

**GAA Oral History Project**  
**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2012
<b>Location</b>	Manor House, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Liam Barry
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1946 <b>Home County:</b> Carlow
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ballon National School <b>Secondary:</b> Tullow VEC <b>Third Level:</b> Kevin Street College of Technology
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Mary), 1 daughter and 2 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ballon GAA Club [Carlow]; St Andrews GAA [Carlow]
<b>Occupation</b>	Technician with Telecom Éireann [Retired]
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farm Labourer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Labour party
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1900 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Carlow
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Liam talks about the important role that the GAA has always played in his life. He remembers growing up in Ballon, a place where the GAA was an essential part of community life. Liam was always fanatical about the Association and although he left Ballon for work reasons, he maintained his involvement with St Andrew's in Bagenalstown. Liam was heavily involved at administrative level and he recalls some of the characters he worked with and major issues that has to be worked through over the years. He also gives his opinions on how the GAA has changed during his time, and whether or not this is a good thing.</p> <p>00:15 Born in 1946, originally from Ballon. What it was like when he was growing up. Family background.</p> <p>00:50 Family involvement in GAA. Father, Richard, played for Ballon. Marking a pitch with his father in the 1950s with a wheelbarrow. How they did that.</p> <p>01:40 Incident in a game that his father was refereeing. Father giving him his watch to mind. Reason for that.</p> <p>02:25 GAA in Ballon in history.</p> <p>02:45 Going to school in Ballon. Jim Morris headmaster and prominent GAA player. Advice he gave to them. Talking about Carlow-Kerry All-Ireland semi-final in 1944. Joe Keohane playing for Kerry. John Doyle a forward for Carlow. Problems Carlow encountered.</p> <p>04:00 Playing football at school in his grandfather's field. Playing in the schools championship. Finals held in Dr Cullen</p>

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	<p>Park. Different teams at the school.</p> <p>05:15 Tullow their big rivals. Tullow woman Mrs Jackman's son crying in a game. Reason he was crying.</p> <p>05:55 Going to Newbridge in a van belonging to Bill Corrigan to watch games.</p> <p>06:25 McFadden's drama roadshow visiting on occasion.</p> <p>07:30 Tom Murphy a funny local character who often told stories.</p> <p>08:15 No training when they were young.</p> <p>8:25 Football in vocational school in Tullow. Playing Hacketstown.</p> <p>08:50 Cycling to school.</p> <p>09:10 Going to Carlow games in Newbridge. How he travelled to games.</p> <p>09:40 Five boys in his family. All played football. Getting a football for Christmas.</p> <p>10:10 Listening to games on a battery radio. Getting an electric radio.</p> <p>10:50 Listening to a game between Derry and Dublin in 1958. Fondness he had for Derry and reason for that.</p> <p>11:15 Joining the P&amp;T and going to Kevin's Street for training. How he got involved in that. Getting special tuition for entrance exam at Ely Place in Dublin in 1960. Interview at office in O'Connell St.</p> <p>13:00 Starting work in 1962 in Bagenalstown. Duties he had.</p> <p>13:35 Organising a game against the ESB in Dublin. How that went. Playing in Tallaght.</p> <p>14:10 Post &amp; Telegraph championships. Playing against Wexford, Portlaoise and Naas.</p> <p>14:55 Moving around because his job required it. Going to Enniscorthy and Waterford to work. Meeting different characters in lodgings he stayed at.</p> <p>16:25 Poor quality lodgings in Dublin. Staying near South Circular Road. Listening to Ireland's Top Ten on the radio. Not being happy with the food he received.</p> <p>17:10 Working in the Kildare Street Club in Dublin, a</p>
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	<p>gentlemen's club, when he was 15. His impressions of that. Freemasons meeting there. Mrs Alexandra being refused entry. Sir Basil Goulding and his wife Valerie visiting..</p> <p>20:10 How he got the job there. Where he stayed while working there. Paddy Cusack from Ballyporeen there. Paddy bringing a girl back there.</p> <p>21:20 ****SOMEONE ENTERS ROOM****</p> <p>21:20 Getting involved with St Andrew's GAA club.</p> <p>22:05 Club success in the 1970s.</p> <p>22:35 Club founded in 1952. GAA in Bagenalstown since before 1900.</p> <p>23:00 Junior final in 1930 in Ballinatrain against Carlow Gaels. Charlie Murphy refereeing the game. Player, Johnny Condon, involved in a terrible incident during the game. What happened. His own research into the incident.</p> <p>24:10 Erin's Own hurling club formed in 1934.</p> <p>24:40 Erin's Own and MONEY BEAG meeting in the championship in 1951 in McGrath Park. Gardaí called due to trouble at the match.</p> <p>25:00 St Andrew's the football club and Erin's Own the hurling club from 1952 onwards.</p> <p>25:15 Micheál Jones chairman of St Andrew's when he joined, and Jim Plunkett of Leitrim secretary.</p> <p>25:45 Issue with a player who was prone to injury. How Jones and Plunkett reacted. Other stories about their relationship.</p> <p>26:40 Willie O'Connor heavily involved in the GAA in the area, eventually becoming chairman of Carlow County Board. Working with him in the 1980s.</p> <p>27:15 Fr Jimmy Doyle curate in the area when Liam was secretary of the McGrath Park committee. Trying to balance the accounts with Willie O'Connor.</p> <p>28:00 Jim Butler a local character who made footballs and provided football boots. Butler treasurer at the club and his recollections of that time.</p> <p>29:15 Helping out at training sessions when he first got involved with the club.</p> <p>29:30 Paddy Landen another local character who rarely</p>
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	<p>missed a game.</p> <p>30:05 Stories of Bill Tobin, whose grandson Kevin Moran played for Waterford.</p> <p>31:20 Tommy Hickey president of St Andrew's and of Erin's Own. Memories of him during fundraising drives.</p> <p>32:35 Organising a raffle in the 1960s with a car as first prize. What happened when the winner came to collect his prize.</p> <p>33:30 Bill Foster working within the club. Assisting injured players. How he worked his magic.</p> <p>34:15 Paddy Kelly telling stories in the pub of events at a game earlier that day.</p> <p>35:00 Developing grounds in the 1980s. Reason for that. Dressing rooms they had been using. Improvements they made.</p> <p>36:05 What they did to raise funds. Willie O'Connor organising that. Problems arising.</p> <p>37:20 Tournaments they held. John Maloney travelling from Tipperary to umpire.</p> <p>38:05 Further development work they carried out in the 1990s.</p> <p>38:20 Meetings they had in advance of decision to redevelop. How they went.</p> <p>38:50 Issues arising when they wanted to put up floodlights.</p> <p>39:50 How the club fared in the 1980s. Beating Tinryland in a final.</p> <p>40:20 Fortunes improving in 1995.</p> <p>40:35 Rivalry with Ballon.</p> <p>41:35 Falling from senior to junior status and reasons for that.</p> <p>41:50 Involvement at committee level and changes he has seen over the years. Growing importance of finances. Costs that they have to meet. Time-consuming nature of administrative work.</p> <p>44:15 Getting involved with the county board in the 1990s. Early impressions.</p> <p>45:55 Big decisions made during his time in administration</p>
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	<p>and the impact that they had.</p> <p>48:05 Changes in how players see themselves over the years. Expectations that they have.</p> <p>49:20 Local sponsorship. Approaching local business people for assistance.</p> <p>50:40 Hurling strong in the locality.</p> <p>52:00 Work as development officer with the Carlow County Board. Difficulties involved.</p> <p>54:25 Opinions on the relationships between clubs, county boards and Croke Park. Resistance to perceived interference. How things could be improved.</p> <p>56:30 Demands on volunteers.</p> <p>58:00 What motivates him to stay involved.</p> <p>58:35 Importance of GAA's amateur status.</p> <p>59:30 Opinion of GPA.</p> <p>01:00:15 Best GAA memories.</p> <p>01:00:40 How he feels when Ballon play against St Andrew's.</p> <p>01:01:25 Admiration for former Director General Liam Mulvihill and for Mick Delaney of the Leinster Council. Micheál Reddin impressive.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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>Played football with Ballon from childhood to minor and then moved on to St Andrews.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Member of St Andrew's GAA Committee since the 1980s and filled roles of Treasurer, Secretary, PRO and currently Chairman. Delegate to Carlow county board 2000-2010. Has been Development Officer for Carlow county board for the past 4 years. Leinster council delegate 2000-2003.</p>

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<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:02:40
<b>Language</b>	English

**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:        Regina Fitzpatrick

Date:         23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012