

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	John O'Shea
Date of Interview	19/06/2010
Location	Thurles, Co. Tipperary
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat O'Shea
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1958 Home County: Tipperary
Education	Primary: Fethard NS Secondary: Castlemartyre
Family	N/A
Club(s)	N/A
Occupation	Tax Advisor
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. TP/1/6

Date of Report	24 th July 2012
Period Covered	1960s - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Kerry, Tipperary
Key Themes Covered	Supporting, Playing, Training, Education, Religion, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Professionalism, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>This is a short interview, which begins with Pat O’Shea explaining the influence of his father’s background in the GAA in Kerry and how this shaped his interest in football and, despite being based in Tipperary, his passion for Kerry football. His earliest memory is of chasing for autographs of players and the writer John B. Keane in the aftermath of the 1969 All-Ireland semi-final between Kerry and Dublin. O’Shea talks about the influence of his father and mother’s family on his sporting outlook and also that of his son. In addition, he discusses the place that the GAA has plays in community life; the waning involvement of the clergy in GAA affairs; changes in media coverage and the challenges that face the GAA into the future.</p> <p>00:00:09 Earliest GAA memory: Chasing autographs of players and John B Keane after the Kerry’s Dublin All-Ireland semi-final in 1969.</p> <p>00:00:40 Training for football teams when underage.</p> <p>00:01:10 Family background: refers to father playing for various teams including Castlegregory, Fethard, Clusty (Tipperary) and Fermanagh at inter-county level when based Lisnakea during the ‘war years’.</p> <p>00:01:44 Mother’s family involvement in the GAA with Arravale Rovers in football and hurling.</p> <p>00:02:06 Family discussions of GAA memories, slagging around previous encounters and ‘bragging rights.’</p> <p>00:03:00 Describes Tipperary as his county, his initial preference football, travelling to matches with his father and supporting his county - Kerry. Says his interest in hurling only began with his son’s involvement and their family move to Thurles.</p> <p>00:03:40 Recalls a game that ‘Ciarán’ had played three years previously - an Under 16 football semi-final.</p>

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	<p>00:05:00 Considers the impact the GAA has had on his life: reflects on the enjoyment derived from his son's involvement, the GAA as part of Irish nationality and a means of expression of pride in locality.</p> <p>00:05:40 Comments on his admiration for Mick O'Dwyer, his enthusiasm for Gaelic football and the impetus he has brought to counties he has worked in.</p> <p>00:06:18 Reflects on the role of church and clergy in local GAA affairs – the involvement of clergy in officer positions in clubs, the Archbishop of Cashel and Emly's attendance at major occasions, the waning of clerical input due to falling numbers and the impact this has on the GAA.</p> <p>00:07:17 Major disappointments in the GAA: Kerry's loss of a five in a row in 1982.</p> <p>00:07:40 Mentions that he has had no involvement with the GAA outside of Ireland.</p> <p>00:07:50 Comments on the changes in media coverage of Gaelic games – refers to old radio commentators and growth in coverage on television since the 1990s.</p> <p>00:08:43 Comments on the biggest challenge to the GAA: refers to the need to maintain amateurism, to the importance of volunteerism etc.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" 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> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Underage and U16 player until injury</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:09:41
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____

Date: _____