

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Padraic O'Connor
Date of Interview	6 th Oct 2010
Location	St Patrick's Clubhouse, Lordship, Co. Louth
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jemmy Sheelan [James]
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Yes Secondary: Bush Vocational School
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 3 daughters
Club(s)	St. Patrick's GFC
Occupation	Retired
Parents' Occupation	Factory Employee [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Sinn Féin
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Louth Supporters Club

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Date of Report	22 nd May 2012
Period Covered	1916 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth, Meath, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Officials, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Violence
Interview Summary	<p>The interview covers Jemmy’s family background in the GAA, his earliest memories and underage experiences. He recalls travelling to, and attending, games, including the 1961 All-Ireland football final. Jemmy’s was a member of the Louth All-Ireland winning junior team of 1961 and he recalls that successful campaign. The great players of past and present are discussed, as are the influence the GAA has played in the local community. Jemmy mentions the importance of local rivalries, in particular that between Cooley and St. Pat’s, and he touches on the debacle of Louth’s defeat in the 2010 Leinster senior championship final.</p> <p>00:00:00 James Sheelan is introduced as a ‘stalwart of the St. Pat’s’ who went back to the very foundation of the club.</p> <p>00:00:28 Recalls his earliest involvement with Gaelic games in Lordship school, aged about 12 and joining with Mullaghboy school.</p> <p>00:01:05 Mentions that his father was a member of the first Cooley team to win a championship in 1916.</p> <p>00:01:30 Talks about travelling by train to games to support Louth play and selects the 1957 All-Ireland success as a highlight.</p> <p>00:01:55 Mentions that when he was playing football there were a number of people with cars so ‘you were never stuck’ for a lift.</p> <p>00:02:17 Says that his favourite memory was the 1961 All-Ireland junior final when he scored the winning goal. Discusses that championship campaign, the teams played and defeated. Mentions getting plane to Leeds for final against Yorkshire.</p> <p>00:03:20 Mentions other players from the area on the</p>

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	<p>successful Louth junior team – there were five St. Pat’s players involved.</p> <p>00:03:50 Refers to impact of the GAA on his life – ‘Sure what else have we’.</p> <p>00:04:03 Discusses the impact of GAA on community, in particular on the young people.</p> <p>00:04:27 Mentions that he played his last game for St. Pat’s aged 51, when he was put on in a game to make up 15 players.</p> <p>00:04:50 Refers to his admiration for local man Stephen White and current player, Paddy Keenan. Speculates on Keenan’s prospects of winning an historic All-Star award.</p> <p>00:05:50 Discusses changes in facilities by reference to the conditions that players endured in the past. Recalls putting clothes in plastic bags in a side of a ditch and returning to find it covered in cow’s dung etc.</p> <p>00:06:11 Discusses the various pitches used by the St. Pat’s club over many years. Other former pitches in the Lordship area are also recalled.</p> <p>[Other club members join the conversation at this point]</p> <p>00:07:30 Remarks that his biggest disappointment was in not winning a senior championship medal or even reaching a final. Reflects also on the ‘shocking’ disappointment of the 2010 Leinster final when Louth lost out controversially to Meath. Recounts the events of the end of the game and the ‘shocking decision’ of the referee. Refers also to subsequent game when Dublin players clapped Louth team off field.</p> <p>00:08:25 Reflects on the importance of rivalries in the GAA by reference to the relationship between Cooley and St Pat’s.</p> <p>00:08:50 Recalls the experience of his first game against Cooley aged 17. Refers to the ‘rows and ructions’ that pervaded the rivalry between the teams. Declines to elaborate on the matter.</p> <p>00:10:00 Concludes by describing the GAA was a healthy sport and very good for kids.</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 type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played up until the age of 51.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:10:22
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Padraic O'Connor_____

Date: _____22/05/12_____