

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
<b>Location</b>	John's home, near Dundrum, Dublin 16
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Sheridan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1937 <b>Home County:</b> Cavan
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Carraig Gorman NS, Cavan; Killenkere NS. Cavan <b>Secondary:</b> Yellowfurze NS, Beauford, Co. Meath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Rita), 2 daughters & 2 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Senchellestown GAA [Meath]; St Cillian's [Dublin]; Benburbs GAA [Dublin]; Kilmacud Crokes [Dublin]
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Builder
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Builder [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Cumann Peil Gael na mBan

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat Sheridan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1939  <b>Home County:</b> Cavan
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Killenkere NS, Yellowfurze NS; Donnybrook BNS
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 2 sisters  <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Dympna), 1 son & 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Kilmacud Crokes [Dublin]
<b>Occupation</b>	Sales and Marketing
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Builder [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Kilmacud Local Historical Society

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<b>Date of Report</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1937 - 2012
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Dublin, Cavan
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Coaching, Administration, Fundraising, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>John and Pat talk about their early GAA memories in Cavan at a time when the county side enjoyed great success, winning All-Irelands in the 1940s and 1950s. When they were still young the family moved to Clonskeagh in Dublin and they recall playing Gaelic games there, though there were no underage structures in place at the time. Pat was involved in the setting up of the Kilmacud club and John soon came on board, as the north Dublin side Crokes and St Benburbs amalgamated with Kilmacud. Involved in various administrative positions, they describe how the club went from being shunned by local residents who looked down on the GAA to the massively successful club it had become by 2010, boasting scores of teams, hundreds of members, comprehensive facilities and numerous titles won on the pitch over the years.</p> <p>00:55 (John) Earliest GAA memories - seeing people listening to a radio in Killinkere in Cavan on the day of the 1947 All-Ireland final between Cavan and Kerry in the Polo Grounds in New York. Master Clarke, a teacher, owned the radio.</p> <p>01:50 (John) Going to Virginia on the bicycle to see John Joe Reilly and the Cavan team return with the Sam Maguire. Crowds on the street.</p> <p>02:45 (John) Games played on the local pitch in Killinkere.</p> <p>03:25 (Pat) Listening to the 1948 All-Ireland final in Meath. Neighbours in Meath, Collins, had a radio.</p> <p>03:55 (Pat) Meath beating Cavan in the 1949 All-Ireland final.</p> <p>04:15 (Pat) Being brought to Croke Park for the 1952 All-Ireland final that Cavan drew.</p>

	<p>04:45 (Pat) Rivalry between Cavan and Meath.</p> <p>05:20 (John) Father's GAA involvement.</p> <p>05:45 (John) Cavan's success at the time. Mick Higgins, Joe Stafford, Terry Sheridan, Peter Donoghue celebrated players at the time.</p> <p>06:15 (Pat) Going to games around Ulster with his father. Getting lifts from people.</p> <p>06:30 (John) Father not going to club games.</p> <p>06:55 (Pat) Going over the border with Northern Ireland for games. Watching Cavan play Down. Going on the train to Belfast. What that experience was like.</p> <p>08:15 (Pat) No club in south Dublin growing up.</p> <p>08:30 (Pat) Playing with friends in Clonskeagh in Dublin.</p> <p>09:05 (Pat) Kilmacud starting in 1959 and joining the club and the committee.</p> <p>10:15 (Pat) Playing in the Phoenix Park.</p> <p>10:35 (Pat) First club meeting. Eamon De Barra, a friend of Padraig Pearse, the secretary. Two priests and a teacher, Seán Brennan also involved.</p> <p>12:00 (Pat) Reason for moving to Dublin.</p> <p>12:50 (John) Involvement with St Callions and St Benburbs. when he was younger. Phelim McGovern also involved with Benburbs.</p> <p>14:00 (John) Clonskeagh at the time.</p> <p>15:20 (John) Not being aware of soccer at the time.</p> <p>16:10 (Pat) First All-Ireland played in Benburbs pitch in Clonskeagh.</p> <p>16:30 (Pat) Living next to Belfield and playing there.</p> <p>16:40 (John) Tony Martin and absent landlord of Belfield. Playing there.</p>
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	<p>17:35 (John) Joining Kilmacud when it was started but not playing until 1972. Micheál De Burca asking him to get involved.</p> <p>17:00 (Pat) Benburbs in decline and Kilmacud getting stronger. Amalgamation.</p> <p>18:10 (John) No juvenile football at the time.</p> <p>19:10 (John) Playing with St Benburbs in the Phoenix Park.</p> <p>20:00 (John) What the Phoenix Park pitches were like.</p> <p>21:15 (Pat) Demographic of Kilmacud at the beginning.</p> <p>21:45 (Pat) Crokes joining Kilmacud in 1966. Reason for that.</p> <p>22:35 (John) Few clubs having their own grounds.</p> <p>22:55 (Pat) Process of amalgamation.</p> <p>23:55 (Pat) Crokes players from the north side of the city in the beginning.</p> <p>24:20 John Maher, a Kilkenny hurler, driving the amalgamation. Brendan Power of Waterford and Martin White also involved.</p> <p>25:25 (John) St Benburb's players living closer to Kilmacud area.</p> <p>25:45 (John) First football committee formed. Seán Donnelly chairman.</p> <p>26:20 (Pat) Stillorgan in the late 1950s.</p> <p>27:15 (Pat) Role of the club in the community. Street leagues.</p> <p>28:15 (John) Affluence of the area. Opposition to GAA club starting.</p> <p>28:50 (Pat) Popularity of soccer and rugby in Stillorgan.</p> <p>29:20 (Pat) Club not accepted in the early days. Change over time.</p>
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	<p>30:00 (Pat) Underage girls teams at the club in 2010.</p> <p>31:00 (John) Kilmacud as part of the community club. Why they did that.</p> <p>32:35 (Pat) Keith Barr saying that he used to be afraid to go to Kilmacud.</p> <p>33:05 (John) Usefulness of GAA club for people new to the area.</p> <p>33:40 (Pat) GAA helping him in his career.</p> <p>34:15 (John) Going for an interview with Dunlop's and telling them he played GAA.</p> <p>34:55 (John) 7-a-sides starting in 1972. Benefits of that. Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer playing when it started.</p> <p>35:35 (Pat) Reason for 7-a-sides.</p> <p>35:50 (John) Festival in Kilmacud in the early 1970s. Brian Pearse having an accident in a game. His father proposing a 13-a-side competition.</p> <p>37:00 (John) Podge Fitzgerald involved in the football 7-a-sides and claiming he started the hurling 7-a-sides.</p> <p>37:45 (John) Camogie starting in the club. Eileen Hogan involved.</p> <p>38:25 (John) Ladies football starting in the club.</p> <p>39:05 PP Decision to set up ladies football in the club.</p> <p>39:30 (John) Making a recommendation at an AGM about ladies football. Danny Ringer signing it. Tom Rock approaching him about it some time later.</p> <p>40:40 (John) Contacting Michael Feeney of Leitrim, whose daughters wanted to play.</p> <p>41:25 (John) Contacting local schools and people responding.</p> <p>42:30 (John) Teams they formed.</p> <p>43:15 (John) Entering the junior championship and playing Lucan Sarsfields.</p>
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	<p>43:30 (John) Winning the intermediate and Under-10 championships after a few years.</p> <p>44:05 PP Reaction within the club to ladies section being set up.</p> <p>46:05 PP Number of boys playing at Under-6 level in 2010. Logistical difficulties associated with that.</p> <p>47:15 (John) Growth of ladies football and camogie.</p> <p>47:55 (John) Parents more supportive of boys than girls.</p> <p>48:25 (Pat) Basketball and other sports popular with girls.</p> <p>50:10 (Pat) Talented female minor footballer also a talented hockey player.</p> <p>51:15 (John) Síofaigh Ní Clearaigh in the club and a talented athlete.</p> <p>52:20 (John) Involvement with hurling and their sons on the team.</p> <p>52:45 (John) Working with former Kilkenny player John Maher.</p> <p>53:30 (Pat) Impact of development of Stillorgan on the club.</p> <p>54:05 (Pat) Most of their players going on to study at university.</p> <p>54:40 (Pat) Less people from the country playing in Dublin.</p> <p>55:00 (Pat) Pace of growth of the club since the 1950s. Success on the pitch over time.</p> <p>55:50 (Pat) Number of members they have in 2010.</p> <p>56:25 (Pat) Effect of economic conditions on membership.</p> <p>57:00 (John) GAA community centre built by Kilmacud and attitude to that in the beginning.</p> <p>58:45 (John) Relationship between the community and the club originally.</p>
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	<p>01:00:10 (John) Team from Sandyford getting people from the army to play with them. Paddy Walsh going to Phoenix Park and getting people from Collins Barracks to play.</p> <p>01:01:45 (John) Playing on St Callions team which featured barmen, as did Banba team.</p> <p>01:02:10 (John) Relationship between ladies football and the GAA.</p> <p>01:02:30 (John) Hosting a Blue Stars for ladies football and camogie. Joan Flynn and Pat Quinn there.</p> <p>01:03:10 (Pat) Prospect of ladies and men coming under the same banner.</p> <p>01:04:00 (John) Opinion of women in the GAA.</p> <p>01:04:20 Féile na nÓg on in Dublin in 2000. Kathleen Poland of Skerries Harps secretary of the committee. What he thought of her.</p> <p>01:05:15 (Pat) Female county secretaries.</p> <p>01:05:30 (Pat) Girls taking to Gaelic football quickly.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>John:</b></p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ 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><b>Pat:</b></p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ 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>



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<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<b>John:</b> Played football with Benburbs and in Clonskeagh. <b>Pat:</b> Played on Junior hurling and football teams with Kilmacud Crokes
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<b>John:</b> Chairman of Kilmacud Crokes Ladies Gaelic Football Club; Chairman of Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football; Dublin Delegate to Ladies Gaelic Football Central Council. <b>Pat:</b> Chairman of Football Committee for 3 years.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:07:02
<b>Language</b>	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: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012