

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Jimmy Smyth
Date of Interview	6 th May 2011
Location	Interviewer's home
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Diarmaid Marsden
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1975 Home County: Armagh
Education (Optional)	Primary: St. Francis Primary School Lurgan Secondary: St. Colman's Newry Third Level: Q.U.B.
Family	Siblings: 1 Brother, 1 Sister
Club(s)	Clan na Gael, Lurgan
Occupation	Ulster Council Development Officer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. AR/1/72

Date of Report	29 th August 2012
Period Covered	1992-2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Armagh, Meath
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood
Interview Summary	<p>Diarmuid Marsden, former Clan na Gael and Armagh football, reflects on his sporting career with school, college, club and county. He discusses his early years playing Gaelic football in Clan na Gael and his involvement in colleges football at St. Colman's College, which included victories in the MacRory and Hogan Cups. He charts his ongoing football experiences at Queen's University, Belfast as both an undergraduate and post-graduate, shedding light on the seriousness with which the Sigerson Cup is addressed and the quality of players involved with the competition. Marsden played three years with the Armagh minors before moving into the senior ranks, which resulted in his winning an All-Ireland title in 2002. Retirement from inter-county football is discussed as is his move into club management with Clan na Gael. The interview concludes with Marsden reflecting on his work as a Coaching and Games Development Officer and his observations on the place of the GAA in a changing society in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>00:00:10 Interviewer introduces Marsden as the 'most be-medalled and honoured Armagh and Clan na Gael players.'</p> <p>00:00:26 Describes beginnings of sporting career, aged 7, and going to play his first game.</p> <p>00:00:50 Interviewer refers to an article by Liam Hayes on the history associated with wearing a jersey.</p> <p>00:01:12 Mentions that jerseys for Under 10s were used by a number of teams. Talks about the role of Harry McGarry in Clan na Gael and the impression he left on young people in the club – tells story about the bottle of mineral waiting for players after games.</p> <p>00:03:20 Interviewer mentions coaxing a performance out of an under 13 team with the promise of a mineral afterwards.</p> <p>00:03:50 Talks about winning three Minor championships in 1990, '91 and '92 and how they celebrated afterwards. Talks</p>

	<p>about dressing up and being taken to a restaurant.</p> <p>00:04:40 Winning in 1990 was first Minor title for Clan na Gael since the late 1960s. Marsden recalls the age profile of those teams, the managements, the preparations etc.</p> <p>00:06:33 Reflects on the expectations on that group of young players to emulate the senior team of the late 1960s and 1970s.</p> <p>00:07:00 Talks about the winning of the Armagh senior championship in 1993 and the players who were on the team.</p> <p>00:07:50 Mentions the failure to make club breakthrough in Ulster, losing to Downpatrick in 1993 and Clontibret in 1994.</p> <p>00:08:40 Talks about the mix of youth and experience in the championship winning Clan na Gael teams of 1993 and 1994.</p> <p>09:00 Considers the development of Armagh club football after 1994, in particular the dominance Crossmaglen. Reflects on meetings with Crossmaglen during this period.</p> <p>[Sound is temporarily interrupted by mobile phone static]</p> <p>00:11:30 Discusses his playing record in St. Colman's College, the players he played alongside and the competitions he played in. Recalls winning MacRory Cup in 1993 (defeating St. Pat's, Maghera) and going on to win Hogan Cup (defeating St. Jarlath's, Tuam).</p> <p>00:14:18 Jimmy Smyth and Diarmuid Marsden discuss the players on the St. Jarlath's, Tuam team – Michael Donnellan and Padraic Joyce – who later became high profile inter-county players.</p> <p>00:15:18 Jimmy Smyth refers to a <i>Tuam Herald</i> description of a Diarmuid Marsden goal in the Hogan Cup final and Marsden discusses the game itself.</p> <p>00:16:07 Moving to Queen's University, Belfast in 1994 and playing in the Sigerson Cup. Mentions the all-star QUB which had won Sigerson the year before.</p> <p>00:17:30 Talks about the hard training for the Sigerson Cup.</p> <p>00:18:15 Discusses returning to university in 2000 to do a postgraduate and winning the Sigerson in Galway, defeating UCD in the final. Mentions the county players he played alongside.</p> <p>00:20:25 Playing minor with Armagh for 3 years, coming to</p>
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	<p>attention the first year through his St. Colman's performances.</p> <p>00:21:33 Talks about winning the Ulster championship in 1992, defeating Roscommon in Croke Park in the semi-final and then losing to a last minute Meath goal in the All-Ireland final.</p> <p>00:24:49 Jimmy Smyth comments that the only player from the Meath minor team to make a breakthrough into the senior grade was Trevor Giles.</p> <p>00:24:40 Marsden contrasts the Meath experience with that of Armagh, naming the players who progressed to play senior inter-county football.</p> <p>00:25:30 Talks about lining out with his two other clubmen in the 1992 All-Ireland minor final.</p> <p>00:26:15 Progressing into the senior team in 1993, the 'year of the draws'.</p> <p>00:26:54 Talks about retiring in 2004 and the absence of regrets, despite Armagh's record in the mid 2000s. Discusses his reluctance to attend games after his retirement.</p> <p>00:27:50 Describes the move into management with Clan na Gael – 'a new challenge' – and the positive response from the players.</p> <p>00:29:30 Talks about suffering a cruciate ligament injury.</p> <p>00:29:50 Discusses Clan na Gael's eventful championship run in that championship.</p> <p>00:30:50 Talks about his second year in management, winning first four league games and reaching county final against Crossmaglen.</p> <p>00:32:25 Reflects on what the GAA means to him and the role it has played in his life.</p> <p>00:34:20 Discusses his role as a coach and development officer with the Ulster Council. Refers to the historic differences of Ulster, the support that Ulster teams receive throughout province.</p> <p>00:35:25 Refers to some of the projects that his job has entailed.</p> <p>00:35:45 Mentions winning an inter-firms All-Ireland with other former county players.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. AR/1/72

	<p>00:36:15 Acknowledges the quality of leadership in relation to the Ulster Council coaching and games development. Refers to the GAA 'getting bigger and stronger'.</p> <p>00:36:48 Jimmy Smyth refers to the recent funerals of Michaela Harte and Ronan Kerr and the prominence of the GAA in both events.</p> <p>00:37:15 Diarmuid Marsden reflects on the Ronan Kerr funeral, the leadership shown by the GAA and the changes it highlighted in the wider society.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input 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 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>College and McRory and Hogan County. Hogan County-4 Ulster, 2 Minor. All Star.</p> <p>University Sigerson.</p> <p>Club-minor and senior championship. All-Ireland Senior</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Ulster Council Development Officer</p> <p>Coaching Officer-Clan na Gael</p> <p>Committee Member-Clan na Gael</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 1 hour</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

REFERENCE NO. AR/1/72

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____

Date: _____