

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Julian O'Donoghue and Martin Lynch
<b>Date of Interview</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Blarney, Co Cork
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paddy Coleman
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1924 <b>Home County:</b> Cork
<b>Education</b>	N/A
<b>Family</b>	N/A
<b>Club(s)</b>	Blarney Hurling and Football Club [Cork]
<b>Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/25

<b>Date of Report</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1930 - 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Cork
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Material Culture, Culture, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>This is one of two interviews conducted with 87 year- old Paddy Coleman. It begins with commentary on his school days in Blarney and the sports that were played there. Coleman was a child and teenager in the late 1920s and 30s and recalls the success of the Blarney club throughout that decade, shedding light on the array of grounds used for matches and training, travelling to watch games with his father and the players involved with Blarney and competing clubs. He continues his account of Blarney and Cork GAA through the 1940s and 50s and offers perspectives on the intensity of local club rivalries, the great county players, the procurement of hurleys and other gear. Towards the end of the recording, Coleman selects Christy Ring as the greatest player he has ever seen and comments on the one player in Cork who could 'mind him'.</p> <p>Tape 2: 00:00:02 Recording begins in the middle of a story about Danny Lenehan.</p> <p>00:01:22 Talks about Gerry Desmond, who was, he says, 'wounded in the Great War'. Claims that Desmond ran the hurling club 'out of his own pocket'.</p> <p>00:02:28 Discussion around the standing and contribution of Gerry Desmond.</p> <p>00:02:50 Mention is made of other individuals: Paty O'Connor, Jimmy Connors.</p> <p>00:03:11 Reference to former secretary from the 1930s, 'Bobby'.</p> <p>00:03:45 Talks about being secretary in the mid 1940s, the venues for meetings and the small turnout at AGMs.</p>

## REFERENCE NO. CK/1/25

	<p>00:05:30 Comments that Charlie Conroy was Chairman and Diarmuid Harrington was Treasurer during his tenure as secretary of the Blarney club. Refers to other individuals who held officer positions within the club, including John Desmond.</p> <p>00:06:55 Discusses the workload of being secretary as being '24/7'.</p> <p>00:07:30 Refers to club meetings as being held weekly.</p> <p>00:07:42 Talks about costs of running club, the expense of hurleys, boots and gear. Mentions that some players 'played in their shoes'.</p> <p>00:08:46 Refers to holding 'church gate collections' in Blarney and Waterloo and amounts raised.</p> <p>00:10:10 Discusses holding a concert on St. St. Patrick's night in the GAA hall and what was involved – plays, singers, step-dancers etc.</p> <p>00:11:11 Comments on Michael Cremin attending mid Cork board meetings in Coachford.</p> <p>00:11:46 Interviewer states that he also attended mid Cork board meetings, travelling first by motorbike and then by car.</p> <p>00:12:05 Paddy Coleman remarks on cycling to meetings of the Muskerry Divisional Board and talks about Tadhg Lynch who served as secretary of the Divisional Board for 30 years.</p> <p>00:14:30 Remarks that Blarney weren't liked at mid Cork board level and reflects on how meetings were conducted.</p> <p>00:16:15 Interviewer and interviewee discuss communications between club and board and between club and its members. Interviewer explains how modern technology – email and telephone text messages – are used to convey information.</p> <p>00:18:40 Michael Coleman comments both on the use of post for GAA correspondence in the 1940s and the use of verbal communication with club members.</p> <p>00:19:21 Makes reference to having a phone, as well as to Jimmy Goulding from Coachford.</p> <p>00:20:20 Recalls the placing of notices on 'The Gully'.</p> <p>00:21:03 Mentions the lack of telephones in homes when he was young.</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. CK/1/25**

	<p>00:21:30 Refers to the difficulty in changing matches once they were fixed and to having arguments with other clubs.</p> <p>00:22:22 Mentions calling Jimmy Goulding from the 'old post office'.</p> <p>00:23:00 Talks about telephone contact being routed through the Post-master.</p> <p>00:23:38 Comments on county conventions and the club's attendance at them. Recalls receiving 'a few tips' from Seán Óg Murphy, who was replaced by Con Murphy as Secretary of County Board.</p> <p>00:25:20 Recollections of Con Murphy. Describes him as 'unique'.</p> <p>00:26:00 Lack of contact with county board because club was junior.</p> <p>00:26:35 Recalls only occasion the club 'locked horns' with Board. Tells story of players who were dropped for mid-Cork final against Inniscarra c. 1947.</p> <p>00:30:15 Recalls the 'best exhibition we ever gave as a team' in 1944. Tells also of a first round championship game against 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion based in Ballincollig, a team which had 'the pick of Ireland'.</p> <p>00:31:50 Interviewer talks about attending meetings (he was secretary of club in 1971-72) at old county board offices in Cook Street. Says it was sold off after county board moved to 'the Park'.</p> <p>00:32:30 Interviewer Refers to chairmen in the 1970s – refers to Jack Barrett from Kinsale, Derry Gowen and Donal O'Sullivan from Castletownbere.</p> <p>00:33:48 Paddy Coleman recalls meetings attended, former chairmen, objections. Refers to objection focussing on illegal players or overage players.</p> <p>00:36:20 Discussion about objections at meetings and interest it generated in games.</p> <p>00:37:05 Talks about local rivalries involving Blarney.</p> <p>00:37:50 Interviewer mentions a breakaway team in Waterloo in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>00:39:25 Interviewer refers to demise of objections and speculates as to the reasons why.</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. CK/1/25**

	<p>00:39:53 Paddy Coleman remarks on 'foreign games rule' and the attendance of GAA members at soccer games at the Markdyke and Turner's Cross.</p> <p>00:41:00 Interviewer about Turner's Cross as a GAA venue and the involvement of Christy Madden in a game at the venue.</p> <p>00:42:00 General light-hearted conversation among Coleman, interviewer and Julian O'Donoghue.</p> <p>00:43:16 Talks about the raising money to pay for a lorry to take players to game – refers to issues of insurance and driving players in a lorry.</p> <p>00:43:30 Talks about working in the Mill for 35 years, the numbers employed in the mill, where they came from and how they got there.</p> <p>00:45:16 Recalls mill closing on his birthday in 1975, the reasons for its closure and the O'Mahony family.</p> <p>00:47:20 Interviewer talks about current costs of running Blarney GAA club and the size of the club debt.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Secretary, Treasurer and PRO of Blarney Club at various periods.</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: 00:49:50</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

**REFERENCE NO. CK/1/25**

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed:        Julian O'Donoghue

Date:         8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011