

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	N/A
Date of Interview	8 th Feb 2011
Location	N/A
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Lennon
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: N/A Home County: Armagh
Education	N/A
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Keady GAA [Armagh], Middletown GAA [Armagh] and St. Mochua's GAA Derrynoose [Armagh]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	15 th July 2012
Period Covered	1980s - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Armagh, Antrim, Monaghan, Fermanagh, Mayo, Roscommon, Waterford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Playing, Administration, Education, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Career, Challenges, Northern Ireland, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>John Lennon , Chairman of the Derrynoose club, charts the development of his playing career through school and with clubs in Keady and Middletown. He discusses playing alongside his brothers with club and county and the establishment of a separate hurling club in Derrynoose, following a decision to split with Middletown. The progress of hurling in Derrynoose through the 1990s and up to 2011 is discussed, with an emphasis on the underage policy. In acknowledging many positive developments, Lennon points up the challenges from unemployment and the competition from football for the affections and time of talented dual players. At the end of the end of the interview, Lennon reflects on the achievements of the Derrynoose’s club and the importance of hurling to it.</p> <p>Sports Covered: Hurling, Gaelic football, rugby</p> <p>00:00:10 John Lennon, chairman of the Derrynoose club, talks about his background, mentions that he played underage and adult hurling with Keady.</p> <p>00:00:30 Talks about playing hurling in ‘High School’ at under 12 and under 14 and winning ‘a few championships’ with Keady club.</p> <p>00:00:42 Refers to leaving to join his younger brothers at Middletown, where he played senior hurling.</p> <p>00:00:55 Decision to break with Middletown and establish a hurling club in Derrynoose in the late 1980s, early 1990s.</p> <p>00:01:22 Discusses playing with Armagh from his early twenties and the players he played alongside, including his brothers. Says there could have been four Lennon’s fielding for the county hurlers at any one time.</p> <p>00:02:43 Mentions playing Division 3 hurling against teams like Roscommon and Mayo. Refers to playing Waterford on</p>

	<p>one occasion.</p> <p>00:03:00 Talks about success enjoyed with Keady and then Middletown. Refers to reaching Ulster club semi-final against Ballycastle, a game played in Derrynoose.</p> <p>00:03:48 Leaving Middletown and establishing the nucleus of a new team in Derrynoose.</p> <p>00:05:10 Reflects on the competitiveness of Derrynoose hurlers in the 1990s, including reference to other Armagh clubs and the influx of clubs from Monaghan and Fermanagh in the North-eastern league.</p> <p>00:06:00 Reflects on the development of hurling in Derrynoose from the early 1990s to 2011, describing as being on the 'up and up' and highlighting the impact of the club's underage policy.</p> <p>00:07:15 Talks about the challenges of unemployment and maintaining young people in a rural community.</p> <p>00:07:45 Mentions the crossover in participation between football and hurling and the necessity of choosing one over the other. Expresses a fear that hurling will lose out in a county like Armagh. Refers to his own involvement in football, hurling and rugby.</p> <p>00:08:20 Talks about the need to promote dual players and criticises the 'lip service' played to hurling.</p> <p>00:09:22 Comments on the achievement of the Derrynoose club in promoting all codes in a small rural area, with a 'small pick' of players. Emphasises the key place of hurling in club and its importance to the success of the club.</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 type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Player with three Armagh clubs - Keady, Middletown, St. Mochua's, Derrynoose – winning county hurling titles</p> <p>Inter-county hurler with Armagh</p>

REFERENCE NO. AR/1/46

Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Chairman of St. Mochua's, Derrynoose club
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:10:54
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____

Date: _____