

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Shauna Maples
Date of Interview	11 th Jan 2010
Location	St Peregrines GAA Clubhouse, Co. Dublin
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Roger Watter
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: N/A Home County: Meath
Education	N/A
Family	N/A
Club(s)	St Peter's GAA [Meath]; St Peregrines GAA [Dublin]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MH/1/4

Date of Report	23 rd August 2012
Period Covered	1966 - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Meath, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Supporting, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Emigration, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Roger Watter's GAA involvement has spanned two clubs and two counties. He played from underage into adulthood with St. Peter's Dunboyne, where he also served as a team selector. He moved to the St. Peregrine's club in Mulhuddart, Dublin in 1998 helping out as a senior football manager before becoming involved with Ladies football. Watter recalls the highlights of his involvement with St. Peter's Dunboyne and refers too to the heyday of Meath football in the late 1980s. His move to St. Peregrine's coincided with a period of significant change for the Dublin club and he reflects on the improvements made on and off the field. He reflects on the role the club plays in such a large area and considers the challenges it faces not only from rival sports such as soccer and rugby, but from economic factors such as unemployment and emigration. Finally, he talks about the status of Ladies football in St. Peregrine's and to the impact the tragic death of one of their players had on him.</p> <p>00:01 Mentions being a member of the GAA since he started playing in 1966.</p> <p>00:09 Mentions playing football with St. Peter's Dunboyne and continuing with them as a selector until 1997.</p> <p>00:16 Refers to joining St. Peregrine's in 1998. Involvement with club minor and senior teams. Managed senior team for three years before becoming involved in Ladies football.</p> <p>00:40 Reflects on the changes/improvements in St. Peregrine's since he became involved first. Refers to development of club house and to rise of senior team through the ranks from junior to senior. Remarks also on improvements in Ladies football and camogie.</p> <p>01:24 Talks about playing hurling and football with St. Peter's Dunboyne.</p>

	<p>01:48 Memory of a schools championship with Dunboyne at Under 11 and then winning junior championship with Dunboyne in 1989. Says he was one of the oldest members of team and had previously been beaten in 10 semi-finals.</p> <p>02:12 Discusses family background in the GAA: mentions Uncle playing for Dunboyne and his sons and daughters playing football, hurling and camogie with club.</p> <p>02:40 Supporting Meath: remarks that he has faint memory of Meath winning All-Ireland in 1967, but recalls clearly the victories of 1988 and 1989. Attended both games, as well as the four games with Dublin in 1991.</p> <p>03:21 Talks about his admiration for Gerry McEntee, Colm O'Rourke and Bernard Flynn.</p> <p>03:47 Reasons for pride in GAA: its success as an amateur organisation and its continuing strength. Remarks also on Croke Park and its use for soccer and rugby. Comments on the local, national and international influence of the GAA.</p> <p>04:30 Recalls the impact on him of the loss of Maryanne Costello, a player in the club, in a car accident. Mentions her loss to her family, her team-mates and the club.</p> <p>05:30 Describes the advantages of GAA involvement: getting to know people and the community spirit created. Remarks on specific contribution of St. Peregrine's in a large area like Mulhuddart.</p> <p>06:40 Short interruption to interview with someone entering the room.</p> <p>06:48 Considers the competition to the GAA from soccer and rugby. Refers also to the 'scarcity' of work and the challenge presented by increased emigration. He says of the GAA: 'It's tough, but it survives.'</p> <p>07:28 Remarks on being joint manager of the Ladies football team in St. Peregrine's and considers their current status and future prospects.</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. MH/1/4

<p>Involvement in GAA</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 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 08:01</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

REFERENCE NO. MH/1/4

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: Shauna Maples

Date: 23rd August 2012