

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Jimmy Smyth
Date of Interview	19 th Dec 2011
Location	Teddy's home, near Lurgan.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Edward Martin "Teddy"
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: N/A Home County: Armagh
Education	Primary: St. Peter's Primary School, Armagh Secondary: St. Pat's Armagh
Family	Siblings: Only Child
Club(s)	Clan na Gael [Armagh]
Occupation	Trade Union Officer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	29 th August 2012
Period Covered	1953-2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Armagh, Derry, Louth, Monaghan, Kerry
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Retirement, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Teddy Martin begins the interview by recalling the 1953 All-Ireland football final between Armagh and Kerry, a game he listened to on radio in Davitt Park in Lurgan. His own played days with the Clan na Gael club and at school are discussed – up to and including Minor level – as are the influence of Harry McGarry on underage development and the prevalence of amalgamated teams in Armagh competitions. Martin emphasises the importance of clubs and schools on the development of Gaelic football in Lurgan, noting in particular the contribution of St. Paul’s – a school which opened in 1962 – to the future success of the Clan na Gael club in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Injury ended Martin’s playing career at an early age and the interview charts his move into club and county administration, offering insights into the organisation of the GAA in Armagh and the contribution of volunteers to players and infrastructural developments. Finally, Martin reflects on his lifetime involved with the GAA and what he has derived from it. He also looks confidently to the future, remarking on the number and quality of individuals becoming involved in club administration with Clan na Gael.</p> <p>00:00:10 Teddy Martin mentions that he served as Secretary of Clan na Gael club for twenty years.</p> <p>00:00:22 Recalls the 1953 All-Ireland football final (Armagh V Kerry) an the involvement of Clan na Gael players – Eamon McMahon in goal, Brian Seeley at centre forward and Gerry McStay among the subs.</p> <p>00:00:54 Talks about listening to Michael O’Hehir’s radio commentary in Davitt Park on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Mentions pride in having club players on that county team.</p> <p>00:01:07 Refers to role of Harry McGarry as a selector on</p>

	<p>team.</p> <p>00:01:20 Mentions underage football beginning at 14 years, then the school leaving age.</p> <p>00:01:28 Beginning to play at age 11. Talks about involvement in the club and school (St. Peter's). Says that Peter's was the only Catholic maintained primary school in Lurgan at the time.</p> <p>00:02:12 Tells story of beating 'the Emmets' and Harry McGarry buying players fish and chips afterwards, 1955.</p> <p>00:02:50 Story – probably apocryphal - about teacher keeping a pupil in school until he was 17 – 'he was actually shaving' – on Emmets team. Talks about how John Greene came to play with Clan na Gael.</p> <p>00:03:50 Involvement with Clann Óg team, an amalgamation Minor team between Clan na Gael and Clann Éireann, which won championship in 1960. Mentions that 7 or 8 Clan na Gael players, himself included, played on team.</p> <p>00:04:50 Discusses the minor championship of 1950, the teams played and beaten. Makes reference to a number of amalgamated teams.</p> <p>00:05:50 Refers to the friendships made at that time and the recognition he enjoys still among children in the club.</p> <p>00:06:11 Discusses how he came to be known as 'Teddy' and mentions the translation of his name into Irish.</p> <p>00:06:45 Attending St. Pat's, Armagh and playing in the Rannafast and MacRory Cups in the late 1950s. Mentions that MacRory cup team was managed by Fr. Moran.</p> <p>00:07:25 Mentions playing soccer with a club in Armagh and tells story of a game of soccer at lunchtime in school, where he was spotted by Fr. Moran.</p> <p>00:08:10 Brian Curran, Seamus McGearey, Dessie Hughes, Colm Barton, Nipper Quinn etc. Mentions that St. Pat's, as the diocesan seminary, attracted students from Derry, Louth, Armagh and some from Monaghan.</p> <p>00:08:58 Moving into GAA administration. Talks about getting injured in a game with Crossmaglen, ending football career, being asked onto club committee by Harry McGarry in 1962 and 'sitting with all these old men'.</p> <p>00:10:10 Talks about meetings on a Sunday morning after</p>
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	<p>mass.</p> <p>00:10:35 Recalls Clan na Gael reaching county final in 1968 and meeting held to discuss the inclusion on panel of players working shift-work who could not train – the club operated a don't train, don't play rule at the time.</p> <p>00:11:45 Jimmy Smyth talks about the return of the 1968 winning team through Lurgan on the back of a lorry.</p> <p>00:12:20 Tells story of cup being brought straight to Harry McGarry in club hall.</p> <p>00:12:30 Jimmy Smyth and Teddy Martin discuss the contribution of Harry McGarry to the club and his generosity to various individuals. Smyth refers to McGarry description of adolescence: 'there starting to smell their socks'.</p> <p>00:16:30 Martin comments on the contribution of Harry Haughey and St. Paul's school, opened in 1962, to future Clan na Gael success at county and provincial levels.</p> <p>[00:17:25 Interview is temporarily interrupted by a mobile phone]</p> <p>00:17:50 Teddy Martin talks about Harry Haughey, who captained Armagh in Ulster final in 1961, and his work in promoting Gaelic football in St. Paul's.</p> <p>00:19:17 Discusses his involvement with the Lurgan League, later the North Armagh board and the Armagh County Board. Refers to influence of Harry McGarry and Alf Murray and the development of Davitt Park on the creation of the Lurgan League in the late 1940s.</p> <p>00:20:45 Jimmy Smyth mentions that Davitt Park was built by public subscription, who were all listed, by street, in a commemorative booklet. The park was intended as a 'home park' for all clubs but became home of Clan na Gael.</p> <p>00:21:30 Jimmy Smyth mentions Alf Murray taking Davitt Park example and organising for St. Colman's hall to be built by voluntary labour in 1953. Hall was used for a range of social and sporting activities.</p> <p>00:22:10 Working as a registrar with the North Armagh Board until its replacement with an All-Armagh Minor Board.</p> <p>00:23:05 Discusses his role as Clan na Gael delegate to County Board and the benefits of being involved – the connections made and the friendships forged.</p>
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	<p>00:23:50 Comments on the number of young people becoming involved in administration with Clan na Gael, among them Diarmuid Marsden.</p> <p>00:25:10 Talks about what the GAA means to him – refers to the sense of family, the friendships, the enjoyment. Refers to the pleasure in seeing players from club who are known throughout Ireland.</p> <p>00:27:25 Refers to Harry McGarry as a ‘good teacher’.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<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 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)	Armagh Minor Championship
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Secretary-club (27 years) Chairman-club (1991-1992)
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:27:50
Language	English

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To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____ Jimmy Smyth _____

Date: _____ 19/12/2011 _____