

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Julian O'Donoghue
Date of Interview	16 th Dec 2011
Location	Blarney, Co Cork
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Donal Coleman 'Jock'
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1967 Home County: Cork
Education	Primary: Blarney Boys NS Secondary: Blarney
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Blarney Hurling and Football Club [Cork]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	16 th Dec 2011
Period Covered	1967 - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Cork
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Education, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Alcohol, Violence, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Socialising, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Donal Coleman talks about his early experiences of Gaelic games and the deepening of his interest during the 1980s. His adult career with the Blarney junior team began in 1986 and the fortunes of that team in subsequent years appear to have mirrored that of the club itself. Coleman charts the ups and downs and excitement that attended their County Junior Championship victory – a first in 57 years – in 1993. Coleman talks about his departure and return to the Blarney GAA scene and his involvement in the club’s epic county, Munster and All-Ireland club campaign of 2008-2009. The impact of those successes on the village is discussed.</p> <p>In the second half of the interview, Coleman returns to his underage GAA experiences in the 1980s in both school and club and he mentions some of the changes that have taken place since. The interview concludes with Coleman reflecting on the players and individuals who made an impression on him and his assessment of the challenges that the GAA now faces.</p> <p>00:00:16 Earliest memories: following in brother’s footsteps and starting to play football, aged 9, on the under 12 team. Started hurling, aged 10.</p> <p>00:01:05 Mentions Blarney winning a mid-Cork Under final in 1977.</p> <p>00:01:28 Refers to the coaches he played under at underage and comments on the quality of players available. Refers to winning Minor in 1983.</p> <p>00:02:30 Talks about father’s interest in GAA and his lack of involvement in club. Says he played up to Minor with</p>

	<p>Inniscarra.</p> <p>00:03:15 Attending adult games as a child. Refers to influence of neighbour, Jamesie Coakley. Talks about growing interest in the 1980s and involvement of brother, Raymond, on junior team.</p> <p>00:04:08 Comments on record of the club and the beginning of his adult career with junior team in 1985.</p> <p>00:04:39 Talks about the frustration of his involvement with junior team – recalls 8 years of near misses and disappointment.</p> <p>00:05:13 Reflects on winning the county championship in 1993 after gap of 57 years – recalls the games played en route to the title.</p> <p>00:07:30 Talks about the players who were on that Cork Junior Hurling Championship winning team.</p> <p>00:09:22 Discusses impact of winning championship on village - the days of celebrations etc.</p> <p>00:12:00 Recollections of Bantry's experience in Intermediate hurling post 1993.</p> <p>00:16:00 Mentions 'walking away' from Blarney GAA in 2001 and returning as part of management team – a selector - for 2008.</p> <p>00:17:23 Interviewer comments that that team won county, Munster and All-Ireland titles.</p> <p>00:17:40 Describes his first games involved with team and, following a defeat, making changes to improve the team set-up. Discusses the influx of young players; the progression through the championship; the non-drink rule on night of county semi-final victory over Douglas; personal satisfaction after winning county final.</p> <p>00:23:50 Refers to some of the older players on the 2008 team. Talks about the meaning of 2008 county title to village.</p> <p>00:24:46 Julian O'Donoghue, interviewer, emphasises the importance of winning the county title, by describing the subsequent All-Ireland success as 'the icing on the cake'.</p> <p>00:25:12 Donal Coleman talks about post county championship celebrations and the role of Sean O'Brien in focussing club on Munster championship.</p>
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	<p>00:26:22 Talks about the return to training and the games played through the Munster campaign – defeating Kilmoyley from Kerry; defeating Clare champions in final in Macroom.</p> <p>00:28:50 Training through Christmas in advance of All-Ireland campaign.</p> <p>00:29:30 Deafeating Ulster champions in Kinnegad in All-Ireland semi-final.</p> <p>00:30:10 Describes the final as a ‘massive occasion’. Discusses the stories from others about the ‘craic’ around the match and not travelling up until morning of game because of farm work; travelling under Garda escort from hotel to Croke Park.</p> <p>00:31:40 Refers to success of Dripsey in game before.</p> <p>00:32:04 Talks about All-Ireland final, the performance of Colin Murphy and others, injuries to two captains.</p> <p>00:35:52 Returning to Cork on train on the night of the All-Ireland final and getting bus to Blarney. Recalls crowds in the village and the pub, the streets blocked off etc.</p> <p>00:36:50 Discusses the influence of the GAA on the forging of friendships and opportunities to share memories etc.</p> <p>00:38:10 Highlights of GAA involvement: recalls losing Under 21 final in 1986 and winning Junior title in 1993.</p> <p>00:40:00 Refers to losing Under 21 final in 1986 as one of his biggest disappointment; refers also to lose Intermediate final in 1999.</p> <p>00:41:00 Talks about the players who were involved with the Under 21 team in 1986, including Tadhgie Murphy (who was working in Switzerland and being flown home for games) and John O’Sullivan (who later went to London and them to America).</p> <p>00:44:35 Comments on the importance to winning mid-Cork competitions.</p> <p>00:45:30 Talks about underage record of his Blarney team and recalls games and incidents from the early 1980s. Tells story of getting hit ‘off the ball’ in Minor semi-final in 1983 and the ‘murder on the sideline’.</p> <p>00:49:50 Talks about attending Blarney National School: remarks on relative absence of hurling and playing football in</p>
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	<p>schoolyard. Mentions internal football league in school.</p> <p>00:50:50 Mentions that ‘a bit’ was played in Blarney secondary school.</p> <p>00:51:03 Remarks on the lack of games profile in schools and the reliance on the GAA.</p> <p>00:51:55 Reflects on the changes in GAA organisation in the school and club since the 1970s – refers to growth of leagues, improvements to grounds.</p> <p>00:53:02 Discusses rivalry with Inniscarra and his children’s involvement now with the Inniscarra club. Mentions also their involvement in other sports. Mentions rivalry as a player with Aghabullogue in mid-Cork.</p> <p>00:55:10 Discusses attending a Munster championship game with father and brother as a child. Travelling by train and looking at people in crowd.</p> <p>00:55:45 Mentions attending first All-Ireland final in 1986.</p> <p>00:56:20 Talks about Cork’s football and hurling double in 1990 and suggests travelling to game impacted upon performance the following week in mid-Cork final.</p> <p>00:58:00 Discusses the inter-county players he admired: refers to Jimmy Barry Murphy, Ray Cummins, Denis Coughlan, Tom Cashman, Martin Doherty, Diarmaid MacCurtain, Tim Crowley, Pat Moylan and others. Mentions team visiting Blarney after some All-Ireland.</p> <p>00:59:38 Refers to later generation of hurlers: Diarmuid Sullivan, Joe Deane, Brian Corcoran.</p> <p>01:00:00 Talks about the absence of televised games, save for All-Irelands.</p> <p>01:00:40 Discusses challenges facing the GAA: talks about challenge from rugby and the need to target schools.</p> <p>01:01:41 Talks about advances in Blarney over previous 7 or 8 years and the contribution by former chairman Michael O’Mahony.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	A number of under- age mid-Cork championships Junior Cork Championship (1993)
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Selector on 2008 intermediate county winning team, and All-Ireland winning team 2009
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:04:00
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Julian O'Donoghue

Date: 16th Dec 2011