

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Padraic O'Connor
Date of Interview	6 th Oct 2010
Location	St. Patrick's Clubhouse, Lordship, Co. Louth
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Liam Oliver
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Mullaghbouy NS Secondary: Bush Vocational School
Family	N/A
Club(s)	St. Patrick's GFC
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	IFA

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Date of Report	30 th May 2012
Period Covered	1950s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth, Down, Offaly, Kerry, Galway
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Celebrations, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Politics
Interview Summary	<p>Liam Oliver charts his earliest memories and experiences of the GAA, including his underage involvement. He covers the development of St. Patrick's GFC up to and including the achievement of senior championship success in 2003 and 2004. The impact of the GAA upon his own life and that of his family and community is touched upon, while the interview includes observations on great teams and players of the past as well as the changes in the GAA over the years.</p> <p>00:00:00 Liam Oliver is introduced as a past Chairman and player of St. Patrick's GFC and a lifelong member.</p> <p>00:00:15 His earliest memory is of the 1957 All-Ireland final. Although too small to attend game, he recalls Michael O'Hehir declaring Louth as All-Ireland champions. Mentions the significance of a local man Stephen White being a member of the victorious Louth team.</p> <p>00:00:40 Recalls the North Louth Schools League and the following it attracted. Sean McDermott was the mentor.</p> <p>00:01:15 Refers to the absence of tactics in the schoolboy coaching. The mentor's only rallying cry was 'Boot that ball'. Mentions that John White often served as taxi-man and that he was often too generous in his praise of players.</p> <p>00:01:55 Admits to being a Cooley supporter in his early years and recalls first time to attend a Cooley-St. Pat's game. John White and Jemmy Sheelan might have been playing.</p> <p>00:02:20 Refers to the winning of the junior championship in 1960 and change in allegiance to St. Pat's. Mentions the proximity of Finnegan's field and the difficulty in getting on Cooley minors, which was drawn from Clann Mhuire in Omeath and which was of a county standard.</p> <p>00:03:10 Mentions that St. Pat's offered a prospect of a game</p>

	<p>and that Under 16 was the starting grade. Discusses initial lack of success and gradual turnabout in fortunes. Refers to the influence of George Hughes and the establishment of Valley Rangers as the club's underage wing. Mentions winning a North Louth Divisional minor competition and being 'hammered' by Ardee in the Louth minor semi-final.</p> <p>00:03:35 Discusses the history of the club through the 1970s and 1980s.</p> <p>00:04:15 Reflects on family involvement with the GAA – his mother's family, the O'Neills, were 'staunch St. Pat's supporters.' Refers to the fact that their grandsons are now playing for Cooley.</p> <p>00:04:35 Discusses travelling to matches as a youngster. Refers to being driven by John White and being regaled with stories. Also travelled with John Murphy by bus – says he attended every ground in the northern part of country.</p> <p>00:05:25 Mentions attending 1961 All-Ireland final between Down and Offaly, the size of the crowd, the crush inside the ground, the difficulty in viewing game.</p> <p>00:06:15 Mentions the winning of Intermediate championships in 1980 and 1984, but said neither of these successes compared with winning senior championship in 2003 and 2004. Describes these achievements as 'simply out of this world' and unimaginable to previous generations.</p> <p>00:06:55 Selects the 2004 championship final and beating Cooley as the standout memory. Tells a story of a heifer about to calf on day of final.</p> <p>00:08:45 Discusses the impact of GAA on life and family. Mentions the facilities his son and his generation enjoys.</p> <p>00:09:40 Discusses the role of the club in the community.</p> <p>00:10:05 Refers to the individuals he has admired the most – Stephen White in the past and Paddy Keenan from the current Louth team. Refers also to the Down and Galway teams of the 1960s and the Kerry teams of the 1970s and 80s.</p> <p>00:10:50 Recalls the disappointment of the 2010 Leinster final and the manner in which it was handled by the GAA. Suggests that Meath's Leinster title from that year was tarnished.</p> <p>00:11:50 Discusses the big changes in the GAA – refers to</p>
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	<p>the improvement in facilities. Mentions also the political make-up of the club membership and the fact everyone left their politics at the club gate.</p> <p>00:13:00 Discusses the importance of rivalries to the GAA and refers to a game the previous week. Comments that part of the local rivalries are 'nasty'.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:14:08
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Padraic O'Connor_____

Date: _____30/05/12_____