21, as captain in 1973 and the 'euphoria' of winning junior championship.</p> <p>00:06:00 Developments in the county in the early 1970s and being called up for Armagh team.</p> <p>00:06:30 Talks about Derrynoose's rivals in the early 1970s: playing first game against The Grange, the novelty of playing matches and travelling in Kevin O'Neill's van.</p> <p>00:07:30 Mentions rivalry with Forkhill, Middletown, Tullysaran, Belleek.</p> <p>00:08:10 Discusses his involvement with Armagh county team: the step up from playing junior football; playing his first game against Offaly in a challenge match in Tullamore; the standing of Armagh football in the early 1970s and the dominance of Clan na Gael.</p> <p>00:10:55 Talks about his introduction to hurling. Refers to camogie in the area in the 1960s, to the role of Jim O'Connor in getting him involved in underage hurling, to travelling to play tournaments, including 7 a sides. Mentions the lack of numbers in comparison to clubs like Keady.</p> <p>00:12:48 Selected to play Under 16 hurling for Armagh. Recalls playing in Casement Park in 1968 after Down footballers had played.</p> <p>00:13:50 Refers to the fact he went to play Minor hurling with Keady. Cycling to Keady to play games.</p>
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	<p>00:14:18 Refers also to his move to Middletown in 1972 to play senior hurling and progressing to play with the county team from 1978 to 1984.</p> <p>00:15:25 Discusses the challenges facing Derrynoose in 2011: contrasts the quality of facilities in 2011 with that in 1970s and considers the lack of success on the playing front since the mid 1980s, when the club had a group of committed players, including six from one family.</p> <p>00:17:15 Talks about the pressures on young players, many of whom are dual players.</p> <p>00:18:09 Mentions Derrynoose's competitiveness and strength of its underage set-up.</p> <p>00:18:20 Reflects on the role played by luck and recalls, once again, the successful Derrynoose team of the mid-1980s. Refers to the role of Jimmy Hughes as manager at that time.</p> <p>00:19:30 Talks about the superior athleticism of current crop of players and the need for them to be more committed.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for 25 years, winning 2 Junior, 1 Intermediate and 3 Senior titles. Played with both St. Mochua's, Derrynoose and Na Fianna, Middletown</p> <p>Armagh senior hurler, 1978-1984</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Involved in club administration for 25 years.</p> <p>Chairman during the 1970s/80s for 10 years with Na Fianna</p> <p>Club secretary with Finn McCumhaill's, Derrynoose</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:20:50</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Vincent McNaughton

Date: 15th Feb 2011