

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010
<b>Location</b>	Ambassador Hotel, Cork City
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Marie Jolly (née Garvan) Síle Morgan (née Dunne)
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Marie:</b> Cork, 1948 <b>Síle:</b> Cork, 1947
<b>Education</b>	<b>Marie:</b> <b>Primary:</b> Christ the King, Turner's Cross, Cork. <b>Secondary:</b> St Aloysius Secondary School, Cork City. <b>Third Level:</b> Lee Commercial College  <b>Síle:</b> <b>Primary:</b> Canovee National School <b>Secondary:</b> St. Mary's Convent, Macroom <b>Third Level:</b> University College Cork
<b>Family</b>	<b>Marie:</b> <b>Siblings:</b> 3 sisters and 1 brother <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Husband (Roy); 1 daughter and 1 son  <b>Síle:</b> <b>Siblings:</b> 1 sister and 2 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Husband (Noel); 1 daughter and 4 sons

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/11

<b>Club(s)</b>	<b>Marie:</b> Old Als Camogie Club [Cork] <b>Síle:</b> Canovee-Cloughduv Camogie Club [Cork]
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Marie:</b> School Bus Driver <b>Síle:</b> Part-time teacher
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	<b>Marie:</b> Secondary school teacher [Father]; Housewife [Mother]  <b>Síle:</b> Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	<b>Marie:</b> Tennis, Squash. Badminton, Golf Clubs.  <b>Síle:</b> Nemo Rangers Ladies Committee
<b>Date of Report</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1947 - 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Cork
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Media, 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, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships
<b>Interview Summary</b>	Síle and Marie talk about their experiences of playing camogie in Cork. Síle helped set up a club in her locality of Canovee and went on to represent UCC and Cork, winning trophies along the way. She also became involved in administration at colleges level. Marie played for her school Old Al's and used to organise buses to bring supporters from the school to games. They went on trips to play other teams around the country, and on one occasion played in Holland. Síle and Marie talk about the respect they had for whatever jersey they wore and the sense of honour they felt when representing a community or institution on the pitch. Both have witnessed changes in the spirit in which camogie is played - in their time it was played for enjoyment but over the years it became increasingly competitive, with huge emphasis placed on winning as the ultimate end. They enjoyed the

	<p>sense of camaraderie amongst the players and made many friendships which have endured through the years.</p> <p>00:20 Síle born in 1947.</p> <p>00:25 Marie born in 1948.</p> <p>00:40 Síle's family were always into Gaelic games. Her father loved hurling and made hurleys for them.</p> <p>01:05 Síle played in secondary school and is from Canovee.</p> <p>01:30 Síle played in a field near the school and in the early 1960s they formed a local club and played games against Ballygarvan.</p> <p>02:00 Síle had a strong junior club in the 1960s that went on to play intermediate in the 1970s.</p> <p>02:20 (Síle) In the 1970s the local divisional team was resurrected, it used to be called the Muskerry Maids but they called themselves Muskerry.</p> <p>02:30 (Síle) They made the county final the first year and lost to Killeagh, who had good players like Marie Considine, Marian Sweeney and Mary O'Leary.</p> <p>03:05 (Síle) The underage was not strong but her brothers went to Farranferris and played there.</p> <p>03:40 Síle and her friends went around to local houses to drum up interest in playing camogie. Síle O'Mahony was a very good player.</p> <p>04:05 Síle and her friends formed a committee and her father was involved as he was chairman of the local GAA divisional board. He was an administrator with the Mid-Cork Division for over 50 years.</p> <p>05:00 Síle went back teaching to her old school in 1968 and affiliated it to the colleges' board. Carmel Desmond used to run the board and hold meetings. Schoolgirls were mostly delegates to that board. Marie was a delegate there for St Al's.</p> <p>06:10 Síle went to UCC and won the Ashbourne Cup twice. Emer Hurley was captain the first year and she won not long after her father Jim Hurley died. Jim had been secretary at UCC and a former Cork footballer and hurler. They called him 'Big Jim Hurley' and he played in 'The thunder and lightning All-Ireland final' against Kilkenny.</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/11

	<p>07:00 (Síle) UCC had a strong profile in hurling and football at the time.</p> <p>07:10 (Síle) UCC and UCD played a final in camogie and there was a dispute over the legality of Brídín Ní Mhaolacháin. The final was never played in the end.</p> <p>08:00 UCC, UCD, UCG and Queens were the four colleges that played.</p> <p>08:40 When Síle played in a final in Belfast she was marking Bróna O'Neill, whose brother Seán was a great Down footballer. They beat UCG in the final.</p> <p>09:20 Some of the team - like Catherine O'Riordan - did not travel as the game was on in Belfast.</p> <p>09:45 Síle went to Belfast in the late 1960s to watch a game and some people went to hear a speech from Rev Ian Paisley.</p> <p>10:20 Marie's father played for Sars in UCC and a club in Rathcormack.</p> <p>10:40 They used to go on holidays to Youghal and were introduced to hurleys there.</p> <p>11:00 Marie went to St Al's and discovered camogie.</p> <p>11:25 Marie got a local bus to watch a schools' match in Midleton.</p> <p>11:45 When she was doing her Inter Cert the principal, Sr Columba, went to captain Mary Murphy to say that she would be blaming camogie if Marie failed her Inter Cert.</p> <p>12:00 Marie was captain in fifth and sixth year.</p> <p>12:20 There was a pitch behind the school and Marie and her friends always played there, although she hated training.</p> <p>13:05 Marie would organise buses when they had games. She went to the CIE office in Bandon and they would play games in places like Youghal.</p> <p>13:35 One year Marie organised buses to Youghal but the Youghal team didn't turn up and Marie got in trouble with her principal over it.</p> <p>14:25 Other teams were South Pres and possibly North Pres.</p> <p>15:00 Marie's team wore black tights and gym slips and black</p>
--	---

	<p>boots with white anklets.</p> <p>15:20 It was a great honour when Marie was selected for the school team. Her two sisters played during her second year of having the captaincy and her father attended their games.</p> <p>16:50 Marie's mother felt that hockey would have been more ladylike.</p> <p>17:10 Marie's sister Liz was a super player and in 1971 played for Cork against Tipperary in the Mardyke.</p> <p>18:45 Marie feels it got much rougher once the men got involved. Recalls being at a county final with Ann Ryan and being shocked at the fact that she ever played the sport.</p> <p>19:55 The men got involved in the late 1960s/early 1970s.</p> <p>20:50 Síle's local priest didn't approve of them playing camogie but he was in the minority.</p> <p>21:40 Marie and her teammates had weekends away, playing in places like Ballylongford and Currow in Kerry.</p> <p>21:50 Marie They went to Kilkenny another year and the bus broke down near the Kilcoran Lodge. They stayed in the Rose Hill House Hotel and played St Paul's.</p> <p>22:15 Marie went to Amsterdam another year and played UCC. Highfield rugby club played out there too. They played in towns called Bussum and Leiden.</p> <p>23:25 UCC beat Marie's team but a lot of their team was from Old AI's. If you went to college you generally played senior camogie with the college team. The old AI's team was restricted to former pupils of the college but once you got married you couldn't play anymore.</p> <p>24:20 It cost the club because it just died out. Country clubs started up and many girls joined their local team.</p> <p>24:40 (Síle) Pres often took former UCC girls and there was no rule that they had to have attended the school.</p> <p>25:15 (Marie) On trips away they wandered around the town and met the opposing team after the game.</p> <p>25:45 When Síle played in Belfast in 1965 they were celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Ashbourne so there was a big social event the night after the final. Austin Currie was there as a young member of parliament.</p> <p>26:35 Síle went to play in the 1968 All-Ireland final and they</p>
--	--

	<p>went to Dublin Zoo the morning of the game. Melanie Cummins was pucking a ball around and she went over a fence to get a ball and hurt her leg. They lost to Wexford but won in 1970.</p> <p>27:25 Síle and the team often stayed at the Rosslare Hotel on Harcourt St in Dublin and they would get taxis to the game. Sean O'Duffy would run the event in Croke Park and the trophy is named after him. His wife was Kathleen Duffy, a great referee.</p> <p>28:45 (Síle) Until the win in 1970 Cork had not won in a long time. Dublin were a successful team.</p> <p>29:20 (Marie) Mary Moore and Carmel Desmond were big administrators, as was Lil O'Grady.</p> <p>29:45 (Síle) The GAA often supported them for pitches.</p> <p>30:10 (Marie) They had no dressing rooms and used to get changed in the ditch, but going to UCC was enjoyable as they had changing rooms.</p> <p>31:10 (Síle) There was no ban on camogie players playing hockey. In UCC if you didn't play in the club championship you would not be considered for the universities championship.</p> <p>32:10 (Síle) Most of the camogie players came from a GAA background.</p> <p>32:40 Síle taught in Macroom for many years and affiliated the school team in the colleges championship. They won a junior championship.</p> <p>33:10 They had a half day on Saturdays and played games that afternoon.</p> <p>33:40 In Canovee, there was a lady in her sixties who drove them around in her minivan for a small fee.</p> <p>34:00 They made money through Ciste na Banban, selling tickets.</p> <p>34:25 Síle played with Cork in the early 1970s and there were some great players like Liz Garvan, Marie Considine, Hannah Dineen, Betty Sugrue, Pat Moloney, Marian Sweeney, Mary O'Leary and Ann McAuliffe. It was a great honour.</p> <p>34:55 They lost to Wexford in the 1968 final, and to Tipperary in the 1969 Munster final. In the 1969 game one player was wearing rollers on her hair and a scarf because she was</p>
--	---

	<p>going out after the match.</p> <p>35:35 (Síle) They trained seriously with Cork but not so much with the club. Mary Moran was coaching the Cork team and was very organised. Cork went on to win the three-in-a-row.</p> <p>36:55 (Síle) Kilkenny, Wexford and Antrim were their big rivals. Mairéad McAtamney and Sue Cashman were very good for Cork against Antrim.</p> <p>37:40 (Síle) When they beat Kilkenny they were disappointed with Seán Ó Síocháin's speech at the dinner that night because he damned them with faint praise.</p> <p>38:25 (Síle) Cork's style was skilful and they picked up the ball a lot.</p> <p>38:45 Liz Garvan was a pleasure to watch and scored lots of goals. There were Stations held at Síle's house and the priest was enchanted with Liz and her style of play.</p> <p>39:55 (Síle) The Evening Echo used to have camogie notes and there was a magazine called Gaelic Sport and Irish Press journalist Pádraig Purcell's wife Agnes Hourican had a column in it.</p> <p>40:45 (Síle) In 1966 UCC played an Ashbourne game in Belfield and Pádraig Purcell wrote about the game. UCD had a player named Bláithnid Nic Anacháin and she was nice to them the night before so Síle felt sorry for her as UCC were winning. Ann Carroll of Kilkenny scored some goals for UCD.</p> <p>41:00 Queens could keep a game going but weren't strong enough. They could only really look to Antrim to get players.</p> <p>42:15 People played on after they got married.</p> <p>42:45 (Marie) In the 1960s there was an increase in clubs and the image of camogie changed along with the uniforms.</p> <p>43:35 The pitch is longer now and there are 15 on the pitch instead of 12.</p> <p>43:55 (Síle) For the All-Irelands you used to have a double crossbar.</p> <p>44:35 (Síle) It is a faster game now and more like hurling.</p> <p>45:30 (Síle) There was less of a fuss in Cork if a camogie All-Ireland, although the turnout was better in the early years of success.</p> <p>46:15 (Marie) The game would not have been televised in the</p>
--	--

	<p>old days.</p> <p>46:50 (Marie) Terry Foley was Marie's heroine growing up. Audrey Guiney stood out too.</p> <p>47:25 The Cork camogie team weren't strong when Marie was growing up. Dublin were better with players like Úna O'Connor and Orla Ní Shíocháin.</p> <p>47:35 Marie didn't go to inter-county games so her heroes would have been Old AI's players.</p> <p>47:50 Terry Foley was captain of Old AI's and Marie and her sister Liz were on the team too. Terry was tactful in telling Marie she was going to pick Liz ahead of Marie.</p> <p>48:50 Síle saw Cork play Dublin in the early 1960s Kitty Barry Murphy, Joan Clancy, Rina Manley and Lil Daly played for Cork.</p> <p>49:05 (Síle) Kate Dunlee - her grandnieces Lynn Dunlee and Stephanie Dunlee played with Cork in the 1980s - was a big name in the 1930s and 1940s.</p> <p>49:30 (Síle) A local player Kathleen O'Mahony was very good and Síle loved to watch Liz Garvan play. She had three All-Irelands.</p> <p>50:35 (Marie) The family were proud of Liz and Marie was her biggest fan.</p> <p>50:50 Marie often walked from her home in Douglas to Páirc Uí Chaoimh to watch hurling games.</p> <p>51:05 She went to Limerick on the train to watch Cork play Tipperary in the Gaelic Grounds. She also went to Thurles.</p> <p>52:10 (Marie) Things changed when people started driving; some of the camaraderie was lost.</p> <p>52:55 In 1970 the three clubs in Síle's area, Canovee camogie and Canovee football - won the three intermediate trophies and there was a big celebration.</p> <p>53:20 (Síle) There wasn't a lot of alcohol involved in camogie socialising. They didn't drink at UCC.</p> <p>53:30 (Marie) Before going to a dance they would go for a coffee.</p> <p>55:45 At UCC Síle was secretary for a while and after they won the Ashbourne in 1965 they had tea and cakes to</p>
--	--



	<p>celebrate with Bean Uí Shea, President of UCC.</p> <p>54:25 (Marie) That all changed in the 1960s and you just went with it.</p> <p>55:05 (Síle) There was an Irish element to the meetings but only in a formal way - and there were no Scór competitions. There were UCC céilís at the Mardyke.</p> <p>56:25 Síle was involved with the Macroom team, got married and later got involved as President of the Colleges level. Mary Moran was secretary and had a car which was handy.</p> <p>57:30 (Síle) The games were very uncynical.</p> <p>57:40 Recalls the aftermath of an All-Ireland win for a college and the two captains had to stand for a photo. The winning manager gave out to the opposition captain for being able to smile after losing.</p> <p>58:30 (Síle) In Nemo Rangers a Bernadette Allen was secretary for years but mostly women were not involved in GAA clubs.</p> <p>59:40 (Síle) There were no clubhouses to socialise in and not many women played the game.</p> <p>01:00:10 At the end of the 1960s Síle was treasurer of the board for a year.</p> <p>01:01:30 (Síle) Ladies football took from camogie a bit - it was easier to play and less expensive.</p> <p>01:02:50 Marie's daughter did not play GAA but her son Peter was on the Sciath na Scol team from Menann Bridge that won the football and hurling one year.</p> <p>01:03:35 Síle's son William played Under-21 with Cork footballers and her son was on the panel of a minor Cork team that won a hurling final. Her daughter played camogie and played with Douglas. She played ladies football. The boys played with Nemo Rangers.</p> <p>01:04:45 (Marie) Camogie is too physical and competitive today; before it used to be for fun.</p> <p>01:05:50 Síle recalls watching a great camogie game in a senior club final in Tipperary between Cashel and Duharra.</p> <p>01:07:20 Playing was Marie's first love.</p> <p>01:07:55 (Síle) Women are less inclined to keep following</p>
--	---

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/11

	<p>because when they stop they get married and have children.</p> <p>01:08:10 (Síle) The senior All-Ireland should be better supported.</p> <p>01:08:25 (Síle) You have the same people in administration for many years and a lot of people would see them as being set in their ways. Rosina McManus was a good administrator. Mary Moran has given a lot to the promotion of the games and has written many books.</p> <p>01:09:45 When Marie was playing they used to hold meetings in the Pavillion in Patrick St, Cork.</p> <p>01:10:25 Síle got huge enjoyment out of playing and watching camogie. She made great friends.</p> <p>01:10:50 It gave Marie a foundation for other sports that she later played. Many of the friendships have lasted through the years.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in Camogie</b></p>	<p><b>Marie</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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 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>Síle:</b></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 type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" 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><b>Marie:</b> Played with Old Al's and St Al's Senior Camogie team; was on junior camogie panel for Cork.</p> <p><b>Síle:</b> Played junior and intermediate Camogie with Canovee, won 2 intermediate camogie county championships with them in 1970 and 1973. Won 2 Ashbourne Cups with UCC, 1965 and 1967; Won 1 Munster provincial medal; played on Muskerry teams.</p>

**REFERENCE NO. CK/1/11**

<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<b>Marie:</b> Schools Captain for 2 years; Old AI's Captain. <b>Síle:</b> President of Colleges Camogie.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:12:21
<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:      6<sup>th</sup> June 2012.