

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	15 th Nov 2010
Location	Eileen's home, near Kilclammon, Co. Wexford.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kit Codd (Née Kehoe)
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1945 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Donard NS, Co. Wexford Secondary: Mercy Convent, New Ross, Co. Wexford. Third Level: Eccles Street Secretarial School, Dublin
Family	Siblings: 8 brothers & 8 sisters Current Family if Different: 4 daughters & 1 son
Club(s)	Ballywilliam Camogie Club [Wexford]; Adamstown Camogie Club [Wexford]; Cloughbawn Camogie Club [Wexford]; Celtic Camogie Club [Dublin]; St Martin's Camogie Club [Wexford]
Occupation	Housewife
Parents' Occupation	Haulage Contractors and Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Rosslare Golf Club

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/29

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gretta Quigley (Née Kehoe)
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Donard NS, Co. Wexford Secondary: Holy Faith Convent, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
Family	Siblings: 8 brothers & 8 sisters Current Family if Different: Husband, 2 daughters & 2 sons
Club(s)	Adamstown Camogie Club [Wexford]; Cloughbawn Camogie Club [Wexford]; Oylegate GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Youth Activities Co-Ordinator
Parents' Occupation	Haulage Contractors and Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Oylegate Youth Club

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/29

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eileen Dillon (née Kehoe)
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1959 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Donard NS, Co. Wexford Secondary: Holy Faith Convent, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
Family	Siblings: 8 brothers & 8 sisters Current Family if Different: Husband, 2 daughters & 1 son
Club(s)	Adamstown Camogie Club [Wexford]; Cloughbawn Camogie Club [Wexford]; Rathnure Camogie Club [Wexford]; Ramsgrange Camogie Club [Wexford]; Rathgarogue-Cushinstown Camogie Club [Wexford]
Occupation	Self Employed Haulier
Parents' Occupation	Haulage Contractors and Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Local Youth Club leader; Badminton Club; Golf Society

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/29

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Bridget Doyle (née Kehoe)
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1948 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Donard NS, Co. Wexford Secondary: Holy Faith Convent, Rosbercon, Co. Kilkenny. Third Level: Ling PE College, Dublin
Family	Siblings: 8 brothers & 8 sisters Current Family if Different: Husband, 3 sons
Club(s)	Adamstown Camogie Club [Wexford]; Cloughbawn Camogie Club [Wexford]; St Martin's Camogie Club [Wexford]
Occupation	Restaurateur
Parents' Occupation	Haulage Contractors and Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Rosslare Golf Club

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Date of Report	22 nd August 2012
Period Covered	1940s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Dublin, Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Material Culture, Religion, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsiders' Perspectives, Alcohol, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Four of the eight Kehoe sisters reflect on their lifelong involvement with camogie. They explain how being part of a family of 17 children fostered their love of camogie. They discuss their playing careers at club, county, and provincial level in Wexford and Dublin, and they outline the history of the main club they were involved with, Adamstown Cloughbawn in Wexford. The sisters also recall winning their various All-Ireland medals in camogie, with particular emphasis on Greta's captaining of the winning 1975 Wexford camogie team the day after her wedding. They describe their subsequent participation in administration and coaching roles and their passion for encouraging their children and grandchildren to get involved in the GAA and camogie. In addition, the sisters discuss the amicable relationship between camogie and the GAA, and they consider the reasons for the low profile of camogie compared with the GAA. Finally, they reflect on their hopes for the future of camogie in Wexford.</p> <p>00:49 Discussion of birthplace: Clonlee. Reasons for starting to play hurling: large family of 17 children. Playing in the field behind house, neighbours joining in.</p> <p>02:55 Hurling the only game played then. No other distractions in the area. Girls cycling to training 5 miles away. No camogie in secondary schools in their time. No organised matches, just playing in field at Mercy Convent, New Ross. No camogie in primary schools, no rural schools league.</p>

	<p>Playing against wall of outhouse.</p> <p>05:14 Recollection of their parents' interest in Gaelic games. Mother attending daughters' camogie matches. Mother never driving, father doing grocery shopping. Mother's enjoyment of being driven to matches.</p> <p>06:42 Discussion of difficulty training and travelling to matches after they got married and had children.</p> <p>07:25 Description of daily life on the farm when they were growing up. Individual tasks on farm and in the house. Self-sufficient: growing fruit and vegetables, butcher killing animals, mother killing chickens. No washing machine. Mother's devotion to family.</p> <p>10:00 Love of the game, training in evenings after work was done. Playing with brothers toughening them as camogie players. Hurls left in outhouse, competition among siblings for best hurls. Brothers mending hurls with band. Mentions L'Ash Go Leor hurley makers. Buying their hurls from Randalls when they were growing up.</p> <p>13:21 Discussion about starting playing for clubs. Local priest Fr Edmond asking one of them to play for the club. Training with county camogie team in 1967. Fr Edmond forming club in Adamstown, other Kehoe sisters joining. First competitive clubs: Adamstown, Ballywilliam. Disbanding of Ballywilliam team, older sisters playing for that club. Kit playing for Celtic Camogie Club in Dublin in mid-60s. Getting picked for Dublin team, winning 2 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Finals with them in 1965 and 1966. Returning to Wexford when she got married, playing with Adamstown Cloughbawn, later playing with St. Martin's GAA Club alongside her daughters.</p> <p>17:01 Kit reflects on her Celtic days. Training in the Phoenix Park. Recalls sewing number onto gymslip the night before All-Ireland. Black tights. Canvas boots over ankles, non-removable cogs. Modesty of uniforms. Wool gymslip for Wexford county team, thick tights. Making skirts, buying tops in Penneys. Paying for gear themselves. Brigid describes making divided skirts.</p> <p>21:15 Discomfort of playing in heavy gear. Freedom of playing in skirt and socks, compared to tights. Change in county team uniform in 1975. Strictness of rules: married women not allowed to play for Leinster.</p> <p>25:04 Discussion about formation of Adamstown GAA Club. Using Rothwell's field, who donated pitch to club. Men and</p>
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	<p>women using field on alternate evenings. No changing rooms: changing behind car, going to toilet behind ditch. Less emphasis on fitness then, girls fit from cycling to training. Mentions trainers Bill Bradley, Fr. Edmond, Matt O'Neill. Buying their own gear. No official team sheets, no numbers on gymslips.</p> <p>29:11 Comparison with camogie today: 12-a-side then, shorter pitch, smaller goals, top crossbar. Reason for lower point scores then.</p> <p>31:00 Kit reflects on standard of Celtic camogie. Mentions Margaret O'Leary playing for Eoghan Rua. Discusses being selected for Dublin. Dublin's domination of camogie at the time. Discussion about who travelled to Croke Park to see Kit play. Recollection of attending 1968 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final. Mentions captain Mary Walsh. Greta captain of All-Ireland team the day after her wedding in 1975. Travelling by bus to the All-Ireland. Greta going on honeymoon to Spain after match, missing homecoming. Mentions vice captain Breda Murphy.</p> <p>34:29 Discussion of representing Wexford in All-Ireland finals. Adamstown winning county final in 1968, Brigid Wexford captain in 1968 and 1969. Brigid recalls trips to Antrim and Down to play matches. Staying in hotel in Down, excitement, no alcohol. Travelling in Northern Ireland during The Troubles.</p> <p>36:26 Concerns about travelling in the North during troubled times. Recollection of British Army soldiers boarding bus with guns.</p> <p>38:21 Description of pre-match nerves.</p> <p>39:17 Discussion about huge support for club camogie in their playing days. Vast coverage in newspapers. Mentions journalist Sean Whelan's contribution to promoting camogie in newspapers. Novelty of camogie at the time. No negative reactions for playing camogie.</p> <p>40:44 Separation of camogie club and GAA club in their days. Nowadays joining for fundraising. Good relationship with GAA clubs. Support for men's matches. Support and advice from their brothers. Mentions Margaret Lacey. Their brothers playing for Cloughbawn hurling team. Recollection of challenge game of 8 Kehoe sisters playing 8 sisters, and 8 Kehoe brothers playing another 8 in a field day. Mentions Seán Óg Ó Ceallacháin. Failure to enter Guinness Book of Records.</p>
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	<p>44:00 Discussion about transition from Adamstown to Cloughbawn. Formation of Cloughbawn camogie team, return to home parish. Club called Adamstown Cloughbawn. Mentions Kathleen Rochford. Recollections of playing for Cloughbawn. 8 sisters on senior and junior county team in 1977. Discussion about amount of sisters on same club team: 7 sisters and their niece winning county title for Cloughbawn.</p> <p>48:02 Lack of sibling rivalry. Amicable relationships. Discussion of positions of sisters, Brigid's skill at catching. Brigid training her granddaughter to play camogie. Their other sister Josie playing for Monageer.</p> <p>49:54 Comparison of camogie game in their time and today. No running training, just matches. No warming up, cycling to match.</p> <p>50:45 Discussion about strong camogie teams in the 60s and 70s in Wexford. Buffers Alley, Rathnure, Campile, Shannons, St. John's Wexford. Subsequently St. Mary's Enniscorthy. Mentions Eileen Hawkins, Maura Darcy, the Duggans. Always playing on GAA fields, putting up smaller goals in front of GAA goalposts.</p> <p>52:02 Strength of counties Dublin, Antrim, Cork, Tipperary, subsequently Kilkenny.</p> <p>52:34 Description of organisation of camogie in Wexford in their playing days. Mentions Eileen O'Brien's contribution to the county board: chairperson in 1975, county secretary, president. Also mentions Mary McDonald, Ann O'Brien. Also mentions trainer Dominic Kiernan. More skills training and running with county team.</p> <p>54:30 Winning 8 county titles with Adamstown Cloughbawn. Huge attendance in Wexford Park, lots of publicity. Decline in attendance, subsequent resurgence. Mentions St. Patrick's Park, Enniscorthy.</p> <p>55:33 Discussion about club relationships with county boards. Mentions chairperson Mary Mac with Adamstown. County board meetings in Murphy Flood's in Enniscorthy. 2 delegates from each club in attendance, arranging games, fixtures. Difficulty of getting venues for games, men's teams getting first preference. Only one pitch per club then.</p> <p>57:57 Restrictions with Leinster on married players. Their husbands' responses to their playing careers. Their children attending training sessions. One of the sisters refereeing match carrying their twin children.</p>
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	<p>59:51 Discussion about playing during pregnancies. No restrictions. Eileen playing on county team with Kit's daughter Maura in All-Ireland final. Kit recalls meeting Sean O'Duffy in Dublin. Mentions the Downeys in Kilkenny, Mahoneys of Laois. Mentions Paddy Mahoney.</p> <p>01:04:00 Reflection on playing with the next generation, nieces and daughters. Their intercounty playing careers.</p> <p>01:05:39 Discussion about the game today. More competitive, more intense preparation, more emphasis on diet and training. Kit's daughter Áine driving from Dublin to train in Wexford several nights a week. Mentions Fr. John Doyle from Buffers Alley, David Murphy. Description of recent camogie game. Similar standard of camogie today. Recollection of eating chips after training.</p> <p>01:11:10 Discussion about main changes in the game and Camogie Association. More players, more competitions, more underage grades, more organisation and administrators involved.</p> <p>01:13:46 Description of their involvement in administration and training teams. Time-consuming. Transporting lots of girls to matches in cars, not allowed now.</p> <p>01:15:38 They reflect on their own families getting involved in camogie. Husbands involved. Eileen's involvement in training her daughter's junior team in St. James's GAA Club. Commitment. Her views on the lack of dedication of girls today, less respect for trainer. Change in attitude of teenage girls. Other distractions today: ladies soccer and football as well as other entertainment outlets. Comparison with their own total commitment to camogie. More skill required in camogie.</p> <p>01:25:26 Start of ladies football in Wexford. Playing in club before it reached county level. Mentions Larry Fitzharris of Gusserane. Ladies football club in Cloughbawn when county board formed in county, Greta's husband, Ray, training them. Reasons for starting in winter. No ladies football in neighbouring parish Rathnure, so those women playing with Cloughbawn. Mentions the Reddys, Martin Codd's daughters. Disbanding of Cloughbawn camogie club, those women going to play with Rathnure at senior level. Few clubs playing ladies football at the time: Shelmaliers, Gusserane, St. Fintan's. Outlines successes at club and county level in 80s. Participating in Wexford's first All-Ireland. Current strength of ladies football at underage level.</p>
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	<p>01:32:16 Impact of ladies football on camogie. Many dual players. Challenge for player: separate associations and committees organising matches, match clashes at club level. Overlapping of soccer and camogie seasons, match clash.</p> <p>01:34:56 Discussion about increase in girls' participation in sports. Encouragement of handball in schools, development of hand-eye coordination. Opening of 2 new handball alleys in St. Joseph's. Benefits of children playing sport. Danger of dual players and skilled players getting burnt-out. Current efforts to keep girls in their own age group.</p> <p>01:37:49 Their nephew Irish international soccer player Kevin Doyle. Reflection on significance of camogie in their lives. Making friends within club and in other clubs.</p> <p>01:39:52 Their pessimism about camogie gaining a higher profile. Higher attendance at GAA games. Camogie attracting families of the participants. Lack of parental attendance at camogie matches. More attending boys' matches. Their enjoyment of watching their children's matches, importance of watching them.</p> <p>01:46:01 Explanation of how lack of encouragement from parents impacts on kids' participation, giving up the sport.</p> <p>01:47:12 Discussion about what motivated them to play and stay involved with camogie. Eileen's desire to win All-Ireland medal. Greta's pride in captaining All-Ireland Wexford team the day after her wedding, recalls her fear of making winning speech in Irish. Aims to go to grandchildren's games. Discussion about men playing camogie. Mentions Paul Nolan.</p> <p>01:53:41 Satisfaction in witnessing development and progress of camogie in Wexford, optimism for the future of the sport. Hopes for progress into England and America.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Kit:</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 type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <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>Gretta:</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 <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <hr/></p> <p>Eileen:</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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <hr/></p> <p>Bridget:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <hr/></p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Kit: 3 Senior All-Ireland Camogie Championships – 2 with Dublin (1965/66); 1 with Wexford (1975); 5 Senior Camogie Leinster medals and Gael Linn medals; 1 Junior Club Championship with St Martin’s.</p> <p>Gretta: Played camogie from 1965 -1994; won 4 Wexford Senior Camogie medals with Adamstown and 4 with Cloughbawn; 2 County titles with Oylegate, 1 junior and 1 intermediate; 1 All-Ireland Senior Camogie medal, 1975.</p> <p>Eileen: Played from 1970 – 2002; Won 8 Senior Camogie Club Championships – 2 with Adamstown; 2 with Rathnure; 4 with Cloughbawn. Player manager with Ramsgrange Junior Camogie team, 1999- 2002. Recipient of Power Sport Star Award, 1977.</p> <p>Bridget: 4 Wexford Senior Camogie Championships with Adamstown; 4 Wexford Senior Camogie Championships with Cloughbawn; 3 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championships playing with Wexford, 1968, 69, 75. Sports Star of the Week in the Irish Press, 1968; B&I Award, 1975; 3 Powers Awards;</p>

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	Member of Leinster Team of the Century
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Kit: Secretary of St Martin's Camogie Club. Gretta: Treasurer of Oylegate Camogie Club in the 1980s. Eileen: Chairperson of Cloughbawn c. 1983; Manager/Coach/ Committee Member Rathgarogue-Cushinstown, 2005 – 2010. Bridget: Runs Golf Classics to raise funds for underage coaching.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:54:47
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: 22nd August 2012