

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Padraic O'Connor
Date of Interview	6 th Oct 2010
Location	St Patrick's Clubhouse, Lordship, Co. Louth
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John White
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1925 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Mullaghboy NS
Family	Siblings: Sean, Maria and Gerard
Club(s)	St. Patrick's; Cooley Kickhams; Young Irelands
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	22 nd May 2012
Period Covered	1930s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood
Interview Summary	<p>John White is an Honorary President of St. Patrick's GFC in Louth and this interview charts his earliest memories of the GAA, his experiences of travelling to games and how he came to be a member of the St. Patrick's club. John mentions the highlights for club and county and discusses the importance of rivalries to the success of the GAA.</p> <p>00:00:03 John White is introduced as an Honorary President of St. Patrick's GFC.</p> <p>00:00:25 John describes his earliest memories of the GAA when there was no training or games or underage teams. Started off kicking a ball and he went on to play for the Cooley minors. Refers to joining the Valley Rangers who wore blue and yellow, aged 16. Discusses his first game, a day when Tommy McGuinness 'got his leg broke'.</p> <p>00:01:45 Mentions that his father's family had little background in the GAA, but his mother's family, the Lowes, had. She was also from the Cooley peninsula.</p> <p>00:02:10 Discusses travelling to games by bicycle, with boots on the handlebars.</p> <p>00:02:48 Refers to travelling to Croke Park by train in the late 1930s. '...wasn't a car in the country', he says.</p> <p>00:03:18 His most memorable game was winning the senior championship for the first time in 2003 when his son was captain of the team.</p> <p>00:04:50 Mentions being a member of a number of clubs and recalls the circumstances of his transfer to St. Pat's GFC in the 1950s - Tommy Connor arriving to house with a form to sign.</p> <p>00:05:40 Recalls the first game he played for the club at Ravensdale. The team had only 14 players.</p>

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	<p>00:06:11 Mentions the names of players who stood out – Eddie Boyle of Greenore, Tom Conlon, Jimmy McDonnell and his brother Stephen White. In reference to subsequent developments, he mentions that it ‘takes a whole lot of good players to win.’</p> <p>00:07:50 Discusses the big changes in the GAA over his lifetime by referring to the collective training, coaching and training. ‘Sure there’s no comparison’ he says. Refers humorously to players training two nights a week in October.</p> <p>00:08:38 Discusses the type of training that was done in his playing days. Recalls his first training session in 1943 when Cooley were in the senior final – training was laps of the field and sprints from goal to goal for about an hour.</p> <p>00:09:30 Reflects on the Louth senior team’s performance in 2010 when they were defeated controversially in the Leinster final – while their performance was a ‘surprise’ he describes the manner in which they were denied a Leinster title the ‘biggest disaster in the GAA’ and not something to be proud of.</p> <p>00:10:05 Discusses the rivalries between St. Patrick’s and neighbouring clubs. Believes it is vital to the GAA and adds ‘bite’ to competition. Reflects on the nature of past rivalries in the Cooley leagues in the early 1940s and the ongoing importance of those rivalries.</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 checked="" 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): <u>_Club President_____</u></p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Honorary Club President</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:12:22
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Padraic O'Connor_____

Date: _____22/05/12_____