

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Padraic O'Connor
Date of Interview	24 th Nov 2010
Location	
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Mulroy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1944 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Fieldstown National School, Co. Louth. Secondary: Drogheda Technical College, Co. Louth.
Family	Siblings: 1 sister
Club(s)	Naomh Martin GAA Club [Louth]
Occupation	Lorry Driver
Parents' Occupation	Sailor; County Council worker [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/38

Date of Report	13 th July 2012
Period Covered	1940s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Challenges, Professionalism, Socialising
Interview Summary	<p>John Mulroy charts his beginning of his involvement as a 'masseur' with the Naomh Mairtin club as a teenager in the late 1950s. The background to the emergence of the club and nature of his subsequent involvement are discussed as are the influence of lifestyle and work on natural levels of fitness. In addition, Mulroy addresses issues of emigration, amateurism and professionalism, changing communities and youth development .</p> <p>00:00:08 John Mulroy introduces himself as a member of Naomh Mairtin, Monasterboice.</p> <p>00:00:13 Involvement with adult team began at 14 years old when club was preparing for 1958 final when he would rub embrocation ('goose grease') into 'tired limbs' after training – reference is made to the exercises undertaken by team trainer, Patsy McCullagh. [laughter]</p> <p>00:01:30 Mentions that brother was involved with that team and that he would travel to watch training on the back of his motorbike.</p> <p>00:01:50 Discusses the source of the 'goose grease' that was used as embrocation for players – local butchers and women would provide it.</p> <p>00:02:15 Lack of prowess as a player and inclination towards committees.</p> <p>00:02:40 Involvement on committees began in early 1960s. Mentions the roles held within the club – selector on various teams and chairman of club from the mid 1990s.</p> <p>00:03:15 Mentions the problems of predecessor clubs to Naomh Mairtin, especially with emigration.</p> <p>00:04:05 Mentions prevailing economic difficulties and return</p>

	<p>of emigration. Reference is made to the departure of a county player to Australia and the sense that more might follow.</p> <p>00:04:50 The GAA record of 'looking after' members with jobs is compared negatively to that of rugby.</p> <p>00:05:24 Comments on the GAA's worth to the community, the revenues generated by Gaelic games.</p> <p>00:05:45 Describes early involvement in physio role as a 'labour of love'.</p> <p>00:06:10 Mentions injured players from all over the county queuing up to receive treatment from an individual in Dundalk – a man with 'magic hands'.</p> <p>00:07:00 Reflects on physical nature of work –farming and building - that many former players were engaged in. Walking and cycling also contributed to a natural fitness.</p> <p>00:08:00 Travelling to support Louth by car and then by club-hired bus.</p> <p>00:08:35 Discusses disappointment of the 2010 Leinster final.</p> <p>00:09:05 Refers to the local pubs as the gathering points for teams after matches in the early days. Absence of club facilities until the 1960s.</p> <p>00:09:30 Family engagement with GAA: father not involved, but may have played with Dreadnots in early 1900s. Influence of local cleric in getting minor teams started in late 1940s and beginning of his brother's involvement.</p> <p>00:10:15 Importance of amateurism to GAA and fear of impact of professionalism on voluntary ethos.</p> <p>00:11:10 Reference to Rob Kearney, Louth minor turned rugby international. Discussion of pay for play and Government tax incentive scheme for players.</p> <p>00:12:30 Impact of economic boom and openness of club to newcomers to community. Reference of presentation by club to 300 people in Boyne Valley. Mentions that club offers cheap sport and entertainment – membership is €30 for year.</p> <p>00:13:45 Discussion of the juvenile set-up in club, the attitude of parents, the proportion of mentors to children and the prospects for future success of the club.</p> <p>00:15:00 Greatest memories of club and county: achievement of senior status in 1988 and Louth's 1957 All-Ireland success.</p>
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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 checked="" 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 5/6 years
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Club Committee Member for 50 years; Club Chairperson for 8 years
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview:00:15:30
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Padraic O'Connor

Date: 24th Nov 2010