

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
<b>Location</b>	Jimmy and Jo's home, near Rosemount, Co. Westmeath
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimmy Whelan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1958 <b>Home County:</b> Westmeath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Dean Kelly Athlone NS, Co. Westmeath <b>Secondary:</b> St Aloysuis, Athlone, Co. Westmeath <b>Third Level:</b> Athlone Regional Technical College; University of Limerick
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 3 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Jo)
<b>Club(s)</b>	Rosemount GAA [Westmeath]
<b>Occupation</b>	Technical Writer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Driver [Father]; Hosuewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Moate Golf Club; Rosemount Golf Society

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<b>Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)</b>	Jo Carbery
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1950 <b>Home County:</b> Westmeath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Rosemount NS, Co. Westmeath <b>Secondary:</b> Vocational School Moate, Co. Westmeath <b>Third Level:</b> Catering College, DIT Cathal Brugh St.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 7 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Husband (Jimmy)
<b>Club(s)</b>	Rosemount GAA [Westmeath]
<b>Occupation</b>	Accountant
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1950s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Westmeath, Kerry, Tyrone
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Jimmy and Jo talk about their great love for all things GAA. Jimmy grew up in Athlone and played football with the local club when he was young. He eventually moved to Rosemount and became involved in the GAA club there, taking up various administrative positions. He was then asked to take care of kits for the Westmeath team and he talks about what that experience was like. His wife, Jo, is an avid GAA supporter. She prepares food and drinks and takes care of keeping track of the time and scores for the Rosemount club. Her father, Jack Carbery, was a famous goalkeeper and she shares some stories of his GAA days. Both Jimmy and Jo are proud volunteers who are delighted to be involved with the Association. Their dedication is unwavering and when it comes to their priorities in life, more often than not the GAA comes first.</p> <p>00:30 Jimmy is from Athlone and played underage football with Athlone before joining Rosemount. Older brother Pat playing with Athlone and Westmeath. GAA scene in Athlone when he was growing up. Reason for playing football. Training. Reaching finals. Playing with good players like Mossie Collins. Brother playing in Croke Park and travelling to the game by car.</p> <p>04:00 (Jimmy) Footballers playing rugby. Playing corner back for Athlone. Rivals were Tubberclair, Moate and Mullingar. Familiarity with players from opposing teams. Prominence of GAA at St Aloysius College.</p> <p>05:30 (Jimmy) Moving to Rosemount in 1989 and playing there. Emigration in the 1980s. Getting to know people</p>

	<p>through the GAA in Rosemount.</p> <p>07:45 (Jimmy) Becoming treasurer of the club and later secretary. Duties involved. Need to raise funds. Players getting injured and related costs. Fundraising events. Kelly Builders sponsoring the team and their links to the club. Support of local community.</p> <p>11:50 (Jimmy) Size of area and surrounding clubs - St Joseph's, Streamstown, Tubber in Offaly, Moate, Ballymore and Caulry. Rivalries over the years. Problem of players leaving the area. Hanging on to players away at college.</p> <p>15:55 (Jo) Football in the household. Getting ready the morning of a match. Training during the week. Making the tea. Baking something to eat. Getting help from others. Using the community hall to prepare food and drinks.</p> <p>18:00 (Jo) Doing the scorekeeping at games. Marie and Liz Keenan providing medical assistance.</p> <p>18:35 (Jimmy) O'Byrne Cup starting in January.</p> <p>19:00 (Jo) Quality of 2010 Rosemount team.</p> <p>19:15 (Jimmy) Being in charge of the county Under-21 kit and working with Tomás O'Flaherty. What that involves. Tomás O'Flaherty asking him to do the job and meeting him in Kinnegad to discuss it. John Keane had recommended Jimmy. Fortunes of the Under-21 team. Working with the senior team. Croke Park dressing rooms and facilities. Going to Páirc Uí Rinn, Tralee and Omagh for games. Enjoying his involvement. Travelling done by the players.</p> <p>24:10 Nature of training sessions. Being specific about what water to give the players. Problem of chlorine in tap water. Pumping balls. Bringing spare equipment for players. Players with asthma.</p> <p>25:25 (Jo) Players' superstitions.</p> <p>26:40 (Jimmy) Players sitting in the same corner of a dressing room every time.</p> <p>27:25 (Jimmy) Player nerves in the dressing room before a big game. Different management styles. Use of video technology to prepare players. Use of inspirational speeches.</p>
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<p>31:40 (Jo) Reasons for giving of their time to the GAA. Importance of volunteerism.</p> <p>32:55 (Jimmy) Taking a holiday when there is no football taking place.</p> <p>33:15 (Jo) going to a wedding the day before a county final. Leaving the wedding early.</p> <p>34:10 (Jimmy) The meal on their wedding day being put back an hour because Rosemount were playing.</p> <p>34:55 (Jo) Jimmy's brother not happy that they were getting married the day of a Roscommon game.</p> <p>35:40 (Jo) Prospect of professionalism in the GAA.</p> <p>36:20 (Jimmy) Importance of volunteering for enjoyment. Volunteers in rugby. Media's role in talk of professionalism.</p> <p>*** Jimmy leaves the interview</p> <p>30:10 Jo born in 1950. Family interest in GAA. Father was Jack Carbery and played for the club for 27 years and for the county for over 20 years. Rosemount club starting in 1924.</p> <p>39:50 Legendary status of her father. Being named on the team of the millennium and what that meant to the family.</p> <p>40:45 Her siblings and their GAA involvement. Tom and John Jo playing. John Jo playing with the Carmelites and with Rosemount. Her sisters Terry and Joan playing camogie. Nephew Eoin playing football with Rosemount and the county.</p> <p>42:30 Hearing stories from her father. Playing Cloghan from Offaly in Castledaly and somebody hitting her uncle and her father intervening. A priest getting involved. Rosemount in a county final against Moate and people hiring a hackney driver from Moate for transport. Driver being paid by opponents not to transport the people.</p> <p>44:00 Going to games on bicycles. Father getting a lift to games from a neighbour. Jo's passion for the GAA.</p> <p>44:45 Carmelites winning the All-Ireland in Roscommon and Jo hitching a ride from Roscommon to watch her brother play in the game. Travelling from Roscommon to Moate in the boot</p>
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	<p>of a car. Match day traditions. What she enjoys about football.</p> <p>46:10 Changes she has seen during the years. Girls and women attending games. Ladies footballers in the area playing with Moate. Role of GAA in Moate. Sponsors.</p> <p>48:20 Footballer Jo Campbell due to be ordained and the community plans to mark the occasion.</p> <p>49:25 GAA and her sense of identity. Making friends through her involvement. Changes in involvement of women in the club. Helen McCormack as minor secretary of Rosemount. Marie and Liz Keenan taking care of first aid.</p> <p>50:55 Rivalry with Moate. How her father used to take defeat to Moate. Change in the nature of the rivalry over time. How she reacts to defeat by Moate. Memorabilia she has at home.</p> <p>52:50 Her father's guidelines on what teams to support. Following Kerry, Kilkenny and Galway and the reasons for that. Father's involvement after his playing career ended. Her mother's attitude to football.</p> <p>54:50 Being a loyal Rosemount supporter. Doing the time and scoring at games. Looking after ice.</p> <p>55:25 Problems with getting planning permission and how that might affect the club. Lack of employment opportunities as a potential problem for Rosemount.</p> <p>56:45 Going to work in Connemara and people there knowing of her father. Westmeath rivalry with Offaly and Meath. Father's successes with Rosemount and writing about his GAA experiences. Incident in a game with Jo Clavan. Her father being asked to go in goals by Lawrence Boland. Paddy Mullins from Moate taking a penalty.</p> <p>59:30 Driving her father to games in later years. Victory song written in her father's handwriting.</p>
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<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Jimmy:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Jo:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input 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 checked="" 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><b>Jimmy:</b> Played underage, U21, junior and senior B with Athlone GAA; won 2 Westmeath Senior B Football Championships playing with Athlone in 1981 &amp; 82. Played senior B football with Rosemount.</p> <p><b>Jo:</b> N/A</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Jimmy:</b> Rosemount GAA: Secretary (2 years); Treasurer (6/7 years); County Board delegate for the last 10 years; Co-ordinator of Westmeath Referees for the past 3 years.</p> <p><b>Jo:</b> Member of Rosemount GAA committee for many years holding positions such as secretary; lotto committee. Provides teas and coffees every training night.</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: 01:01:19</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

**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: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012