

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Noel Byrne
<b>Date of Interview</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2009
<b>Location</b>	Community Radio Castlebar
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Maughan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1962 <b>Home County:</b> Mayo
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St Tiernan's National School, Crossmolina. <b>Secondary:</b> Carmelite College, Moate <b>Third Level:</b> University College Galway
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers; 2 sisters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Crossmolina GAA Club [Mayo]; Salthill-Knocknacarra GAA Club [Galway]
<b>Occupation</b>	Procurement Officer Mayo County Council
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father], Civil Servant [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fine Gael
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1970 – 2009
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Mayo, Clare, Dublin, Kerry, Galway, Roscommon, Longford, Westmeath
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Opening of Croke Park, Professionalism, Retirement, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>John Maughan of Crossmolina is former inter-county footballer and manager. Maughan opens the interview with an account of his family background, listening to stories about players and games, especially from his mother, who had once been a Civil servant living beside Croke Park in Dublin. School, and certain teachers, had a profound impact on Maughan's sporting destination. From national school in Crossmolina to boarding school in Moate, Maughan was exposed to individuals who helped nurture an enthusiasm for Gaelic football. It was in Moate where Maughan became exposed to serious physical preparation and . The rivalries, the quality players, the big games and friendship arising from his college engagement with Gaelic games are warmly recounted.</p> <p>After school, Maughan joined the defence forces. He became immediately involved with Gaelic football playing with and under Dermot Earley, the Roscommon player who later became Chief of Staff of the Irish defence forces. Life in the defence forces involved periods where he was resident in Cork, Galway and overseas and all of this impacted on his sporting life. It was while attending university in Galway, that Maughan played Sigerson Cup and he relates the benefits he derive from the experience. Maughan was also involved in a successful Mayo Under 21 team in the early 1980s and he charts his progression into the senior ranks and the fortunes of the Mayo teams in the mid to late 1980s.</p> <p>Injury cut short Maughan's playing career in the early 1990s</p>

	<p>and facilitated his move, aged 28, into inter-county management. He talks about taking over as manager of the Clare football team, the quality of the players and the response of the people to the successes they enjoyed at All-Ireland 'B' level in 1991 and Munster senior championship level in 1992. He moved from inter-county management in Clare to Mayo and he contrasts the experience of both. Maughan offers perspective on the role of the inter-county manager, the relationship between county success and the local society and the importance of maintaining a relationship with supporters. Away from the inter-county scene, Maughan worked as a pundit with the media and remained deeply committed to his local club in Crossmolina. He discusses the role of the GPA, the retention of amateurism and the place that the GAA plays in community life – he cites the impact of Crossmolina's All-Ireland victory in 2001 on community support. The interview concludes with Maughan reflecting on the highs and lows of his GAA involvement and the role that the Association within his own life – 'it dominates my life completely, my social interaction revolves around the GAA'.</p> <p>00:00:02 Interviewer introduces John Maughan as a player and manager. The interview is recorded in the studios of community radio, Castlebar.</p> <p>00:00:25 Born in Crossmolina in 1962.</p> <p>00:00:51 Talks about his parents backgrounds: his mother, from Ballyduffy, Co. Mayo, had worked in the Civil Service in Dublin for 13 years. His father was a native Crossmolina, where his family owned a pub-grocery shop.</p> <p>00:01:25 Mentions that he is the second eldest of six children – mentions the occupations and place of residents of his siblings.</p> <p>00:02:10 Says he was reared in Crossmolina until going to boarding school in Moate, aged 13.</p> <p>00:02:17 Talks about joining Defence forces on leaving school – initially he as stationed at Collins Barracks in Cork, then Galway City when serving in Athlone.,</p> <p>00:02:55 Earliest memories of the GAA: Talks about his mother living on Clonliffe Road in Dublin, attending Croke Park on Sundays, listening to stories about the Murrays from Roscommon and the Rackards from Wexford.</p> <p>00:03:36 Mentions that father didn't play and that he was only member of the family participate in a serious way in the GAA.</p>
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	<p>00:03:50 Refers to the influence of St. Tiernan's school, Crossmolina. Mentions teacher John Cosgrove work in 'fostering' love of Gaelic football.</p> <p>00:04:04 Comments on tradition of sport in his father's family – his Uncle Frank had played won an All-Ireland junior medal with Mayo in the 1950s and his Uncle Pat played rugby and gaelic football.</p> <p>00:04:25 Attending Carmelite College, Moate.</p> <p>00:04:50 Recalls the memories of smelly jerseys in his childhood and the fun of travelling with underage teams in north Mayo. Refers to lack of facilities and 'retrieving' a b</p> <p>00:06:25 Reflects on regularly meeting well-known GAA figures in Crossmolina. – Dr. Michael Loftus, subsequently GAA President, and Tiernan Reilly, who owned the post office.</p> <p>00:06:50 Listening to matches on radio.</p> <p>00:07:15 Comments on the absence of alternative recreational attractions when growing up in Crossmolina.</p> <p>00:07:25 Mentions that his Uncles interest in rugby was fostered outside Crossmolina; mentions also hius father throwing weights in athletic competitions.</p> <p>00:07:50 Talks about Mick Nallen, James Nallen's father, who competed widely in sports days in the county.</p> <p>00:08:08 Talks about the absence of a scientific approach to gaelic football, the lack of tactical awareness when he started playing in the early 1970s, with players rarely straying from positions.</p> <p>00:08:30 Influence of Fr. Michael Cremin, a coach in Carmelite College, Moate. Talks about the Cremin travelling the United States and bringing new ideas to school teams. Contrasts this with the club scene in Mayo where players could be seen smoking at half time.</p> <p>00:09:28 Discusses numbers of young people involved with the GAA in Crossmolina when he was growing up, referring to the influence of the national school, where John Cosgrove 'indoctrinated love of Irish, music and...the GAA.'</p> <p>00:10:00 Talks about absence of structures for underage football and the lack of demands on players. Says he played Under 16 level at 12 years of age. Comments on carrying</p>
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	<p>football when going to milk cows.</p> <p>00:11:00 Discusses playing as a defender on underage teams and ending up as a midfielder on his club team. Recalls also making his senior inter-county debut at full-forward for Mayo, having won an All-Ireland Under 21 at full-back. Speculates as to the reasons why he selected at full-forward.</p> <p>00:12:00 Comments on the lack of preparation for games as a young players. Recalls working on the farm and cycling to catch bus to matches – comments on lack of money, and the absence of deodorant or hair products.</p> <p>00:13:13 Says he never won anything in national school. Remarks also on the strength of the Ballina Stephenites club and low expectation they had when facing them.</p> <p>00:13:48 Discusses the place of gaelic football in Carmelite College, Moate in the 1970s. Mentions the seriousness with which the game was played – training five or six times a week and playing in the A championship.</p> <p>00:14:36 Reflects on Mayo players Michael O'Malley, Ivor Heffernan, Ted Webb arriving in Moate with All-Ireland under 21 trophy.</p> <p>00:15:30 Discusses the 'fanatical' following for Gaelic football among students and local community in Moate. Talks about his journey from Mayo to Moate and describes his days at secondary school as 'unique and special' days.</p> <p>00:17:00 Combining club and college games and the contrast in standard between the two. Refers to players like Val Daly, Aidan O'Halloran, Vincent Henry who went through the college system in Moate. Tells story of the 'yank Coyne', an American who attended school in Moate and became a 'star'.</p> <p>00:19:00 Considers the physical training in Moate and skills that were developed. Talks about going from class to playing pitch in the nearby Moate GAA club pitch.</p> <p>00:20:18 Recalls the discipline and 'fun' in Moate, the seriousness with which they took football and absence of the major 'societal pressures' on teenagers.</p> <p>00:21:20 Discusses the intensity of the rivalry between Moate and St. Mel's. Tells of supporters been involved in 'shenanigans' on one occasion.</p> <p>00:21:50 Talks about the other leading colleges teams in the</p>
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	<p>1970s: St. Patrick's Maghera, Gormastown, St. Coleman's, St. Jarlath's. Recalls St. Coleman's, Claremoris defeating Moate in Hogan Cup final in 1977 at Hyde Park, Roscommon.</p> <p>00:22:40 Reflects on the hard and fair nature of colleges football and the absence of ugliness.</p> <p>00:23:15 Memories of pitches and stadia used in colleges competitions in the 1970s: recalls the quality of Cusack park in Mullingar and playing a Hogan Cup final in Croke park.</p> <p>00:24:00 Comments on the maroon and white colours worn for college team in Moate, the same colours as his club in Crossmolina.</p> <p>00:24:22 Winning the Hogan Cup, defeating St. Patrick's Maghera. Mentions knowing some of the opposition players while playing against Derry in All-Ireland Minor semi-final.</p> <p>00:25:00 Mentions the lack of social engagement with other players and contrasts the GAA experience with rugby. Tells story of a recent meeting with an individual, Martin Tully, he played colleges and minor football against.</p> <p>00:26:38 Attending trials, aged 16, for Mayo minor team in 1978 and returning to play the following two years. Mentions the astuteness of Austin Garvin, the team manager, and recalls some of the players and games he played with and in.</p> <p>00:28:06 Reflects on the lack of media interest in the GAA in the late 1970s and contrasts it with what followed. However, the recalls picking up papers after colleges games to search for references.</p> <p>00:29:00 Considers the role of the Irish language in school and within the GAA, in particular the influence John Cosgrove, a teacher in primary school, who instilled a passion for the GAA.</p> <p>00:29:40 Combining sporting commitments with studies. 'We did enough to get by'.</p> <p>00:30:35 Joining the Defence forces and the place of football within it. Recalls call-up to play with army football team to play combined universities in Croke Park. The player-manager was Dermot Earley, who he describes as a 'god in my eyes'.</p> <p>00:31:40 Becoming involved with Mayo Under 21s in 1982 and 1983, and commuting from Cork.</p> <p>00:32:24 Comments on the general lack of medical support for GAA players, although he remarks on the assistance Dr.</p>
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	<p>Michael Loftus provided to Crossmolina players. Reflects also on the farm work and how this limited the number of injuries incurred playing football.</p> <p>00:33:23 Playing football in Cork, the length of a commute to play with club and county. Mentions that he was about to transfer to Nemo Rangers when he secured a transfer to Galway.</p> <p>00:34:16 Talks about Crossmolina football in the 1970s and 80s and beyond.</p> <p>00:35:00 Considers the importance of the GAA club to the Crossmolina community. Describes it as a 'focal point', emphasising the significance of winning All-Ireland club title in 2001 and reaching final in 2003.</p> <p>00:36:05 Joining Salthill on his move to Galway. Talks about getting married, living in Galway city and getting involved with 'local community.' Mentions his short stay with Salthill club owing to injury.</p> <p>00:36:48 Reflects the link between club performance and county selection.</p> <p>00:37:50 Playing senior football with Mayo after winning All-Ireland under 21 in 1983. Reflects on how 'unlucky' they were in 1985, losing to Roscommon in 1986 and getting to All-Ireland final in 1989.</p> <p>00:39:10 Comments on expectations in county following minor success in 1978 and Under 21 success in 1983.</p> <p>00:39:45 Considers the reasons why Mayo teams have fallen short of ultimate All-Ireland glory.</p> <p>00:40:40 Discusses his support for Sigerson cup competitions and the benefits he derived from his three years in University College Galway.</p> <p>00:41:30 Combining Sigerson football commitments and studies. Talks about football as a great 'social outlet' and players being known before they arrived into the university. Refers to a number of players who excelled in Sigerson cup competitions.</p> <p>00:43:40 Impact on lifestyle and mental state when knee injury cut short his career.</p> <p>00:44:50 Getting a call to become involved managing Clare footballers in 1990, aged 28. Refers to previous experience in</p>
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	<p>the army running teams.</p> <p>00:45:40 Reaction to becoming involved with Clare and bringing organisation to the football set-up.</p> <p>00:46:40 The challenge of managing Clare, the commitment and travel involved, the qualities of the people involved with the team.</p> <p>00:47:40 Ambitions for Clare on taking over, playing Division 4 football, trying to secure local employment for players, winning All-Ireland B title in 1991 and building on that in 1992.</p> <p>00:48:50 Importance of raising fitness to enable team to compete for full game. Talks about the reaction to 'B' title success, the optimism at start of 1992 and belief on morning of Munster final.</p> <p>00:50:27 Reflects on the reactions to his appointment within Clare, the response of supporters to success –'the craving for sport, fun...' - and the crowds that attended games in 1993 and 1994.</p> <p>00:51:28 Serving overseas in 1994 and listening to Connacht championship match down a telephone line, when Mayo lost to Galway. Recalls visit home and attitude of players, request to be interviewed for vacant manager's post.</p> <p>00:52:40 Taking the reins in Mayo, low expectations. Tells story of requesting a performance-related element to be built into county board sponsorship deal. Talks also of heavy defeat to Derry in National League semi-final and playing in a challenge game soon after.</p> <p>00:54:20 Belief in the potential of the Mayo squad and securing their buy-in to what might be achieved.</p> <p>00:54:35 Contrast in managing Clare and Mayo. More demands in Mayo, strength of tradition etc.</p> <p>00:55:30 Lessons learnt about management in Clare that were brought to Mayo. Talks about his emphasis on discipline, organisation etc.</p> <p>00:56:20 Talks about learning different skills from different mentors, from John Cosgrove in national school onwards. Names a number of individuals who influenced him.</p> <p>00:57:18 Being asked to return to Mayo managerial role.</p> <p>00:57:50 Considers the growth in the role of the inter-county manager and reflects on the impact of success on general</p>
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	<p>society.</p> <p>00:58:50 Tells story of serving overseas and showing videos of All-Ireland finals to other nationalities. Refers to their reaction.</p> <p>00:59:25 The importance of the relationship between a manager and the supporters. Mentions that every community has a 'share' in the Mayo football team.</p> <p>01:00:18 Working in the media and his enjoyment of punditry.</p> <p>01:00:40 Tells story of 'unsavoury' incident in a Crossmolina game and not 'telling the whole truth' in a radio interview shortly afterwards.</p> <p>01:02:04 Talks about the pleasure of playing gaelic football above all else – refers to it as a valve to 'blow off' pressures of life.</p> <p>01:02:50 Discusses the need to recognition of GPA, the role of inter-county players in raising revenues for GAA and treating them properly. Mentions what inter-county players should receive, but that amateurism shouldn't be compromised. Remarks on opposition to 'pay for play'.</p> <p>01:05:20 Highlights of GAA involvement: mentions the uniqueness of winning with Clare in 1992 and the atmosphere in Croke Park before the semi-final with Dublin. Talks about beating Galway in Tuam in 1999 and the friendships he has made.</p> <p>01:07:32 Lowest moment in the GAA: describes seeing many ugly games, embarrassment at win at all costs mentality. Mentions the admonishment that young players receive from 'empty vessel' in the stands.</p> <p>01:09:00 Talks about the class and ability of the Kerry team of the 1970s.</p> <p>01:09:59 Talks about the GAA means to him: 'it dominates my life completely, my social interaction revolves around the GAA'.</p> <p>01:10:40 Final comments: talks his young son's involvement in the GAA, his delight at opening of Croke Park and attending the Ireland-England rugby fixture. Describes the occasion as 'monumental' and comments on what it says about the GAA.</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. MO/1/4**

<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>All Ireland Colleges Hogan Cup; All Ireland U21 football; Two Connaught Minor Football; U21 Connaught football; Senior County Championship; Two Sigerson Cup; Intermediate Championship</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:11:00</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

**REFERENCE NO. MO/1/4**

**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: Noel Byrne

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009