

REFERENCE NO. LS/1/18

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Alley
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1942 Home County: Laois
Education	Primary: Durrow NS, Co. Laois Secondary: St Kieran's College, Kilkenny City Third Level: UCC
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Wife, 1 son & 4 daughters
Club(s)	Durrow GAA [Laois]; Cullahill GAA [Laois]; The Harps GAA [Laois]
Occupation	Retired Primary School Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Drapery Shop Owners
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Joe Dempsey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1930 Home County: Laois
Education	Primary: Durrow BNS, Co. Laois
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: 9 children
Club(s)	Durrow GAA [Laois]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Hugh Sheppard
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1947 Home County: Laois
Education	Primary: Durrow BNS, Co. Laois Secondary: Rathdowney Technical College
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife, 3 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Durrow GAA [Laois]; The Harps GAA [Laois]; St Michael's GAA, Croydon [Great Britain]
Occupation	Plastering Contractor
Parents' Occupation	Postman [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	13 th June 2012
Period Covered	1933 - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Laois, Kilkenny, Dublin, Cork, Clare, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Great Britain
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Facilities, Playing, Managing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Alcohol, Violence, Ban of Foreign Games and Dances
Interview Summary	<p>In this interview the group involved in the Harps GAA club talk about its origins in Durrow and Cullahill. They discuss the carnivals that were used as one of their main fundraisers for many years. They then talk about the people who made the club what it is today and their own careers both in club and at county level. Changes in coaching and training techniques are discussed and the successes of the individual clubs in the area as well as Laois. Finally, they talk about their disappointment at Harps having yet to win a Senior title.</p> <p>00:40 Talks of the player panel list being posted on the chapel gate from the 1950's and most of the games being in Abbeyliex. Mentions bringing their kit to mass to check if they were on the list.</p> <p>02:10 They speak of their earliest memories and their families' involvement. Mentions cycling to play a juvenile match against Castletown and winning the U15 county final in 1950. Also mentions this being the first year of juvenile games in the county.</p> <p>03:37 Recalls the men in charge of the juvenile team at the time, Paddy Horan and John Aylward. Mentions Fr. Kenny and Fr. Phelan. Chairman of the juvenile board and the fact that the juveniles always had a priest involved.</p> <p>04:27 Talks of Fr. Collier starting a carnival to help with fundraising. Mentions Canon Delaney running it for several years to clear the church debt before it returned to the GAA and Pipe Band clubs.</p> <p>05:53 Speaks of what was involved in the carnival and the tournaments that were associated with it. Mentions the teams that were involved, Galmoy, Rathdowney and others.</p> <p>07:02 Talks of there only being local clubs involved and the</p>

	<p>between the Leinster final and the All-Ireland and being given a place on the All-Ireland Laois team because of it. Mentions going to Croke Park for the first time by bus staying in the Spa hotel in Lucan and going to Barry's Hotel after the match. Also mentions Charlie McCarthy and John Roche.</p> <p>30:14 Talks of winning hurling county championship medals with Saint Michaels in Croydon and a Warwickshire medal in Leeds. Mentions being given the medal almost twenty years later at a Harps presentation. Also mentions Saint Michaels being made up of players from Durrow and North Kilkenny such as Billy White, Joe Morgan, Mickey Ryan, Jim Delahunty, Johnny Bowden, Gaby Muldowney, Paddy Dowling and Jimmy Dowling.</p> <p>33:01 Speaks of the affect of emigration on the Durrow club over the years and how it was worse in the 1950's and 60's.</p> <p>34:54 Speaks of the rivalry between Cullahill and Durrow before the amalgamation and where the various players were from who played for each club.</p> <p>36:17 Talks of winning Junior, Intermediate and Senior on year after the other in 1953, 54, 55. Mentions Lar Dunphy, Martin Deegan, Pascal Dennigan. The three Clergymen and Christy O'Brien and being beaten in 1956 in the final by Borris-in-Ossory.</p> <p>37:48 Talks of there being very little football played in the area at the time. Mentions there being a row during matches.</p> <p>39:34 Talks of cycling to a match in Clough. And togging out in a ditch and after the match finding that half the clothes had been eaten by cows.</p> <p>40:07 Speaks of Bill Scott running up and down the sideline encouraging the players. Mentions Bill cycling to Birr to see Kilkenny playing Dublin and his father dying while he was on the way to the match. Also mentions him having a horse and car and taking people to matches.</p> <p>42:52 Talks of crowds of people cycling to matches over long distances as there was no other way of getting there. Mentions Billy Hazard a teacher taking about twelve of the juvenile team in his VW car and trailer to Cullahill.</p> <p>44:11 Talks of there being very few teachers that were interested in the Gaelic games.</p> <p>45:21 Speaks of the priests that had some interest in the games. Mentions there being no other games being played</p>
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	<p>other than cricket and handball which was popular but not organised. Also mentions Urlingford and the Joyces and Bowdens and Ryans who played handball and cycling to various places to play handball, Horse and Jockey, Castlecomer and Clogh.</p> <p>47:43 Talks of having to wait for about an hour to get a game as it was so popular. Mentions celebrating the county final win in 1955 in the ball alley in Cullahill and setting up a bar in the alley. Also mentions Fr. Lar Dunphy being the captain on the day and playing as B Brophy.</p> <p>49:24 Talk of Bishops Connor stopping the clergy playing after 1948 when Laois played Dublin in the Leinster final in Tullamore and a fight broke out. There were two priest on the team, Fr. Sean Collier and Fr. Kevin Molloy, who did not get involved but the bishop banned them from playing.</p> <p>50:22 Speaks of being stopped from playing by Saint Ciarans as the leaving cert was coming up. Mentions Eddie Kerr and Fr. Tommy Maher who was the trainer.</p> <p>52:13 Talks of Fr. Lar Dunphy captaining the first Kieran's team to win and All-Ireland in 1947. Mentions there being three on the team from the parish, Fr. Lar, Brother Jim and Tommy White now a retired cardinal. Also mentions a Kerryman who sent his son to Ciarans for six years hoping he would get on the team but he didn't make it.</p> <p>53:24 Speaks of Fr. Meagher as a coach and how he trained Kilkenny for many years. Mentions Fr. Reidy who ended up as a VP in Congress.</p> <p>54:08 They talk of the changes in coaching over the years they have been involved. Mention there being no organised training and just practising themselves and only having selectors.</p> <p>55:54 They speak of the various fields they played in one in Durrow and about six in Cullahill. Mentions Scott's lane and moving the posts, being hit on the head and missing a match.</p> <p>59:12 Talks of a team in 1933 that won a shield and fourteen of the team being from Carrigan Street, Carters, Paddy Maher, the Flynn's, George West and Johnny Rocks.</p> <p>Also mentions seven of the team going on to play with Laois.</p> <p>01:00:29 Talk of following Laois over the years and only important games being broadcast. Mentions Clare and Limerick being great teams at the time. Also mentions going</p>
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	<p>up a hill to listen to the match for better reception to hear Michael O'Hare.</p> <p>01:02:40 Recalls being young and hurling on the green imagining themselves to be famous Kilkenny hurlers such as, Ollie Walsh and Seán Cloghessey. Mentions being so close to Kilkenny and Durrow being in Kilkenny until about 1846.</p> <p>01:03:53 Larry talks of being inspired by Mick and John Mackey, Christy Ring, Paddy Cloghessey and Paddy Phelan.</p> <p>01:04:32 John talks of playing against Christy Ring in the Cork county final with UCC.</p> <p>01:05:20 Speaks of hurling being the most popular game in UCC at the time. Mentions rugby also being played. Also mentions playing other teams in the Cork county championships and winning two Fitzgibbon cups and John O'Donovan.</p> <p>01:06:50 Talks of a rule that said you could only play with your home team after 1 June. Mentions Durrow being out by 1 June for the first three years of his college life and playing with Cullahill in 1963.</p> <p>01:07:50 Speaks of rule changes that effected the club over the years. Mentions the ban being strictly enforced and having to be secretive about going to a soccer match or dance. Also mentions some of the players playing rugby in Rathdowney and how this caused problems. Talks of Joe and Bill Cashel playing rugby after their Gaelic career.</p> <p>01:10:56 Talks of the Lions Soccer club being set up in 1970 and having to pay a registration fee of £100 and borrowing money from the hurling team to pay it as the soccer team had no funds as they were only starting up. Mentions the hurlers playing soccer. Telling the soccer team to play hurling after their soccer match in the morning.</p> <p>01:13:12 Tells of playing a soccer match in the morning followed by a Gaelic match in the afternoon in Abbeyleix and hurling that night at the carnival.</p> <p>01:13:26 Talks of injuries at the time and how they were dealt with in their days. Mentions' getting fifty eight stitches to the face from hurling over the years as there were no helmets. Also mentions Dr. Bannon. Stitching up his thumb after it had been almost severed.</p> <p>01:16:19 Lar talks of playing for Laois and being beaten well in a Leinster semi-final. Mentions Tom Ryan, Nicky Rackard,</p>
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	<p>Andy Dunne, Jim Quinn Tom Nixon, Jimmy Maher and Tim Flood. Also mentions playing handball that morning in a Leinster junior semi-final and winning.</p> <p>01:18:19 Talks of collective training sessions when playing with Laois and being trained by a Tipperary hurler for a few weeks before the match.</p> <p>01:20:12 Speaks of the training not being as stringent. Mentions Brother Robert and Brother Denis who trained John's team.</p> <p>01:21:42 Talks of the first time hurling with the county and three of the players being fond of a drink, Harry Grey, Christy O'Brien and Jimmy Murray. Mentions the first match and the three not coming to the meal and drinking until 2 am.</p> <p>01:23:40 Talks of Harry Grey playing for Faughs and Dublin and playing for Leinster before he played for a county. Mentions Tony Herbert, Mick Herbert and Bill Cashel.</p> <p>01:25:27 Talks of the development of the clubs and how they amalgamated. Mentions the impact on the parish and some checking how many from each of the villages were represented on the Harps teams. Also mentions the younger players getting involved in the committee.</p> <p>01:29:45 Speaks of there being no particular main rival but there being local derbies.</p> <p>01:30:22 Talks of John and some others playing football with Durrow. Mentions Jim Dumphy, Joe Stringer and Jim Kavanagh.</p> <p>01:31:33 Recalls the main changes in the clubs being the professional approach to the game. Mentions Fr. Nugent who brought training to the club and Fr. Teeghan and Canon Delaney.</p> <p>01:35:52 Talks of travelling farmhand from Galmoy who was a great hurler and fond of the drink. Mentions Fr. Bowden giving out to him for his language outside the church and telling him he was on the brink of hell and the farmhand witty reply.</p> <p>01:38:54 Talks of the regrets that the Harps haven't won a senior championship.</p>
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<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Larry:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>John:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Joe:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" 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>Hugh:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Larry: Played hurling for Laois Minors (1953); Senior (1956); played on Leinster hurling team 1965-66.</p> <p>John: Won All-Ireland Colleges Final with St Kierans in 1959; won Leinster Colleges Final in 1958, 59, 60. Won Cork Senior Hurling Championship playing with UCC in 1963; Won Laois Senior Hurling Championship playing with Cullahill in 1962.</p>

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	<p>Member of Laois Senior hurling panel in the 1960s.</p> <p>Joe: Played junior and intermediate hurling.</p> <p>Hugh: Won U12; U14; U16; Junior and Intermediate championship medals with Durrow and The Harps. Played U14; U16; Minor; U21 with Laois. Won Leinster U14 with Laois and All-Ireland Minor Runner-up medal in 1964.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Larry: Member of the Durrow GAA committee for many years, held many positions including Chairman (3 years) and Treasurer (10 years)</p> <p>John: Held several positions on The Harps GAA committee; President of The Harps GAA club.</p> <p>Joe: Not specified.</p> <p>Hugh: Committee member of Durrow GAA; Committee member of The Harps GAA, 1987, 88, 89. Chairman of The Harps GAA club 1990-93.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:39:58</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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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: 13th June 2012