

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Aidan O'Donoghue
Date of Interview	12 th Sept 2009
Location	Pat's home, Killarney, Co Kerry
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat Delaney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: N/A Home County: Kilkenny
Education	Primary: Clomantagh National School, Urlingford Secondary: Kilkenny CBS Third Level: None
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers, 2 sisters. Current Family if Different: Wife, 4 sons, 1 daughter
Club(s)	Emeralds GAA [Kilkenny]; St Patrick's GAA [Kerry]
Occupation	Irish Life & Permanent Corporate Agent
Parents' Occupation	Shopkeeper [Mother]; Forestry Worker [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil

REFERENCE NO. KK/1/6

Date of Report	24 th Aug 2012
Period Covered	1900 – 2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Kilkenny, Kerry
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>This interview covered different stages of Pat's GAA experiences - from involvement with his local club growing up in Kilkenny to memories of following the Kilkenny county side to moving to Kerry and trying to promote hurling there to general observations on the GAA down the years.</p> <p>Pat has some interesting stories about local rivalries in Kilkenny and travelling to All-Irelands. There is also a detailed account of when the two local clubs in his area became one, and how a local priest ensured that the sometimes delicate negotiations on this coming together went smoothly.</p> <p>As an administrator in both Kilkenny and Kerry his experiences are unique, as he went from a GAA environment where hurling is all that counts to one where it barely registers.</p> <p>Pat talks a lot about how the GAA brought the local community together, gave people something to do, helped engender valuable friendships and left people with some wonderful memories.</p> <p>00:30 First GAA memory, a photo of '57 Kilkenny team in the hall</p> <p>00:45 Players he remembers from the time</p> <p>01:05 Father's love for hurling</p> <p>01:25 Mother's background, a Tipperary woman - but no tension in household despite this fact</p> <p>01:59 Family had a shop and father worked in forestry</p> <p>02: 25 Famous hurler named Maher in next parish over. Museum there now. Mentions Terry Leahy of Urlingford, a famous hurler in the 40s</p>

REFERENCE NO. KK/1/6

	<p>02:45 2 sisters and 2 brothers, brothers GAA fanatics</p> <p>03:20 Kilkenny in a Leinster final always a big deal; local bus organised, one man would always arrange it, big treat to get lunch in Dublin, always stop in Carlow on way home</p> <p>04:30 Local club Clomantagh, first playing memory was at age of 14, clergy always promoting hurling and youngsters always playing it</p> <p>05:20 Playing neighbouring parishes in championship; free orange and ice-cream in local hall after - a big treat</p> <p>05:50 Different local characters and their nicknames and assembling at crossroads before games</p> <p>06:20 Local rivalry with Urlingford, similar jerseys by both teams, fierce competition</p> <p>06:50 People passing Butler's Cross would know if the local team won the match or not because Ned 'Spider' Butler would be out 'making the skittle rings on the cross' if they had lost (the skittle ring would never be painted on the cross until they were out of the championship, so if it was not there, a passer-by would know that they had won the game)</p> <p>07:30 In the 20s there were 4 Clomantagh players on Kilkenny team</p> <p>07:50 50/60 people at local games, players getting togged off in the ditch</p> <p>08:30 Arguments as a result of games - pride of the parish at stake</p> <p>09:30 Hurling was everything in Kilkenny, nothing else to do, going for 'a few pucks between the masses', having 'our own little All-Ireland' while adults were at 11 o'clock mass'</p> <p>10:10 Playing in a field with cattle and trying to avoid them and their dung</p> <p>10:35 No rugby or soccer, a tiny amount of gaelic football, but Kilkenny folk had neither the skill nor the motivation for it</p> <p>10:55 Local rivals Clomantagh and Urlingford both low on players and not doing well in the championship; similar situation in next parish over and they put their two teams together, producing famous players and winning titles</p> <p>12:05 Local curate brings teams together; mediated between the sides - especially when trying to settle on a name for the club</p>
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REFERENCE NO. KK/1/6

	<p>13:00 Details on how priest got a compromise deal on the name of the new club, Emeralds</p> <p>13:30 Pat's favourite playing position, full forward</p> <p>14:00 Played full back one day and had a great game, trainer thought he may have had a future Kilkenny player on his hands, next game at full back he got destroyed by a small, fast player and so was put back at full forward once again. Did his best but loved it.</p> <p>14:40 Went into the administration side of things at an early age (late teens)</p> <p>15:30 Brother, Eddie had been secretary before that so administration was in the family. Pat himself had his Leaving Certificate and many others did not at the time, so he was seen as suitable for administration</p> <p>16:05 Proposed and seconded at AGM before he knew it</p> <p>16:10 Also was on Divisional Board</p> <p>16:15 Made great friends</p> <p>16:20 Knew he wasn't going to cut it as player so administration was a way of staying involved</p> <p>16:35 At Divisional Board meetings arguing with neighbours for an hour over a venue, or a referee</p> <p>17:15 Club was strongly Fianna Fáil, but also Fine Gael members</p> <p>17:40 Mother's shop would sell three times the amount of Irish Presses than they would Irish Independents, same on a Sunday - a strong indicator that the area was more Fianna Fáil</p> <p>18:09 Emigration a problem; always the good players go and the bad ones stick around</p> <p>18:30 If one or two players got a trial for the county minors or U-21s, it would give the club a great lift.</p> <p>18:40 Not many cars so you would see someone about to emigrate waiting at the crossroads for a bus to Kilkenny, before going on to Dublin to get on a boat overseas</p> <p>19:15 Great friendships through GAA</p> <p>19:35 GAA helps career as well - contacts</p> <p>20:00 Learning communication skills as secretary - you've got to know when to be a bit of a rogue, you need to plámás the</p>
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REFERENCE NO. KK/1/6

	<p>players</p> <p>20:40 Trying to fix a match at a meeting - going in with 'all guns blazing' asking for the match on a Sunday that he didn't want it to be on, knowing that the others would not agree and propose a different Sunday just to spite him, so in the end they were playing into his hands and he got what he wanted without the others realising it</p> <p>21:35 Women did not have a big role in administration, but washed the jerseys and often by hand. More involved today</p> <p>22:40 First county game at ten years old. Watching Kilkenny v Cork and Christy Ring playing.</p> <p>23:05 Travelling in neighbour's van. Christy Ring getting a wallop and needing a bandage. Rough tackling.</p> <p>23:39 You would hear older people talking of famous players from the past that you were not familiar with</p> <p>24:00 All-Ireland Sunday, listening to the radio which was battery powered. 20 or 30 lads listening and 'you couldn't cough'.</p> <p>24:30 Micheál Ó Heiher broadcasting and 'you could imagine that you were looking down at it'</p> <p>24:45 First television - 'It was like a dream, like you won the lotto'</p> <p>25:15 Paddy Buckley had first TV, he was a Christian Brother who left them to nurse his sick mother. Did some work with an electrical store and that's how he got the tv - he was not a wealthy man</p> <p>26:00 No tea and biscuits served during games</p> <p>26:10 Kilkenny beat Tipp in 67 after a famine - Tipp fans watching in the house with them. Great memory as they lived on the border with Tipp</p> <p>27:00 Attended first All-Ireland in the 70s. Great years and players</p> <p>27:45 But present-day team (Brian Cody era) is much better than the '69-'75 team</p> <p>28:25 Training facilities and backroom staff much better now</p> <p>28:40 All-Ireland tickets scarce, people disappointed</p> <p>29:30 Tradition was to get local bus, same lads on bus as at all the matches, go to mass first, collect a few in Kilkenny, lunch in Dublin opposite the Garden of Remembrance, lovely</p>
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REFERENCE NO. KK/1/6

	<p>roast chicken and mash and peas, no pints, walk up to Croker</p> <p>30:45 Stop in Carlow on way back. Always one or two stragglers holding the bus up because they were after a few pints, they would come back to the bus 'fairly well-oiled' and would be very funny</p> <p>30:20 Favourite Kilkenny players</p> <p>32:40 On All-Ireland day people supporting different local teams would all be united, but come a championship game they would all shout at each other again</p> <p>33:00 Did not like some of the Tipp players; they always boasted a lot</p> <p>33:40 Did not like Willie Murphy, a Wexford player. 'He was very false.' Liam Dunne of Wexford was also a villain ('no sense to him')</p> <p>34:50 Best game ever was All-Ireland final 2009 - heart pounding; also denying Cork the three-in-a-row in 2006</p> <p>35:30 Junior victory for St Pats in 2007 was memorable, as was Emeralds club winning a junior title in the 80s</p> <p>36:30 Spoiled in Kilkenny because of quality of player</p> <p>36:40 Moved to Killarney in '82. Different landscape. Was lonesome.</p> <p>37:10 Met a neighbour from home in Killarney and get involved with hurling scene</p> <p>37:35 Difficult to get them to train and to commit in Kerry</p> <p>37:45 Administrative roles in Kerry</p> <p>38:20 Kerry footballers playing hurling; people coming in from other counties keeping the scene going on Kerry</p> <p>39:00 Former GAA President Seán Kelly and his hurling days</p> <p>39:30 Former Kerry footballer Seanie Shea 'the best club hurler in Kerry'</p> <p>40:00 Former chairman Pa Doyle - 'Mister Hurling'. Was shot while serving in British Army in WWII, but did not like to mention the fact that he had fought for the British army</p> <p>40:35 Former clubmen Pa Doyle and Donie Brosnan interacting at half-time with the team 20 points behind</p> <p>41:10 Pats were short one day so a local jarvey stepped in and played in his wellingtons</p>
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REFERENCE NO. KK/1/6

	<p>42:00 Struggle to keep it going in Killarney; not getting co-operation from local football clubs</p> <p>43:30 Team struggling in Division 3 this year</p> <p>43:50 Club does not have a ground so has to rely on the goodwill of other clubs</p> <p>44:30: Hard to keep players once they reach the age of 16</p> <p>45:45 Lowest ebb with St Pat's was this year when they had to give too walkovers; felt alone and like he was not getting any co-operation from players; disappointment</p> <p>46:25 But they came first in the GAA section of the St Patrick's Day parade for their float and that was satisfying</p> <p>46:40 Special mass in Killarney cathedral for their 25th anniversary</p> <p>47:40 Mistakes made included managerial appointments</p> <p>48:15 Effect of involvement on family life, wife Bridget 'brought kids up like a single parent'. Looking back it wasn't fair.</p> <p>49:40 Kilkenny brought a lot of catching and tackling back into the game.</p> <p>50:05 Game was played different in the old days - more protection for goalkeepers now, no yellow or red cards then</p> <p>50:45 Croke Park has changed</p> <p>50:55 More money should filter down from big events like concerts to the local clubs</p> <p>51:45 Opening up Croke Park to soccer and rugby was a good thing</p> <p>52:20 Low points - bad fallout in a local county final; Clare and Cork bust up a few years ago was an awful thing; keeping fans off the pitch after '09 All-Ireland was a terrible idea - as kids they could always go on the pitch and play around at half-time</p> <p>52:30 Health and safety reasons for stopping pitch invasions is 'a lot of blarney'; stewards tripped a Kilkenny supporter after the '09 final</p> <p>54:00 GAA were more worried about the field than health and safety</p> <p>54:35 GAA is evolving for the better overall</p>
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REFERENCE NO. KK/1/6

	<p>55:40 Hurling is in a healthy state. Leinster hurling doing well. Relegation issues need sorting though</p> <p>56:30 Kerry County Board putting a lot of effort into hurling, but players are not giving the commitment - many will play for their clubs but not for their county - to win a county final is the be-all-and-end-all in Kerry hurling</p> <p>57:35 He gives over so much of his time because he loves hurling and everything about the sport.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>South Kerry Senior League 1984 (St Pat's) 7-a-side 'Reserve' title 1984 (Glenflesk)</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Secretary, Emeralds, Urlingford, Kilkenny: 1969 - 1982 Chairman, St Pat's East Kerry: 1987 - present (2009) Chairman, South Kerry Hurling District Board: 1994 - present (2009)</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 58:15</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

REFERENCE NO. KK/1/6

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: Aidan O'Donoghue

Date: 16/09/2009

