

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	George Cartwright
<b>Date of Interview</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010
<b>Location</b>	Bawnboy GFC Dressing Rooms, Co Cavan
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Ciaran Maguire, John Pat Brady and Seamus McGovern (Templeport St Aidan's GFC)
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee:</u></b> Ciaran Maguire	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1943 <b>Home County:</b> Cavan
<b>Education</b> (Optional)	<b>Primary:</b> Tomena National School <b>Secondary:</b> Coláiste Éinde, Galway <b>Third Level:</b> St Patrick's College, Drumcondra
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 6 sisters; 1 brother
<b>Club(s)</b>	Templeport GFC [Cavan]
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Teacher
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Teachers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee:</u></b> John Pat Brady	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1931

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	<b>Home County:</b> Cavan
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Currin NS, Co. Cavan
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> None
<b>Club(s)</b>	Templeport GFC [Cavan]
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer and Factory Worker
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee:</u></b> Seamus McGovern	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1942 <b>Home County:</b> Cavan
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Porturlan NS, Co. Cavan
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 6 sisters; 1 brother
<b>Club(s)</b>	Templeport GFC [Cavan]
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A

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<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A
<b>Date of Report</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010
<b>Period Covered</b>	1922 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim, Down, Offaly, Galway, Kerry, Dublin, Tyrone
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Professionalism, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>The three interviewees, all members of the Templeport GAA club in Cavan, discuss their earliest memories of the GAA, offering insights into developments in travel and transport and the difficulties associated with locating suitable places to play Gaelic games. Key developments in the club and county's sporting history are discussed, as are local rivalries, parish leagues and the importance of the GAA to Irish parish life. Finally, the interviewees reflect on their most admired teams and players and offer opinions changes they would like to see in Gaelic football.</p> <p>00:00:37 Interviewees introduce themselves.</p> <p>00:01:06 (Ciaran) Discusses earliest memories, travelling to watch local games and to Clones to watch Cavan.</p> <p>00:01:29 (John Pat) Discusses walking to junior championship games in 1942.</p> <p>00:02:30 (Seamus) Mentions father's interest in Leitrim Gaelic football in the 1930s and being taken to games on handlebars of bicycle.</p> <p>00:03:09 (Seamus) Talks about involvement in football in school and influence of a teacher, Martin McGowan, then a Leitrim footballer. Refers to inadequacy of school facilities in school.</p> <p>00:04:20 (Ciaran) Beginnings of involvement with Gaelic games in the playground and later with Under 14 team and,</p>

	<p>then, with the club at Under 16 level.</p> <p>00:04:57 (John Pat) Mentions that he was secretary of Templeport club from 1952 to 1955. Says that club had to be resurrected and there was a call for ‘youth and enthusiasm.’ Talks about the improvements in club fortunes during the early 1950s and tells story of defeat to a celebrated Mullagh team in 1955.</p> <p>00:07:19 (Seamus) Recalls first game in which he played, a fixture between two local schools. Refers to the ‘wee bit of land’ on which it was played. Discusses the number of schools in parish and the creation of a Templeport schools league. Lists the six schools involved and names the fields in which the teams trained and played. Talks also about the heaviness of the ball and the excitement of getting a No. 2 leather football and the rules for using it – refers to the skills necessary to maintain a ball in good condition.</p> <p>00:10:40 (Ciaran) Discusses the influence of his father on his GAA involvement. Describes his father making posters for upcoming fixtures.</p> <p>00:11:42 (John Pat) Considers the differences between the GAA past and present. Recalls attending games in the 1940s – names some of the fields in which they were staged – and the motivation of the players, the long kicking and high fielding etc. Talks about the achievement of Templeport players in making Cavan junior team.</p> <p>00:13:20 (John Pat) Talks about his admiration for John Joe O’Reilly and taking Joseph as his confirmation name. Also lists other Cavan footballers from that era.</p> <p>00:14:25 (Seamus) Mentions the absence of managers in his time. Lists some of the ‘respected’ players of his time and those who exercised influence on others.</p> <p>00:16:57 (Ciaran) Reflects on the highs and lows of the club’s history – talks, for instance, about the winning of a Cavan junior championship in 1922. Mentions also the 1929-30 period, the 1940s, the 1960s, the 1970s and 90s.</p> <p>00:18:40 (John Pat) Comments on the rise of Laragh and its impact on Templeport’s senior club ambitions.</p> <p>00:19:35 (Seamus) Discusses the early 1960s and a decision to run a District or Parish League. Says that he helped build momentum. Mentions setting up of new committee and establishment of junior side.</p>
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	<p>00:23:04 (John Pat) Discusses the problems of running a club in the early 1950s. Refers to scarcity of money and various fundraising initiatives.</p> <p>00:24:06 (Ciaran) Talks about the club's closest rivals, Ballyconnell and Corlough. Says that following promotion in 1969 to Intermediate and to senior in 1977, new rivals were acquired.</p> <p>00:24:48 (Ciaran) Discusses impact of emigration to England in the 1950s and return of some players from Dublin in 1960s and 70s.</p> <p>00:25:30 (John Pat) Comments on role of women in supporting club functions or events.</p> <p>00:25:55 (Seamus) Recalls the interest of Templeport women in parish leagues. Mentions also the 'work' they had to do in cleaning gear.</p> <p>00:26:44 (Ciaran) Mentions that personal politics didn't intrude on club life.</p> <p>00:26:57 (John Pat) Also comments on the internal harmony of club and absence of political divides.</p> <p>00:27:20 (Seamus) Comments on the primacy of football over politics.</p> <p>00:27:29 (John Pat) Recalls the difficulties in transporting players to games. Mentions that there were 8 cars in Templeport parish. Tells stories of walking and cycling to games.</p> <p>00:28:28 (Seamus) Recalls the scarcity of cars in the 1950s and crowding players into them. Talks also about cycling to local games.</p> <p>00:29:00 (John Pat) Discusses post-match rituals. Talks about celebrating successes and comments that Templeport were also 'magnificent in defeat'.</p> <p>00:29:51 (Ciaran) Comments on the importance of volunteerism to the GAA.</p> <p>00:30:34 (Seamus) Reflects on the voluntary contribution of members in the past and the personal cost to them. Comments also on the growing commercialism of the GAA.</p> <p>00:31:05 (John Pat) Talks about the role of priests in the parish and says they had a 'serious input'.</p>
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	<p>00:31:42 (Ciaran) Recalls Cavan and Tyrone rivalry in his youth and then the competition from Down in the late 1950s and early 1960s.</p> <p>00:32:22 (John Pat) Talks about the opposition Cavan faced in the 1940s from Kerry, Roscommon and Cork. Mentions arrival of Down in late 1950s and early 1960s.</p> <p>00:33:36 (Seamus) Remembers the excitement of Cavan winning All-Ireland in 1952. Tells story of father going to listen 1947 and 1952 All-Ireland finals. Talks about the competitiveness of Cavan teams in the early 1960s and going to Croke Park to watch them to play. Mentions the strength of Donegal in Ulster and recalls being in Casement Park in 1962 when Cavan beat Down as All-Ireland champions. Talks about the reputation of Cavan football in the past.</p> <p>00:36:22 (Ciaran) Recalls travelling to games in Northern Ireland and comments on both his liking of Belfast and his consciousness of police/military presence in other locations.</p> <p>00:36:56 (John Pat) Talks of an exchange with a policeman after a Cavan game in Omagh.</p> <p>00:37:45 (Seamus) Discusses the disruption from police that was involved in attending games in Northern Ireland and even Clones.</p> <p>00:38:24 (Ciaran) Selects the highlights of his GAA experience – recalls being 9 or 10 and seeing to former players offering players entering ground raw eggs and a drop of sherry.</p> <p>00:39:38 (John Pat) Talks generally about the GAA's importance in Irish parish life and the social opportunities they opened up to people.</p> <p>00:40:13 (Seamus) Mentions attending Croke Park in 1961 for Down and Offaly and contrasts the experience of accessing the ground then and now. Tells story of being on Hill 16 c. 1960 and orange boxes being sold at the back of terrace, which supporters used to stand on.</p> <p>00:42:17 (Ciaran) Recalls attending 1961 All-Ireland final between Down and Offaly and reflects on the size of the crowd and the 'movement of people'.</p> <p>00:43:08 (John Pat) Selects the major disappointments of his GAA experience, citing a number of Cavan defeats in the 1960s. Also comments on 1955 semi-final.</p>
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	<p>00:44:14 (Seamus) Considers the greatest teams of all time, referring to Galway team in the 1960s; the Railway Cups, in particular the occasion when local man Tom Maguire captained an Ulster team that included Sean O'Neill of Down and others.</p> <p>00:45:55 (Seamus) Comments on the tendency of GAA rows to end on the pitch and the friendships that grow up around the GAA.</p> <p>00:46:54 (Ciaran) Speaks of his admiration of the Down forwards Sean O'Neill and Paddy Doherty in the 1960s. Comments also on the colour of their supporters.</p> <p>00:47:36 (John Pat) Talks about the 'Terrible twins' Stockwell and Purcell and his admiration for Jim McKeever of Derry; Kerry's Jack O'Shea, Pat Spillane and Mikey Sheehy; Cavan's Mick Higgins, Tony Tighe, Victor Sherlock, Peter Donohue. Comments on the strength of Cavan football when these players were about.</p> <p>00:48:50 (Seamus) Discusses the relationship between traditional music and the GAA and his family's involvement with Scór. Talks about the opportunities for cross generational contact and the quality of its administration.</p> <p>00:51:14 (Seamus) Comments on the importance and the essential qualities of underage football. Offers criticism of increased emphasis on fitness and the loss of skill and spectacle in the game. Says approach has become 'too professional'.</p> <p>00:55:20 (John Pat) Talks about the changes he would like to see in Gaelic football – less hand-passing and more catch and kick.</p> <p>00:56:22 (Ciaran) Speaks of his admiration of the Kerry style of football and his dislike of the lack of protection for high fielding.</p> <p>00:57:40 (Ciaran) Talks about how football widened his social circle.</p>
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<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Ciaran</b></p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager   <input type="checkbox"/> Coach   <input type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member   <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer   <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer   <input type="checkbox"/> Referee   <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____         </p> <p><b>John Pat</b></p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager   <input type="checkbox"/> Coach   <input type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member   <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer   <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer   <input type="checkbox"/> Referee   <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____         </p> <p><b>Seamus</b></p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager   <input type="checkbox"/> Coach   <input type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member   <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer   <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer   <input type="checkbox"/> Referee   <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____         </p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio   <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual         </p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:58:39</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

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**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: George Cartwright

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010