

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

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| Name of Interviewer | Joe McCarthy |
| Date of Interview | 23 rd Nov 2011 |
| Location | Kingscourt, Co. Cavan |
| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Patrick Tinnelly |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male |
| Born | Year Born: 1945 Home County: Cavan |
| Education | Primary: Kingscourt NS, Cavan Secondary: Technical School, Carrickmacross, Monaghan |
| Family | N/A |
| Club(s) | Kingscourt Stars GAA [Cavan] |
| Occupation | Farmer |
| Parents' Occupation | Farmer [Father]; Farmer [Mother] |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | Fianna Fáil |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | IFA, Local Parish Worker |

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| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Pat Faulkner |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male |
| Born | Year Born: 1962 Home County: Cavan |
| Education | Primary: Kingscourt NS, Cavan Secondary: St. Pat's, Cavan |
| Family | N/A |
| Club(s) | Kingscourt Stars GAA Club [Cavan] |
| Occupation | Butcher |
| Parents' Occupation | Butcher [Father] |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | None |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | Traders Association, Kingscourt |

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| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Robbie O'Connell |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male |
| Born | Year Born: 1950 Home County: Cavan |
| Education | Primary: Kingscourt NS, Co. Cavan. Secondary: St. Patrick's, Navan |
| Family | N/A |
| Club(s) | Kingscourt Stars GAA |
| Occupation | Shopkeeper |
| Parents' Occupation | Postman [Father]; Housewife [Mother] |
| Religion | N/A |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | N/A |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | N/A |

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| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Seán Farrelly |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male |
| Born | Year Born: 1954 Home County: Monaghan |
| Education | Primary: Corcreagh NS, Carrickmacross Secondary: St. Aidan's Comprehensive |
| Family | N/A |
| Club(s) | Kingscourt Stars GAA [Cavan]; Corduff Gaels GFC [Monaghan] |
| Occupation | Retired Self-Employed, Publican |
| Parents' Occupation | Farmers |
| Religion | N/A |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | N/A |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | N/A |

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| Date of Report | 24 th July 2012 |
| Period Covered | 1950s – 2010 |
| Counties/Countries Covered | Cavan, Monaghan, Down, Kerry, Offaly, Kilkenny, Tyrone, Derry, Galway, Armagh |
| Key Themes Covered | Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Professionalism, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics |
| Interview Summary | <p>The four interviewees, based in Kingscourt in C. Cavan, reflect on their earliest memories of the GAA, shedding light on issues as diverse as modes of transport, the influence of family on GAA participation and clerical influence on the GAA. All four discuss their experiences of attending big games at county and provincial grounds, as well as Croke Park. Similarly, as members of same club in Kingscourt, all four discuss key developments in their club's history and the key personalities associated with it. Through their club involvement, and in their support of their county team, all four would have travelled to games throughout Northern Ireland during the Troubles and each of them offers up stories and assessments of those experiences. Finally, the four interviewees answer questions about their stand-out GAA memories, the greatest team they have ever seen and reasons why they might be proud of the GAA.</p> <p>00:00:10 Interviewees introduce themselves and spell their names.</p> <p>00:00:55 (Sean) Earliest memories of the GAA: cycling a bicycle to Carrickmacross to play under 14 football in 1966. Mentions that he played underage football with Carrickmacross. Refers to length of cycle, the state of the roads and lack of interest in his own home-place.</p> <p>00:01:56 (Pat Tinnelly) First memory of football in Kingscourt in 1954: talks about attending a sacred sodality and hearing conversations about Kingscourt winning junior championship afterwards. Tells story of trophy being presented with speeches in the town that night. Refers to 'simple craic and</p> |

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| | <p>excitement’.</p> <p>00:03:05 (Pat Tinnelly) Discusses starting to play juvenile, playing on the roads and in school. Talks about his small stature and how this influenced team selection. Talks also about individuals in the area who brought them to all the games.</p> <p>00:04:59 (Pat Faulkner) Speaks about the influence of his father on his early GAA involvement. Talks about travelling to county matches. Tells story of going to Croke Park in his father’s Austin Cambridge in 1969, aged 7, with four kids sitting on gear stick. Tells story of father getting hit on head on the umbrella during match and the food and drink they brought to games.</p> <p>00:06:28 (Pat Faulkner) Discusses starting to play under 12, aged 8. Mentions arriving with only one boot.</p> <p>00:07:00 (Robbie) Mentions that father was a staunch Meathman. Talks about travelling with his father and friends to Croke Park – comments on their reluctance to bring him along, given their tendency to frequent pubs en route. Talks also of going to games with Fr. Gaffney, the local curate, and tells story of going to confession on the eve of a big game.</p> <p>00:08:18 (Robbie) Comments that he didn’t play a lot of football.</p> <p>00:08:23(Robbie) Talks about helping Peter Connolly with the juvenile teams from the early 1970s.</p> <p>00:09:02 (Sean) Discusses trips to championship matches with father and a group of locals, hiring a car. Tells story of coming home from Clones after Cavan had been beaten and the mood of the driver on meeting a farmer on the road.</p> <p>00:10:37 (Sean) Recalls attending first all Ireland final in 1968 and says he hasn’t missed one since. Also says he hasn’t missed a hurling final since 1976. Discusses the routine when travelling to Croke Park, departing a 9 am on Sunday morning and camping outside of the Canal End. Refers to social aspect of these trips to Croke Park.</p> <p>00:12:10 (Pat Tinnelly) Discusses the great Down team of the 1960s and recalls playing for Cavan against them. Refers to beating them in the semi-final of the Wembley tournament.</p> <p>00:12:55 (Pat Tinnelly) Reflects on the club’s AGMs in St. Mary’s Hall and the ‘session’ that followed. Talks about the membership of the club committee and the work they were</p> |
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| | <p>engaged in. Tells story about club have to provide additional funds after they won a 7 a side tournament where the prize were suits, c. Mid 1960s. Names some of the players who would have been involved with Kingscourt at the time.</p> <p>00:16:00 (Pat Tinnelly) Talks about the paucity of competitive games at the time and the popularity of tournaments. Refers to a tournament in Carrickmacross in 1961 and the crowds that attended. Tells story of Victor Sherlock driving to games in Carrickmacross in his Gypsum truck.</p> <p>00:18:22 (Pat Faulkner) Discusses the success of juvenile teams in Kingscourt in the 1970s and refers to some of the families and individuals who were involved with the club at the time.</p> <p>00:19:50 (Pat Faulkner) Mentions winning under 21 championship in 1979 and the contribution of that group to future senior success. Refers to defeating Laragh in Under 21 in the ice and snow, December 1979.</p> <p>00:21:40 (Robbie) Discusses the beginning of his involvement with management of Kingscourt senior team in 1985 and discusses their record.</p> <p>00:22:42 (Sean) Explains why Eamon Curley was approached to run club senior team in the mid 1980s. Talks about his record with Bailieborough, his background in Roscommon GAA.</p> <p>00:23:50 (Pat Faulkner) Discusses senior team selection meetings between himself, P J Gorman and Eamon Curley. Refers to winning Cavan championship in 1986 and 1987 and subsequent departure of Eamon Curley.</p> <p>00:24:15 (Group) General discussion of dates and personnel involved in Kingscourt senior management in the late 1980s, early 1990s.</p> <p>00:25:40 (Robbie) Reflects on the changes in training teams since the 1980s – refers to improvements in fitness levels and the increased use of drills.</p> <p>00:26:44 (Pat Tinnelly) Discusses the ‘best years’ of the Kingscourt club from 1975 to 1990 and the reasons for it. Talks about the competitions entered and won and the impact it had on the club. Mentions the way the game has changed over this period.</p> <p>00:30:20 (Sean) Reflects on the changes in Gaelic football and its appeal to spectators. Talks about the improvements in</p> |
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| | <p>fitness levels the reasons for the rise of Kingscourt in the 1970s.</p> <p>00:32:08 (Pat Faulkner) Speaks of his admiration for Matt Connor of Offaly and Cavan's Jim Reilly. Mentions also Brian Mullins and Kevin Moran of Dublin.</p> <p>00:33:53 (Robbie) Reflects on the best teams and players from different era – refers to John Egan of Kerry, Brian Mullins of Dublin, Martin O'Connell and Colm O'Rourke of Meath and Jim Reilly of Cavan. Also mention some current players.</p> <p>00:35:09 (Sean) Recalls the performance of Frank McGuigan of Tyrone in an Ulster final. Also mentions Brian Mullins of Dublin, Colm McAlarney of Down. Talks of McAlarney specific skills and mentions a talented local footballer, Brendan Kane, who emigrated to Chicago. Jim Reilly and other club players are also mentioned.</p> <p>00:37:25 (Pat Tinnelly) Talks about Willie Bryan of Offaly, his qualities as a player and recalls playing against him. Speaks also of Philip Jordan of Tyrone, Bobby Doyle of Dublin, John Joe O'Reilly and Gene Cusack from Cavan. Fergus McAuley of Cavan, who played in the late 1960s, is also discussed, by Tinnelly and the group.</p> <p>00:41:00 (Pat Tinnelly) Mentions Joe McCaul, describing him as an 'unassuming club player'. Other members of the group join the discussion, which includes the light hearted telling of a story about an injury sustained by an opponent in a club game in Coalisland.</p> <p>00:42:40 (Pat Tinnelly) Talks about playing football in Northern Ireland during the Troubles – comments on the absence of trouble and the courtesy extended to them, including from the police. Mentions, however, the possibility of hold-ups on the roads.</p> <p>00:44:30 (Pat Faulkner) Talks about travelling to Ulster club games through the North – mentions lack of fear of travelling, lack of trouble and the success of the club playing north of the border.</p> <p>00:45:10 (Sean) Talks about playing Clonoe in Ulster club championship in 1987-8. Mentions being met by opposition officials on way. Tells story of playing a game on the day of the Enniskillen bombing in 1987 and the 'eerie' atmosphere in the ground. Talks of playing other Ulster opposition.</p> <p>00:47:23 (Robbie) Talks about travelling to an International</p> |
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| | <p>rules game in Omagh and the car being flooded.</p> <p>00:47:43 (Pat Tinnelly) Remarks on the hospitality extended to southern teams in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>00:48:00 (Pat Faulkner) Tells story of passing through border checkpoint.</p> <p>00:48:29 (Sean) Recalls travelling to Ballinsacreen in early 1970s and missing game due to being held up by soldiers.</p> <p>00:49:03 (Pat Faulkner) Tells story of Seamie McCabe, a Kingscourt supporter, driving to an Ulster club match and a passenger throwing a copy of An Poblacht into front seat when approaching a checkpoint.</p> <p>00:49:47 (Pat Tinnelly) Best memory: talks about Kingscourt winning 1980 county final and the excitement around it. Refers to blazers and suits that were made for players. Tells story of coming home from an Ulster club game and meeting a soccer team in a hotel.</p> <p>00:52:49 (Pat Tinnelly) Greatest team: talks about games between Armagh and Tyrone and comments on the 'professionalism' and impact of the Down team of the 1960s.</p> <p>00:54:21 (Pat Tinnelly) Discusses what it is about the GAA that makes him proud: refers to the lifelong friendships and to the GAA as an easy point of conversation.</p> <p>00:55:00 (Sean) Best memory: reflects on moving to Kingscourt club from Carrickmacross in the 1970s and the successes enjoyed by Kingscourt in the 1980s and 90s. Talks also about the winning of the club championship in 2010 and the feelings it ignited in him.</p> <p>00:56:30 (Sean) Greatest team: refers to past Down, Galway and Kerry teams at inter-county level and Crossmaglen teams at club level. Remarks on the scale of the Crossmaglen achievement.</p> <p>00:58:08 (Sean) Discusses what it is about the GAA that makes him proud: reflections range from the unfashionability of the GAA in the 1970s to the redevelopment of Croke Park. Speaks of amateur status, the development of named club and county grounds and the sense of personal contribution.</p> <p>01:00:10 (Pat Faulkner) Memories: Recalls losing Ulster club final to Burren in 1987/88. Recalls also winning the 1980 and 2010 Cavan County final and the atmosphere in the town.</p> <p>01:01:54 (Pat Faulkner) Greatest team: Talks about</p> |
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| | <p>Crossmaglen and Tyrone in the 2000s. Also refers to his admiration for the Kilkenny hurlers of the 2000s and various Kerry teams.</p> <p>01:03:04 (Pat Faulkner) Discusses what it is about the GAA that makes him proud: refers to arguments and rivalries being set aside after games.</p> <p>01:04:03 (Robbie) Best memory: talks about the winning of 3-in-a-row in 1991 and the relative rarity of the achievement. Mentions also his involvement in 2010 championship winning team.</p> <p>01:05:10 (Robbie) Greatest teams and game: Talks about the Kildare V Dublin Leinster final (2010?), the Kerry and Dublin teams of the 1970s and 80s, the Meath teams of Sean Boylan, the four games between Meath and Dublin in 1991.</p> <p>01:06:14 (Robbie) Discusses what it is about the GAA that makes him proud: refers to its 'almost amateur' status and talks about its contribution to juveniles and their development.</p> |
| <p>Involvement in GAA</p> | <p>Patrick Tinnelly:</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Pat Faulkner:</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" 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>Robbie O'Connell:</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 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> |

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| | <p>Seán Farrelly:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p>✓ Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>✓ Other (please specify): _____</p> |
| <p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p> | <p>Patrick Tinnelly:</p> <p>Played for Cavan Minors and reached the Ulster final. Played for Cavan Juniors and reached the Ulster final. Won two Senior Ulster Medals.</p> <p>Pat Faulkner:</p> <p>Played until he was 40 years old. He has won 8 Senior Championship Medals.</p> <p>Robbie O'Connell:</p> <p>Juvenile player and intermediate</p> <p>Seán Farrelly:</p> <p>Kingscourt Stars GAA five senior championships</p> <p>Corduff Gaels Underage Champions</p> |
| <p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p> | <p>Patrick Tinnelly:</p> <p>30 years experience serving on Committees, 1960s-1980s</p> <p>Pat Faulkner:</p> <p>Is currently in his 4th year as Chairman</p> <p>Robbie O'Connell:</p> <p>Club Secretary for 12 years</p> <p>Seán Farrelly:</p> <p>Chairperson of Kingscourt Stars GAA 1980 – 2000</p> <p>Selector for Cavan with Eugene McGee (1987-88) and with Eamonn Curley (1992-93)</p> |

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| Format | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual |
| Duration | Length of Interview: 01:07:28 |
| 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: _____ Joe McCarthy _____

Date: _____ 24/11/2011 _____