

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	14 th April 2011
Location	Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney, Co. Kerry
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Billy Doolan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1945 Home County: Kerry
Education	Primary: Kilcummin NS, Co. Kerry Secondary: Technical School, Killarney, Co. Kerry
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married to Eileen with 3 daughters
Club(s)	Kilcummin
Occupation	Supervisor/Manager Pretty Polly Factory, Killarney; Training Instructor FÁS
Parents' Occupation	Liebherrs Crane Killarney [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Church of Ireland
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Killarney District Motor Club; Summerfest Killarney Committee

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Date of Report	18 th August 2012
Period Covered	1900s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Kerry, Cork, Dublin, Americas, USA, Great Britain, England, Antrim
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Media, Emigration, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Challenges, Sacrifices, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Billy recalls his earliest memories of the GAA, and discusses the history of Gaelic football in the Kilcummin area. He recalls Kilcummin teams that he played on, and mentions some of the club's successes. He also mentions a club tour to the United States in the 1970s. Billy discusses his involvement with stewarding at Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney, describing his progression to Event Controller at the stadium. He describes club colleague Sean Kelly's election to the presidency of the GAA, and provides details of the trip to his inauguration in Belfast. He provides anecdotes from tournaments he played in and matches he attended, including All-Ireland finals. He also describes facilities in the club down through the years, and how they have improved. He also describes his family's involvement in the GAA. Billy recalls his administrative roles with Kilcummin over the years, and how technology has affected those roles. He discusses the role of women in the club. Issues such as The Ban and the opening of Croke Park to other sports are also assessed. He also talks about professionalism and the ethos of volunteerism that is in the GAA. Billy also recalls his best memories of the GAA, his biggest disappointment with the Association, the sacrifices that he has made through his involvement with the club, and his heroes in the GAA. He concludes by discussing what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:22 Billy recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. Mentions playing with Kilcummin, and his first trip to Croke Park to see Kerry play Derry in 1959. Recalls train journey and incident with his father's shoe. Mentions Sean Kelly and Mike</p>

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	<p>McCarthy from Kilcummin. Discusses the formation of the club. Discusses history of Gaelic football in the area and mentions game of Caid between Kilcummin team and Firies in Inch. Also mentions Ballyhar.</p> <p>03:05 Discusses Gaelic football in the sixties in Kilcummin. Mentions the Sneem seven-a-side tournament. Refers to poteen.</p> <p>04:09 Discusses opening of Páirc Uí Chaoimh in 1976.</p> <p>04:52 Recalls East Kerry Championship (O'Donoghue Cup) of 1972. Mentions one of the Kilcummin players, Fr Larry Kelly, studying in Maynooth and being brought home for a match. He partnered Johnny Doolan at midfield. Larry Kelly's brother, Sean Kelly, tells the story in "Rule 42 and all that". Mentions trainer of team Fr Ryan, and Brian Kelly. Final played at Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney.</p> <p>07:55 Refers to county championship match in 1913 between Kilcummin and Castleisland, fixed for the day of the horse and cattle fair in Castleisland. Mentions Brosna, Mr Crean of the Kerry County Board and Mr O'Sullivan of Milltown.</p> <p>09:14 Discusses Kilcummin club tour to America. Arrived on July 4th. Mentions New York, Boston, New Haven, Gaelic Park in New York. Mentions game under floodlights in Philadelphia.</p> <p>10:44 Discusses his involvement with Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney. Mentions photo taken in the early seventies of the stadium, refers to St. Finian's Avenue. Became Event Controller of the stadium in 2000. Refers to events at the stadium – mentions Kerry v Longford, the Munster Council, Jack O'Connor and Kieran Donaghy.</p> <p>12:20 Discusses his playing days – mentions injuries sustained.</p> <p>12:50 Mentions 1968 All-Ireland Football Final, Kerry v Down, and attending the match - repercussions at work. Mentions cultural ignorance of the company at the time regarding Gaelic games.</p> <p>14:33 Recalls travelling to Croke Park for the 1964 All-Ireland Final, Kerry v Galway, by car. Mentions dance in Portmarnock, O'Connell Street.</p> <p>15:36 Describes incident while attending match between Kerry and London in Division Two of the National League, in</p>
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	<p>London.</p> <p>16:36 Discusses stewarding at Fitzgerald Stadium. Recalls 2000 Munster Football Final between Kerry and Cork on a hot day. Also mentions the 2002 Munster Championship match between Kerry and Cork, played the same day as the Ireland v Spain match in the World Cup. Mentions 1971 Munster Hurling Final between Tipperary and Limerick. Mentions Babs Keating and Donie Nealon and the dry ball controversy.</p> <p>19:11 Discusses Kilcummin's Sean Kelly becoming President of the GAA. Mentions vote at the Burlington Hotel, and inauguration in Belfast. Mentions The Falls Road and The Shankill Road. Recalls the fear that some had about travelling to Belfast. Mentions the Europa Hotel.</p> <p>21:27 Recalls the annual convention of the East Kerry Board in 1955, and a speech concerning rugby and “foreign games” in Killarney. Mentions formation of vigilante committee in Killarney.</p> <p>22:48 Recalls facilities in Kilcummin GAA club when he was growing up. Refers to club book “The Alluring Call of the Leather Ball” launched by Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh. Mentions playing equipment and the condition of pitches at the time. Refers to injuries sustained.</p> <p>26:57 Describes playing in the Ballyvourney tournament. Teams from North Cork, the Duhallow division also mentioned. Mentions Kiskeam, Dromtariffe. Mentions Garda who played on the team. Recalls tournament in Boherbue.</p> <p>28:45 Compares team spirit in his day with modern times. Mentions camaraderie, and the 1973 team that won the East Kerry Championship, the Junior County Championship and the Division 3 County League. Mentions Fr Larry Kelly and Sean Kelly. Also mentions Andrew O'Sullivan in Kildare, Dan Connor in Dublin. Recalls making up the numbers when selector on one of the Kilcummin teams.</p> <p>31:26 Recalls his various roles with Kilcummin.</p> <p>32:27 Describes the role of the GAA in his life. Mentions match between Kilcummin and Templeoe in 1975 on the day his grandmother's body was brought to the church, beside the football pitch. Mentions reaction of older people to this. Templeoe had Pat and Mick Spillane on their team that day. Refers to Dermot Earley of Kildare playing a match the day his father was buried.</p> <p>34:22 Recalls his family's interest in Gaelic football. Mentions</p>
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	<p>Micheál O’Hehir, Weeshie Fogarty from Terrace Talk on Radio Kerry. Recalls his father getting the train to Dublin after mass in the Friary. Recalls 1966 O’Donoghue Cup semi-final and his determination to play in it.</p> <p>37:28 Discusses the role of the GAA in his school days. Mentions winning a county championship medal with East Kerry in 1967.</p> <p>38:07 Recalls fitting matches in around work commitments.</p> <p>39:13 Discusses travelling to local matches in his younger days. Retells story of a Kilcummin team travelling to Headford to play a match. Recalls Under 14 county final in Fitzgerald Stadium, walking from the bog to their home, then walking from their home in to Killarney. Mentions Tim Sheehan and a game in Firies. Mentions Leitrim, Killarney, Pender’s Field, Ballyhar.</p> <p>42:30 Describes condition of pitches that were played on. Refers to “biased” umpires and shaking posts.</p> <p>43:10 Discusses Kilcummin’s pitch and its development. Mentions official opening of renovated pitch in 1985, Kerry A v Kerry B. Describes further developments to the club’s facilities. Mentions minor team winning Kerry county championship against South Kerry.</p> <p>45:16 Refers to the influence of Scór on the club.</p> <p>45:47 Discusses hurling in the club, mentions Sean Kelly. Mentions hurling strongholds of North Kerry, South Kerry, Kenmare and Kilgarvan. Mentions attempts to revive the game in the club.</p> <p>46:47 Discusses his involvement with club committees in the 1960s. Recalls the challenges that the club faced. Describes the meetings that were held in the 1960s. Mentions the old hall in Kilcummin, Tom Galvin. Recalls first club social event in 1958 in the Fáilte Hotel. Also mentions the Gleneagle Hotel and Dromhall Hotel. Mentions Christy Cooney attending centenary social.</p> <p>50:20 Discusses club development. Recalls initiative in 1980 to raise money for the club. Mentions plans to acquire a third field for the club to meet expansion. Mentions the introduction of ladies football into the club.</p> <p>53:12 Describes how his role as PRO has changed over a 30 year period. Mentions Twitter and Facebook. Discusses the advantages of the internet for communications. Mentions man</p>
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	<p>in Boston.</p> <p>55:45 Discusses book written for the club's centenary. Mentions the plethora of O'Sullivans and Murphys in the area.</p> <p>56:35 Comments on the modern demand for information and the instantaneous nature of information.</p> <p>57:57 Discusses the role of women in the club and how it has evolved. Explains how ladies football is structured in the club and mentions the strength of the game around the county. Recalls that Kilcummin had the first female club secretary in Kerry in the 1980s. Discusses the number of female club secretaries that the club has had.</p> <p>01:02:15 Describes the club's relationship with the county board. Mentions Sean Kelly.</p> <p>01:03:45 Recalls how he was introduced to stewarding at Fitzgerald Stadium. Mentions Michael O'Connor, former principal of Anabla National School. Also mentions John Leehan. Discusses his progression to Event Controller. Describes the duties involved. Mentions Semple Stadium in Thurles, the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick and Páirc Uí Chaoimh in Cork.</p> <p>01:09:45 Describes the organisation involved for a major match in Fitzgerald Stadium. Mentions the Munster Council, Kerry County Board, Fitzgerald Stadium Committee, Gardaí, Order of Malta, ambulance service, fire service, Kerry County Council. Mentions how the stewards are treated for volunteering their services. Mentions RTÉ and TV3 crews.</p> <p>01:17:40 Recalls an incident when Radio na Gaeltachta commentator Mícheál Ó Sé was locked in the ground after a match.</p> <p>01:18:24 Discusses changes in health and safety legislation through the years. Discusses the perspex glass on Hill 16 and the issue of post-match pitch invasions.</p> <p>01:21:20 Discusses the ending of the Ban and the opening up of Croke Park to other sports. Mentions Sean Kelly. Recalls God Save the Queen being played before the Ireland/England rugby match.</p> <p>01:23:19 Discusses professionalism in the GAA. Mentions the volunteer ethos. Discusses administrators at club level. Also discusses length of tenure in some roles.</p> <p>01:28:08 Discusses the future for Kilcummin GAA club.</p>
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	<p>Mentions soccer club in parish. Refers to both clubs coming together to help a dual player who suffered serious injury. Mentions Comhaltas also. Discusses financial issues.</p> <p>01:31:09 Discusses poems associated with Kilcummin GAA club.</p> <p>01:31:54 Recalls his best memories from his involvement with the GAA. Mentions his neighbour Sean Kelly becoming President of the GAA. Also mentions winning East Kerry Championship in 1973 and senior team reaching county final in 2002 against Kerins O'Rahillys, beating An Ghaeltacht in the semi-final. Also mentions getting to Munster Club semi-final, beating Lissycasey from Clare in the quarter-final. Recalls social event in 1974 after winning the East Kerry Championship. Mentions trips to play matches in Sneem, Ballyvourney, Boherbue.</p> <p>01:34:52 Discusses what he has sacrificed due to his involvement with the GAA. Mentions family life.</p> <p>01:36:33 Discusses his GAA hero, Mikey Sheehy. Mentions Mick O'Connell also, as well as Mick O'Dwyer and Mike McCarthy. Recalls night that Mike McCarthy brought the Sam Maguire Cup to Kilcummin; Páidí Ó Sé, Mick O'Dwyer and Maurice Fitzgerald were also there, along with the Kerry team.</p> <p>01:38:07 Discusses his biggest disappointment with the GAA. Mentions opening of Croke Park to other sports and lack of finance accruing to clubs from this. Mentions emigration.</p> <p>01:41:25 He explains what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p>✓ Caterer ✓ Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): __Event Controller Fitzgerald Stadium__</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for 20 years. Won an East Kerry championship (1973), county junior championship (1973) and County Division 3 league (1973).</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1963.</p> <p>Club: Secretary (1963 – 1965), Chairman (1972 – 1973),</p>

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long for)	PRO (1971 to present except 4 years), Delegate to East Kerry Board and Delegate to County Board
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:42:35
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____18/08/12_____