# **GAA Oral History Project**

# **Interview Report Form**

Name of	Regina Fitzpatrick
Interviewer	
Date of Interview	1 Sept 2010
Location	Kilrossanty GAA Club, Co. Waterford.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimineen Power
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1925
	Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Kilrossanty NS, Co. Waterford.
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters
	Current Family if Different: 3 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Kilrossanty GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Labourer
Parents' Occupation	Labourer [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kevin Lonergan
Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1974
	Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Kilrossanty NS, Co. Waterford.
Family	Siblings: N/A
	Current Family if Different: 3 daughters
Club(s)	Kilrossanty GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Self-employed
Parents' Occupation	Livestock Haulier [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seán Lennon
Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1950
	Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Kilrossanty NS, Co. Waterford.
	Secondary: CBS Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters & 2 brothers
	Current Family if Different: Wife & 2 sons
Club(s)	Kilrossanty GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John 'Jackson' Kiely
Biographical Summary of Interviewee	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1949
	Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Kilrossanty NS, Co. Waterford.
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters
	Current Family if Different: Wife, 3 daughters & 1 son
Club(s)	Kilrossanty GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Building Contractor
Parents' Occupation	Building Contractor [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mick Prendergast
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1930
	Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Fews NS, Co. Waterford.
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters & 4 brothers
-	Current Family if Different: Wife (Hannah), 4 sons & 4
	daughters
Club(s)	Kilrossanty GAA [Waterford]; Clonae GAA [Waterford]; St Bridgets Football Club [Waterford]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2012
Period Covered	1888 - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Waterford, Cork, Dublin, Down, Kerry, Great Britain, England, Americas, North America, Australasia, Dubai
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, Irish History, Family Involvement, Childhood, Alcohol, Food and Drink
Interview Summary	They discuss the long history of the club and the achievements of those involved. Each of the interviewees talk of family involvement and their first memory of the GAA. They talk about the place held by the club in the community and about the training regime within the club over the years. Two of them discuss playing for Waterford and of club committee meetings in a local pub. They talk of playing soccer and Gaelic with a rugby ball just before a match to ease nerves. They speak of the discipline and commitment that is required of players in order to produce winning teams and of player today being softer than those who played regardless of injury. They also talk of the role played by women in the club and how this has grown over the years.
	00:25 They discuss the history of Kilrossanty GAA club founded in 1885. Mention the rules being brought into the parish by a school teacher named Mr. Power. Also mention five clubs taking part in the first club championship in Ireland in 1885 in Waterford, Ballysaggart (winners), Kilrossanty, Kilsane Beg, Ballyduff Lower and a club from Dungarvan.
	01:13 Talk of Kilrossanty making in to the final in 1886 and again in 1887 near Waterford city with 5,000 in attendance at the match and the same at the replay in Fraher field in Dungarvan. Mentions the meaning of a forfeit point and how it led to the rematch. Also mentions the club winning in 1888 without conceding a score in any game and beating Fenor in extra time in Carrolls Cross thanks to scores from Crotty.
	03:56 Talks of a local pipe band leading the team to the match and of Kilrossanty representing Waterford in the first Munster championship of 1888 in Clonmel against Bothar Crowe from Tipperary. Mentions Pat Byrne not being allowed to go to play the match by his wife who said he had too much work to do on the farm and was replaced by Lawrence Walsh

grandfather of Brick Walsh the current Waterford hurler. Also mentions Declan Troy, Johnny Crotty and the Walsh's being on the team.

05:24 Talks of the end of the 1890's and a team under Jim Dunphy Qualifying for a county championship against Erins Hopes but when a venue could not be agreed on Erins Hopes were awarded the title and went on to win the only Munster title that Waterford ever won at Senior level in 1898 and played Young Irelands of Dublin in the All-Ireland final.

06:08 Talks of the 1919 team and a player Pat Keaton being shot in an ambush near Dungarvan and Butchie Fitzgerald another player lost a brother, John, in the same ambush. Mentions the team winning the county final against Ballymacaw and players Paddy McGrath, Johnny Power, Willie Power, Matty Ryan, Tom Ryan and Paddy Ryan, John Kitt and Matt O'Maloney.

07:24 Talks of this being followed by a twenty year lapse in the clubs Senior football representation. Mentions Dick and Ronnie Maguire being on the 1939 team. Also mentions Manny Landers and this team being formed in 1937 and working toward success beating Passage East in the final.

08:50 Talks of playing Dungarvan in 1938 and Nicholas Crotty, a policeman in England, having to miss the replay and Dungarvan winning. Mentions playing in 1939 and winning the replay in Cappoquin and Aeroplane Keily playing. Also mentions the local priest being the only one to remember to affiliate the team.

10:12 Talks of there being junior hurling in the area and beating Éire Óg. Mentions the Flynn twins being on the team. Also mentions winning the junior title in 1990 beating Fenor in the county final.

11:25 Tells of Saint Brigid's club and playing in 1945 at minor level. Mentions a hurling team being put forward but there being little interest in the game and one player Paddy Flynn stopping to retrieve his cap during a match.

13:06 Mick tells of the being little real interest in football in his family before him. Mentions the Reilly's and Tom Kennedy and Bertie and Willie Power. Also mentions the colours for a team being green with a gold hoop in 1887 and the president of the club picking the jerseys which were the prize. This design was taken to Kerry by one of the players, Rody Kirwan and is their colours today.

18:43 Talks of getting the jerseys knitted in 1949 by Mrs. Pinky Power a jubilee nurse. Mentions a joke about how rough the game was.

20:44 Talks of the Munster final in 1888 and Patsy Flynn from Crewe and he showed the ball to the referee, as it was broken instead of kicking into the open goal.

21:50 They discuss the local employment at the time being arable farming and sheep farming.

22:43 Talk of the club playing and training in Bergins, Newtownmountkennedy and in Grady's and Jack Fintans. Mentions in 1938 the highlight of the year being Kilrossanty school playing Fews School. Also mentions several of the club players being on an Érins Hope team that won a junior A hurling final.

26:16 They talk about the annual school games and how they looked forward to it. Mention not being coached but just getting together and playing. Also mentions Mary Gully selling apples and oranges at the first match.

27:45 Tells of there being no one teacher that encouraged the games and there being no where in the school to play.

Mentions making a collection for the price of a football and playing in Vincent Walsh's field. Also mentions Kilrossanty not affiliating a junior team as it was a viewed as a waste of money.

28:44 They talk of putting a pig's bladder into a cover to make their own football. Mentions playing at home and playing on a school team in 1938. Also mentions the seven senior football medals in the county held by three of the clubs players, Mick Pender, Jimmy White and Jimmy Power. Jimmy has links to all fifteen senior championships.

32:29 Talks of Mick Pender and his sons and grandsons being on the team and being footballer of the year in 1960. Mentions playing in Dungarvan in 1960 two days before Christmas.

34:10 Talks of Jimmy Power being the most consistent player in the club and his son Roger continues the tradition.

35:10 They discuss the training regime during the 1940's consisting of road running. Mentions cycling to matches and training. Also mentions wrapping up their few pennies in a handkerchief and giving it to someone to mind before the match and being given a shilling for luck by one of the men.

38:03 Talks of Pat Fay training the team in 1949 to 1952 and Sergeant O'Shea training the team before this.

38:40 Talk of football being the only sport in the parish with some of the women playing camogie with Kilbrien in the 1950's. Mentions now having a ladies football team in the club.

39:34 They discuss the dances in the 1950's and the stage and hall that was used. Mention is made of 'an igloo' Pat Faye made. Also mention the pictures and plays in the 1940's and Joe Slevins a famous actor playing for Kilrossanty.

42:13 They speak of the few tournaments in the area and the difficulty of holding them without a field of their own. Mention Sean Lennon selling them the current field in 1975, work being done on drainage and various developments and the official opening in 1984. Also mention continuing developments with lights being put in two years ago thanks to a lottery grant.

45:18 Talk of the gym attracting people who are not members of the club and the revenue it generates. Mention the great work of the various committees over the years and trying to keep this work going.

46:30 Tells of Kevin's father playing for Munster before he played for Waterford and for Waterford before he played for Kilrossanty like in Paddy Field in Kilkenny. Mentions him bring over the Waterford team to America. Also mentions Frankie Walsh and some of the team getting into a taxi and asking to be taken to a GAA club but being dropped off at a gay club.

49:12 They talk of the great expectation when they were going for three or four in a row. Mention that between 1937 and 1952 three clubs won the Waterford championships, Dungarvan, Stradbally and Kilrossany.

50:08 They talk about first being selected for the Waterford panel one in 1949 and one in 1945 or '46. Mentions seeing a notice in the paper or being handed a letter to say you had been selected. Also mentions only meeting up with the team on the day of a match.

51:22 Tells of a Munster final in 1957 and getting three nights in Patsy's field to train. Mentions having eight on the panel and six on the team from the club, Sean Almond, Jimmy Maher subs and Jimmy White, Bucko Timmons, Billy Kirwan

Matt Dundin, Mick Prendergast and Jimmy Power. Also mentions Jerome O'Shea who played for Kerry in that match.

53:05 Tell of Billy Kirwan's outstanding display during the match and covered the field.

54:40 Talks of the team being picked in Mickey Landers' pub in Dungarvan. Mentions the county board meetings taking place and pausing the meeting to watch Rin Tin Tin on RTÉ. Also mentions the team being late going into Pat Fanning and of him complaining about the selection taking place in a pub.

56:32 Speaks of going to Kerry on holidays in Tralee being asked about the Waterford team and a request for a photo of the team.

01:00:00 They talk about the media response to the success and of the anticlimax of the Munster final because they had very little time to prepare. Mentions Eamon Young, Jack Lynch and Mick O'Connell. Also mentions Mick O'Connell togging out and playing with the junior team in the 1990's at almost seventy years of age.

01:03:41 Talks of getting a photo of the captains, Pat Faye, Dick Maguire, Jimmy Power, Jimmy Maher. Mentions another photo of the Phelan Cup.

01:05:08 Jimmy talks of being on the Munster team with, Mick O'Dwyer, Mick O'Connell, Dan McAulliffe, Tom Long, Tidy Lyon, Jackie Lyon and Paudie Sheehy. Mentions his father John Jo who was a member of the IRA who captained Kerry in 1926 and Austin Stacks club and John Mitchells club and Kevin O'Rahilly. Also mentions Con Breslin. A member of the Free State Army who helped John Jo get into and out of games while on the run.

01:08:24 Tells of John Jo Sheehy being so straight a selector that he dropped his own son from the team in favour of John Dowling for the All-Ireland.

01:08:42 Tells of there being no collective training for the Munster team and of being taken to games by hackney car and being fed after the match.

01:10:39 Tells of winning fifteen championships in the eighties and four in a row which leaves six over one hundred years. Mentions it being twenty one years since they won a championship and this being due to a special group of players that came along. Also mentions Kilrossanty being associated with Senior Football and their involvement in the Waterford teams and the many good players who never won a

championship.

01:13:03 They talk of how they keep teams motivated and look to the future. Mentions struggling against emigration and being caught topographically. Also mentions Johnny Chesty Lonergan being the first Kilrossanty man to play in an All-Ireland against Down.

01:16:25 Tells of moving back in the 1980's and becoming a selector on the minor team. Mentions losing three minor finals and winning two U21 finals. Also mentions losing the minor final in 1988 being particularly heart breaking as it was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their first final.

01:17:04 Talks of being the first club to play in county finals in three centuries. Mentions hoping that the current teams would look back at the history and take pride in the club's performance to improve their game.

01:18:15 Tell of there being so many different distractions and of soccer being the main one. Mentions the four in a row team having commitment and dedication which is lacking today.

01:20:20 Talks of his approach to coaching back in the days of the four in a row. Mentions expecting discipline and commitment and sidelining anyone who was only going through the motions. Also mentions the natural abilities of the team in the eighties and their experience and age.

01:23:28 They speak of the recent final in which eighteen players were used but only two performed and how they should have become their own man when they got onto the pitch.

01:24:23 Tells of his father being injured on the way to a match and still having to play, which wouldn't happen today. Mentions Dick Maguire having ulcers on his legs and still played in the county final and his wife only found out when she read about it in the Observer.

01:26:09 Speak of the modern game being different and the ball being played back to the goalie more than it need to be. Mention there should be a rule brought in to prevent passing the ball back to the goalie.

01:27:22 Talks of the rules being changed too much and this destroying the game.

01:27:51 John talks of coaching teams in his days and reminding them of what came before and teaching them

respect. Mentions being involved in some senior finals as well as junior teams. Also mentions being a selector for the Waterford junior team and players Connie Power, Paul Foley, Jackson Kiely but not having his own selectors and still winning the All-Ireland final as he had predicted.

01:31:26 Recalls the players on that winning team, Roger Power, Jack Kiely, Alfie Kirwan, and a few from Saint Xavier's. Mentions doing a good bit of training and having a soccer kick about the day of the match.

01:33:51 Tells of playing a similar team in 2004 along with Matty Kiely against a Cork team that included Jeff Spillane, Alan O'Connor, Donnchadha O'Connor, John Hayes, Scobie Toomey and winning the All-Ireland again. Also mentions Paddy Dee and Robbie Whelan from Kilrossanty.

01:35:07 Tells of Tony Corcoran taking the last training session in 2004 in Kill and throwing in a rugby ball for the team to play Gaelic rules with.

01:35:55 Talks of the warm up before a match not being of benefit to the players, especially if some of them are a little older.

01:36:46 They speak about what this success at county level means to the club. Mentions how it inspired some of the players.

01:38:16 They talk of the two octogenarians playing such a huge part in the club over the years. Mentions the U12 winning and Stephen Prendergast who played U17 for Ireland in the compromised rules against Australia and is on the current senior team.

01:39:48 They tell of the belief in the parish and jersey being stronger in some than in others and this affecting how the teams play. Mentions some young people having no interest in football and the population being about 800.

01:42:55 Tells of the present team needing a bit of experience around them and needing a break. Mentions one match with older players against a young UCC college team in 1965.

01:44:58 Talks of playing with only thirteen players.

01:46:27 They tell of developments in the club in the 1980's. Mentions being given cash and not knowing where it came from and having to tell the man to write down who had given it to him. Also mentions the lotto and other fund raising events

including donkey derbies and terrier racing.

01:50:40 Speak of this involvement by a few who seem to do the bulk of the work being the norm in many clubs.

01:51:04 Tell of never being wanting for money and being able to bring those who had emigrated for the opening of the clubhouse in 1984. Mention putting up Michael O'Muircheartaigh in Crotty's for different events.

01:52:32 Talks of going to Kerry to play in Paudie O'Shea's tournament. Mentions another trip to Galway for winning the league. Also mentions hoping to go to Dubai for the Gaelic sevens but the economic climate made it a non runner.

01:54:45 They talk of the underage structure starting at U6 up to junior level. Mentions all the grades being great and the U12, who won the Western title, visiting Croke Park to play recently. Also mentions the U12 team being in a county final.

01:56:10 Tell of the parents bringing their children to the field and four or five teams training at once.

01:57:30 Talk of being beaten in 1982 and being thought of as the worst team to leave the parish but they went on to win five championships. Mention this could happen again.

01:58:16 They speak of the Ladies football team and the titles they have won. Mentions a link with Brickies. Also mentions June White and her sister Tríona and Ciara O'Hanlon.

02:00:41 Tells of Johnny Kirwan's daughter captaining the Waterford Ladies Junior team to win the Munster final in 2004 and the same week her brother Alfie captained the Waterford Mens Junior team to win the Munster final. Mentions Pat White's daughter and Benny White's daughter being on the U16 Waterford Ladies team.

02:01:32 They talk of there being plans to establish links with between the men's and ladies' teams a number of years ago but nothing coming of it. Mentions Tom Behan and Ray Hennessy running the underage girls teams. Also mentions being happy seeing Kilrossanty winning titles whether men or ladies.

02:03:37 They discuss the role of ladies in the club. Mentions Maureen Coffey being the only woman on the committee. Also mentions Joan Meagher and there being very few women coming forward to get involved but bringing ideas to the table.

	02:06:04 Talk of the importance of the club to the parish over the years and how the name Kilrossanty is linked with Gaelic games. Mention some people associating the name with a post man who went missing from a neighbouring parish. Also mention that regardless of success or failure the club is the centre of things in the parish and it keeps you going.
	02:09:22 Jackson talks of having a blood virus and how Matt Rogan helped him and how he had read a book 'Working on a dream'. Mentions how the GAA helped him.
	02:10:50 They each tell what the GAA means to them and how history and family means so much and how they would do it all again given the opportunity. Some never won anything but still want to give to the GAA. Jimmy tells of enjoying every day since he started playing. Talks of the club being everything and hoping for their future success.
	02:16:20 Talks of the local rivalry with Stradbally who also have fifteen titles and this should have formed the basis for motivating the Kilrossanty team.
	02:17:22 They talk of their optimism for the club at various levels and the over confidence of the team in recent games.
	02:20:06 Discuss the player power at county level and down to club level.
	02:21:20 They speak about the impact on family life with the amount of time involved.
	02:23:05 Tells of being training and some lads playing pitch and toss and being asked if he wanted to go pitch and toss or play and the respect he had for the trainer.
	02:24:22 They speak of Tony Coffey and committee meetings. Mention Jimmy Blondie Power and concerns over money being spent on drinks for the players. Also mentions Pa Barn who played minor football until he was twenty eight.
Involvement in	Jimineen:
GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward
	☐ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ☐ ✓ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None

	☐ Other (please specify):
	Kevin:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	☐ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person
	☐ Caterer ☐ Jersey Washer ☐ Referee ☐ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
	Seán:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager □ Coach ✓ Steward
	✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
	John:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach □ Steward
	✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
	Mick:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	☐ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ☐ Grounds-person
	☐ Caterer ☐ Jersey Washer ☐ Referee ☐ None
	☐ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player	Jimineen: Played football with Kilrossanty, 1942 – 1968;
(Titles won; Length of time played)	played senior football with Waterford, 1948 – 1960; Played Football on Munster Railway Cup team for 2 years.
	<b>Kevin:</b> Played football and hurling with Kilrossanty 1982 –

	ongoing; won 2 Waterford U21 Hurling Championship and 1 Waterford Junior Football Championship.
	Seán: Played football with club for 12 years
	John: Played with Kilrossanty for 3 years.
	<b>Mick:</b> Played football with St Bridgets (1945-47); with Sarsfieds in Dungarvan, 1948 and won a Waterford Minor Football championship with them; Played with Kilrossanty, 1949-66 and played for Waterford 1949-61.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<b>Jimineen:</b> Selector and trainer for Kilrossanty for many years; selector for Waterford Senior Football team for many years.
	<b>Kevin:</b> Secretary of Kilrossanty GAA for 1 years; senior selector for 1 year.
	Seán: Chairman of Kilrossanty for 8 years.
	John: Has held many roles in Kilrossanty GAA including Chairman (3 years); Treasurer (6 years); Selector (22 years); Managed Waterford junior and senior teams; Managed Waterford to win 2 All-Ireland Junior Football titles (1999 & 2004). Munster Senior Football Selector (2006 -2009)
	<b>Mick:</b> Has been a member of the Kilrossanty GAA committee for many years.
Format	✓ Audio □ Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 2:28:59
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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012