

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Mark Farrelly
Date of Interview	12 th Aug 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Granard, Co Longford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Thomas Gallagher
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1988 Home County: Longford
Education	Primary: Killasonna NS, Co Longford Secondary: Granard Third Level: NUI Maynooth
Family	Siblings: 1 sister; 1 brother
Club(s)	Granard GAA Club [Longford]
Occupation	Student
Parents' Occupation	Builder [Father]; Childminder [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LD/1/14

Date of Report	17 th July 2012
Period Covered	1990s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Longford, Kildare
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Playing, Training, Managing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Media, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life
Interview Summary	<p>Thomas talks about growing up in Longford and his introduction to the GAA. He explains how important his mentors were, and then explores his transfer to NUI Maynooth as a third level student. He talks about training there, and his experiences playing at College and in the Sigerson Cup.</p> <p>00:00 Earliest memories, playing football with his father in the garden and then playing under 10s, and playing in Killasonna NS in Granard Co.Longford. Thomas also talks about the Meath vs. Mayo All Ireland Senior Football Final as one of the first matches he watched on the television.</p> <p>01:17 Thomas describes the type of matches they would have in National School</p> <p>01:40 He compares playing in school to playing for his club. He talks about playing u12, and getting to know people from Granard NS, and Aughnagarron NS who also played u12s with Granard</p> <p>02:15 He talks about learning the skills of how to play and coaches coming to the school.</p> <p>02:55 Discusses family involvement in the GAA. His father played football for Abbylaragh, a neighbouring club. He was also then juvenile chairman of Granard, manager of the national school football team and the under 14 Granard football team.</p> <p>03:22 He's talks about the success Granard had at underage level when he was playing.</p> <p>03:35 Thomas tells how he played for Granard Secondary School and the Longford Vocational school. He discusses</p>

	<p>meeting new players and people. He also talks about the change in playing for the school as opposed to playing for his club.</p> <p>04:58 He talks about rivalries at underage level with Abbylara. He talks about one year in particular at minor level where they played against them 3 times. He discusses the rivalry.</p> <p>06:07 He talks about making friends through football.</p> <p>06:35 He talks about his GAA heroes such as Trevor Giles.</p> <p>06:57 Thomas talks about going to watch county games.</p> <p>07:17 He describes how he felt starting to play senior football for Granard. He mentions the positions he has played, midfield at minor level and now full back for the seniors.</p> <p>08:16 Thomas talks about playing football for NUI Maynooth, and playing in the Sigerson Cup. He mentions his manager John Divilly.</p> <p>08:43 He mentions how he played for the Longford u21s and county senior team as well when he went to college and the challenges it presented.</p> <p>09:25 He talks about how he used to play soccer for Lisryan and Longford town. He talks about trying to juggle the two sports and giving up soccer. He also discusses the possibility of starting to play soccer again.</p> <p>11:30 He discusses the challenges College brought to playing with his club at home.</p> <p>12:00 He discusses the amount of training he does and the possibility of becoming burnt out.</p> <p>12:50 He talks about GAAs impact on social life in college, and making friends through football in college. He discusses meeting people on all the teams hes played for.</p> <p>14:02 He discusses learning more about football around the country from going to College, in particular he talks about going to see UUJ play some matches in Ulster.</p> <p>14:45 He compares the toughness of playing football in College, for his club and for Longford.</p> <p>15:35 He discusses who's the best player he ever played against and mentions Colm Cavanagh from Tyrone. He also discusses who the best player he has played with is, he mentions Paul Barden from Longford.</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. LD/1/14

	<p>16:40 He talks about his plans for football in the coming year.</p> <p>17:17 He talks about work or travelling clashing with playing football.</p> <p>18:06 He discusses the managers and coaches who have had the biggest influences on him. He mentions Johnny Lee, and John Divilly. He contrasts the differences in training methods with the teams he's played in.</p> <p>19:27 He discusses the idea of not letting first year or postgrad students play Sigerson Football in College, and talks about the idea of scholarships to play football in College.</p> <p>20:38 He reflects on his football highlights, mentioning making his senior debut for Granard, playing his first senior match for Longford and getting to the Sigerson Cup semi final with Maynooth in 2010.</p> <p>21:14 He talks about the toughest matches he has played in. He mentions playing against UUJ in the Sigerson Cup.</p> <p>22:05 He discusses his love for the GAA. He also mentions the Longford minors winning the Leinster Minor Football Final in 2010.</p> <p>22:50 He talks about the personalities involved in the Granard club. He mentions Rodgey Martin and Jack O'Rourke.</p> <p>23:45 He talks about playing with the older players and the effect they had on him when he was younger.</p> <p>24:30 He talks about the possibility of getting involved in coaching when he's older. He mentions his younger brother who was on the county minors in 2010.</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>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator</p>	<p>N/A</p>

REFERENCE NO. LD/1/14

Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:25:00
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: Mark Farrelly

Date: 12th Aug 2010