

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Berlinda Logue
<b>Date of Interview</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Castlederg, Co Tyrone
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat O'Loughlin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1936 <b>Home County:</b> Fermanagh
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Belleek, Co Fermanagh <b>Secondary:</b> Ballyshannon, Co Donegal
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers; 3 sisters
<b>Club(s)</b>	St Eugene's GAA Club, Castlederg [Tyrone]
<b>Occupation</b>	Semi-Retired, Jewellery and Watch Repairs
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Bicycle and Car Mechanic [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1940s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Fermanagh, Tyrone, Donegal, Derry, Armagh, Louth, Dublin, Kerry, England, Great Britain
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Politics, Northern Ireland, Retirement
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Pat O'Loughlin discusses the role that Gaelic games played in his childhood – from listening to match commentaries on radio to informal games of 'rush-in' in primary school and from organised games in De la Salle in Ballyshannon to the juvenile teams in Belleek. He charts his involvement with Gaelic football from Belleek to London, Belfast and back to Fermanagh, where he received a call-up to the county's junior football team. He discusses at length Fermanagh's All-Ireland winning junior championship campaign – including the training behind it - of 1959. This was the county's first such title. O'Loughlin moved to Castlederg in 1962 and he reflects on the relative status of soccer and Gaelic football in the area when he arrived. He talks about becoming involved with underage teams, his weakness as a trainer, the value of the GAA to young people, the role of sport in communal relations between Protestant and Catholic. In addition, he comments on the growing prominence of women in the GAA and his daughter's previous experience of Scór. Finally, he stresses the necessity of instilling skills at an early age.</p> <p>00:02:05 Pat O'Loughlin introduces himself. Mentions that he was born in Belleek in 1936. Talks about the his father's involvement in soccer, workers from Stoke-on-Trent involved with Belleek pottery and the organisation of a soccer team, the lack of organised Gaelic games.</p> <p>00:03:31 Memories of kicking a ball on the road with friend, using stones for goalposts.</p> <p>00:04:15 Experiencing Gaelic games through the radio – going to O'Regan's house on Sunday to listen to Michael O'Hehir. Refers to O'Hehir's contribution to GAA and</p>

	<p>becoming aware of rules and players from other counties.</p> <p>00:05:00 Playing a game called 'rush-in' in primary school using a makeshift ball.</p> <p>00:05:15 Attending secondary school at De La Salle in Ballyshannon – playing informally with other pupils and playing organised games in his last year. Recalls playing a match in Omagh against a Derry team.</p> <p>00:06:10 Talks about the local team who were based in Donegal but whose field – Garvin's field - was in Fermanagh. Mentions that club team consisted of players from Donegal and Fermanagh and played in the Donegal junior leagues. Refers to one player with American links, known as 'Yankee Tommy', who played for New York in Croke Park.</p> <p>00:08:07 Talks about playing juvenile and minor football with Belleek and his familiarity with defeat in finals.</p> <p>00:08:37 Going to England for a year. Mentions getting to, and winning, a league final against Roslea prior to leaving for England and refers to some of players involved on the team.</p> <p>00:09:02 Discusses his time in England and missing football. Mentions moving from London to Alban's, where the Council gave them a park. Refers to playing games in Watford and London.</p> <p>00:10:27 Returning to Belfast, taking up a job repairing watches. Tells story about Eddie Daly stopping him in Belleek to tell to be out for a game on Sunday, leading to county call-up.</p> <p>00:11:37 Recalls travelling to Irvinestown to play against Donegal in junior championship. Talks about the low standard of Fermanagh football and coming home at weekends – hiring a car - to play for county.</p> <p>00:12:40 Refers to influence of Paddy O'Hara on Fermanagh football and provides an account of his performances in the junior championship.</p> <p>00:14:00 Getting to, and winning, Ulster junior championship final. Talks about an injury he sustained due to wearing a low cut pair of football boots. Getting an injection.</p> <p>00:15:35 Casual attitude to playing football.</p> <p>00:15:43 Discusses training in Armagh to facilitate other players travelling. Mentions travelling in car with Paddy</p>
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	<p>O'Hara, the team trainer.</p> <p>00:16:48 Paddy O'Hara as a trainer: 'well head of his time'. Refers to training moving around to different locations, access to grounds in other counties, playing challenge matches.</p> <p>00:17:33 Recalls a challenge match against Louth and a 'big match' with Dublin in O'Toole Park. Defeating Dublin in replay in Irvinestown and progressing to meet Kerry juniors in Croke Park.</p> <p>00:19:40 Excitement of getting to Croke Park, Kerry playing in Munster blue and interviewees performance in Croke Park. Recalls getting injured and being replaced by Joe Pat Prunty of Roslea, later known for developing Prunty pitches.</p> <p>00:21:40 Recalls injection for ankle injury before Ulster final – finding out he was allergic to penicillin.</p> <p>00:22:22 Beating Kerry in All-Ireland final and qualifying to play London in New Eltham, 1959. Mentions return to Enniskillen and the reception received.</p> <p>00:23:02 Talks about how Paddy O'Hara, team trainer, broke the game down to different skills.</p> <p>00:23:50 Mentions knee injury ending inter-county career and playing club football with great success Devenish.</p> <p>00:25:00 Moving to Castlederg in 1962 and being approach by Jack Lynch to start a team of youngsters. Mentions a North Tyrone Board for small clubs in the area and entering a team for Castlederg. Mentions interest in soccer in the area and attempts to get them to turn out for Gaelic football.</p> <p>00:26:52 Mentions winning North Tyrone League three years in a row and training boys in St Eugene's school.</p> <p>00:27:35 Refers to his lack of current involvement with Gaelic football.</p> <p>00:27:55 Talks about a game in Newtownstewart, a semi-final in juvenile championship. Mentions poor state of grounds and the game that ensued.</p> <p>00:30:08 Talks about managing team in the early 1960s, about John McHugh taking players to matches in his mini-bus, writing teams in Irish, giving player oranges at half-time. Recalls some of the players on that underage team.</p> <p>00:32:36 Pitches: talks about playing in St Eugene's school or</p>
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	<p>a field provided by Michael McGill.</p> <p>00:32:33 Discusses some of his most admiration for Derry's Jim McKeever,</p> <p>00:33:50 Reflects on impact of GAA on life and his limitations as a coach. Talks about St. John's club in Belfast with whom he trained and his search for a 'keep fit' club during winter-time when he arrived in Castlederg. Mentions that it was initially mostly 'Protestant lads' involved until Aghyaran and Devenish lads joined. 'It turned out to be a great mixed thing.' Club established training as a routine.</p> <p>00:37:00 Discusses maintaining interest in Gaelic football, involvement of Protestant players in Gaelic and involvement of players in soccer.</p> <p>00:38:58 Comments on what the GAA offers to young people in the area. Talks about the friendships created through the GAA and tells story of being stopped by a Garda he knew.</p> <p>00:41:04 Talks about GAA involvement – or lack of - among his children.</p> <p>00:42:03 Refers to his daughter, Frances's, previous involvement with Scór. She is now in Australia.</p> <p>00:42:40 Looking for results of local teams on a Monday morning, whether home or away.</p> <p>00:43:00 Comments on growing prominence of women in the GAA and the abilities they bring. Includes reference to local girl, Shannon Lynch, playing with Tyrone in Croke Park.</p> <p>00:44:07 Exchange between interviewer and interviewee about Shannon Lynch's family involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>00:45:26 Remark about the greater 'spirit' for the GAA among rural dwellers.</p> <p>00:45:45 Comment on the encouragement for Gaelic games from Principal of local primary school and the importance of instilling skills at a young age.</p> <p>00:46:22 Says that he was a 'late developer' as a footballer and remembers missing the GAA when he went to England.</p> <p>00:47:00 Mentions playing junior football until he was 40.</p> <p>00:47:32 Interview pays tribute to Interviewee for 'sowing the seeds' of club's subsequent development.</p>
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<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input 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)	Senior League Medal, Belleek; O'Duffy Cup Medal, Fermanagh; Ulster Junior Championship Medal, Fermanagh; Home All-Ireland Junior Championship Medal, Fermanagh
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:10:00
<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:           Berlinda Logue

Date:             16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011