

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	16 th Dec 2010
Location	Pat Amond's home
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat Amond, Bob Sheehan, Seán Campion, John Amond, Tommy Hughes
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Males
Born	<p>Pat: 1964, Carlow</p> <p>Bob: 1944, Carlow</p> <p>Seán: 1953, Carlow</p> <p>John: 1939, Carlow</p> <p>Tommy: 1948, Carlow</p>
Education	<p>Primary: Ballinabranna National School</p> <p>Secondary: Carlow VEC</p> <p>Third Level:</p> <p>Pat: Carlow Institute of Technology</p>
Family	<p>Siblings:</p> <p>Pat: N/A</p> <p>Bob: 3 brothers and 6 sisters</p> <p>Seán: N/A</p> <p>John: N/A</p> <p>Tommy: 3 brothers and 3 sisters</p> <p>Current Family if Different:</p> <p>Pat: N/A</p> <p>Bob: 2 sons and 1 daughter</p>

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	<p>Seán: N/A John: Deirdre (wife); 3 daughters Tommy: Alice (wife); 1 son and 1 daughter</p>
Club(s)	<p>All: Ballinabranna GFA [Carlow] Pat: St Fintan's Hurling Club; Michael Davitts GFC Juvenile [Carlow] Seán: St Fintan's Hurling Club and Naomh Bríd's [Carlow] Tommy: Crettyard GAA [Laois]</p>
Occupation	<p>Pat: Tool Maker Bob: Welder/Steel Erector Seán: Security Officer John: Fitter Tommy: Farm Manager</p>
Parents' Occupation	<p>Pat: Fitter [Father]; Housewife [Mother] Bob: Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother] Sean: N/A John: N/A Tommy: Stud Groom [Father]; Housewife [Mother]</p>
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	<p>Pat: None Bob: None Seán: Fianna Fáil John: Fianna Fáil</p>
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	None

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Date of Report	6 th June 2012
Period Covered	1890 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Carlow, Kilkenny, Down, Kerry, Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Sligo, Waterford, Wexford, Great Britain, Birmingham, Coventry, Europe, Portugal
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Facilities, Playing, Celebrations, Fundraising, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Food and Drink, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	<p>The history of the club is discussed and the local rivalries. They then talk of the games being played in school and the role of the teachers and clergy. The local employers are discussed and the players that came to the club through these employers. Facilities and training are then spoken about. The role of the club in the community and the developments that have taken place over the years and their success in Scór are discussed. The problem of emigration is looked at and they also talk of visits by the club to various places in Ireland and abroad. They mention the ICA and the help they give to the club. They talk of the celebrations after a match regardless of the outcome. They speak about the pride in the club and the area and of the fundraising events. They also talk of the future developments in the club.</p> <p>00:37 They discuss the club formation in 1890 and the setup of the club. Mentions there being a committee but no chairman. Also mentions Tom Brian the captain who ran the club, James Hanlon secretary and Frank McArdle treasurer and the rest of the committee.</p> <p>01:50 Talks of the reformation of the club in 1909 as a junior club and how it featured in Father Lawlor's history of the GAA in Carlow. Mentions the present club being formed in 1936.</p> <p>02:44 Speaks of the medals being won in Myshall in 1957 in a seven a side. Mentions their first championship being 1959 and winning again in 1963 both league and championship.</p> <p>03:10 They talk of the minor team in 1962 in football and hurling and the opposition using illegal players. Mentions an incident in work when the county board decision was given for the company.</p> <p>06:11 Talks of winning some tournaments in 1963, Ballinree sports and Leighlinbridge. Mentions not getting a medal for</p>

	<p>the 1963 minor as he was playing soccer at the same time.</p> <p>07:22 Talks of their being three clubs in the parish with Ballinabranna, Leighlinbridge and Old Leighlin.</p> <p>08:04 Talks of the friendly rivalry between these clubs and Milford being the main rivals but only on the field.</p> <p>10:40 Speaks of the national school and of the games being played in the school. Mentions Mr. Doyle a school master from Kerry and Fr. Kennedy who came from Borris and who took the parish team to win the championship in 1958. Also mentions that five of the team went on to play with the county.</p> <p>12:48 Talks of players who went on to play hurling for Carlow, Johnny Byrne, Bob Sheehan, Pat Macken, Tony Whelan, Francis Martin, Danny Doyle.</p> <p>13:25 They discuss the early days in school when the focus was on football as the teacher Mr. Doyle wasn't interested in hurling but the local Sergeant Geraghty who in 1950 brought hurls in to the boys for sixpence each.</p> <p>14:27 Talks of the hurling being more successful in Saint Fintan's club. Mentions winning hurling championships at every level. Also mentions the work that Fr. Kennedy did for the lads playing organising lifts for almost the whole team in his Austin Cambridge and sticking up for the players when they were being given out to from the sideline.</p> <p>17:30 Talks of being U14 and playing once a fortnight against U16 and the Perry Cup between clubs from Carlow, Laois, Kilkenny and Kildare.</p> <p>18:42 They speak of various tournaments, Meany Cup, Killeshin tournament, Fr. Marry Cup and the Brother Leo.</p> <p>19:28 They tell of the various industries that employed people in the area with 1000 jobs between the lime works, coal mines, tannery, mills and stud farms. Mentions that the employees were mainly local other than the mills and tannery but the club never benefitted from these. Also mentions Paddy O'Neill, Seamus and Sean Darcy from the forestry.</p> <p>21:53 Tell how when the hurling was going well in the 1960's and 70's they attracted men from Carlow town, Danny Doyle, Tony Whelan, Baggys Walsh, Mickey Begley, Seán Kiely, Mickey Rice and Pat Summers.</p> <p>23:10 They discuss why the hurling was strong at the time. Mention there was little else to do and it being new to the</p>
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	<p>area. Also mentions badminton being played a lot and camogie being popular but soccer only coming to the fore later on as there were so many Gaelic games tournaments.</p> <p>25:33 They talk of the several fields they played in the lime works, Alexander's fields etc.. Mentions having a rope for a crossbar. Also mentions being ordered out after a fight following a tournament match.</p> <p>28:40 Talks of a dressing room going up in the field in front of Tommy Dunne's. Mentions lifting the dressing room to a new field.</p> <p>30:23 They talk of cycling to matches in Carlow, Tullow, Bagnalstown sometimes carrying someone. Mentions Fr. Kennedy being chairman of Bord na nÓg.</p> <p>31:35 Talks of Ballinabranna losing two senior finals winning three senior division one league finals. Mention Peadar Smith training the team and relate several stories of games up to the 1970's.</p> <p>33:53 They talk of the training regime at the time being similar to now but less intense. They mention that there were less injuries as most of the players worked physical jobs and were fit from cycling everywhere. Also mentions players today being softer and being driven harder to make the team leading to more injuries.</p> <p>35:25 They talk of the pressure to get on to a team in their day. Mention players being of a different temperament today.</p> <p>36:58 Bob Sheehan talks of his time playing for the county in both football and hurling. Mentions playing Kildare in Athy and Pat Dunney, Carew, Tom Dunne, Pat Macken. Also mentions training with the team in Carlow and Mick O'Brien.</p> <p>39:16 Talks of the 1973 Senior Carlow team playing Louth, Ben McNally and Pat, Francie and Martin Keating.</p> <p>40:45 Shows some photos of the team. Pat McNally, Ben.</p> <p>41:32 They talk of the skills within the club and the ease with which they played together having played together since they were in school.</p> <p>42:46 Tells of Randalls of Wexford supplying hurls.</p> <p>43:12 They discuss the role of the club in the community and the development of the club over the years. Mention land being purchased by Fr. Kerrigan from Noel Hughes for the extension to the school. Also mentions Pat Butler giving</p>
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	<p>some money toward the cost of £16,000 (£2,600 per acre).</p> <p>47:05 Tells of selling tickets by planting two people to buy and everyone will follow.</p> <p>47:50 Talks of getting a grant from Croke Park and Pat Butler raising a lot of money from business associates. Mentions Lord Mayors, race nights and other events.</p> <p>49:27 They discuss the committee meetings leading up to the purchase of the field in the 1970's. Mentions pressure being brought on the club when things moved quicker than they had thought. Also mentions Pat Butler putting pressure on people to get things done.</p> <p>51:20 Talk of the field being purchased in 1976 and the clubhouse being opened in 1984 for the centenary year. Mentions Mick Loftus, Pat O'Brien and Paddy Buggy who opened the clubhouse and Wexford and Offaly footballers playing the opening game.</p> <p>53:11 They talk of the voluntary work involved in building and developing the club. Mentions John Almond, Billy Dobbs, John O'Brien, John Keogh, Patrick, Sean and Pat Carter, who all gave long service to the club. Also mentions Billy Dobbs and John O'Brien never seeing eye to eye with each other.</p> <p>58:17 They talk of landmark moments in the club history for the development of their own grounds. Mentions the pride in the club and football being the dominant sport. Also mentions being the first club team to represent Carlow in the club hurling championships against a Kilkenny team 'The Bridge' [Bennettsbridge]</p> <p>01:01:03 Talks of a game against Kildavin in Tullow when the referee, Tony Maher, was attacked.</p> <p>01:01:30 They discuss winning the Ballad element of Scór in 1966 and did not receive medals because it wasn't football. Mentions only having one football. Also mentions the secretary at the time going blind when a blasting cap exploded in his face.</p> <p>01:04:51 They speak about the club members' involvement in the drama and how successful they were. Mentions them travelling around and winning various cups. Also mentions them having to put on extra nights due to their popularity.</p> <p>01:07:37 Tells of the ICA and how they organised the first club dinner dance. Mentions the work of women within the club at committee level. Also mentions the ICA being the</p>
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	<p>women's committee of the club and vice a versa.</p> <p>01:10:05 Talks of the standard of football going down as the effort being put in by the players is not as much as it used to be. Mentions the old days when the senior team would have come through from juvenile levels. Also mentions that now with three parish teams there are not the same chances for players and the school children have so many other options.</p> <p>01:13:00 Talk of losing one of the most promising players they had, Patrick's son, who had hurled with Carlow minors before going to play for Sligo Rovers, Shamrock Rovers and is now playing premiership soccer in Portugal. Mentions him being a natural talent.</p> <p>01:14:35 They talk of the problem of emigration for the club and how they lost many good players sometimes at the one time. Mentions some players being brought back to play in particular matches. Also mentions Pat Butler coming on as sub striking an opposition player and walking off the far side of the pitch.</p> <p>01:16:17 Talks of the players going to Birmingham or Coventry and playing for clubs over there. Mentions Ballinabranna club sailing to play against Sean McDermott's club team in Birmingham.</p> <p>01:18:21 They talk of being the first club to request the ban on foreign sports be lifted. Mentions two of their players being banned for playing hockey.</p> <p>01:19:40 Tell of playing teams in various places around Ireland, Waterford, Shannon and Ballinacorty. Mentions Vincent Byrne and how he was instrumental in organising games. Also mentions a visit to Shannon and a sing song on the way home with only one song.</p> <p>01:25:22 They speak of the visit abroad being open to everyone and sometimes being light on players and players having to play two games in one day. Mentions the players in the Birmingham club all being Irish. Also mentions staying in a hotel and the black people running it staying up to serve them and needing to restock on Sunday.</p> <p>01:28:28 Tell of the Birmingham club coming to play in Ballinabranna and the players going to their home places.</p> <p>01:28:55 They discuss celebrations over the years regardless of the outcome of the game. Mention going to Clerkin's pub in Carlow and the big sing songs that they always had. Also</p>
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	<p>mention a poem about the seven a side team in 1955.</p> <p>01:31:08 They talk about Scor and how they won in 1966. Mentions Dominic, and Mick Foley singing.</p> <p>01:34:03 Tell of camogie in Ballinabranna and ladies football in the parish. Mention it starting in the knitting factory. Also mention camogie being played in other clubs locally, Myshall Naomh Bríd and Mount Leinster Rangers.</p> <p>01:36:45 They talk of the relationship with the county board being good down through the years with the exception of the 1974 semi final when there was a tragedy in the club and the decision to play was left up to the opposition who togged out scored and celebrated.</p> <p>01:39:47 Tell of Tom Hughes being the first referee to win three refereeing awards in a row 1976, '77 and '78. Mentions turning down an All-Ireland minor final as his daughter was unwell. Also mentions there being too many rules now and common sense not being too evident.</p> <p>01:42:50 Speaks of training under John Moloney and being struck once leaving the field. Mentions refereeing in Kilkenny.</p> <p>01:45:27 Talks of Tom's brother Leo being the first to referee the hurling and football final in the one year. Mentions moving on to training after refereeing.</p> <p>01:46:45 They talk of their pride in the place and how this kept them involved in the GAA. Mentions it keeping alive the traditional links with family involvement. Also mentions Jack Dunne and his long involvement in the club.</p> <p>01:49:59 Talks of the club being a community centre for many events. Mentions many charity nights. Also mentions there being some objections to opening a bar in the club and a local publican turning down the running of the bar.</p> <p>01:53:47 Talks of the big bands that used to play in the club such as Joe Dolan. Mentions being fined €1200 for advertising cabarets in the club while other clubs were not.</p> <p>02:01:47 They talk of major fundraisers (£15,000) in the early 1970's in Millford with the Indians, Brendan Boyer, Johnny McEvoy, Red Hurley and others. Mentions the Indians costing £1200 in 1976 and almost losing money on the nights.</p> <p>02:04:44 They talk of only making money when Johnny McEvoy played as he only charged £400.</p> <p>02:05:55 Talks of a fundraiser in the 1980's by selling 1000</p>
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	<p>tickets at £20 each and giving out £10,000 in prizes. Mentions only having about 500 tickets sold with five days to go and a big push to sell the remaining tickets being a success. Also mentions Jack Dempsey, Tommy Dunne and John Doyle working hard to sell the remaining tickets.</p> <p>02:08:48 Tell of running a Lord Mayor event over three months in 1993 and raising £36,000. Mentions Tom McDonnell, Faith Amond, and Tom Hughes running for election.</p> <p>02:11:26 They talk about what they would have done without the GAA. Mention emigration would have increased.</p> <p>02:12:07 Tell of their hopes for the future of the GAA in Ballinabranna. Mention an increase in the population that should lead to new players for the club with work. Also mention their admiration for those that run the club.</p> <p>02:14:11 They talk about the plans for the future developments of the club. Mention spending €125,000 two years ago on the lighting system and the plans now are for €200,000 to €300,000 to be spent. Also mention Saint Joseph's in Laois who are a successful club and have no facilities.</p> <p>02:17:22 They talk of Carlow playing Down in 1961 and Billy Dobbs organising a bus and the bus left without him. Mentions Timmons pub and seeing Billy Dobbs, Johnny Miley and Jack Dunne who had missed the bus and bringing them to a spot on the bus route to give out to the lads on the bus for leaving them behind. Also mentions a trip to New Ross to see Carlow play Waterford and an accordion player on the bus.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Pat:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input 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>

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	<p>Bob:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <hr/> <p>Seán:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" 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> <hr/> <p>John:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input 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> <hr/> <p>Tommy:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <hr/>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Pat: N/A</p> <p>Bob: U14, minor and senior hurling and football; played hurling and football for Carlow for five years in the 1960s/70s</p> <p>Seán: N/A</p> <p>John: N/A</p> <p>Tommy: Senior Football League medals; U21 hurling and football championships; Senior football league medals – all</p>

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	with Ballinabranna and St Fintans.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Pat: N/A Bob: Chairman of St Fintan's Hurling Club; Secretary of Ballinabranna GFC. Seán: N/A John: Vice-Chairman and Treasurer of Ballinabranna GFC Tommy: Secretary of Ballinabranna Hurling Club.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:21:04
Language	English

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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 6th June 2012