

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Jimmy Smyth
Date of Interview	5 th Nov 2011
Location	Clan na Gael Club
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Simon Doherty
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1992 Home County: Armagh
Education (Optional)	Primary: St. Anthony's Primary School, Craigavon Secondary: Rathmore, Belfast Third Level: U.U.J. Belfast
Family	Siblings: 1 Sister, Eva Jane
Club(s)	Clan na Gael, Sean Treacy's [Armagh]
Occupation	Student
Parents' Occupation	Teachers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	29 th August 2012
Period Covered	2006-2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Armagh, Down, Derry, West Meath, Antrim, Wicklow, Great Britain, England
Key Themes Covered	Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Education, Media, Rivalries, All-Ireland
Interview Summary	<p>Simon Doherty, Armagh goalkeeper speaks of his early days in both Football and Hurling and his involvement in the Development Squads. He speaks of the importance of these squads to future Junior, Under 21 and Senior teams. He also talks of his time playing at these levels and his successes over the years</p> <p>00:27 First memory of playing for Clan na Gael at under 12 level</p> <p>00:42 Speaks of first training sessions in Saint Paul's Junior High School indoors with Lenny McCann training the team.</p> <p>00:48 Talks of his first game against Maghery which ended in a draw.</p> <p>01:02 Speaks of the success of the team at under 14 level in 2006, winning the North Armagh League, the North Armagh Championship and the Saint Peter's Under 14 Tournament. Great team bond. Eight of the team also played in the North Armagh Development squad. Michael Devlin, Phillip Smith and Michael McConaghy were the trainers that year.</p> <p>01:37 Talks of the level of training undertaken and the description of the team as robust by the media.</p> <p>01:55 Moves on to talk of the development of the team to under 16. Won the All county Armagh Minor League in 2008 beating Greenmore in the Athletic Grounds at one of the first games in those grounds.</p> <p>02:17 Speaks of winning two North Armagh Leagues in 2007 and 2009. Great success in the leagues but not so much in the Championships.</p> <p>02:50 Goes on to discuss his hurling with Rathmor and Seán Treacy's</p> <p>03:09 Talks of his introduction to hurling in Saint Anthony's Primary School training under Cathal Austin, from P4 to P7</p>

	<p>and his introduction to the Seán Treacy Club.</p> <p>03:38 Talks of the P7 school team winning the North Armagh and All County Armagh INTO Championships and how two of the team were selected to play in Croke Park as part of the GAA Mini Games. Simon played before the Cork and Wexford All Ireland Semi Final. Another Clan na Geal player Stephen Holloway played before the Cork and Kilkenny All Ireland Final.</p> <p>04:12 He became a member of the Casement Cup Senior Hurling team in Rathmor school from third year onwards, winning in fourth year.</p> <p>04:30 Talks of the defeat in the Clarin Cup Final this year by Armagh school Saint Paul' Bessbrook.</p> <p>05:00 In 2006 he travelled to Armagh CBS when three or four from each club were selected for the under 14 Development Squad in a South Armagh Blitz. First involvement as a county hurler meeting other players from Keady, Middleton, Cuchulainn's training under Ronan McWilliams. They won the Under 14 Development Squad Blitz in Cavan and Eoin Kelly and John Mullane two of the Waterford stars were there taking training sessions on the pitch beforehand.</p> <p>05:50 Talks about the training in the Development Squads under Paddy Hughes, Ken Nugent and Sean Duffy. Six weeks preparation in late May. In the first year Armagh beat Derry, Down and West Meath. The following year they won beating Antrim, Derry and Down. Very structured training for All Ireland Blitz in Mullingar. Armagh won their section in 2007 and lost the final in 2008.</p> <p>07:10 Talks of the setting up of the Development Squads by Paul Kelly a fellow Clan na Gael man and the structured training involved. This promoted hurling in the primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>07:30 Speaks of the benefits to hurling now and in the future.</p> <p>08:10 Discusses the Minor Semi Final against Down in Casement Park and the role he played in that game. This secured their place in the final.</p> <p>08:38 Talks of the Minor and Under 21 finals against Antrim. The Under 21's having beaten Derry in the semi final.</p> <p>09:27 Discusses playing for the Senior Antrim team and their success by one point in the Nicky Rackard Cup against London in Croke Park. Praises the work of Paul Kelly and the</p>
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	<p>Senior Management team of Matty Lennon and Michael Johnson.</p> <p>10:00 Discusses how the Senior Team that played Wicklow had nine of the Under 21 players. Six of these had played on the Minor team the previous year.</p> <p>10:30 Speaks of what the GAA means to him and the development of GAA in Armagh.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Ulster league medal</p> <p>Nicky Rackard Cup</p> <p>Antrim All-Star. Casement Cup</p> <p>Ireland Shinty Team</p>
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: 0:11:33
Language	English

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To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____ Jimmy Smyth _____

Date: _____ 05/11/2011 _____