

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Pat Flynn
Date of Interview	21 st Feb 2012
Location	Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Stephen Molumphy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1984 Home County: Waterford
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers
Club(s)	Ballyduff Upper GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Army Officer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	23 rd August 2012
Period Covered	1886 – 2012
Counties/Countries Covered	Waterford, Limerick, Cork, Kilkenny, Antrim, Kerry, Tipperary, Europe, Sweden, Australasia, Australia, Americas, USA, Chad
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Clun in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Scór, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Career, Professionalism, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Stephen tells of the history of Ballyduff Upper GAA club and of his time hurling with the club and for Waterford. He talks of his families involvement and of the place the club holds in the community. He tells of hurling with the army while serving abroad and of the other county players he has played with and against. He talks of the characters in the club and of the celebrations of successes and of his best and worst memories. He speaks about the professionalism within the GAA and how pay for play could damage the sense of volunteerism that makes the GAA what it is. He also talks of sponsorship and how important it is to the club.</p> <p>00:44 Talks about his earliest memories being playing with his brothers from the age of two or three, followed by playing for U8 and U10 teams with the Ballyduff Upper GAA club. Mentions the classes in school each having a team and playing the class above or below.</p> <p>01:25 Tells of his father and his brother Patsy and Davey playing when in school but there being no club team at the time.</p> <p>02:06 Talks of all the teachers being involved in the GAA.</p> <p>02:33 Speaks of local heroes being Mossy Welsh and Shamie Hannon two Ballyduff players who hurled for Waterford. Mentions watching his older brothers on the Ballyduff team as role models and hoping to be as good as they were.</p> <p>03:16 Talks of the formation of the club in 1886 and of it being very much community based as indicated in its motto 'Strength in numbers'. Mentions always helping each other and of the team and panel being made up of sets of brothers</p>

	<p>from perhaps four or five families. Also mentions the difficulty of playing against city teams who can draw on many schools while Ballyduff has about 100 students in their school.</p> <p>04:35 Talks of the input from the community in the running of the club. Mentions using in house trainers who are giving back to the club. Also mentions the work on the pitch and club house being carried out by local people and laying blocks himself at the age of fourteen.</p> <p>05:43 Talks of the club originally playing on a strip of land near the banks of the Blackwater and moving to the current field in 1986.</p> <p>06:16 Speaks of playing U8 and U10 following his older brother into the club. Mentions it being very much part of family life and the post match analysis at the family table.</p> <p>07:06 Talks of the local rivals being Lismore and Tallow.</p> <p>07:43 Speaks of the social aspect of the club becoming more important. Mentions that in the past it was really only in celebration that the club had a social event. Also mentions Ballyduff being famous for its ceilidh dancing and drama festivals and them being supported by the whole community.</p> <p>08:44 Talks of the club being involved in Scor and the prizes they have won. Mentions them visiting Antrim.</p> <p>09:33 Speaks about the club's successes. Mentions being on the team with his brother that won the U14 in D grade, U16 in C grade, Minor in B grade and U21 in A grade. Also mentions that it had not been done since ten years before when his three older brothers were on the team.</p> <p>10:16 Recalls winning the Senior county hurling championship in 2007 and it being his best hurling memory to date. Mentions the input of all the families.</p> <p>10:42 Speaks of only having about sixteen or seventeen players at senior level and the difficulty the emigration could cause the club as it has done to many larger clubs with access to more players. Mentions losing one or two from the junior team.</p> <p>11:50 Talks of the school having a major input into the club as it is where skills are learned and friendships made. Mentions that there are players with him on the senior team that he first met in school at the age of four.</p> <p>12:26 Talks of the local priest Fr. Mulcahy always wishing the</p>
--	---

	<p>team well from the pulpit. Mentions the parish priest being the president or chaplain of the club and how it was nice to think that God was on your side.</p> <p>12:54 Speaks of the sacrifices people make to be part of the team being offset by the companionship and the rewards. Mentions that training has become more intense and that this is what has to happen if you want to win. Also mentions a win last year over Mount Sion, a main adversary, and how that win justified the year long training.</p> <p>13:59 Speaks of the role played by women in the club, ranging from supporting the teams and making sandwiches and tea to the formation of a camogie team and ladies football team. Mentions his fiancée from Lismore being captain of the Lismore Camogie team and also having played for Waterford.</p> <p>15:34 Talks of playing hurling in Chad while stationed there with the Defence Forces. Mentions showing the locals how to play and how the locals could not understand how they could be so tough on each other on the field and then friends after the game. Also mentions the Swedish soldiers, who were big into hockey, fielding a team and playing very good ground hurlers.</p> <p>16:55 Tells of being in Chad in 2009 and missing an important game against Lismore in the semi-final of the county hurling championships. Mentions 2005 when having been relegated the previous year Ballyduff got into the western final against Dungarvan. Talks of being away at the time with the Army Hurling team in Australia and being flown back on Friday to play on Saturday and fly back to Australia on Sunday. Also mentions a little old lady giving five euro toward the cost of the flight as the game was so important.</p> <p>18:53 Talks of there being inter-county players on the Army hurling team. Mentions Eoin Larkin and Paul Murphy from Kilkenny and Andrew O'Shaughnessy of Limerick and playing against them in the county and with them in the army. Also mentions inter-brigade teams and battalion teams and the rivalry between them in hurling as well as weapons training.</p> <p>20:15 Talks of the rivalry only existing on the field and how friendships off the field are not affected.</p> <p>21:02 Speaks of Waterford's rivals being Kilkenny and Tipperary and how it used to be Cork in the past. Mentions going to Colman's college in Fermoy and always having a rivalry with Cork.</p>
--	--

	<p>21:48 Talks of not going to many Waterford games but focusing on the club game and trying to be the best he could. Mentions his brother Michael being the best player in the family and playing for Waterford before going to America.</p> <p>22:53 Talks of his identity being shaped by his involvement in the GAA. Mentions being asked for an autograph and realising he was in a more public role. Also mentions respecting the games, respecting the rules and acting appropriately as a role model.</p> <p>23:53 Tells of hosting the Feile and travelling to those teams to play and have an interaction with them.</p> <p>24:47 Recalls winning the senior county title and all five brothers being on the panel and this being his best GAA memory. Mentions a family photo of his mother holding the cup and the five brothers around her. Also mentions all the hard work that they had done and how it was worth to win the title.</p> <p>25:53 Talks of his worst memory being the Waterford Limerick 2007 All-Ireland semi-final when expectations were high but the team had a bad game and lost.</p> <p>26:45 Speaks of putting the defeat behind you and getting back into training and the hunger for success returning.</p> <p>27:19 Talks of a typical training regime being four out of seven nights alternating hurling, weights and stretching.</p> <p>28:19 Tells of changes in club facilities and the professionalism coming into the running of the club. Mentions working together to achieve these changes.</p> <p>29:11 Talks of playing football as well as hurling but not giving too much time to football. Mentions being knocked out of the senior hurling early in 2008 and turning their focus to football and winning the junior county and getting to the Munster semi-final against Kerry champions.</p> <p>30:14 Talks of 90% of the club being for hurling over football. Mentions the focus moving to each as required.</p> <p>30:53 Speaks of celebrations after wins being the same now as when they were when they were U8 when Pat Flynn, 'Mr. Ballyduff', would bring them around the village on the back of his van. Mentions Pat winning Muintir Na Tire person of the year and the work he does in the background for the club.</p> <p>32:04 Talk of this year possibly being his last year playing</p>
--	--

	<p>with the county due to his commitments with the Army. Mentions never thinking he would play for the county and of it being an honour and privilege.</p> <p>33:22 Talks of being against the idea of paying players. Mentions the GPA doing a good job looking after players and their expenses, travel, gear, etc. Also mentions that it will be difficult to stop the games moving to paying players and how it will ruin the ethos of the GAA.</p> <p>34:31 Talks of the affects these changes could have on the volunteers that are involved.</p> <p>35:13 Speaks of being a selector for the club and how his brothers Michael and Patrick or Thomas and Edward are involved and are there when he can't be. Mentions the importance of giving back to the club and those that have done so over the years.</p> <p>36:53 Talks of the importance to the club of this involvement by past players. Mentions Colm Keane and Mossy Casey always being there to help out and how the young players pay attention to the senior players.</p> <p>37:52 Talks of those that go away being welcomed back into the clubs as in most cases they are needed.</p> <p>38:48 Speaks of the importance of sponsorship and other small clubs seeing their success. Mentions Pat Flynn Hardware sponsoring the team for years as well as other local business people.</p> <p>40:47 Talks of the importance of the club to the local community and how it all goes to add to the village identity.</p> <p>41:49 Speaks of what the GAA has meant to him in his life from family to village life. Mentions it being an outlet to give support back to the community.</p> <p>42:50 Talks of the GAA always being part of his life and the lifelong friends he has made in the club.</p> <p>43:25 Tells of the GAA being so family orientated and engrained in their lives. Mentions all five of the brothers playing for Waterford at one level or another. Also mentions integrating the GAA into Army life and bringing the team to train with some of the 3rd Battalion sergeants in Kilkenny for a team building session.</p> <p>44:52 Talks of having a joint stag with his brother and twenty-nine of the team attending.</p>
--	---

REFERENCE NO. WD/1/17

<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input 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 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>N/A</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: 45:23</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

REFERENCE NO. WD/1/17

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: Pat Flynn

Date: 24th August 2012