

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	10 th Aug 2011
Location	Billy's home, near Galmoy, Co. Kilkenny
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Billy Drennan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1925 Home County: Kilkenny
Education	Primary: Gathabawn NS, Co. Kilkenny
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 5 sisters Current Family if Different: 2 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Beggar Cross Hurling Club [Kilkenny]; Galmoy GAA [Kilkenny]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	21 st August 2012
Period Covered	1930s - 2012
Counties/Countries Covered	Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary, Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Great Britain, England
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Media, Emigration, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Challenges, Retirement, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Billy recalls growing up in Galmoy. He discusses the history of hurling in the area and recalls the economic conditions in which he grew up. He recalls playing hurling at an early age. He also recollects travelling to matches by bicycle. Billy recalls and sings some of the GAA songs from his younger days. He talks about some of the players he saw and played with and against. Gerry Drennan recalls his Fitzgibbon Cup experiences. He also speaks about his own hurling career, and details his roles with the Galmoy Club.</p> <p>00:15 Billy recalls being born and raised in Rathlogan, Co Kilkenny. Describes economic circumstances. Mentions getting his first hurley from Jim Grace.</p> <p>01:19 Discusses the Henderson family, mentions Mick Henderson. Also mentions Jimmy "Pudding" Lannon.</p> <p>01:57 Recalls going to matches.</p> <p>02:15 Mentions going to Gathabawn school. Recalls parish team consisting of Clontubbrid and Lisdowney players.</p> <p>03:25 Recalls playing in Tim McCormack's field.</p> <p>04:08 Recalls walking and cycling to places. Mentions walking to school in his bare feet. Mentions the Skehans – Paul, Harry, Martin and Fr Sean. Also mentions Mick Henderson, Neddy Henderson and Jimmy Cleary.</p> <p>05:06 Recalls playing gear used when playing hurling. Mentions Skehan's father in America sending clothes home. Also mentions the Hendersons.</p> <p>05:43 Discusses his family.</p> <p>06:12 Recalls living in England. Mentions Dick McCormack.</p> <p>07:19 Recalls working for Michael Moore. Also mentions Sonny Moore.</p>

	<p>09:10 Discusses his family background. Mentions Johnstown and Tullaroan.</p> <p>09:54 Recalls his hurling career. Discusses the style of play. Mentions Fr Dan Carolan. Also mentions Lisdowney and McEvoy's.</p> <p>11:15 Recalls his working life.</p> <p>11:40 Discusses the Lisdowney team. Mentions the McEvoy's, Young, the Hendersons and Mick "Builder" Walsh.</p> <p>12:30 Mentions being brought on a bicycle to Cork v Limerick match in Thurles by Mick "Builder" Walsh.</p> <p>13:04 Recalls seeing the Mackey brothers playing – mentions song "The Fair Haired Boy Was Flying".</p> <p>14:08 Recalls the field in Thurles in his younger days.</p> <p>14:33 Sings "The Fair Haired Boy Was Flying".</p> <p>15:04 Recalls where songs came from, mentions The Kilkenny Journal.</p> <p>15:31 Discusses the Mackey brothers.</p> <p>16:01 Discusses his heroes when growing up. Mentions the Mackeys and Timmy Ryan from Limerick. Also mentions the "Builder" Walsh, Mickey Hennessy, James Hennessy and Jack Rochford of Kilkenny.</p> <p>17:33 Recalls cycling on bicycle to Thurles. Mentions the Purcells.</p> <p>18:24 Recalls injuries suffered due to hurling.</p> <p>19:09 Discusses 1935 Kilkenny All-Ireland winning team. Mentions Lory Meagher, Martin White, Jack McCloy and Frank Cummins. Recalls seeing Lory Meagher hurl. Recites lines from a song about Lory Meagher. Mentions an uncle from Tyrone who played cards with Meagher. Also mentions Jack Kavanagh.</p> <p>21:15 Recalls being selected for Kilkenny minor hurling team. Mentions World War Two.</p> <p>21:32 Talks about playing for Johnstown minor teams in 1942 and 1943 with Johnny Everitt from Templetuohy. Also mentions Charlie Riordan, Jim Dalton of Johnstown and Jim Carmody.</p> <p>22:21 Recalls being called in from playing hurling to say the</p>
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	<p>Rosary.</p> <p>23:09 Recalls listening to matches on the radio. Mentions Rochford's house. Mentions Packie and Jack Ryan. Also mentions Sissy Rochford and the Breens.</p> <p>24:33 Discusses hurlers who came from Beggar. Mentions Terry, Tom, Paddy and Jack Leahy. Also mentions their sister Tess who played camogie. Also mentions their grand-uncle Paddy Byrne.</p> <p>26:49 Discusses hurling in Beggar. Mentions Galmoy and Johnstown. Describes Rochford's field in Beggar. Recalls the facilities that were used. Recalls song about Beggar. Mentions match in which Gerry Henderson was sent-off. Sings lines from song.</p> <p>32:21 Recalls economic circumstances when growing up. Mentions the Rock Road and pitch and toss.</p> <p>33:07 Recalls the handball alley in Grangefertagh. Mentions players such as Billy, Dan and John Spencer. Mentions their uncle Bill Fennelly from Currahill.</p> <p>35:11 Discusses the Beggar hurling team. Recalls players going to Galmoy and Johnstown. Mentions the parish rule.</p> <p>35:43 Recalls strong clubs in Kilkenny in 1940s. Mentions Galmoy and the Scotts and Brophys. Recalls his affection for Galmoy.</p> <p>36:28 Recalls winning Kilkenny Junior Hurling Championship in 1949. Also recalls winning 1942 and 1943 county minor finals with Johnstown. Mentions Peg Dunphy, a lady named Lee, May Dunphy and other supporters on bus for 1949 final against Knocktopher. Also mentions Jim Henderson.</p> <p>38:07 Recalls Galmoy match in Freshford. Mentions Tobins on the bridge – Jack, Barry and Tommy.</p> <p>39:01 Recalls pitch in Freshford, Harrison's field.</p> <p>39:34 Discusses 1949 county junior final. Recalls the celebrations. Mentions players such as the Brophys, Jim Henderson, Mick Henderson, Dick and Joe Scott, Jack Kavanagh and Paddy Naughton.</p> <p>41:05 Discusses the amalgamation of Beggar and Galmoy. Mentions himself, Mick Henderson and John Spencer.</p> <p>41:22 Billy recalls playing midfield. Recalls story of meeting thrower Dan O'Mahony in Callan with Dan Connor and Billy</p>
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	<p>Mac. Also mentions Sergeant Little from Johnstown. Recalls getting medals from Dan O'Mahony.</p> <p>42:26 Recalls photo he had taken with wives of Mick Mackey and Christy Ring at opening of Lory Meagher centre.</p> <p>43:20 Talks about Billy Costigan of Tullaroan. Also mentions Mick Shinnars. Recalls Billy Costigan leaving field in Croke Park unaided after being injured.</p> <p>44:13 Discusses "Rody", hurler in Kilkenny.</p> <p>44:33 Recalls hurling on Paddy Grace.</p> <p>45:07 Talks about knee injury from playing hurling. Mentions Dick Gorman and Mickey Ennis.</p> <p>45:25 Talks about Dick Scott and Billy Dullard and their roles in Galmoy. Recalls the training routine, mentions Kitty Gannon's.</p> <p>46:37 Recalls former Galmoy secretary Johnsey Hart.</p> <p>47:07 Recalls playing Gaelic football.</p> <p>47:54 Discusses retiring from playing and attending Galmoy matches.</p> <p>48:44 Discusses Galmoy's rivals Johnstown. Mentions the Gannons in Ballyspellan.</p> <p>49:37 Recalls travelling to matches. Mentions his brother Gerry. Recalls cycling to Tramore. Mentions the "Builder" Walsh. Also mentions Harry Skehan, Billy Delaney, Terry Egan and Paddy Luby. Recalls song "Teddy O'Neill". Mentions cycling back from Tramore for matches. Recalls meal at the Majestic Hotel in Tramore, mentions Billy Brien and Paddy Luby.</p> <p>55:12 Recalls hurling tournaments. Mentions Durrow. Mentions Galmoy, Sean Doherty and Joe Doherty. Compares Joe Doherty to DJ Carey.</p> <p>57:48 Recalls going to Croke Park. Mentions Michael Dunne's car. Also mentions Gar Burke.</p> <p>59:18 Recalls his first time in Croke Park.</p> <p>1:00:52 Discusses some of the best hurlers he has seen over the years. Mentions Frank Cummins, Pat Henderson, Ger Henderson and the Mackeys.</p> <p>1:02:34 Compares modern hurling to the game in his playing</p>
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	<p>days.</p> <p>1:03:16 Recalls watching his sons Gerry and Liam play matches. Recollects incident in match in which Gerry was playing. Mentions Johnny Casey.</p> <p>1:07:00 Gerry Drennan recalls Fitzgibbon Cup competitions he played in. Recalls playing in Thurles in All-Ireland Minor Final against Limerick in 1984. Mentions Ger Hegarty, Anthony Carmody and Joe Carey. Recalls playing against Niall Quinn in 1983 Leinster Minor Hurling Final.</p> <p>1:09:58 Gerry recalls underage set-up when he was playing. Mentions Georgie Leahy and Fr Murphy. Also mentions John Corr. Recalls All-Ireland Junior Hurling win in 1990, mentions Paddy Ryan, Michael Rafter and Charlie Carter.</p> <p>1:10:42 Gerry discusses difficulty of players from smaller clubs making county team. Mentions Jim and Anthony Merrigan.</p> <p>1:11:34 Gerry discusses development squads. Discusses hurling in college. Mentions role of Jimmy Cullinane in underage hurling.</p> <p>1:14:13 Gerry discusses grandchildren who are playing hurling.</p> <p>1:15:00 Gerry discusses his involvement with Galmoy GAA club. Mentions amalgamation with Windgap at underage level. Mentions Nigel Stanley.</p> <p>1:16:50 Billy recalls former Galmoy player who had poor eyesight.</p> <p>1:17:25 Gerry discusses history of Galmoy GAA club. Mentions Dan Whelan's father. Recalls reaching senior county final against James Stephen in 1975. Mentions players such as Charlie Brennan, Joe Doherty, Mick Lonergan, Mickey Ryan, Tommy and Jack Phelan. Also mentions MJ Ryan and Pat McCormack.</p> <p>1:19:05 Gerry discusses Galmoy winning All-Ireland Junior Club Championship. Mentions Rathdown and Johnstown and the parish rule.</p> <p>1:20:36 Gerry discusses amalgamation with Windgap. Mentions Jimmy Walsh. Also mentions Sliabh Rua, Carrickshock, Graiguenamanagh, Blacks and Whites, Threecastles and Freshford.</p>
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<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>Playing with Galmoy: 1949 Kilkenny Junior Hurling Championship; Playing with Johnstown, 1942/3 Kilkenny Minor Hurling Championship; Played senior hurling in the 1950s</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Selector with Galmoy GAA in the 1970s & 80s; Vice-President of Galmoy GAA for the past 10 years.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 1:23:20</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 21st August 2012