

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	15 th Sept 2010
Location	John's home, near Cullohill, Co. Laois
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Moore
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Laois
Education	Primary: Gurteen NS, Co. Laois Secondary: Rathdowney Technical School, Co. Laois
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 7 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife, 4 daughters & 4 son
Club(s)	Cullohill GAA [Laois]; Cannonswood GAA [Laois]; The Harps GAA [Laois]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Irish Farmers Association

REFERENCE NO. LS/1/17

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paddy Campion
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1938 Home County: Laois
Education	Primary: Gurteen NS, Co. Laois.
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different:
Club(s)	Cullohill GAA [Laois]; Cannonswood GAA [Laois]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LS/1/17

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Martin Mahony
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1944 Home County: Laois
Education	Primary: Gurteen NS; Cullolhill NS, Co. Laois Secondary: Ballyfin College, Co. Laois
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife, 1 son & daughters
Club(s)	The Harps GAA [Laois]
Occupation	Retired
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Rathdowney Gold Club; Boy Scouts; Athletics Club.

REFERENCE NO. LS/1/17

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pádraig Henderson
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1970 Home County: Laois
Education	Primary: Cullohill NS, Co. Laois Secondary: St Fergal's College, Rathdowney, Co. Laois Third Level: Athlone IT
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife & 4 daughters
Club(s)	The Harps GAA [Laois]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Lions Soccer Club

REFERENCE NO. LS/1/17

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seán Conroy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1961 Home County: Laois
Education	Primary: Presentation Convent, Durrwo, Co. Laois. Secondary: Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary Third Level: UCD & TCD
Family	Siblings: 5 siblings Current Family if Different: Wife & 2 sons
Club(s)	Durrow GAA [Laois]; The Harps GAA [Laois]
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	ESB employee [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LS/1/17

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Bolger
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Laois
Education	Primary: Gurteen NS, Co. Laois Secondary: St Kieran's College, Kilkenny City
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters & 3 brothers Current Family if Different: Wife & 2 daughters
Club(s)	Cullohill GAA [Laois]; Cannonswood GAA [Laois]; The Harps GAA [Laois]
Occupation	Plant Operative in Glanbia
Parents' Occupation	Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	14 th June 2012
Period Covered	1768 - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Laois, Dublin, Kerry, Great Britain, Scotland
Key Themes Covered	Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Rivalries, Club History, County History, Family Involvement, Childhood, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	<p>This is an interview with members of The Harps GAA club who are from the Cannonswood part of the parish. They talk about the various amalgamations that happened in the area before the Harps were eventually formed. They discuss the teachers in school not being very interested in the Gaelic games but the local priests showing interest and playing with the club under assumed names. They tell of hurling being the main sport but also how tug of war became popular. Fundraising and training are then discussed. The acquisition of grounds is mentioned as are the carnivals in Durrow and all they entailed. They talk of the expense of running the club and of handball and camogie in the club. The group tell of what their involvement in the GAA has meant to them and what they would have done without hurling.</p> <p>00:42 They talk about the origins of the Harps club and their playing days with Cullahill and Cannonswood.</p> <p>01:25 Discuss schooldays in Gurteen and Gaelic games not being played in the school. Mentions hurling being played in Durrow and Cullahill and training in a number of fields, Kelly's and on the Cork road.</p> <p>03:02 Talks of a match in Gurteen on the green in 1768 between the Baronies of Galmoy and Ossory for one hundred guineas. Mentions another game between Baronies in Lisduff around the same time for sixty eight guineas.</p> <p>05:06 They talks of their parents' families involvement with the GAA. Mentions a team in Cannonswood and his father hiding his playing from his own mother.</p> <p>07:12 They talk of teams going back to the 1920's but not being very successful. Mentions a team in Rapla and how the concentration was on hurling with very little football. Also mentions a story about a local player called the Hoggit Doran.</p>

	<p>09:40 They speak of fields being supplied for games at no charge by local farmers.</p> <p>10:42 Tells of the Cannonswood team having no trainer as such and meetings being held in Gurteen school.</p> <p>11:40 Talk of other pastimes when they were growing up such as skittles and tug of war.</p> <p>14:00 Talks of training for tug of war by pulling a barrel up into a tree. Mentions there being no injuries and travelling to Castlecomer and Galmoy. Also mentions all but one, George Shirley, being hurlers as well.</p> <p>16:08 Speaks of the tournaments being organised in the same way as hurling tournaments.</p> <p>16:49 They tell of their first time playing hurling as juveniles in Durrow with Fr. Kenny. Mentions hurling until it was dark in the evening. Also mentions cycling to Freshford for games and getting hurleys from Lawlors. Also Jackie Donovan a local carpenter would also make them for about five shillings.</p> <p>18:55 Talks of cutting wood and having their hurleys made.</p> <p>19:20 They speak of their success in different leagues in their early days as juveniles. Mentions being beaten in a minor final.</p> <p>20:35 They talk of training in your own area and then playing together on a parish team. Mention the involvement of all and no one being left behind. Also mention that as young players they didn't notice any village politics coming into choosing the teams.</p> <p>22:35 Tell of cycling to matches and there being no other way of travelling at the time. Mentions the part played by the GAA club in the parish.</p> <p>23:43 Talks of training every day and even on Christmas day there could be thirty people training in the field and possibly a match being played.</p> <p>24:10 Tell of playing minor with Durrow and then with Cullahill. Mentions the main rivals being Abbeyleix as well as others.</p> <p>25:30 They speak of the losses to the club through emigration and to players moving to Dublin to work.</p> <p>26:19 They discuss playing with Cullahill and the difficulty of getting a place on the team. Mentions their successes in the</p>
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	<p>early days and some objections to decisions and their outcomes. Also mentions some discrepancies in records.</p> <p>31:28 Talks of winning the Senior county final in 1955 and another in 1964.</p> <p>32:10 They talk about the celebrations at the homecoming and a bonfire.</p> <p>32:49 They tell of their earliest memories of watching Laois play and travelling by train to see them. Mention the big names being the Rackards and how they were the Renaldo of the time. Also mention Mickey O'Donnell, Tim Flood, Jim English, Jimmy Doyle, John Doyle.</p> <p>34:58 They talk of Cullahill having no county hurlers on the team at the time. Mentions the clergy not being allowed to play at the time and there being seven priests on the team playing under assumed names. Also mentions the ban on foreign sports and dances and how it was or wasn't enforced in Cullahill.</p> <p>37:57 Talk of Cullahill players coming onto the county team including Larry Mahony, Gavin Muldowney, Tommy White and Mickey Sullivan.</p> <p>38:53 They speak of the membership staying constant despite the success of the club. Mention there being nothing else to do in the area.</p> <p>39:31 Tell of the various fundraising events that the club held to finance itself. Mentions the expenses of the club being €80,000 last year. Also mentions having two trainers one year but there being none for many years after Fr. Lar Dunphy returned from Japan.</p> <p>42:30 They discuss what was involved in a typical training night. Mentions that as other clubs were doing the same there was no real advantage to the training.</p> <p>43:14 They talk of the few players who were on both the 1955 and 1964 teams.</p> <p>45:15 Speak of having meeting occasionally in the FCA hall in Cullahill but minutes not being kept. Mentions relationships with the county board. Also mentions that the same people were running the club for a long time.</p> <p>47:28 Talk of there being no women involved in the club in the early days.</p> <p>48:07 They tell of the formation of Cannonswood by lads in</p>
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	<p>the area who were not playing for Cullahill. Mention having enough players to field a team without naming players from other clubs. Also mentions it taking place when the amalgamation of Durrow and Cullahill was breaking up.</p> <p>53:22 Talks of affiliating in 1972 and playing in Bolger's field and how the club was doing in the early years. Mentions two finals one against Castletown and the other against Mountrath. Also mentions not having an official trainer but Billy Kirby was a mainstay of starting the club and acted as a selector.</p> <p>56:24 They talk of the club colours from the start being red jerseys and them being sent on to another club when they disbanded. Mention Cullahill winning the intermediate in 1973. Also mentions there being three teams in a small area that were contesting final.</p> <p>59:40 They then talk of the amalgamation between Cullahill and Cannonswood before the Harps were formed.</p> <p>01:01:36 Tell of Fr. Nugent, from Rathdowney, coming in 1965 and of his interest in hurling.</p> <p>01:02:34 They talk of fields they played in during the 1970's, in Kelly's, Delahunt, Muldowney's fields</p> <p>01:04:16 Tell of the field being acquired by a land commission divide. They then discuss the formation of the Harps and contesting a final in their first year. Mention the amalgamation being a decision of the majority of people. Also mention the team being short of players for some games.</p> <p>01:07:23 Talks of the representatives from both teams meeting in the priest house in Cullahill. Mentions the main issues being the colours of the new club jerseys and discussion being made of the name of the new club.</p> <p>01:10:28 Tell of the players pushing the formation of the club as they were happy to play together. Mentions the name being put forward by Morgan Kelly.</p> <p>01:12:06 Recalls questions being asked in the early days as to how many from each of the old clubs were playing on the new club team.</p> <p>01:12:23 Talk of how representation on the administrative side of things worked. Mentions it not being viewed in the same way now.</p> <p>01:14:09 They speak of each club losing support initially after</p>
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	<p>the formation of the new club.</p> <p>01:15:03 Talks of a match when a player, Mick Dunphy, left at half time to play soccer with Durrow.</p> <p>01:16:15 Talks of the clashes between the soccer and hurling seasons and how this affected both sports.</p> <p>01:17:36 Speaks of soccer being well organised and there being a game every week. Mentions the Lawlors and the Kehers starting it. Also mentions Castle Rangers.</p> <p>01:19:23 Talks of the rivalry between Cullahill and Durrow and how this even showed through in the soccer and might be rooted in the tug of war and a feis in Durrow.</p> <p>01:22:01 They speak about the carnivals in Durrow and the interest in the tournaments. Mentions the teams involved and the rows that happened. Also mentions the carnival committees and the fundraising that took place.</p> <p>01:23:59 They talk of all the events that would take place at the carnival and the hurling tournaments. Mentions Tweed, Big Tom, Dickey Rock and Joe Dolan playing at the dances.</p> <p>01:25:30 Talks of the Harps forming and having hurled underage with Durrow. Mentions their successes over the years but never winning a Senior final.</p> <p>01:27:03 Talks of playing illegally with Galmoy and having to get a letter from the Bishop about where he was living and moving in to his aunt's house for a night so as not to make a liar of the bishop.</p> <p>01:28:29 They talk about training in both Cullahill and Durrow as they each have their own benefits. Mentions the development of facilities over the years and the fundraising needed.</p> <p>01:30:06 They speak of the main expense being insurance and affiliation fees. Mention that hurls and balls are very expensive and so a hurling club is more expensive than a football club. Also mentions the cost of expenses for injuries to players and travelling expenses.</p> <p>01:31:01 They discuss the landmark moments being the successful camogie team winning three Junior All-Irelands in a row. Mentions the camogie starting when Breda Cully asked about camogie and they got a meeting together and got a junior team together in the 1980's. Also mentions how their success has affected the GAA club.</p>
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	<p>01:34:35 They talk about the camogie team contributing a lot to the county team and their success at U14 at Feile. Mentions there being no intermediate level in camogie only junior or senior until this year.</p> <p>01:37:02 They speak of the numbers being good in terms of taking part in the games. Mentions U7's hurling in the club and blitz's being organised.</p> <p>01:38:17 The sponsorship of the club is discussed and how it changes every few years.</p> <p>01:38:47 They talk of handball in the area and producing an All-Ireland U16 winner in Roinn B in Cullahill handball club that competed in the Féile under the Harps umbrella. Mentions the ball alley in Derreen and Jimmy Fogarty, the Dullards, Tom Doheny.</p> <p>01:40:43 They talk of handball in Cullahill before that.</p> <p>01:41:10 They speak of their optimism regarding the future of the Harps and their hopes for success in a Senior Hurling final. Mentions neighbours each side, Ballycolla and Rathdowney winning this title over the last couple of years. Also mentions the motorway and relates to their hopes of winning.</p> <p>01:43:44 They set out how important their involvement in the GAA has been to them and of the teams not always being the most legal. Mentions a story of one particular illegal player and how the name he had played under had died before the match. Also mentions Maurice Lyons who would play when on home for holidays from Scotland for a couple of pint of beer.</p> <p>01:48:54 They talk about what they would have done without hurling such as skittles.</p> <p>01:49:12 Tells a story of a football team in Abbeyleix playing a man from Kerry because they thought he had to be good because of it.</p>
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<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>John:</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</p> <p><input checked="" 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): _____</p> <p>Paddy:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input 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): _____</p> <p>Martin:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" 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): _____</p> <p>Pádraig:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Seán:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p>
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	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p>✓ Caterer ✓ Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Michael:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer ✓ Jersey Washer ✓ 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>John: Played for 3 or 4 years with Cannonswood; Played with Cullohill and won the 1964 Laois Senior Hurling Championship playing with them</p> <p>Paddy: Won 1 Laois Senior Hurling County Final.</p> <p>Martin: 1 Laois Senior Hurling Championship; 1 Intermediate Hurling Championship.</p> <p>Pádraig: Won 2 Laois Minor Hurling Championships; 1 Laois Junior A Hurling Championship; 1 Laois Junior B Hurling Championship; 1 Laois Junior Football Championship and 1 Laois Intermediate Football Championship.</p> <p>Seán: 1 Laois Junior Hurling Championship; 1 Laois Junior Football Championship; 1 Laois Intermediate Football Championship.</p> <p>Michael: Played hurling with Cullohill and The Harps GAA. Won 1955 & 1965 Laois County Championships.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>John: None Specified</p> <p>Paddy: Treasurer of Cullohill GAA for 1 year</p> <p>Martin: Member of The Harps GAA committee for many years, held many roles including: Chairman (2 years); Treasurer (5 years); Vice-President currently.</p> <p>Pádraig: Member of The Harps GAA committee for 10 years and club Secretary for 5 years.</p> <p>Seán: Member of the Harps GAA committee for many years, served as Chairman for 3 years.</p>

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	Michael: Served as Secretary and Treasurer for both Cullohill and The Harps GAA. Trains The Harps camogie team.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:50:42
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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 14th June 2012