

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie (Pat Kieran's and Eileen Kennedy also present)
Date of Interview	30 th July 2010
Location	West Court Hotel, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Peter Judge Junior
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1963 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: St. Joseph's, Sunday's Gate, Drogheda, Co. Louth Secondary: St. Mary's, Beamore Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 5 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 2 children
Club(s)	Newtown Blues GFC, Drogheda
Occupation	Carpenter
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/7

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Patrick Judge
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1932 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: St. Patrick's School, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 8 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 1 son
Club(s)	Newtown Blues GFC, Drogheda
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	Factory Worker [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	St. Peter's Male Voice Choir

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/7

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Peter Judge Senior
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Yes
Family	Siblings: 8 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 8 children
Club(s)	Newtown Blues GFC, Drogheda
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	Factory Worker [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Male Voice Choir

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/7

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Oliver Judge
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1936 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Yes Secondary: Yes
Family	Siblings: 8 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 4 children
Club(s)	Newtown Blues GFC, Drogheda
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	Factory Worker [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/7

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paul Judge
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1944 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: St Patrick's NS, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 8 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 1 son & 3 daughters
Club(s)	Newtown Blues GFC, Drogheda
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	Factory Worker [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	None

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/7

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jack Judge
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1930 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: St Patrick's NS, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 8 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 4 sons & 3 daughters
Club(s)	Newtown Blues GFC, Drogheda
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	Factory Worker [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	None

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/7

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eugene Judge
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1958 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Congress Avenue School, Drogheda, Co. Louth Secondary: St. Mary's, Beamore Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: 3 children
Club(s)	Newtown Blues GFC, Drogheda
Occupation	Building Contractor
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	27 th June 2012
Period Covered	1887 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Northern Ireland, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>The Judge family discuss the history of the Newtown Blues club in Drogheda, with which they have been associated for decades. The older members recall the start-stop nature of the club's early years during a time that was very different to 2010 in terms of lifestyle, economics, technology, facilities and sporting equipment. Although the club was stabilised by the 1930s the country was soon under the shadow of World War II, which impacted on the club in different ways. The 1950s saw Louth claim an All-Ireland senior title and the Judges share their memories of that time. The club remained progressive and there was a hugely successful team during the 1960s. In later years they developed facilities as money became more plentiful and the population of the area expanded. Women began to play a bigger part as the club and wider society modernised. Soccer has traditionally been strong in Drogheda and urbanisation has meant that the GAA is not popular throughout the entire area, but the dedication of the Judges and other families like them should ensure the security of the Association in Drogheda for many years to come.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:50 (Pat) Earliest GAA memory. Playing in Termonfeckin at Under-14 level in the 1930s. What it meant to people. Being asked by club secretary Charlie McDonnell to collect footballs from man who made them.</p>

	<p>02:25 (Peter) Earliest memory. Playing minor football in 1948 against the Larks. What the score was. Ban in effect. People playing with different teams. Matty Leonard playing. Father working in the mills. Where they got jerseys from.</p> <p>04:20 (Jack) Born in Greenhills. Going to grandmother's house, mentions his uncle Michael. No juvenile football in the area. What they did instead. His playing career. Reason it was brief.</p> <p>06:40 (Oliver) Father driving force behind GAA in the area. Originally from Tyrone. Captain of Newtown Blues team in 1952. Winning their first cup since 1936.</p> <p>08:25 (Paul) Playing football at St Patrick's National School. Captain of the school team. Fr Kevin Connolly a former Louth footballer in charge of the team.</p> <p>09:20 Thomas Cotton giving them boots. Playing in street leagues. Playing for Newtown Blues in the 1960s under Bobby McDonnell. Playing with Christy Faulkner.</p> <p>10:50 Blues' old clubhouse at Sandyford Terrace. Bringing boots to games.</p> <p>11:30 Gaelic games not encouraged at school in the early days. Fr Connolly starting up a team.</p> <p>12:15 Mother's family, McKennas, playing with Newtown Blues. People talking about the old days during the 1930s. Older people looking to the past. Mick Kearns forward-looking.</p> <p>13:20 Older people losing interest in the 1930s. Father's dedication. How the team fared in the 1930s. World War Two breaking out in 1939. Emigration to England. What the 1939 team were like. Playing Cooley in a final. Jamie Coyle playing for the Blues and asking the referee for another ball.</p> <p>16:00 Tradition of singing at the club. Returning from games and going to the pub. Pappy Fox, Larry Delaney singing. Jack Woods a character. Team using brylcreem and not wearing caps.</p> <p>17:20 O'Reilly man making All-Ireland footballs. What they used to use for footballs. Materials used to make them.</p> <p>18:55 Bringing a ball to Joe O'Neill for repair. What the balls were like to play with. Shape. Risk of injury. How balls affected standard of play.</p> <p>21:00 Blues renting out space to a cobbler named Benton.</p>
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	<p>Derry man named Crilly using it in later years.</p> <p>21:45 Where they played games. Purchasing land in 1928. Caretaker named Byrne having the key for the gate. Byrne being difficult. Water tap inside the gate. Dressing-rooms and what they were like. Washing themselves after a game and how they did that. Hens and a donkey around.</p> <p>24:20 What the pitch was like. History of the field.</p> <p>25:20 Peter's son Peter enters. His earliest memory. Playing for Erin's Hope. Uncle Jim starting a team called St. Kieran's in Drogheda. Joining Newtown Blues.</p> <p>26:45 Purchasing the field in Drogheda. What it cost. O'Rahilly's playing in the field. Shares in the field. Getting a loan from Central Council. Grants.</p> <p>29:20 1960s team training on Christian Brothers' field. Playing on that field.</p> <p>30:25 Style of football when they were younger and how it has changed over the years. Physical build of players. Manual labour. Tom Black a bricklayer. Simple nature of how the game was played. Injuries in the modern game.</p> <p>34:20 Butch Kelly going to play soccer in England. Knee trouble he had. Surgery required.</p> <p>34:55 Training they did and what that was like. Training that was done in 1960s. Candles used in dressing-rooms at Christian Brothers' field. Training until late at night.</p> <p>37:50 Their sisters' interest in GAA. Siblings playing football when they were young. Father having to intervene on occasion. Father encouraging them to join boxing club. Reason for that. Getting boxing gloves and a football for Christmas.</p> <p>41:10 Father good with his hands. Education he got. Father making shoes and taking up carpentry. Making a suite for furniture.</p> <p>42:40 Mother washing jerseys and taking them to matches.</p> <p>43:45 Father cutting down trees. Helping him saw wood.</p> <p>44:25 Impact of World War Two.</p> <p>45:05 Going to the Leinster final on the train in 1943. Beating Laois. Playing Roscommon in the All-Ireland semi-final. Player from Sean O'Mahony's missing frees. Fr Mick Hardy</p>
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	<p>playing for Louth. Roscommon a talented team at the time. Getting off train at Amiens Street Station. Going to Mrs Murphy's milk bar on way to Croke Park. What it was like at the stadium. Father excited. Man dying in the stands.</p> <p>48:25 Going to the 1950 All-Ireland final.</p> <p>49:05 Trains from Louth to Dublin very busy. Young people positioned on the case rack. Where they watched the game from at Croke Park. Stand tickets not in demand back then.</p> <p>51:00 Lots of people going through turnstiles. Cigarette smoke during games. National anthem. Approaching the ground and big crowds all around. Roar of crowd.</p> <p>52:40 How they travelled to games. Going to Castleblayney, Dundalk, Ardee for games. Limited number of grounds in the county. Bicycles.</p> <p>53:50 Drogheda Larks, Dominic's, Roche Emmets, O'Rahillys, Cooley, St Patrick's their rivals. Ardee once a strong team. Club fortunes changing over the years. Town teams struggling in 2010.</p> <p>56:40 Popularity of soccer in the towns and amongst juveniles. Impact of that on GAA.</p> <p>57:55 Impact of the Ban on their club. Vote on the Ban at a meeting. Club's position on the issue.</p> <p>59:20 Playing soccer growing up. Winning a Drogheda league.</p> <p>01:00:30 Vigilante committees. Incident in 1968. Transfer of a player refused. Subsequent allegation that he was playing soccer. Possible ulterior motives. Objection.</p> <p>01:02:30 Relationship club had with the county board. JJ Matthews chairman of the county board. Club representation on county board.</p> <p>01:05:00 Certain clubs not having a minor team. Bringing their players into their minor team. Mary's a strong team at minor level. Debate about bringing in a parish rule at convention. How that affected them. Convention in Ardee. Man giving a speech and dropping dead.</p> <p>01:07:40 Playing illegally. Being asked to play for Garristown against Skerries in Dublin. Others in the area playing illegally. What they were given by clubs for doing so. Practice impossible in modern age.</p>
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	<p>01:10:10 Clerical ban. Priests playing under assumed names. Some of them able to play, some not. Christian Brothers preventing certain people from playing.</p> <p>01:12:30 Role of priests in the Association. Fr Lennon running street leagues. Fr Deegan's involvement. Ferrying people around in his car.</p> <p>01:13:55 Role of teachers. Niall McCormack's involvement as club secretary. Pat Doyle involvement at committee level. His wife helping to take players to games.</p> <p>01:16:15 Women's involvement. Anne Fagan chairperson, Judy Carr treasurer of the club in the past. How women were received in the beginning. How they got involved.</p> <p>01:18:10 Fundraisers held by the club. Cycles. King of the Glen. Martin Fox taking part. Flag days. Dublin man selling Evening Herald newspapers remarking on flag days.</p> <p>01:23:05 Club founded in 1887. Mick Leonard, Tom Doyle, John King and Paddy Devlin involved. Club fading out. Returning 1905-1908. Returning in 1924. Success inspiring local people. Where they got the name from. Colours they wear.</p> <p>01:26:30 Peter playing with Erin's Hope. Teams in Drogheda that contested street leagues. Benefits of street leagues. Too many players around for them all to play with Newtown Blues.</p> <p>01:29:15 Club winning several underage titles in 1975.</p> <p>01:29:40 Record number of Judges on one time. Bosco, Pádraig, Micko, David playing with them.</p> <p>01:30:35 What the GAA means to the family.</p> <p>01:31:20 Role of the GAA in Drogheda.</p> <p>01:31:45 All-Irelands of 1950 and 1957. Son of their brother Jimmy on the team in 1957. Family travelling to the match. What it was like having a brother on the Louth team. Jimmy having to go to England and back for work. How that affected his playing career. Less media spotlight when he was playing.</p> <p>01:34:15 Homecoming celebrations after All-Ireland victory.</p> <p>01:35:00 How the club might have done if All-Ireland club championships were introduced earlier. Successful team of the 1960s. 1971 Leinster final. Billy Hammond singing on the train. Physical nature of game. Songs that were sung on train</p>
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	<p>journeys.</p> <p>01:39:25 Song is sung.</p> <p>01:40:30 Club participation in Scór. Termonfeckin and Oliver Plunkett's involved.</p> <p>01:42:50 Differences between running a GAA club in an urban area and running one in a rural area.</p> <p>01:44:05 Rule changes over the years. Prevalence of hand-passing in modern game and opinion of that. Tactical nature of modern game.</p> <p>01:45:45 Changes in media and technology over the years and impact on the GAA. Listening to games on the radio. Louth playing Kerry in 1953. Reading the headline in the Kerryman newspaper. Minor team playing Clare. Listening on the radio. Reaction on hearing result of minor game.</p> <p>01:50:30 Playing in CBS fields in the past. Purchasing a field. Development in 2000. Upgrading facilities. Purchasing land from CIE. Facilities they have in 2010. Plans for the future. Shane Redmond on development committee.</p> <p>01:52:20 Future prospects for Newtown Blues. Parents' involvement. Mentors from the local area who moved to Drogheda from outside. Population growth. Celtic Tiger.</p> <p>01:54:10 Vacating Christian Brothers field. Joe Moore helping the club with land. Price of land. Payment agreement. What the land was worth in later years.</p> <p>01:55:35 Hurling tradition at the club. Reason hurling is not very strong in the area. Where they got hurls from in the past. Brother Ryan involved in hurling. People from outside the county getting involved in hurling.</p> <p>01:58:10 Ladies football and camogie at the club. Impact of ladies teams. St Etna's camogie team in the town in the 1950s.</p> <p>01:59:10 (Peter) GAA hero – his Dad.</p> <p>02:00:05 (Pat) GAA hero. Admiration for Jim McDonnell, Derry's Jim McKeever and Mick Higgins of Cavan.</p> <p>02:00:40 (Peter) GAA hero – Tom Langan of Mayo, Jack Regan of Louth.</p> <p>02:01:00 (Oliver) GAA hero – Brian Mullins of Dublin.</p>
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	<p>02:01:20 (Paul) GAA hero – Brian Mullins.</p> <p>02:01:30 (Jack) GAA hero – Sean Purcell.</p> <p>02:01:50 (Eugene) GAA hero – Peter Canavan.</p> <p>02:02:15 Going to unusual places to watch games. Taking a taxi to a Railway Cup match in Ballinasloe. Playing in Gaelic Park and what that was like. Munster final between Kerry and Cork. Changes in standard of pitches over the years. Watching a Railway Cup game in Clones in 1949.</p> <p>02:06:20 Broadcaster Micheál Ó Hehir asking them a question about Jimmy McDonnell at a game.</p> <p>02:08:10 (Eugene) Best GAA memory. Need to retain amateur status of GAA. Rest of group give their best GAA memories.</p> <p>02:12:50 (Group) Disappointments over the years.</p> <p>02:17:00 (Group) What the GAA has meant to them.</p> <p>02:20:30 Championship final of 1974. Player telling goalkeeper where he was going to put a penalty. What happened.</p> <p>02:21:10 People’s commitment to the Newtown Blues club.</p> <p>02:22:40 Opponents praising the way Newtown Blues played football.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Peter Jr:</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 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>Patrick:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" 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>Peter Sr: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): __Honorary President_____</p> <p>Oliver: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" 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): _____</p> <p>Paul: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input 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): _____</p> <p>Jack: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): __Selector_____</p> <p>Eugene: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input 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): _____</p>

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<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Peter Jr: Played from 1970 – 2005. Won 1 Under 16 championship, 2 Under 21 championships, 2 Ranafast Cups, 2 junior championships, 2 senior league medals, 5 senior championships</p> <p>Patrick: Played from the age of 12 to 22. Won 1 underage medal.</p> <p>Peter Sr: Won 3 senior championships, 1 minor championship, 1 junior Leinster, 1 senior Leinster</p> <p>Oliver: Played for 25 years and won 8 senior championships</p> <p>Paul: Played from 1956 and won 7 senior championships</p> <p>Jack: Played from 1944 to 1950</p> <p>Eugene: Played at senior level for 22 years and won 4 senior championships, 1 minor championship, 2 Under 21's</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Peter Jr: None</p> <p>Patrick: None</p> <p>Peter Sr: Club Chairman for 25 years; Currently Honorary President</p> <p>Oliver: None</p> <p>Paul: None</p> <p>Jack: Club committee member for 25 years</p> <p>Eugene: Committee Member on and off for 20 years</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:23:24
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: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____27/06/12_____