

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Padraic O'Connor
<b>Date of Interview</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010
<b>Location</b>	N/A
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paddy Sullivan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1953 <b>Home County:</b> Louth
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Harestown National School, Co. Louth. <b>Secondary:</b> Tinure National School, Co. Louth.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters; 1 brother <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 2 sons; 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Naomh Martin GAA Club [Louth]
<b>Occupation</b>	Electrician
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Seapoint Golf Club member

<b>Date of Report</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1970s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Louth
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Irish, Language, Culture, Scór, Club History, Challenges, Alcohol, Politics, Professionalism, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>As Chairman of the Naomh Mairtin, Paddy Sullivan reflects on the challenges facing the club and the plans to development the underage system through programmes of education and training. Sullivan discusses the place of the club within community life, the funding of the club through sponsorships and fundraising and the relations the club has with Ladies Gaelic football, with whom it shares facilities. Concerns over the potential impact of economic recession are raised as are such issues as the relationship with the local clergy and rules development.</p> <p>00:00:07 Paddy Sullivan introduces himself as Chairman of Naomh Mairtin GAA Club, elected the previous year.</p> <p>00:00:35 Describes improvements in underage facilities and training over previous decade. Discusses initiative to educate 15 to 18 year olds about nutrition, social habits and to involve them in conditioning training.</p> <p>00:02:20 Refers to juvenile day held the previous weekend in the Boyne Valley Hotel – two function rooms were used, with entertainment for toddlers in one and talks in the other.</p> <p>00:02:58 Movement of new people into parish and integration into club at juvenile level. Mentions that there are 50 mentors of juvenile teams, many of them not originally from parish.</p> <p>00:03:45 Refers to rivalry with neighbouring clubs. ‘The closer they are the better the rivalry.’</p> <p>00:04:06 Lack of impact of economic decline on attendances at local games.</p> <p>00:04:25 Sporadic impact of emigration on club and concerns about changing nature of emigration. Fears about potential impact on club.</p>

	<p>00:05:20 Plans for the future – expand facilities to cater for demands. Refers to pressures on existing facilities.</p> <p>00:06:20 Relationship with local primary schools, past and present. Importance to club.</p> <p>00:07:23 Importance of maintaining GAA's voluntary base. Refers to work GPA and his opposition to payment for play.</p> <p>00:08:20 Role of Naomh Mairtin in community. Club facilities as the centre for the community life.</p> <p>00:08:55 Discusses his playing days, including the winning of the second division championship in 1972. Refers also to playing for Louth.</p> <p>00:09:35 Highlights of his club involvement: winning in second division championship in 1972 and going senior in 1988.</p> <p>00:10:30 Belief that the education of players in proper habits as the best approach in dealing with young players.</p> <p>00:11:25 Reflections on Louth's 2010 championship run and hopes for the future.</p> <p>00:12:00 Impact of recession on club plans for the future – reluctance to commit money to two particular projects.</p> <p>00:12:40 Efforts to encourage use of Irish language in the club. Admission that existing situation is 'not great'.</p> <p>00:13:40 Unaware of internal politics in the club or the existence of any cliques.</p> <p>00:14:30 Discusses the relationship with Ladies football in the club, highlights the difficulties involved in having two separate organisations and expresses a desire to see them come together.</p> <p>00:16:05 Discusses the sponsorship in the club, in particular the Monasterboice Inn. Remarks on a wider pool of sponsors who would support an annual golf classic, which had not been held that year due to economic climate</p> <p>00:16:55 The relationship with the clergy. General absence of clerical involvement, though local curate is described as supportive.</p> <p>00:17:30 Changes Paddy Sullivan would like to see: curb the use of the hand-pass. Offers observations on how Gaelic football has developed and expresses concern over declining</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. LH/1/41**

	standards of skill. Expresses satisfaction with administrative structures of the Association.
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input 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): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played county and club for 23 years
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Chairman of Naomh Martin
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:18:00
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed:            Padraic O'Connor

Date:              24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010