

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Julian O'Donoghue
Date of Interview	23th Dec 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Blarney, Co Cork
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Johnny Hurley
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1973 Home County: Cork
Education	Primary: Blarney Boys NS Secondary: Blarney CBS Cork
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers
Club(s)	Blarney Hurling and Football Club [Cork]; Muskerry GAA [Cork]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	23th Dec 2011
Period Covered	1973 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Cork, Kerry, Clare, Antrim, Galway, Americas
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Education, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Johnny Hurley discusses his early involvement with the GAA, in particular his participation in parish leagues and underage games. His early experiences also included attending Munster and All-Ireland finals and he notes that he has attended every All-Ireland final involving Cork since 1982. Hurley discusses his proficiency in squash, a game in which he has represented Ireland, and the involvement of several Blarney GAA players in the sport. However, the bulk of the interview deals with his adult playing career, in particular the historic county Intermediate championship success of 2008 and the subsequent runs to Munster and All-Ireland glory. The games throughout this campaign are recalled in detail, as are the events in and around them, in particular the celebrations that following the All-Ireland victory in Croke Park. Towards the end of the interview, Hurley is called to reflect on his schooldays, on playing hurling for a summer in Boston, on the power balance between hurling and football in Blarney and his involvement in both. Finally, he pays tribute to those volunteers who have contributed to making the club what it has become.</p> <p>00:00:20 Earliest memories: mentions playing in the parish leagues, street leagues and under 12 mid-Cork football and hurling final, early to mid 1980s.</p> <p>00:01:20 Mentions also attending All-Ireland and Munster finals with Cork, attending club games.</p> <p>00:01:45 Talks about some of the player he would have played alongside at under 12 level, ca. 1984 – Brian Sheahan, Humphrey Hogan, Darragh Murray, Tomás Harrington, Simon O’Donoghue.</p> <p>00:02:40 Mentions some more players who would have been on his under12 team in 1985 – Raymond Madden, Ian</p>

	<p>O’Riordan.</p> <p>00:02:55 Mentions names of selectors and managers of those under 12 teams: Ted Sheahan, Pat Harrington, Don Hegarty, Michael Dunne, Pat Joe Sheahan, the Kellehers, Jamesie Coakley.</p> <p>00:03:38 Says that his age group were stronger in football than hurling.</p> <p>00:04:00 Talks about the continuation of players with club up to Minor and Under 21 and their subsequent loss to club.</p> <p>00:04:54 Reflects on the training and coaching received when he was underage and considers how it has changed in the years since. Pays tribute to the quality and commitment of the coaches he experienced.</p> <p>00:06:10 Family involvement: talks about his mother’s background in Blarney and his grandfather’s (Billy Ruby) involvement with the club in the early 1930s. Mentions that father’s club would have been Blackrock.</p> <p>00:08:10 Claims to have been at every Cork All-Ireland final appearance since 1982. Recalls attending Cork V Kilkenny in 1982 hurling final, aged 9, with his father, sitting in upper Hogan Stand.</p> <p>00:08:48 Adult playing career: talks about playing championship at junior B, Junior A, intermediate and senior levels. Expresses regret at not being involved in 1993 Junior success and remains a member of Intermediate panel.</p> <p>00:11:20 Discusses his involvement in squash and representing Ireland at underage level. Talks about the strength of Blarney squash club and the involvement of GAA members in the sport – including a number who represented Munster and Ireland.</p> <p>00:13:40 Discusses Blarney first year playing Intermediate hurling in 1994 and losing to neighbours Inniscarra.</p> <p>00:14:47 Discusses the record of the club post-1994, the players involved, teams played, the victories and defeats; the throughput of underage players into the adult teams.</p> <p>00:18:18 Talks about reaching the 1999 county final with most of county minor championship winning team of 1997. Losing to Ballincollig.</p> <p>00:18:50 Discusses the 9 years between county final appearance in 1999 and winning county title in 2008. Refers,</p>
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	<p>for instance, to reaching county semi-finals in 2004, 2006 and 2007. Mentions the quality of younger players who came through to adult ranks, in particular Mark Cremin and Colin Murphy.</p> <p>00:22:10 Interviewer refers to a photograph of 1999 Blarney team where Colin Murphy is the mascot.</p> <p>00:22:42 Johnny Hurley reflects on the winning of the county title in 2008. Talks about poor start to season and the turnaround in fortunes.</p> <p>00:26:22 Winning county final in 2008 and the celebrations that followed. Bringing the cup back and what it meant to older members etc.</p> <p>00:28:21 Talks about return to training for Munster championship and the team's progress through the Munster campaign, defeating Kilmoyley; cancellation of semi-final and receiving walkover against Waterford champions; defeating Broadford from Clare in Munster final.</p> <p>00:31:50 Discusses the achievement of winning Munster club title.</p> <p>00:32:45 Talks about training through Christmas, including Christmas eve, in preparation for All-Ireland semi-final in January.</p> <p>00:33:41 Pressure of expectation in playing an Antrim team in All-Ireland semi-final, travelling to Kinnegad on night before game, trailing at half-time and speaking to players in dressingroom, second half performance.</p> <p>00:37:20 Preparing for All-Ireland final.</p> <p>00:39:00 Excitement of build up to final, travelling to Dublin on train, tribute to management and club officer on the pre-match organisation; maintaining focus; finishing first half two points ahead; dressing-room talk; story of the second half; man of the match performance from Colin Murphy.</p> <p>00:46:00 Discussion about return to Cork in the aftermath of All-Ireland final. Talks about post-match meal in Croke Park; meeting Blarney supporters in Jury's Hotel; buses from Jury's to Heuston Station; drinking; train journey to Mallow station; coaches from Mallow to Blarney; arrival in Blarney and the crowds to receive the team.</p> <p>00:53:12 Celebrations in the days after the All-Ireland final: open top bus around village; Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel.</p>
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	<p>00:54:55 Reflects on his childhood experience watching Blarney adult teams and talks about using the All-Ireland victory to promote the GAA in Blarney.</p> <p>00:57:00 Talks about the friendships that grow out of GAA involvement.</p> <p>00:58:51 Considers the relative importance of county and All-Ireland titles – describes the winning of the county title as ‘the goal’ and the other titles as a bonus.</p> <p>01:01:12 Considers the losing of the 1999 county final, when he was captain, as lowpoint and refers to ‘sour taste’ left in wake of game.</p> <p>01:02:30 Reflects on the disappointment of defeats in the 2000s, in particular the 2007 championship semi-final.</p> <p>01:04:50 Talks about the older players on the 2008 county championship winning team.</p> <p>01:05:35 Comments on his respect for many individuals – coaches, selectors and officers – who contributed to the GAA in Blarney.</p> <p>01:08:00 Revisits his schooldays at Blarney National School and talks about winning Sciath na Scol in 1984. Says teacher that John Kelly was a key driver behind GAA in school.</p> <p>01:09:10 Comments on returning to school with county and All-Ireland trophies.</p> <p>01:09:40 Secondary school and lack of success in Gaelic games.</p> <p>01:10:30 GAA abroad: recalls playing hurling in Boston in 2002, having being beaten in Cork championship. Mentions travelling with friends, signing up with Tipperary, winning Boston Championship and travelling to North American championships in Chicago.</p> <p>01:13:40 Refers to displeasure of a Blarney neighbour at his success with Tipperary.</p> <p>01:14:30 Considers the inter-county players who made an impression on him: Jimmy Barry Murphy, John Fenton, Ray Cummins.</p> <p>01:15:50 Talks about playing Blarney reputation for hurling over football and the relative commitment that club affords each. Mentions his own interest in football and playing for Muskerry senior divisional team in 2004-2006, years where</p>
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	<p>he also played senior hurling for Muskerry.</p> <p>01:18:01 Recalls Blarney winning two mid Cork junior B titles in a row – 2008 and 2009 – places it in a broader historical context.</p> <p>01:20:10 Talks about Peter Aherne for his role in raising the standard of football in Blarney, resulting in the winning of mid Cork title. Mentions also some of the players involved with Blarney football.</p> <p>01:22:10 Mentions the spin-off for football from the fitness levels and attitude acquired from hurling.</p> <p>01:23:16 Discusses the challenges facing the GAA, focussing on the demands on inter-county players and the sacrifices also by club players.</p> <p>01:25:40 Considers his playing future and talks also about the playing record of James Coakley.</p> <p>01:28:20 Final comments: expresses gratitude to those who gave their time to train teams or serve as officers and administrators over the years. Expresses optimism about the club's future.</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> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>County, Munster and Intermediate hurling medals 2008/9. Munster Intermediate with Cork 2005. Played in America for Tipperary Boston (2002). Mid Cork junior football with Blarney 2008 and 2009</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:30:00</p>

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/31

Language	English
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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: Julian O'Donoghue

Date: 23th Dec 2011