

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	6 th May 2010
Location	Sligo City
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Ted Maloney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1948 Home County: Sligo
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: 4 daughters
Club(s)	St Mary's GAA [Sligo]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. SO/1/9

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Martin Seery
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1968 Home County: Sligo
Education	Primary: Cloonacool NS, Co. Sligo Secondary: Tubbercurry VEC, Co. Sligo
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Cloonacool GAA [Sligo]
Occupation	Production Planner
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. SO/1/9

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Dermot Walsh
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1965 Home County: Sligo
Education	Primary: Holy Family NS, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo Secondary: Vocational School, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo
Family	Siblings: 3 siblings
Club(s)	Tourlestrane GAA [Sligo]
Occupation	Postman
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	18 th June 2012
Period Covered	1969- 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Sligo
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Media, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Ted and Martin talk about their roles in ladies football in Sligo since it began in the early 1990s. Between them they have filled numerous administrative and coaching roles, and have watched various teams under their stewardship evolve over the years. They recall some of their most memorable campaigns in which they tasted both defeat and victory. It has not been smooth sailing all the way and they describe the problems they've encountered due to a lack of recognition, shortages of volunteers, and administrative and financial problems. Ladies football has grown in popularity over the years but it takes a tremendous amount of input from those involved and both Ted and Martin have put huge effort into maintaining ladies football's presence in their county. An associate of theirs, Dermot Walsh, enters the conversation near the end of the interview.</p> <p>00:15 Ted is chairman of Sligo Ladies County Board and is involved with St Mary's club.</p> <p>00:40 Martin is treasurer of Sligo Ladies County Board and former chairperson. He is involved with the Cloonacool club, the fixtures committee and the youth committee of Sligo GAA.</p> <p>01:05 Ted did not come from a footballing family but was fanatical himself. His local club was Castleconnor but everybody emigrated and the club shut down.</p> <p>01:40 When Ted was 16 his brother returned from London and they set up a club in 1969 and Ted was chairman. He was 19/20 years old.</p> <p>02:20 (Ted) Their first junior game was in a field belonging to</p>

	<p>the Land Commission which they used without asking. They played St Farnan's and it gave them confidence.</p> <p>02:50 (Ted) The Castleconnor club is now playing senior football and have produced many inter-county players – Gerry Barnes captained the first Mayo vocational team ever to win an All-Ireland.</p> <p>03:30 (Ted) There was also Barnes Murphy who went on to manage the Sligo football team, his brother Christy, Jimmy Cullen who was a 14-year-old minor with Sligo, Patrick Naughton.</p> <p>04:40 Ted's daughters played football and he started up an underage structure in the club in Sligo. Three of his daughters played inter-county football.</p> <p>06:10 Ted became a development officer with the county board.</p> <p>06:50 Martin grew up in Cloonacool in the late 1970s and Martin McCarrick and Myles McIntyre, two great footballers, were from the area.</p> <p>07:15 His family had no involvement with the GAA but he played football in the 1980s and picked up a lot of injuries.</p> <p>07:45 Martin drifted away from the GAA in the 1990s but in 1997 he got his appetite back and Cloonacool won the intermediate championship that year, reaching a county final for the first time in 63 years.</p> <p>08:15 Martin returned as a selector in 1998 and became involved in ladies football.</p> <p>08:25 (Martin) In 1997 Sligo played Roscommon and it was a general election year and whenever the two met in an election year where there was a change of government Sligo always won - which is what happened in 1997.</p> <p>09:10 (Martin) In 1998 he did match reports for The Sligo Weekender and then got his own column in the paper.</p> <p>09:35 Towards the end of 1998 Martin was approached by the manager of the Sligo ladies team, Mickey Reilly, to become PRO of the ladies county board.</p> <p>09:50 Since then he has served as chairman, secretary and</p>
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	<p>treasurer.</p> <p>10:00 (Martin) In 2000 Sligo won an All-Ireland Under-14 blitz.</p> <p>10:30 (Martin) In the 2006 All-Ireland Sligo were one of the first clubs to bring a black girl to the All-Ireland mini-sevens.</p> <p>11:00 (Martin) Her parents were due to return to their native country two weeks before the All-Ireland but they delayed it so that she could play in Croke Park.</p> <p>11:25 (Martin) The 2006 All-Ireland team got to An All-Ireland final and an All-Ireland Under-14 blitz final in 2008, though they failed to win a Connacht title.</p> <p>11:45 Ted was managing the 2008 Under-14 team with Martin and Jackie Clancy from Drumcliff. Imelda McNulty was also involved.</p> <p>12:10 Ted brought the senior county girls to come in and train with his team.</p> <p>12:40 (Ted) The 2008 team was the best team since the 2000 team and had players like Therese Marron, Karen Maloney and Louise Brett.</p> <p>13:00 (Ted) They had a huge number of players interested in being involved and they always turned up for training.</p> <p>13:15 (Ted) They got a bus to their first game against Mayo and there was an inch of water on the pitch. The game went ahead and Sligo won.</p> <p>14:05 (Ted) The next game was against Roscommon in Ballymoate and Sligo won, and after that they beat Leitrim.</p> <p>14:45 (Ted) They then played Galway in the Connacht final, giving the subs a run-out, and they lost the preliminary game.</p> <p>15:15 (Ted) They lost the actual final but went very close to winning it. They lost to Kerry - who went on to win it - in the quarter-final.</p> <p>15:50 (Ted) They went to Mullingar for the All-Ireland blitz and lost the final narrowly.</p> <p>16:15 (Ted) Conor Gormley took over the management in 2010 along with Noelle Gormley, Jackie Mulligan and a</p>
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	<p>Keenan man.</p> <p>16:55 (Ted) One girl, Emma Hansbury was selected to play for Ireland Under-17s.</p> <p>18:10 (Ted) They run Under-10 blitzes and a local man, Martin Foley, sponsors them in the form of medals.</p> <p>18:55 (Martin) Ladies football started in Sligo in 1993 at club level.</p> <p>19:05 (Martin) In 1992 Tommy Cummins, development officer at the time and Sligo goalkeeper in 1975, put a motion in at the GAA Convention to start ladies football.</p> <p>19:15 (Martin) The first chairperson was Marty Duffy, who refereed the 2009 All-Ireland football final.</p> <p>19:45 (Martin) In 1993 they had Under-14 and senior teams at club level. In 1994 Under-16s got involved and the county team first played, losing to Leitrim in the junior championship.</p> <p>20:20 (Martin) Eithne McGovern played for Leitrim in 1994 and went on to win an All-Ireland with Sligo and she is now married to Conor Flanagan.</p> <p>20:55 (Ted) In 2003 Frank Gallagher, Kathleen Kane and Tom Kane were involved with the county team.</p> <p>21:05 (Martin) They lost to Leitrim in 2003, drew with Galway at the end of normal time and Joanne O'Connell should have been sent off under new rules but the referee didn't realise. They brought on Siobhán O'Sullivan as a substitute. In extra-time O'Connell set up O'Sullivan for the winning point, though neither should have been on the field of play.</p> <p>22:25 (Ted) Ted recalls a phone call from Frank Gallagher four days before that Sligo game looking for some of the young players to join the junior players - Ruth Goodwin, Joanne O'Connell, Ted's daughter Karen. The game was intense and Ruth Goodwin was exhausted at the end of the match. They went on to win the Connacht title but lost to eventual All-Ireland winners Donegal.</p> <p>23:40 (Martin) In 2001 they lost to Galway who went on to win the All-Ireland final, in 2002 they lost to Roscommon who went on to win and in 2003 they lost to Donegal who went on to win. In 2004 they lost the final to Kildare, in 2005 they lost</p>
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	<p>to Armagh and in 2006 they finally won it.</p> <p>24:20 (Martin) They were affiliated in 1993 and today they have teams at all levels and grades.</p> <p>****Dermot Walsh enters the conversation****</p> <p>25:20 (Ted) Dermot is fixtures officer.</p> <p>25:45 Dermot's daughter started playing and then he got involved with ladies football.</p> <p>26:55 (Dermot) They have 18 clubs affiliated and ladies football is growing all the time - in 2010 they had two new clubs, St Mary's and Ballisodare.</p> <p>27:25 Ballymoate came in at underage in 2010.</p> <p>27:50 (Martin) In the early days people got involved because it was something new.</p> <p>28:05 When Martin first got involved there was a contest for cultural and language officer, assistant secretary and assistant treasurer; in 2010 there are rarely contests for any position.</p> <p>28:35 (Martin) In 2003 they had 400 members but by 2010 it was up to 1,200-1,300.</p> <p>28:55 (Ted) Getting people involved has helped ladies football to grow.</p> <p>29:30 (Martin) A lot of ladies football is played in national schools which helps to boost numbers.</p> <p>30:10 (Martin) The GAA generally don't interfere with what they do, so long as things are running smoothly.</p> <p>30:40 (Dermot) Often if there is a clash between a boys' fixture and a girls' fixture, the boys' game gets preference.</p> <p>31:20 Ted bemoans the lack of recognition for ladies football in a book that was published.</p> <p>32:00 (Dermot) There are certain families in certain clubs who produce a lot of players.</p> <p>32:25 (Martin) Fatima Werde was a great footballer and was</p>
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	<p>from Rwanda.</p> <p>33:50 (Dermot) There are many non-national girls playing in the county.</p> <p>33:10 (Ted) They had great banter with Fatima because she was often late.</p> <p>33:50 (Ted) Patricia McCaffrey did a great job for them with photography.</p> <p>34:20 (Ted) In GAA you make friends that you never lose, and all the girls are very close.</p> <p>35:05 (Ted) Women are different to work with than men. When they commit they commit 100 per cent and many of the girls have been involved a long time.</p> <p>35:50 (Dermot) There are often more boys show up for training than girls.</p> <p>36:20 (Ted) At St Mary's they get a good turnout for training but this is not true of other clubs, like Drumcliffe.</p> <p>36:50 (Martin) Success will get more people interested.</p> <p>37:30 (Martin) Underage players play at every level and this can be a problem due to burnout and injury.</p> <p>38:15 (Dermot) Many take a year out around the age of 14.</p> <p>38:40 (Ted) There is competition from soccer for players.</p> <p>39:55 They don't get a lot of media coverage unless they submit something themselves.</p> <p>40:50 (Dermot) TG4's coverage of ladies football has been helpful.</p> <p>41:20 (Ted) They brought in a PRO in 2010 to help market their game more efficiently and press the media for coverage.</p> <p>43:15 (Ted) Sligo Woodfire sponsor them, and before that they got 30,000 euro a year from Keyside.</p> <p>43:35 (Martin) John McGuinness in Tubbercurry sponsors two teams and covers them for a lot of kits and gear.</p>
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	<p>45:10 (Ted) They have smaller sponsors - McHugh's Bar and Lounge, Charles of Anthonys, Martin Foley, The Belfry</p> <p>46:20 (Martin) They had an Under-16 team in an All-Ireland final in 2007 and Dermot was manager. They lost to Clare.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Ted:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <hr/> <p>Martin:</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> <hr/> <p>Dermot:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <hr/>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Ted: 1 Sligo Junior Football Championship</p> <p>Martin: N/A</p> <p>Dermot: N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Ted: Sligo Ladies Football Development Officer (currently); Chairman (2008 – 2010)</p> <p>Martin: Sligo Ladies Football PRO (1998 – 2002, 2005 – 2007); Chairperson (2004 – 2006); Secretary (2008); Treasurer (2007 – 2009); Cloonacool GAA Chairperson (2000 – 2002); Secretary (1999); PRO (1999).</p> <p>Dermot: Sligo Ladies Football Development Officer (2006 –</p>

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	2008); Fixtures Secretary (2009 – 2010)
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:47:38
Language	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: 18th June 2012