

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Paraic O'Connor
Date of Interview	20 th Oct 2010
Location	Coley Kickham's GAA complex
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Adrian Sheelan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1958 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Rathcor Primary School, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers; 1 sister
Club(s)	Cooley Kickham's GFC [Louth]
Occupation	
Parents' Occupation	Mechanic [Father]
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/21

Date of Report	13 th July 2012
Period Covered	1907 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth
Key Themes Covered	Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Club History, County History, Professionalism, Purchase of Grounds, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>The interview charts a lifetime involvement in the GAA and straddles club and inter-county activity. The interviewee discusses the influences – family, school and clergy – that have shaped his association with Gaelic games and with the Cooley Kickhams GFC. The importance of the club to the community is discussed, as are issues around the financing of the club and its development. Volunteerism, sponsorship and rivalries are among the other major themes addressed.</p> <p>00:00:18 Gives personal details and mentions his involvement in Cooley Kickhams GFC.</p> <p>00:00:30 Refers to strong family background in the GAA and the organising of family activity around games.</p> <p>00:00:58 Discusses father and grandfather’s involvement in Cooley Kickhams – the latter won an Intermediate championship with the club in 1907.</p> <p>00:01:27 Mentions been introduced to the GAA through school, refers to influence of Mick Dineen.</p> <p>00:01:52 Discusses travelling to games, walking to home matches and travelling to away match in his father’s car.</p> <p>00:02:26 Mentions as a highlight the winning of the 1964 junior championship by Cooley, which brought the club senior – mentions some of the players on that team.</p> <p>00:03:00 Refers to the Cooley League – a big talking point in his family home. Friends and club people coming to the house to pick teams and talk about games.</p> <p>00:03:55 Recalls picking stones in McEvoy Park prior to its opening in 1966, 1967, 1968. All children in the school helped</p>

	<p>and were rewarded with a 'goodie bag'.</p> <p>00:04:30 Cooley Kickhams as the 'hub of the community'. Shift from the Catholic church to the club in terms of local importance.</p> <p>00:05:00 Mentions the impact of emigration on the club, in particular the loss of players in the mid 1980s.</p> <p>00:05:30 Discusses the importance of rivalries. Rivalry between Cooley and the Blues in the 1960s and, in recent times, with St. Pat's. Only a sporting rivalry.</p> <p>00:06:30 Highlights of his involvement with Cooley: Junior championship in 1964, 1971 senior championship (first in 32 years) and 1990 senior championship win against the odds.</p> <p>00:07:19 Refers to losing to Mattock Rangers in county final in 2010 as a lowlight and explains why.</p> <p>00:08:00 Discusses the incredible changes in the club over years and the costs involved in providing facilities, coaching, buses etc. Mentions the quality inheritance from previous generations of club people.</p> <p>00:09:40 Expands on the changes in the club's position and the growth in the club debt over 20 years.</p> <p>00:10:00 Mentions the annual cost of running a club like Cooley Kickhams.</p> <p>00:10:19 Discusses the role of sponsorship and whether the local GAA gives enough back.</p> <p>00:11:15 Considers the voluntary ethos of the GAA and expresses concern at outside managers being paid to coach club or county teams. Cites as an exemplary role model, Louthman and county manager, Peter Fitzpatrick.</p> <p>00:12:30 Mentions the influence of local priests in the acquiring of grounds, as players and administrators.</p> <p>00:13:17 Discusses Louth's inter-county rivals – Dublin in the 1970s.</p> <p>00:13:48 Mentions his favourite players past and present: Gerry Farrell from Cooley and current Louth county player, Paddy Keenan.</p> <p>00:14:17 Discusses the highs and lows of Louth's 2010 Leinster championship campaign. Expresses disappointment at Croke Park's handling of the controversial Leinster final</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/21

	ending against Meath.
Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <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 between 1972 and 1991
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Club Chairperson for seven years
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:15:00
Language	English

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/21

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: Paraic O'Connor

Date: 21st Oct 2010