

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Ann-Marie Smith
Date of Interview	16 th May 2009
Location	Dunshauglin, Co Meath
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jim Gilligan and Patsy McLoughlin
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee:</u> Jim Gilligan	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Kilmore National School, Claremorris, Co. Mayo. Secondary: St Colman's College, Claremorris, Co. Mayo. Third Level: UCG and NUI Maynooth
Family	Siblings: 3
Club(s)	Dunshauglin GAA Club [Meath]
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee:</u> Patsy McLoughlin	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1928

REFERENCE NO. MH/1/1

	Home County: Meath
Education	Primary: Dunshaughlin National School, Co. Meath
Family	Siblings: 1 brother; 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Widower; 1 daughter
Club(s)	Dunshaughlin GAA Club [Meath]
Occupation	Worked for CIE
Parents' Occupation	Farm Labourer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MH/1/1

Date of Report	16 th May 2009
Period Covered	1886 – 2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Meath
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Administration, Fundraising, Education, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Club History, Challenges, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Professionalism, Purchase of Grounds, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Jim and Patsy have worked together on a book about the GAA in Dunshaughlin and they talk about the history of the locality and how the GAA relates to this. Many people moved in from the west of Ireland and this helped the GAA to become stronger in the area. They have also witnessed a population influx from major employment areas such as Dublin; this has brought in new people as well as other sports such as soccer. They see this as a good thing, and it has coincided with a lot of the older 'diehards' moving on from the GAA, helping it to become a more open-minded organisation. However they have encountered problems when trying to fill administrative positions. Jim and Patsy feel that the GAA has improved a lot over the years but they also believe that more changes must take place and that players need to be looked after better, without a pay-for-play arrangement coming into place. Economic difficulties are another big challenge for the GAA, which they see as an integral part of the community, bound up as it is with the social history of the locality.</p> <p>00:00:00 The Dunshaughlin population was always historically very low.</p> <p>00:00:15 In the 1930s a lot of farms were taken over and people arrived from the west of Ireland. That helped strengthen the GAA.</p> <p>00:01:15 A lot of the early teams were linked to the farming and horse industries.</p> <p>00:01:50 When Patsy was in second class a teacher named Ms Murphy would drive around to collect the pupils so that they wouldn't lose their jobs.</p> <p>00:02:20 There are 510 pupils in the school now, and over 200 in the gaelscoil; in the 1950s there might have been 70.</p>

	<p>00:02:50 There are a lot of pupils who have parents from Dublin and a lot of them play soccer.</p> <p>00:03:35 Many will play GAA as well as soccer, which marks a huge change from before.</p> <p>00:04:40 The opening of Croke Park was a good thing as was the removal of the ban on foreign games.</p> <p>00:05:05 Croke Park got a lot of money but the clubs did not get as much.</p> <p>00:05:40 Opening up Croke Park has done a lot for the GAA; when the GAA turned 100 there were doubts as to whether it would survive or not.</p> <p>00:06:20 The GAA was very insular in 1984 and that has changed now; the GAA is more comfortable with itself.</p> <p>00:06:55 Joe McDonagh, Seán Quinn and Seán Kelly were great for the GAA.</p> <p>00:07:30 Younger people came into the GAA and that changed the mindset of the association. A lot of the old diehards left the scene.</p> <p>00:08:30 Future challenges include getting the most out of the talent in big towns and cities where the GAA is not as strong.</p> <p>00:09:30 Many people have moved out of Dublin to satellite towns and these places have met the challenge and improved facilities.</p> <p>00:10:15 There isn't enough support around Dunshaughlin for fundraising and getting new people involved is tough.</p> <p>00:11:10 There is another club, St Martin's, and they catered for juvenilles. They used the same clubhouse but it led to tensions.</p> <p>00:11:45 The club won three senior championships in a row and a Leinster championship but did not capitalise on that in terms of fundraising.</p> <p>00:12:40 Jim Gilligan asked Patsy to help out with a history of the club in 1984. Jim was involved in the GAA in school and with the club St Martin's and was later elected secretary of the minor board in 1986.</p> <p>00:14:50 They started in January 1984 with a publishing date of July in mind. Jim did a lot of research at the National Library.</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. MH/1/1

	<p>00:15:35 They got information from old newspapers and Patsy could help out with names and family connections from the 1920s onwards.</p> <p>00:16:45 It was a social history as well as being about sports.</p> <p>00:17:20 They discovered the history of the club colours - they were the colours of a Stephen Kelly who had a hotel and racing stables.</p> <p>00:18:30 In the 1900s hurling became more stronger than football.</p> <p>00:19:00 Brendan Murray's father helped set up the Gaelic League and the first hurling club was called Na Fir le Chéile and the first club was called St Michael's.</p> <p>00:19:50 Jim had read a book on Dromore McHales written by Seamus Laden's brother and that inspired him.</p> <p>00:21:20 Jim had attended Maynooth College and produced a book on Dunshaughlin from 1850 to 1900.</p> <p>00:22:50 It's not easy to predict the future for the club but it should be bright - although it will take a lot of hard work.</p> <p>00:23:00 The underage section has improved and a lot of women are involved – Linda Bount is chairperson and the secretary is also a woman - but new blood at administrative level is needed.</p> <p>00:23:30 Getting secretaries and treasurers is not easy.</p> <p>00:24:40 They have more land now which means more room for young people to play, and for the Royal Gaels club to play ladies' football.</p> <p>00:25:25 Good organisational skills are important - maybe more important than facilities.</p> <p>00:25:55 The GAA should put more money into the clubs.</p> <p>00:26:30 There will be less grants going for building projects because of the recession.</p> <p>00:27:00 The GAA's public perception is much better and this is good for clubs.</p> <p>00:28:45 Volunteers are essential - there would be no clubs without them.</p> <p>00:29:20 Stephen Burke has spent a lot of time helping out at Dunshaughlin and Pat Moloney, a Mayo man, does a lot of</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. MH/1/1

	<p>work preparing pitches.</p> <p>00:30:20 The Land Commission in Meath has been very important for getting people involved.</p> <p>00:31:25 Clubs have to watch their money now and people are emigrating because of economic difficulties.</p> <p>00:32:00 With less work available people might have more time on their hands to volunteer with clubs.</p> <p>00:32:35 Pay-for-play is not a good idea; Dessie Farrell is too strong on it.</p> <p>00:33:05 Players must be better looked after - especially if they are injured or out of work.</p> <p>00:34:25 Pay-for-play could have a negative effect on volunteers.</p> <p>00:35:00 Recent problems in Cork have been because players felt they were not being treated like they should have been treated.</p> <p>00:36:05 In Patsy's time there were no injuries as they might only play a game once a month, and for many ailments there was no cure back then.</p> <p>00:36:55 In the 1970s the club in Dunshaughlin decided to rent land for pitch n putt and it was a good move by the GAA.</p> <p>00:38:05 The GAA does a huge amount within communities and brings parishes together.</p> <p>00:39:15 The GAA is part of the history of localities.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Jim</p> <p>✓ Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson ✓ 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> <hr/> <p>Patsy</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p>

REFERENCE NO. MH/1/1

	<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): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Jim Gilligan: None Patsy McLoughlin: Junior A and B Meath titles
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Jim Gilligan: Secretary St Martin's Juvenile Club for 5 years; Secretary Dunshauglin GFC for 5 years; Secretary Meath Minor Board for 1 year; PRO Meath Minor Board for 5 years. Patsy McLoughlin: Meath County Board member; Chairman of Meath Juvenile; Member of Club Disciplinary Committee
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:40:31
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: Anne-Marie Smith

Date: 10th May 2009