

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Kerry-Anne Gallogly
Date of Interview	7 th Feb 2011
Location	N/A
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seán Gallogly
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1942 Home County: Armagh
Education	N/A
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Clady GAA [Armagh]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. AR/1/40

Date of Report	24 th July 2012
Period Covered	1940s - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Armagh, Tyrone, Antrim, Down, Monaghan
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Education, Sponsorship, Media, Emigration, Role of clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Career, Impact on Life, Challenges, Sacrifices, Violence, Bribery, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Seán Gallogly is a former player with, and chairman of, the Seán South GAA club in Clady. This interview opens with a discussion about the history of the GAA in the area and the origins of the modern club in the early 1950s. The names of influential players, families and administrators from that era in the Clady GAA story are mentioned, as are those of individuals who were forced to emigrate. Indeed, emigration is a theme that recurs throughout the interview. But the Clady club also suffered from the loss of players to other newly established clubs. This was one of the challenges to the club which Gallogly addresses in the course of the interview – another was the struggle to secure a permanent place to play. Football in rural Armagh was different to that in Belfast where Gallogly played, for a number of years, with the Training College in the South Antrim League. Gallogly states that his own playing career ran from the age of 16 to nearly 40 and he talks about a number of the achievements during this period – in particular the winning of two junior championships with Clady, the first in 1977, the second in the early 1980s. Other issues raised include volunteerism and amateurism; rule changes and changes in the way that Gaelic football is coached; and media coverage of local club games.</p> <p>Gallogly discusses his period as chairman of the Clady club and what this entailed. He reprises some points about the impact of emigration and newly established clubs on the GAA in Clady. He discusses the importance of the GAA club to Clady identity and the social life of the area it serves. Gallogly also recalls his playing days with club and county and recalls numerous incidents of indiscipline by others on the field of</p>

	<p>play. In addition, Gallogly considers the nature of the GAA's relationship with nationalism and how the Association could be identified with the viewpoints of its more prominent members. Also discussed are the impact of the economic recession on the GAA, issues around the maintenance of its amateur ethos and the challenges that face the Association, particularly in urban areas.</p> <p>As the interview concludes, Gallogly talks about the profile of Crossmaglen and the quality of the current Armagh senior football team. He comments on the nature of club rivalries in Armagh and responds to a question on the impact of his GAA involvement on his wider working life.</p> <p>00:00:16 Introduction to Seán Gallogly: a former chairman and player with Clady GAA club, born in 1942.</p> <p>00:00:30 Early involvement of the GAA: talks about Clady as rural area 'hooked on' the GAA and refers to an earlier club that existed in the area. Mentions that Johnny Lennon was the 'famous player' of that era and his family would later become well-known in</p> <p>00:01:42 Says club went out of existence c. late 1940s and early 1950s. New club, Clady Sean South, came into existence in 1953. Names of prominent individuals in club formation are mentioned: Arthur and Columba Loughran and Vincent Savage.</p> <p>00:02:30 Mentions that GAA became the focus of community, but that it struggled in its early years. Refers some of the early prominent players, Patsy Leonard and 'Arthur' who it said was later shot in an ambush at Keady. Says club became well known because of incident.</p> <p>00:03:24 Talks about his early involvement, aged 16. Mentioned there were players from outside area involved and that some clubs came and went.</p> <p>00:03:59 Refers to a 'very good local player', John McKenna who came from Monaghan but who was resident in area. Mentions also members of the Rocks family, who were lost to emigration.</p> <p>00:04:30 Talks of the impact of emigration on Clady and tells the story of Gerard McKee who would be brought home from Birmingham to play games.</p> <p>00:05:05 Mentions that his father had no GAA background, but would talk about – named – GAA players of the past.</p>
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	<p>00:05:30 Mentions mother from Belfast and her knowledge of club names in the city and his own experience of playing for the training college in Belfast, the prevalence of county players on teams and the quality of the competition. Distinguishes between GAA in Belfast and rural Armagh.</p> <p>00:06:00 Memories of the South Antrim League: Says he played for the Training College for 3 seasons in the South Antrim league: 'it was a guttin' match...' Mentions some of the county players who played in the same league. Mentions also some of the club that then existed and comments that the 'scene has changed'.</p> <p>00:07:50 Recalls a junior final with Clady and tells story of the local curate running across the pitch and asking for someone to look after' him – the story ends with a player being stretched on the ground.</p> <p>00:09:38 Tells of reaching another Junior final against Clan na Gael and beating them. Says they won 2 junior championships before his retirement.</p> <p>00:10:15 Remarks on the obstacles overcome to achieve this success such as the loss of players to newly established club (mentions the clubs). Comments on the dedication of the club and stalwarts like Vincent Savage.</p> <p>00:11:10 Tells story of 'controversial' incident where someone took a bite out of Vincent Savage.</p> <p>00:12:00 Mentions he started playing at 16 and continued until he was nearly 40.</p> <p>00:12:15 Reflects on the place of club as a focal point of community: refers to the annual social dinner in a hotel in Ballybay and making speeches when he was chairman.</p> <p>00:13:10 Mentions that Clady finished bottom of the league for several years, but won promotion in 1973 and continued through to 1977 when they won the junior championship.</p> <p>00:13:49 Talks about changing fields a number of times when he was a player – searching for flat land. Contrasts the situation with Connolly's field, which is floodlit and of county standard.</p> <p>00:14:30 Says costs of fields was low because farmers granted access. The Connolly estate was neglected farmland which the club took over and turned into a good pitch – recalls the voluntary labour involved and walking home when his car</p>
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	<p>was damaged.</p> <p>00:15:25 Refers to amalgamated underage teams and the 'taboo' around amalgamation at adult level – fears about 'identity' and other players losing their places.</p> <p>00:16:23 Describes Clady as the 'poor relations' of the parish in GAA terms and mentions players with other clubs whose forefathers played with Clady.</p> <p>00:17:00 Alludes to lack of proper coaching or emphasis on skill in the past and the difference with the present.</p> <p>00:17:35 Comments approvingly on changes in culture of coaching of game and expresses reservations about rule changes and the misunderstandings that have arisen – discusses a number of incidents in Amagh-Tyrone games in the early 2000s to highlight his point.</p> <p>00:19:30 Remarks that club should be 'focus' of GAA, but points up differences in approach between club and county.</p> <p>00:19:50 Believes that amateur status will be retained and explains why. Comments on what professionalism has done to the game of soccer in England.</p> <p>00:20:55 Recalls his limited experience with county panel – he was on panel for 2 to 3 years. Tells of getting split from a thump against Donegal; tells also of playing Dublin in Islandbridge.</p> <p>00:21:47 Comments on the splendour of modern Croke Park and also of the revamped stadium in Armagh. Mentions he attended a terrific league game between Armagh and Dublin the previous Saturday; and the large Dublin crowd in attendance.</p> <p>00:22:40 Considers changes in transport to matches and refers to Gerry Jennings, brother of Pat, who came to live in Clady – and who brought some 'pals' to help out when they were needed.</p> <p>00:23:40 Reiterates that club only won 2 junior championships when he was a player -1977 and early 1980s – and refers to players who were prominent at the time, including a Tyrone-man, Gerry Donnelly, who worked worked as an Agricultural Officer in Newry alongside two club members and was invited to join.</p> <p>00:24:40 Talks about size of attendance at annual club dinner in the past and comments on the development of the social</p>
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	<p>club.</p> <p>00:25:25 Says GAA in Clady is currently struggling, but that future is bright. Mentions families lost to area and new families coming into area.</p> <p>00:26:18 Reflects on impact of emigration, other clubs starting up and families like the Leonards just stopping playing.</p> <p>00:27:00 Talks about going to play in Belfast and the higher standard in the south Antrim league. Recalls how, with Clady, he was targeted by opponents.</p> <p>00:28:05 Mentions the press coverage of club games and getting your photograph in paper. Says that if you were involved in an incident or were booked you would attract newspaper mention.</p> <p>00:29:30 Recalls serving as chairman for 10 years, not living in area and having to travel home.</p> <p>00:30:00 Media: Talks about John Campbell from Armagh, who played for Clady and who filed reports for the club. Mentions that he is GAA and sports correspondent with the <i>Irish News</i>.</p> <p>00:30:30 Mentions Oliver Grimes, who played for the club. As a player he was 'small and sylish'. He was a 'prominent player' in his time.</p> <p>00:31:10 Refers again to emigration and people moving out of the area and the problems this presented for the club. Talks of losing players to Newtownhamilton and Mullaghbrack.</p> <p>00:32:05 Remarks that Clady were first club in the parish: previously known as Clady Kevin Barry's, which had a big catchment area and included players from outside area.</p> <p>00:32:45 Talks about living in Newry for forty years but never losing his Clady identity – supporting functions in local hall, attending social events etc.</p> <p>00:33:23 Considers the influence of GAA involvement in shaping his life and reflects on a professional career teaching.</p> <p>00:23:55 Tells story of being a young teacher in Newry when he was invited to play his first county game – tells how it came about and how he felt.</p> <p>00:34:30 Reflects on the quality of the inter-county game and playing alongside the likes of Gene Larkin of Crossmaglen</p>
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	<p>and Jack Bratton. Mentions other 'household' names at the time and recalls the 'bad taste' left from being 'taken out of it' in a game.</p> <p>00:35:30 Memories of winning junior championships, the players on the team and the incident where the priest – Fr. Grimes – crossed the pitch to issue instructions about him.</p> <p>00:37:04 Talks about poor facilities they endured: the absence of changing rooms, changing in cars, behind hedges etc. Recalls again the problem of 'moving' pitches.</p> <p>00:37:50 Remarks on the lack of medical support for players – 'you strapped yourself up...'</p> <p>00:38:15 Considers the impact of various changes on the GAA: says that GAA has held its own. Tells story of American soldiers on way to Afghanistan and, stopping over in Shannon and seeing a match, set up their own hurling team.</p> <p>00:39:20 Refers to the tradition of the GAA in rural Ireland and the difficulties facing clubs in south during the economic recession – remarks on the talks of clubs losing players to places like Australia, America and Canada. Suggest however that adversity, and the response to it, has helped drive the GAA.</p> <p>00:40:15 Talks about major rule changes: the ban on foreign games – describes it as 'exclusionary'; discusses also the identification of the GAA with Irish nationalism and perceptions of the GAA by the Orange Order.</p> <p>00:42:10 Discusses 'Clady Seán South' and 'Clady Kevin Barry' and where the club name came from. Says that there was no 'big republican demonstration during the GAA in my time.'</p> <p>00:43:15 Mentions mother's background in Cumann na mBan and belief that republicanism shouldn't be 'misused'; mentions that she spent most life in West Belfast and her embarrassment at some of the recent things that were happening.</p> <p>00:44:45 Comments that the GAA would have given a measure of respectability to certain political causes – 'if the GAA was behind then it had to be alright...'</p> <p>00:45:10 Considers some of the challenges facing the GAA during the Troubles. Talks about 'B' Specials recognising GAA people and refers to Arthur Leonard being shot 'allegedly driving through a checkpoint and suggests</p>
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	<p>evidence to the contrary.</p> <p>00:45:57 Discusses the influence of particular political viewpoints on GAA clubs: recalls public meeting in Clady over closing down of Clady/Milltown Presbyterian school and some of the hostile opinions he met.</p> <p>00:48:56 Discusses the background to his decision to become Chairman. Mentions becoming 'too isolated' from club when he moved to Newry.</p> <p>00:50:05 Refers to previous week's game between Armagh and Dublin, the size of the Dublin crowd, the sense of occasion.</p> <p>00:50:33 Highs and lows of his GAA experience: talks about ending of his playing career and losing certain games; talks also about winning junior championships and the achievement of Armagh getting to All-Ireland final in 1977.</p> <p>00:51:25 Going to see Clady play after his retirement.</p> <p>00:52:25 Discusses the progress of the Clady club on the field from the 1970s onwards: promotion and relegation, championship victories.</p> <p>00:53:18 Says that local community identity was built on the profile of the GAA club. Talks about the support for club from the community and the voluntary effort involved.</p> <p>00:53:55 Mentions a taxi driver who he thinks got paid for bringing the boys up from Markethill. Comments also on the strength of voluntarism and the its key to the Association's success.</p> <p>00:54:53 Considers the future of amateurism, professionalism and the role of sponsorship in the GAA. Talks about manager's capitalising on their position – reference to Joe Kernan.</p> <p>00:56:55 Considers the GAA future and the challenges the Association faces in urban areas – mentions the example of Newry.</p> <p>00:58:05 Mentions that success is important to clubs.</p> <p>00:58:48 Reflects on the standing of Crossmaglen and the fact that they go from 'strength to strength' once they get out of Armagh.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. AR/1/40

<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<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>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>His playing career ran from the age of 16 to nearly 40, the highlights being the winning of two junior championships with Clady, the first in 1977, the second in the early 1980s.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Former Chairman of Clady club</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Audio <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:01:34</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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: Kerry-Anne Gallogly

Date: 7th Feb 2011