

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	15 th June 2010
Location	Cregan Court Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Johnny Hannify
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1947 Home County: Longford
Education	Primary: Malview NS, Co. Longford Secondary: Longford Vocational School
Family	Siblings: 1 sister & 3 brothers Current Family if Different: Wife (Maureen) & 1 son
Club(s)	Clonguish GAA [Longford]; St Joseph's GAA [Westmeath]
Occupation	Printing Compositor
Parents' Occupation	Small Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Member of various Trade Unions including the National Graphical Association

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Rose Longworth
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1937 Home County: Westmeath
Education	Primary: Gainstown NS, Co. Westmeath Secondary: Vocational School, Mullingar
Family	Siblings: 5 sisters & 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Husband (Joe); 1 son & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Ballymore GAA [Westmeath]
Occupation	Secretary / Housewife
Parents' Occupation	Groomsman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	ICA; Community Centre Committee Ballymore; Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

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Date of Report	25 th June 2012
Period Covered	1937 - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Westmeath, Longford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Playing, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Rose and Johnny talk about their involvement in the cultural side of the GAA. Rose grew up in Gainstown, Westmeath and has attended St Mary's Rochfortbridge games all her life, while Johnny played with his club in Longford - Clonguish - until he was in his twenties. Both recall carnivals that used to be held in their communities when they were growing up. Dances were a regular feature at the carnivals and show bands from all over the country would play there, with the funds raised used for vital community projects. They both soon became involved in Scór - competing, organising and adjudicating. They recall their experiences and the challenges they faced. There were fractious committee meetings, arguments over adjudicators and rivalries between various clubs. They talk about the involvement of the GAA in Scór and how the competitions helped to revive the set dance. Rose and Johnny are passionate about Scór - they have derived immense enjoyment from it over the years and see it as an integral part of the fabric of community life in rural Ireland.</p> <p>00:20 Rose born in 1937.</p> <p>00:25 Johnny born in 1947.</p> <p>00:25 Rose originally from Gainstown and the local club was Gibbonstown-The Park, which later became St Mary's Rochfortbridge. She later moved to Ballymore. Going to games with her sisters on their bicycles to watch Rochfortbridge. GAA in the local schools. Headmaster was Eamon Moynihan and he was interested in hurling. Sports for girls in school. Husband's involvement in GAA.</p>

	<p>02:30 Rose getting involved with the GAA in Ballymore. Taking the children to games every Sunday.</p> <p>02:55 Johnny originally from Longford Town. Local club was Clonguish. Family's GAA involvement. Earliest memory when he was three or four and his father buying him and his brother a football. His uncle playing for Galway against Dublin in the 1942 All-Ireland final. Tom Dunne was on the Galway team. Claim that there was an argument in the Galway camp the night before the final.</p> <p>05:00 (Johnny) Going to school in the parish of Templemichael. Teacher, Pat McQuinn, was interested in soccer. Playing with St Michael's and reaching a county final in 1961 against Clonguish. Playing for Clonguish later in life. Retiring early and regretting it. Playing football all the time as a boy. Cycling to games.</p> <p>08:10 (Johnny) Carnivals being held to raise money. 7-a-side tournaments at the carnivals being quite physical. Winning a tournament at a carnival in Castleshannon. Electric razors as prizes.</p> <p>10:30 (Rose) Country and western music festival in Ballymore. Women doing the catering,</p> <p>10:55 (Johnny) Ban on dances so getting the supporters club to organise it. Céilís not popular at the time. Seán Donoghue from Galway and his seven sisters coming to play. Joe Dolan, Jean Stewart, Larry Cunningham, Brendan Boyer, Big Tom, Maxi, Dick and Twink, and the Melody Aces coming to play.</p> <p>13:15 (Johnny) Carnival in Newtownforbes and Danny Doyle had a band. Johnny stewarding. Maxi in the van.</p> <p>14:30 (Johnny) Carnival lasted three weeks. Hugo Duncan played sometimes. Clipper Carn were quite good. Des Kelly and Russ Moore played. Young people did not go to pubs at the time. Admission prices to see bands. No alcohol at the events.</p> <p>18:25 (Rose) Big crowds going to a dance in a tin shed.</p> <p>18:45 (Johnny) Funds from dancing helping build facilities for the community.</p>
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	<p>19:10 (Johnny) Poor health and safety at the dance venues. Nurses' dances and farmers' dances. Romance blossoming at dances.</p> <p>20:45 (Rose) Women not going to pubs very often at the time.</p> <p>20:55 (Johnny) Women meeting in snugs if they did go to pubs. Change in pub culture in the late 1970s/early 1980s.</p> <p>22:20 (Rose) Fr Cloyne in Bóthar going to dances. Being involved in a drama society. Putting on plays. Bóthar Drama Festival.</p> <p>24:00 (Rose) Ability to dance important in a woman's eyes. Women not allowed to ask men to dance.</p> <p>24:45 (Johnny) Man giving a smart answer when a girl refused to dance with him.</p> <p>25:10 (Johnny) Mary Gowan starting Scór. Macra na Feirme talent shows.</p> <p>26:10 (Rose) Billy Martin, Gerry Cunningham, Mickey Kincade starting Scór in Ballymore. Rose getting involved. Pat Collins from the county board running Scór originally. Rose becoming secretary after the county board gave them responsibility for Scór.</p> <p>27:40 (Johnny) County board setting the questions when Scór started. Someone getting the answers mixed up one night.</p> <p>29:05 (Johnny) First year of Scór in Clonguish. Reviving the set. Ellen Clarke dancing the set.</p> <p>30:15 (Rose) Scór not as serious in the beginning as it later became. Being in a dancing group in Mount Temple with Johnny Cleary, Pat Allen and Eamon Kirby. Fr Cremin complimenting their performance.</p> <p>31:10 (Johnny) Hughie Slep dancing on stage.</p> <p>32:00 (Rose) Types of sets they danced.</p> <p>33:00 (Johnny) Seeing a Scór act from Kilkenny in Coláiste Uí Mhuire in 1973 and being very impressed.</p> <p>34:15 (Rose) Westmeath regularly doing well in Scór. Success of junior Scór.</p>
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	<p>35:00 (Johnny) Westmeath not being too competitive in Scór, which works well for them. Atmosphere at county finals.</p> <p>36:25 (Rose) Adjudicating in other counties. Practicing for Scór and going through deferent rounds of the competition.</p> <p>37:45 (Johnny) Organising county, Leinster and All-Ireland finals. Máire Grehan based in Dublin and working from there. Booking adjudicators. Getting the hall ready.</p> <p>41:15 (Johnny) Hosting a final in 1985 and a number of things going wrong. People complaining about some aspect or other.</p> <p>43:50 (Johnny) Similarities between adjudicating and refereeing.</p> <p>44:10 (Rose) Poor communication between adjudicators.</p> <p>45:40 (Rose) Getting someone from a college of music in Dublin to act as a judge.</p> <p>47:40 (Rose) Releasing a video of the year's events at Scór.</p> <p>48:35 (Johnny) Ewan McCarthy winning two All-Irelands in-a-row.</p> <p>49:00 (Rose) Training for Scór. Fr Dalton's hurling club in Ballymore getting involved.</p> <p>50:10 (Johnny) Going to a Leinster semi-final in Scór in Mullingar and a drunk girl from Louth getting up to sing.</p> <p>51:00 (Johnny) Young people going to college and their Scór involvement ends. No distractions like television when Scór started.</p> <p>52:50 (Rose) Popularity of Scór in Westmeath.</p> <p>53:35 (Rose) Young people representing Castletown and St Malachy's and all the young people wanting to participate in novelty acts.</p> <p>54:10 (Rose) Reasons for popularity of Scór. Volunteers doing most of the work for Scór. Official GAA people doing less work.</p>
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	<p>55:00 (Johnny) Groups in Westmeath specialising in certain sections and others reluctant to compete against them.</p> <p>56:10 (Rose) The Downs and Bunbrosna dominant in Westmeath.</p> <p>56:40 (Johnny) Coaching required to win an All-Ireland.</p> <p>58:00 (Johnny) Calry winning an All-Ireland in Scór and going to a hotel to celebrate afterwards. Jimmy Curran driving the bus.</p> <p>59:00 (Rose) Involvement of Comhaltas in Scór.</p> <p>59:50 (Johnny) Drumlish winning titles with older participants.</p> <p>01:00:15 (Rose) Relationship between Scór and Comhaltas.</p> <p>01:00:30 (Rose) Role of schools of dancing.</p> <p>01:01:25 (Johnny) Parents getting involved and then leaving when their kids leave. Castletown suffering because of that.</p> <p>01:02:15 (Rose) Having an AGM every year. Occasional arguments.</p> <p>01:02:50 (Johnny) Level of support for Scór from the GAA. Former GAA presidents Jack Bootman, Seán Kelly attending Scór. Joe McDonagh attending in the past.</p> <p>01:04:15 (Johnny) Need to force clubs to have a Scór committee.</p> <p>01:05:10 (Johnny) Former Kerry footballer Pat Spillane writing about Scór.</p> <p>01:05:50 (Rose) Scór and football finals clashing and the difficulties created by that.</p> <p>01:07:45 (Johnny) Confidence of young people taking part in Scór. Becoming more reluctant as they get older.</p> <p>01:08:55 (Johnny) Winning titles in 'Question time' section.</p> <p>01:09:30 (Rose) Rivalry with Offaly. Moate and Offaly concentrating on ballad groups.</p> <p>01:11:05 (Johnny) Benefits of Scór to the GAA at club and</p>
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	<p>national level.</p> <p>01:14:00 (Rose) Running an annual Feis.</p> <p>01:14:35 (Johnny) Enjoying Westmeath county finals and having pride in Scór.</p> <p>01:15:30 (Rose) Man who does sound for them in hospital.</p> <p>01:16:50 (Johnny) Moving to Mullingar. Simon Boland giving out about adjudicators at Scór. Going to a county final in St Mary's in Mullingar. Séamus Whelan involved in Scór in Westmeath. Joe Murphy and Frank Dillon asking Johnny to take part the following year.</p> <p>01:18:45 (Johnny) Going to a Scór meeting in Newtownforbes. Tommy Nevin and Paddy Doolan's involvement.</p> <p>01:20:30 (Rose) People who wouldn't normally get involved in the GAA joining Scór, like Catherine Doherty.</p> <p>01:21:25 (Johnny) Jimmy Gray as chairman of the Dublin County Board and participating with Na Fianna.</p> <p>01:22:05 (Johnny) Betty Smith complaining about the adjudicating.</p> <p>01:22:55 (Johnny) Types of novelty acts they get and how they come up with them. Novelty acts that stick in the memory.</p> <p>01:25:00 (Rose) Paul Doolin of Mullingar Shamrocks' talent for writing novelty act pieces, which have featured in the Athlone Voice.</p> <p>01:26:45 (Rose) Success of Ballinamore.</p> <p>01:27:30 (Johnny) Recitations that stand out. John Cowley writing recitations and others using them. Michael McGimney from Cavan winning titles.</p> <p>01:28:55 (Johnny) Contribution of Scór to Irish culture. People arguing over Scór after a county final.</p> <p>01:31:30 (Johnny) Public speaking in Scór.</p> <p>01:34:00 (Rose) What Scór means to her. Social aspect of it.</p>
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	<p>Mutual respect.</p> <p>01:34:40 (Johnny) Arguing about footballers when he was young. Scór's role in his life. Going to a medieval festival in France.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p>Johnny:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input 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>Rose:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Johnny: Played with Clonguish from school boy level up to U21, won 3 U21 medal and medals at all levels underage.</p> <p>Rose: N/A</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Johnny: Chairman of Westmeath Scór (1994 – 2010); Secretary of Clonguish Minor club (6 years); PRO of Clonguish Senior club (2 years); PRO of St Joseph's (2 years); Member of St Joseph's Finance Committee (2 years); Manager of Tacoic Factory team.</p> <p>Rose: Secretary of Westmeath Scór committee (1987 – 2007); Secretary of Ballymore Scór for many years.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 1 File</p>
Language	<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: 25th June 2012