

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Tim Flaherty
Date of Interview	13 th May 2011
Location	Interviewee's Home, near Belcoo, Co Fermanagh
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Lar De Lacy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1924 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	N/A
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Belcoo O'Rahilly's GAA Club [Fermanagh]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. FR/1/17

Date of Report	16 th July 2012
Period Covered	1930s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Fermanagh
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Material Culture, Rivalries, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Career, Alcohol, Retirement, Food and Drink
Interview Summary	<p>This short interview with 87 year old Lar De Lacy charts his early memories of Gaelic football in Fermanagh through to the end of his playing career. De Lacy discusses many of the players who made an impression on him when he was growing. He also talks at length about the various fields which were used to play matches in the Belcoo area, as well as his experiences of travelling to and from matches, the playing gear worn, the style of football played, the lack of team training and the poor facilities for players at venues. He concludes the interview with words of advice to younger players, emphasising the incompatibility of football and alcohol.</p> <p>00:00:02 Interviewee is introduced as a resident of Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh. Born and reared on Railway Road in Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh, and then resident in the 'Paddocks', just outside the village. Interview will cover De Lacy's footballing days with Holywell, a forerunner of the Belcoo O'Rahilly's GAA club.</p> <p>00:00:29 Lar De Lacy gives his age as 87.</p> <p>00:00:42 Earliest memories of football in Belcoo: training on the 'fair green' and kicking ball on the road.</p> <p>00:01:02 Lists players who well known in the area when he was growing up, including Tom Green, Eddie and Michael Scott and others. Includes mention of a guard and a man from Donegal, Denis McNelis, who worked 'weaving' during the war. Also mentions his brother Ted, Eamon Maguire, John Corrigan, Jim Meehan.</p> <p>00:03:30 Discusses various playing fields used around Belcoo – includes reference to two fields owned of Matt Green, one above Holywell and another near the bank of the river.</p> <p>00:04:55 Mentions playing with Blacklion club along with</p>

	<p>Frank McGrath. Lar says that his brother also played with Blacklion. Talks about the fields used by Blacklion and the different teams they played including Belcoo and Belleek. Mentions playing on both the old field and the new field in Enniskillen, in Irvinestown, Lisnaskea and other named locations.</p> <p>00:07:05 Talks about cycling to and from a game with a group as well as by cars and buses. Tells story of travelling to Enniskillen with Pat McCabe, a taximan, who returned to pick up another group on the road.</p> <p>00:08:10 Refers to lack of training, emphasis on catch and kick and strength.</p> <p>00:08:40 Names Blacklion players who played with Belcoo.</p> <p>00:09:30 Reflects on highlights in career: playing for Holywell and beating Roslea in Junior final. Recalls also playing in an 'old field' in Tempo.</p> <p>00:10:26 Discusses change of name from Holywell to Belcoo.</p> <p>00:11:00 Reflects on playing 'catch and kick' style of football. Comments on relative lack of running.</p> <p>00:11:28 Mentions the lack of proper transport and money and how this impacted on the numbers travelling to games.</p> <p>00:12:28 Talks about his biggest regret in football: sustaining injury to his left arm and how it affected his ability to play the game.</p> <p>00:13:00 Reflects on the jerseys worn – they wore the Fermanagh colours of green and white - and the heavy leather ball in the wet – 'you could be hit with a stone'. Comments also on the lack of facilities, with players forced to change clothes 'under a hedge' in the rain.</p> <p>00:13:45 Describes the football boots that were worn. Says there were fields played where you would need 'wellingtons'.</p> <p>00:14:08 Imparts advice to younger players, in particular the incompatibility of drink and football.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 14:00
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Tim Flaherty

Date: 13th May 2011