

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie	
Date of Interview	24 th Feb 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photograph of Interviewee
Location	Ollie's home, near Kilcloon, Co. Meath	
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gerry Stenson	
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>		
Gender	Male	
Born	Year Born: 1953 Home County: Leitrim	
Education	Primary: St. Mary's NS, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim Secondary: Presentation Brothers Third Level: UCG	
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters Current Family if Different: 2 sons and 1 daughter	
Club(s)	Blackhall Gaels [Meath]; St. Mary's [Leitrim]	
Occupation	Civil Engineer	
Parents' Occupation	Building Contractor [Father]; Housewife [Mother]	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Folk Club, Carrick-on-Shannon Film Society, St. Vincent de Paul, Breffni Players, Carrick-on-Shannon	

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gerry Delany
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1956 Home County: Meath
Education	Primary: Rathregan NS, Batterstown, Co. Meath Secondary: CBS Trim, Co. Meath Third Level: Multyfarnham Agricultural College
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 1 son and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Batterstown; Blackhall Gaels
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	IFA

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Ollie Mulligan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Meath
Education	Primary: Maynooth Boys NS
Family	Siblings: 1 brother Current Family if Different: 2 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Blackhall Gaels [Meath]; Kilcloon [Meath]; Maynooth [Kildare]
Occupation	Accountant
Parents' Occupation	Farm Labourer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Hermitage Golf Club, Squash

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimmy Burke
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Meath
Education	Primary: Kilcock CBS Secondary: Kilcock CBS
Family	Siblings: 6 sisters & 5 brothers Current Family if Different: Married with 3 children
Club(s)	Blackhall Gaels; Kilcloon; Baconstown Hurling Club
Occupation	Maintenance Worker
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Macra na Feirme

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Date of Report	6 th August 2012
Period Covered	1930 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Meath, Dublin, Kildare, Offaly, Leitrim, Cork
Key Themes Covered	Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Culture, Volunteers, Rivalries, Media, Religion, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Emigration, Club History, County History, Celebrations, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances
Interview Summary	<p>Gerry Stenson, Gerry Delany, Ollie Mulligan and Jimmy Burke discuss their early football playing days in Batterstown and Kilcloon. They talk about attending matches and listening to Meath matches on the radio. The men discuss the amalgamation of the 2 clubs to form Blackhall Gaels. They discuss slight opposition to this move and the subsequent success of the amalgamation. They talk about ladies football and camogie in the club and fundraising efforts to develop facilities over the years. The men discuss their best memories of being involved in the GAA.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:39 Gerry D recalls his earliest GAA memories. Mentions Fr Martin Burke and his interest in underage football in the 1960s in the area.</p> <p>01:30 Recalls Fr Martin Burke taking boys in his car to play matches. Mentions playing in Frank Delany’s field.</p> <p>02:05 Describes an underage final in 1965, beaten by Yellow Furze.</p> <p>02:50 Discusses playing in hand-me-down football boots.</p> <p>03:35 Recalls that football in Kilcloon was played under parish rule.</p> <p>04:08 Ollie talks about his earliest GAA memories – listening to matches on the radio. Recalls the importance of having charged batteries.</p> <p>05:10 Recalls his father’s interest in football.</p> <p>06:05 Describes attending the Leinster Final in 1954. Recalls</p>

	<p>Tom Duff breaking his leg.</p> <p>06:51 Gerry D talks about his earliest GAA memories – his father talking about football in Batterstown in the 1930s.</p> <p>07:50 Talks about the strength of hurling in Batterstown in early years – mentions the Smith family.</p> <p>08:30 Mentions Johnny Hand, played football in 1960s in Batterstown. Recalls Johnny taking a penalty in his bare feet against Dunboyne.</p> <p>10:47 Recalls his playing days with Batterstown.</p> <p>11:38 Mentions Tom Staunton’s involvement with underage football in the club.</p> <p>12:04 Talks about hurling in Batterstown in the 1960s. Recalls winning a Junior Championship in 1963. Talks about the decline of hurling due to emigration.</p> <p>12:57 Recalls stories of local man “Browner” Flanagan.</p> <p>14:33 Jimmy talks about family involvement in GAA – his father played with Roddenstown club. Talks about the different fields they played matches on.</p> <p>16:28 Recalls 7-a-side matches in the parish. Describes attending a 7-a-side match and being knocked out by a ball.</p> <p>17:17 Mentions his father being a selector for the Roddenstown team in the late 50s and early 60s.</p> <p>18:12 Discusses listening to Meath matches on the radio in the 1960s.</p> <p>18:55 Talks about his brother Michael. Notes that he holds a record for playing both a minor and senior match with Meath on the one day in 1959.</p> <p>20:45 Ollie recalls his parents telling stories of the successful period between 1949 and 1954 for Meath football. Recalls going to Croke Park for matches.</p> <p>22:43 Discusses the 7-a-side tournaments.</p> <p>24:02 Gerry talks about the facilities in Batterstown in his early playing days – no dressing rooms or showers, changing in ditches.</p> <p>25:52 Recalls his mother forbidding him to play hurling at school in Trim.</p>
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	<p>26:55 Jimmy recalls his early playing days in the 1950s. Talks about boys and girls meeting in family fields to play matches.</p> <p>28:30 Talks about the facilities in the area – togging out behind ditches or in cars. Talks about Jack Fitzgerald and his involvement at developing facilities in the area.</p> <p>31:23 Discusses Jack Fitzgerald’s role in obtaining grants to develop facilities.</p> <p>32:40 Describes an experience of travelling by car to a match and encountering the parish priest, Fr Kilmartin.</p> <p>35:00 Jimmy talks about the lack of hurling in Kilcloon. Mentions stronger hurling influence in Batterstown and Baconstown.</p> <p>36:23 Gerry D talks about hurling in Batterstown in the early days. Mentions the Smith family. Recalls lack of success at senior level due to small numbers.</p> <p>37:11 The men discuss the amalgamation of Batterstown and Kilcloon in 1995. They recall the former successful amalgamation of the clubs at underage level.</p> <p>39:10 Ollie talks about playing hurling in school in Maynooth. Recalls his involvement on the winning Kildare minor team in 1965.</p> <p>43:17 The men discuss the lead up to the formation of the Blackhall Gaels.</p> <p>44:26 Recall objections to the amalgamation from a minority of the community – pride in their own club.</p> <p>46:55 Jimmy mentions Eugene Ferris and his role at developing underage football.</p> <p>48:10 November 1994 – meeting called in Kilcloon school to discuss senior amalgamation of Batterstown and Kilcloon.</p> <p>49:20 Mentions Liam Brady, facilitator in the discussions to amalgamate the clubs. Recalls more opposition in Batterstown than in Kilcloon.</p> <p>51:29 Jimmy discusses Batterstown’s fear that hurling would cease in the newly formed club. Talks about the success of the amalgamation.</p> <p>53:20 Gerry discusses the opposition to the amalgamation within Batterstown.</p> <p>55:00 Gerry recalls going to a Junior A match before the</p>
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	<p>amalgamation and having to tog out himself in his late 30s due to small numbers. Talks about the success of the amalgamation.</p> <p>57:13 Jimmy talks about older people being set in their ways and the younger generation seeing the positives to the amalgamation.</p> <p>59:04 Discuss the choice of name – Blackhall Gaels and the club colours.</p> <p>01:02:08 Gerry talks about Tom Nolan, chairman of the juvenile committee and his involvement at development of underage football.</p> <p>01:02:48 Mentions the Paddy McHugh and Jarlath Carthy cups.</p> <p>01:04:29 P&L Cup – invited 7 clubs from outside the parish to participate in competition at underage level. Ollie recalls 4 Meath and 4 Kildare teams. Recalls great support and pressure on referees.</p> <p>01:08:09 Ollie talks about the club newsletter.</p> <p>01:09:48 Gerry discusses the development of the club and pitch in Batterstown in the 1970s and again in 1998. Discusses the importance of volunteers.</p> <p>01:14:30 Jimmy talks about the current structure of use of facilities in Blackhall Gaels. Talks about the indoor facilities in Batterstown.</p> <p>01:15:53 Discusses the recent development of facilities in Kilcloon. Mentions a new gym kitted out with second hand equipment.</p> <p>01:16:59 The men discuss fundraising in early days and recent times in the club. Mention lotto, American tea parties, boxing nights, golf classics.</p> <p>01:18:35 Ollie discusses the success of the White Collar Boxing night.</p> <p>01:20:24 Gerry recalls a fundraising match held in Batterstown against Kilcloon for the opening of the pitch.</p> <p>01:21:05 Jimmy talks about interest-free loans to raise money for the clubs.</p> <p>01:23:59 The men talk about the sense of identity that is felt in Blackhall Gaels. Note that some members of the</p>
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	<p>community found the amalgamation hard.</p> <p>01:25:19 Jimmy talks about the success of Blackhall Gaels at senior level since the amalgamation. Mentions the strong sponsorship of the team by Tom Bailey. Taking part in the Páidí Ó Sé tournament.</p> <p>01:27:27 Gerry D talks about Ronnie Delany.</p> <p>01:28:41 The men discuss celebrations after victories. Jimmy recalls celebrations after winning the Féile in 2003 – bonfires and huge crowds at the homecoming.</p> <p>01:30:38 The men talk about celebrations after winning the senior championship in 2003. Ollie recalls running onto the pitch after the match ended and not wanting to go home.</p> <p>01:32:38 Jimmy talks about the senior championship final. He notes that the team were losing by 9 points at half time and went on to win by 4 points.</p> <p>01:35:57 Songs associated with the club – Gerry D notes that Michael Lillis writes songs.</p> <p>01:39:19 The men discuss rival football clubs – Dunshaughlin and Dunboyne.</p> <p>01:42:47 The men discuss rival hurling clubs – Drumree, Kilmessan.</p> <p>01:43:56 Jimmy talks about Ladies Football and Camogie in the club. Notes that they are fully integrated in the club.</p> <p>01:45:40 Talks about the formation of ladies football in the club.</p> <p>01:46:18 Discusses the success of the camogie team. Won county senior championship in 2007.</p> <p>01:48:29 Describes the fundraising efforts of the ladies within the club.</p> <p>01:50:26 The men talk about ladies involvement in administration within the club.</p> <p>01:52:49 Gerry S joins the interview. Describes his earliest GAA memory – playing ground hurling with St Mary’s in Leitrim.</p> <p>01:55:15 Recalls the ban on soccer in the school.</p> <p>01:55:57 Gerry S recalls becoming involved with Blackhall Gaels. Talks about his administrative roles in the club over</p>
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	<p>the years.</p> <p>01:57:25 Talks about the difference in GAA in Leitrim and Meath – mentions a more positive attitude in Leitrim at an administrative level.</p> <p>02:00:12 Gerry D talks about soccer in Meath. Recalls the early ban on attending and playing soccer matches.</p> <p>02:01:45 The men discuss the influence of rugby in the area at present. Mention clash of matches.</p> <p>02:03:40 The men talk about soccer in the early days in Meath. Recall soccer being played in Dunboyne. Mentions Brian Farrell.</p> <p>02:07:14 Gerry D sings a song written by Michael Lillis to the air of Nancy Spain.</p> <p>02:13:45 Jimmy recalls his best memories of his involvement in GAA down through the years.</p> <p>02:18:28 Ollie talks about highlights in his involvement in GAA.</p> <p>02:24:30 Gerry D reflects upon his GAA involvement over the years and the highlights and disappointments.</p> <p>02:30:03 Gerry S talks about his best GAA memories.</p> <p>02:33:35 Gerry D talks about illegal players in the 1940s.</p> <p>02:34:56 Jimmy discusses family involvement in the GAA. Talks about his daughter and her success in both football and camogie.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Gerry S:</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input 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>Gerry D:</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p>

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	<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>Ollie: <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Jimmy: <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" 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>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Gerry S: Played in school.</p> <p>Gerry D: 30 years. Won a junior B football championship and a junior hurling title.</p> <p>Ollie: Won Under 16 football, minor hurling and junior B football titles.</p> <p>Jimmy: At club level won junior football, hurling and league medals. At county level won a national league medal and an O'Byrne Cup medal.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Gerry S: Has been involved in administration since 1998.</p> <p>Club: Underage Secretary and Chairman.</p> <p>Gerry D: Was involved in administration from 1996 to 2002. Was involved on underage committee.</p> <p>Ollie:</p>

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	Underage chairman. Jimmy: Was involved in administration from 1964 – 2000. Club: Kilcloon Chairman and Secretary; County Board Representative for Hurling.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:36:07
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: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____06/08/12_____