

**GAA Oral History Project**  
**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2010
<b>Location</b>	Paudie's home
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paudie Doyle
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1939 <b>Home County:</b> Carlow
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Rathvilly National School, Co. Carlow. <b>Secondary:</b> Tullow CBS, Co. Carlow.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 6 brothers and 5 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (deceased), 3 sons and 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Rathvilly GAA Club, Killeegan GAA Club.
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fine Gael
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Irish Farmers Association (IFA), Pioneers Total Abstinence Association, Rathvilly Tidy Towns Committee
<b>Date of Report</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1940s-2010
<b>Counties/Countries</b>	Carlow, Cavan, Kerry, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Americas, New

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<b>Covered</b>	York
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Administration, Fundraising, Education, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, Club History, Earliest Memories, Challenges, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Paudie discusses the ups and downs of the GAA club in Rathvilly and the affects of emigration on the team. He talks playing in school and about training. He talks about his heroes and his playing career before discussing local rivalries and community support. He talks of his approach to management of teams and the various administrative positions he has held within the GAA. He discusses the GAA in Carlow in the last 25 years and his part in it. He then talks about his time on Central Council and the decisions made. He then talks about the organisational structure in the GAA and his proudest and most disappointing moments before discussing his optimism for the future of Carlow GAA. He finishes by talking about what the GAA has meant to him over the years.</p> <p>00:24 Talks of his childhood and his family as one of twelve children.</p> <p>01:41 Speaks of his family not having any links to the GAA and of the ups and downs in the GAA in the Rathvilly and Rathdaniel area. Mentions Jim Dempsey and eighteen of the team emigrating at once.</p> <p>03:59 Talks of agriculture being the main employer in the area along with the sugar factory in Carlow.</p> <p>05:16 Speaks of playing a small bit of football in primary school. Mentions Fr. Whelan and how he would take ten children to play a match in his car.</p> <p>06:11 Talks of seeing his first match in 1949, a junior match in Carlow. He played his first match in 1957.</p> <p>07:55 Speaks of the club coming strong again in the late 50's. Mentions the supporters preparing a bonfire for the celebrations in 1960 after the final against Fennagh but the team lost and the fire was lit anyway. Also mentions Jim Gorman.</p> <p>09:55 Speaks of the training during his time on the team.</p>

	<p>Mentions Dermot Early training the team.</p> <p>11:06 Tells of training twice a week but then some of the team going out on Saturday night for a few pints on the basis that the opposition were doing the same.</p> <p>11:46 Tells of training in Rathvilly in Georgie Byrne's field before getting a field from the priest. Mentions hurling going well and winning a championship before dying out.</p> <p>12:44 Speaks of his own career and how it progressed.</p> <p>13:10 Tells of the players he looked up to and modelled his game on such as Kevin Heffernan, Des Foley, Mick O'Connell, Martin Molloy, Christy Gann and Jim Doyle.</p> <p>14:07 Talks of football being all they had in the area at the time and not needing motivation to play. Mentions soccer coming along later.</p> <p>15:04 Speaks of the community backing and support for the club and the work they did for the club. Mentions teachers and priests involvement.</p> <p>15:52 Talks of the local rivalries with Grange, Tullow and Clonmore.</p> <p>16:33 Speaks of the development of the club over the years and winning the Under 21 Championship and the seven Senior Championships from 1983. Mentions the work of the juvenile committee.</p> <p>19:17 Talks of managing those teams and how he approached it. Mentions the dedication of the players and psyching out the opposition. Also mentions on player with a very good attitude who when faced with an opposition player simply said 'He has only two feet and two hands same as meself'.</p> <p>20:40 Talks of Linus Kearns and how the motivated player would get him going.</p> <p>21:30 Talks of Matt Connor being the best player he ever saw.</p> <p>22:30 Speaks of the enjoyment of managing teams but of being blamed for losses by supporters.</p> <p>23:19 Talks of the most difficult part of the job being dropping players. Mentions his mother who never went to a match complaining about him taking off his nephew, Tom McCall,</p>
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	<p>who was the team trainer and now the chairman of the club.</p> <p>24:34 Talks of travelling to matches with about eight in each car or ten in a van. Mentions Fr. Whelan having fifteen in his car one day.</p> <p>25:30 Talks of being involved in the management of team for a few years before being put out and coming back again for many years.</p> <p>26:20 Tells of being appointed manager of the County Under 21 team. Mentions Vincent Harvey, Pdraig Lenanne George Darcy and Joe McNally and the 1984 Leinster final against Dublin.</p> <p>27:08 Speaks of going on to the Senior team management and the games they played.</p> <p>27:54 Talks of the difference between the club and county set up and how success breeds success.</p> <p>29:33 Speaks of his time in administration in the club and the various positions he has held over the years right through to twenty years on the Central Council.</p> <p>30:33 Talks of not knowing why he got involved to this extent with his home life.</p> <p>31:34 Speaks about being chairman of a club and key decisions and ambitions. Mentions having no field or trainer.</p> <p>33:02 Talks of setting up a committee to buy a field and the work they did. Mentions buying the field in the early 80's and a second one since and clubhouse.</p> <p>35:35 Speaks of his time on the County Board and how you did the best you could. Mentions the Junior team in the Leinster Final but the county board decided to field the best team in the Senior team and this included six of the Junior team.</p> <p>38:00 Tells how this democratic process can be frustrating and talks about the players that were involved.</p> <p>39:31 Speaks of the changes in the GAA in Carlow over the last twenty-five years including the expense of running the GAA without the senior game really improving. Mentions there being very good players in the county.</p> <p>42:15 Talks of how to keep the GAA going when titles are not being won by the county.</p>
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	<p>43:19 Talks of his time in Kiltegan And his work there as chairman. Mentions being against hurling as the football was better. Mentions that they won seven senior championships in hurling since and only two in football. Also mentions the camogie.</p> <p>45:00 Talks of having a pub there <i>The Talk of the Town</i> which was a meeting place.</p> <p>45:42 Speaks of being an outsider there but getting involved. Mentions John Timmons secretary of the club and Vincent Harvey, Sean O'Toole.</p> <p>46:59 Talks of his time on Central Council. Mentions Tom Kennedy and a player stepping into a manhole. Also mentions being quiet on Central Council and being told that you can't change things on your own without the support of other counties.</p> <p>50:38 Talks about the management committee and how they make the decisions and get them to Central Council for approval. Mentions Liam Mulvihill, John Dowling, Jack Boothman, Joe McDonough, Sean Kelly, Sean McCabe, Nickey Brennan and Mick Loftus. Also mentions the development of Croke Park and being in favour of the opening of Croke Park.</p> <p>54:10 Tells of the moments of doubt regarding the payment for the development of Croke Park and how the President Peter Quinn had the vision and foresight along with Liam Mulvihill.</p> <p>55:07 Talks about being on the management committee and being taken to New York for a meeting when Kerry was playing Cavan.</p> <p>56:47 Discusses the Games committee and questions of discipline. Mentions Kilkenny and Tipperary league match and Larkin a player for Kilkenny.</p> <p>01:00:20 Talks of having to know the rules well on that committee.</p> <p>01:00:56 Speaks of being on the Overseas Committee and organising clubs to go out to play them. Mentions tournaments being played with clubs with four or five different countries. Also mentions being surprised at the level of games being played abroad.</p> <p>01:02:39 Talks about the organisational structures of the GAA and how good they are. Tells of the importance of amateur</p>
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	<p>status and the volunteerism behind the games.</p> <p>01:05:38 Speaks of his occasional disappointment with the GAA including admission fees.</p> <p>01:07:30 Talks of his proudest moment being when Rathvilly winning their first Senior Championship.</p> <p>01:08:30 Speaks of his optimism for the GAA in Carlow but hopes they do more in terms of the Senior footballers.</p> <p>01:10:31 Talks of the GAA meaning everything to him during his life and the friends he has made over the years.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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 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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played football with Rathvilly 1957-67, captained the team in 1960. Won junior football championship with them in 1967. Played with Kiltegan for a few years and won a league with them in 1973.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Chairman of Kiltegan GAA club 1973-74 and on committee there 1972-75. Managed Kiltegan GAA club and involved with teams there for many years.</p> <p>Committee member of Rathvilly GAA club for many years and Chairman of the club for 10 years. Treasurer of Rathvilly GAA for 10 years. 1981 formed an underage committee in Rathvilly.</p> <p>Vice-Chairman of Carlow County Board, 1982-1985.</p> <p>Central Council Delegate, 1985-2005</p> <p>Management Committee, Croke Park (3 years)</p> <p>Games Administration Committee, Croke Park (3 years)</p> <p>Overseas Committee, Croke Park (3 years)</p>

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<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 1:12:22
<b>Language</b>	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: \_\_\_\_\_

17<sup>th</sup> May 2012