GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	9 th March 2011
Location	Clonduff GFC, Co. Down
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Breandán Ó Muirí 'The Milkman'
<u>.</u>	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1958
	Home County: Down
Education	Primary: St Patrick's PS Hilltown
	Secondary: St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint
Family	Siblings: N/A
	Current Family if Different: 3 daughters
Club(s)	Clonduff GAC [Down]
Occupation	Milkman
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name /	John O'Hagan 'The Darner'
Nickname)	
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933
	Home County: Down
Education	Primary: Kinghill Primary School
Family	Siblings: N/A
	Current Family if Different: 1 daughter & 1 son
Club(s)	Clonduff GAC [Down]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Stephen Morgan
Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1942
	Home County: Down
Education	Primary: Ballymaghery PS
	Secondary: Newry Technical College
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Clonduff GAC [Down]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	Roman Catholic
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jerry Quinn	
<u>B</u>	Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Male	
Born	Year Born: 1941	
	Home County: Down	
Education	Primary: St Patrick's PS	
	Secondary: Newry Technical School	
Family	Siblings: 7 brothers and 5 sisters	
Club(s)	Clonduff GAC [Down]	
Occupation	Retired Civil Servant	
Parents' Occupation	General Labourer [Father]	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A	

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Anthony Davies	
ļ	Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Male	
Born	Year Born: 1932	
	Home County: Armagh	
Education	Primary: Tanderagee PS	
	Secondary: St Patrick's Armagh	
Family	Siblings: 11 siblings	
Club(s)	Clonduff GAC [Down]	
Occupation	Parish Priest	
Parents' Occupation	N/A	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A	

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Thomas Kelly
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1949
	Home County: Down
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: 4 siblings
Club(s)	Clonduff GAC [Down]
Occupation	Joiner
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Anita Brannigan
Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1948
	Home County: Tyrone
Education	Primary: St Mary's PS, Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone
	Secondary: St Patrick's, Dungannon
	Third Level: UUJ
Family	Siblings: 5 siblings
	Current Family if Different: 4 sons
Club(s)	Clonduff GAC [Down]
Occupation	Retired Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Hillbilli Ramblers, Hilltown Women's Group

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Marie Milligan
Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1969
	Home County: Down
Education	Primary: St Paul's PS, Cabra, Co. Down
	Secondary: St Malachy's, Castlewellan, Co. Down
Family	Siblings: N/A
	Current Family if Different: 2 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Clonduff GAC [Down]
Occupation	Post Mistress
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gerry Curran
<u>B</u>	iographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1951
	Home County: Down
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 5 sisters
	Current Family if Different: Wife and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Clonduff GAC; Carryduff GAC [Down]
Occupation	Painter
Parents' Occupation	Labourer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Hilltown Historical Society

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Patrick Matthews	
<u> </u>	Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Male	
Born	Year Born: 1948	
	Home County: Down	
Education	N/A	
Family	Siblings: 4 sisters	
	Current Family if Different: Wife, 3 sons and 2 daughters	
Club(s)	Clonduff GAC [Down]	
Occupation	Entrepreneur	
Parents' Occupation	Garage Owner & Coach Operator [Father & Mother]	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Political Affiliation / Membership	None	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Hilltown Farmers Saleyard VC	

Date of Report	7 th June 2012
Period Covered	1887 - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Down, Armagh, Dublin, Louth, Cavan, England, Americas
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Outsiders' Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	Members of Clonduff GAA Club, Co. Down, discuss the history of their club and county. They outline the key milestones in the development of club facilities and the introduction of different sports within the club. They describe the successes and failures of the club and consider the effects of emigration on Clonduff. In addition, they discuss the excitement surrounding the winning Down team of the 1960s and explain how Down's success affected Ulster GAA. They also reflect on such topics as the impact of The Troubles on the club, the financial benefits of the Peace Process for the club, the link between Irish identity and the GAA, and the various rule changes within the organisation. 01:08 Discussion about history of the club. First game in 1887. Banbridge Chronicle account of football match. From newspaper article, player names mentioned: Morgan and Wright, Small, Gillespie, Crothers. Game of crosses mentioned in newspaper. Tradition of football.
	02:34 No early records of hurling in Clonduff. Hurling from 1930s in Rathfriland GAA Club, winning county senior championship. Mentions Farnham. Records of camogie from 1950 in Clonduff. Date of formation of present camogie club. Start of hurling club in 70s.
	03:59 Discussion about sources of employment in the area. Linen mill industry, flax grown. Mentions Mussens. Also mentions John O'Neill, Wolfe Tone. Also farming industry.

Scutch mills. End of flax industry during Second World War. Rural area. Football the main passtime at evenings and weekends. Mentions Andy Murnane.

07:02 Mentions Geordie Mussen, athlete and footballer. His nephew Kevin Mussen, first person from Clonduff to bring the Sam Maguire across the border in 1960.

08:00 Recollection of incident at game between Armagh and Down in 1930s. Mentions McKnight, Jimmy Doyle. Split of parish in 1955. Mentions Patsy O'Hagan, Kevin Mussen. County championship final between both teams in 1957. Mentions Canon Murney reuniting both sides of parish. Visitors from America to watch 1957 game.

10:42 Discussion about Clonduff's rivals: Glenn, Ballykinlar, Newbridge, Kilcoo, Burren, Warrenpoint. Mutual respect. Death of Clonduff player Brian McGreevy in 1957 during match.

12:54 Description of how club fared from 1900s. Mentions John Murphy, founding member. 21-a-side. Impact of emigration and The Troubles.

14:22 List of pitches used, including Mussens' Meadow, Andy's field in Cabra, Lowrys' meadow, Kinghill schoolfield, McPoland's meadow, John Murphy's field, Wrights' field, McGreevys' field, O'Hagans' field.

18:13 Discussion about other pastimes in the parish: tug of war, billiard hall, snooker club, skittles. Handball from the 1980s in club, open handball alley before that. Mentions Victor Sherlock, Cavan handballer. Also horse-racing, gymkhana. Singing contests. Mentions Agatha Duggan. Funfair. Origins of Scór in Hilltown and Rostrevor. Mentions Tony Williamson. Mentions Master Fitzmaurice, Sean Fern. Interclub quiz competitions. 1960s. Irish dancing. Mentions Lily Foxe.

23:22 Consistent strength of club in Scór. Tradition of local concerts, recitations. Reputation of Hilltown for being Gaelic in sport and culture. Tradition of Irish speaking in area. Mentions contribution of Joseph Brown, Dr McPolin to teaching Irish.

26:09 Discussion about tradition of Gaelic games in the school. Dr McPolin teaching rounders, Kevin Mussen teaching football. Stephen recalls no organised underage football. Mentions Fr. Barney Treanor in 1950s teaching sport, also Master Treanor. Also mentions P.D. Kearns, author of

book about Clonduff GAA. No underage football at club level in Co. Down. Mentions Sam Casey from Belfast, Casey Cup. Formation of their own team in late 50s with Dessie Munahan, Oliver Rooney, Colm Water, Hughie McShane. Also mentions Danny Mussen. Rise of juvenile football from 1960. Mentions Jim Nevin, Stephen Doherty. Cycling to matches. Also mentions Henry Browne. Hurling and football.

31:26 Outline of start of hurling in parish in 1981. Mentions Fintan Mussen. Also mentions Charlie McKeown. Initial animosity in Clonduff about hurling. Change in attitude, rise of hurling. Mentions Joe Quinn.

32:50 No record of Irish language live in parish, comparison with Kilcoo. Influence of Irish language on place names in parish and on local English dialect. Opposition to language in area. Mentions schoolteachers Don Treanor schoolteacher. Also mentions contributions of Barney Murney and Barney Treanor to derivations of names of townlands.

36:37 Discussion of successes and failures of clubs. Winning first senior championship in 1930, rise again in 1940s. Mentions the Downes family. Mentions Canon Murney's contribution to encouraging the games. Also support of Fr. Keenan, parish priest in the 40s. Recounts story from Kearns's book about 1944 championship, shortage of gold and silver for medals, smuggling medals across border.

41:57 Discussion about restrictions caused by war. Travel restrictions, travelling to matches by bicycle, Lowrys' pony and trap. Many U.S. soldiers in area during war. Deaths of locals by bombs. Mentions Peter Duffy.

44:32 Strength of club in 1940s and 50s. Only two senior championship wins from 1957. Lost tradition of sharing cigarettes at half-time. Mentions Frank Murray. Mentions James MacCartan, Brian MacCartan, Sean O'Neill.

48:25 Description of celebrations after Down won the 1960 All-Ireland Senior Football final. Homecoming of team. Mentions Patsy O'Hagan and Kevin Mussen on team. Sideline tickets to Croke Park. Mentions Stephen Keane. Crowds at Croke Park. Paralysis of a supporter who fell off stand in Croke Park. Mentions Sean Purcell. Skill of 1960 team. Mentions Maurice Hayes' managerial approach, Barney Carr. Also mentions Martin Walsh.

54:01 John recalls his attendance at the 1960 final in the Cusack stand. His brother on the Down team. Suspension of club football to prepare for final, momentum building. Beaten

by Galway in 1959 All-Ireland Senior Football Semi-Final. Also mentions Frank Stockwell of Galway. Also mentions Michael O'Hehir. Also mentions Peter McDermott. Also mentions Dan McCartan. Importance of overcoming fear. Patsy O'Hagan scoring hat-trick against Galway in Wembley, Chelsea interested in signing him.

58:43 Praise for Patsy's contribution to the GAA. John recalls training in field.

01:00:42 Discussion about impact of successful Down team on Ulster GAA. Benchmark. Rejuvenation of the sport, formation of new clubs.

01:02:17 Description of development of Clonduff. Purchase of grounds in 1960s, fundraising efforts, opened by Seán Ó Síocháin in 1968. Down and Offaly playing match. Huge crowds. Mentions Paddy Joe Morgan, Stephen Doherty responsible for dressing rooms. Geordie Mussen selling land for pitch.

01:06:20 Discussion of fundraising efforts to build facilities: silver circle, car draw, marquees, carnivals, guest teas. Little grant aid from GAA then, some financial assistance from Department of Education. Efforts to get club premises in 1996, money from Department of Culture, Art and Leisure. Opened by Jack Boothman. Voluntary effort in development of pitch. Soft drink bar in carnival in 1960s, alcohol bar in 1990s, more revenue. Wolfe Tones playing in marquee.

01:11:35 Recollection of first match at opening of pitch in 1968. Mentions Offaly's Tony McTague, Down's Mickey Cole.

01:12:10 Description of relationship between club and county board. Gerry's time on county board. Acrimony in the early days, suspension of Clonduff club in 1950 following incident at match with Warrenpoint. Violence to referee. Improvement in relationship between club and county board from 1960s, Kevin Mussen team captain and county officer.

01:14:09 Clonduff's reaction to rule changes in the GAA. Voting in favour of lifting of the ban on security forces, some opposition in locality.

01:16:19 Reflection on the impact of The Troubles on the club. Army stopping people going to matches at checkpoint. Stopped by UDR coming home from games with underage players. Children's involvement in GAA keeping them out of trouble.

01:19:35 Discussion of impact of Hunger Strikes of club.

Cancellation of training the night Bobby Sands died. Mentions Fintan Mussen, Aidan Brown, Shamie Moran. Strength of feeling in the area. Mentions Margaret Thatcher. Growth of IRA after hunger strikes, turning point. Role of GAA in Irish history. Origins of hurling. Camogie, Cumann na mBan.

01:21:46 Discussion about broader picture of civil rights movement, employment etc. Mentions Tomás Ó Fiaich's meeting with Margaret Thatcher.

01:23:19 Reflection on Irish identity and the GAA. Strength of faith in Northern Ireland, persecution. Benefits of the Peace Process: more funding available to the GAA. No money from government sources in Northern Ireland before 1996.

Mentions Danny Murphy's role in changing this. Grants from 1996, £35 million for Northern Irish clubs since then. National Lottery funding for development of pitch in Clonduff. Change in administration's attitude, slow change of mindset of people on ground. Ban on foreign games in 1971. Few Protestants playing GAA still. Concerns about the dilution of the GAA, less emphasis on identity now, more emphasis on games. Disadvantages of opening up GAA.

01:29:38 Reasons for opposition to opening of Croke Park. Money from rugby and soccer. Impossibility of ensuring GAA members only play GAA. Opposition to opening up Croke Park to foreign music, against spirit of the GAA. Other members' opposing views: opening Croke Park broadened perspective of GAA on world stage. Recollection of watching George Best play soccer, watching matches in Glasgow before lifting of the ban.

01:34:16 Discussion about ladies' games. Liam Mussen starting camogie in 1950. Reformed in 1967, strong since then. Participation in national Féile. Adult and juvenile teams now. Ladies Football starting in 2001, winning 3 consecutive senior county championships. Dual players.

01:35:51 Anita considers the impact of the introduction of ladies football on club. More women involved. Mutual benefits to camogie and ladies football. Large amount of teams in club, challenge of accommodating training and games.

01:37:37 Winning Best Club in Down for highest participation in Scór. Handball involvement. Mentions Dessie McNeill. Competitions won by club members. Involvement of former Clonduff members in training other clubs in Down, Armagh, and Louth.

01:39:21 Reflection on significance of club in community.

	More supporters years ago. More distractions today. Huge participation. Major impact on social and recreational life of community. Need for success to earn support. Mentions Kevin Mussen.
	01:45:04 Anita compares amount of teams in the past with that of today. Huge increase in participation, growth of population in parish. Commuter village now, no local industry. New families in club, Polish and Romanian children in club. Drowning of child member Daniel Andre in recent years.
	01:49:11 Recollections of 125-Day to mark anniversary of organisation. Police escort from church. Children making friends through the GAA. Contribution of secondary schools to GAA: Abbey in Newry, St.Colman's, St. Mark's Warrenpoint, Our Lady's, Castlewellan. Mentions St. Colman's manager Cathal Murray.
	01:53:22 Description of playing Glenn in a league game. Mentions McCartans, Val Kane.
	01:54:44 John recalls his last game for the club. Winning a trophy in 1994, subbing for absent players at match in Tullylish during The Troubles, held up at army checkpoint. Story about two rival families in parish, grocer Willie McGough and Pat Browne.
Involvement in GAA	Breandán Ó Muirí
OAA .	✓ Supporter □ Player ✓ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	☐ Caterer ☐ Jersey Washer ☐ Referee ☐ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Chairman of Clonduff GAC 1995-2000

REFERENCE NO. (OFFICE USE ONLY): DN/1/6

Involvement in	John O'Hagan
GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	□ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	·
	□ Caterer ✓ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	□ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player	Won Championship with Clonduff in 1956
(Titles won; Length of time played)	Stopped playing in 1969
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Involvement in	Stephen Morgan
GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach □ Steward
	□ Chairperson □ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	□ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player	Played for 14 years. Won Down Senior Football
(Titles won; Length of time played)	Championship in 1957; Won Down Senior Football League in 1959.
Record as an	N/A
Administrator (Positions held;	
how long for)	
Involvement in	Jerry Quinn
GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	□ Chairperson □ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	·
	□ Other (please specify):

Record as a Player	N/A
(Titles won; Length of time played)	
Record as an	Clonduff [GAC] Club executive, PRO, Secretary and
Administrator	Chairman at various times.
(Positions held; how long for)	Down County Chairman, various other county posts
Involvement in	Anthony Davies
GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach □ Steward
	□ Chairperson □ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	□ Other (please specify):
December a Disyer	Dlayed for 14 years Was Days Copier Factball
Record as a Player	Played for 14 years. Won Down Senior Football Championship in 1957; Won Down Senior Football League in
(Titles won; Length of time played)	1959.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Involvement in	Thomas Kelly
GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach □ Steward
	□ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	□ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player	Ulster Secondary Schools U13 Hurling 1962
(Titles won; Length of time played)	
Record as an Administrator	Clonduff GAC Secretary for 11 years

Involvement in	Anita Brannigan
GAA	✓ Supporter □ Player □ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	□ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	□ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player	N/A
(Titles won; Length of time played)	
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Clonduff GAC Assistant Secretary, Cultural Officer and Underage officer
Involvement in	Marie Milligan
GAA	✓ Supporter □ Player □ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	□ Chairperson □ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	□ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player	N/A
(Titles won; Length of time played)	
Record as an	Clonduff GAC Assistant Secretary for 4 years
Administrator (Positions held;	
how long for)	
Involvement in	Gerry Curran
GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach □ Steward
	□ Chairperson □ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer ✓ Jersey Washer ✓ Referee □ None
	□ Other (please specify):

Record as a Player	Played for years but no titles won
(Titles won; Length of time played)	
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Clonduff GAC Committee member for 10 years
Involvement in GAA	Patrick Matthews □ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach □ Steward □ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person □ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None □ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played for 31 years. Won medals at underage and senior level hurling and football
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Clonduff GAC Committee member for 20 years
Format	✓ Audio ☐ Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:58:40
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 7th June 2012

21