

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
<b>Location</b>	Rob and Detty's home, near Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Detty Cornally
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1943 <b>Home County:</b> Westmeath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Gainstown NS, Co. Westmeath <b>Secondary:</b> Mullingar Community College, Co. Westmeath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 4 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Husband (Rob), 5 son & 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Mullingar Shamrocks GAA [Westmeath]
<b>Occupation</b>	Office Clerk / Housewife
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Dressmaker [Mother]; Groomer / Farm Labourer [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Labour Party
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Labour Party; Concern; The Hospice Foundation

REFERENCE NO. WH/1/4

<b>Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)</b>	Rob Cornally
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1945 <b>Home County:</b> Westmeath
<b>Education (Optional)</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ballymore NS, Co. Westmeath <b>Secondary:</b> Carmelite College, Moate, Co. Westmeath <b>Third Level:</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 3 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Detty), 5 son & 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ballymore GAA [Westmeath]; Mullingar Shamrocks GAA [Westmeath]
<b>Occupation</b>	Medical Sales Representative
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Housewife [Mother]; Land Reclamation [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Labour Party
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

**REFERENCE NO. WH/1/4**

<b>Date of Report</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1943 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Westmeath
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, 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, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Rob and Detty talk about their GAA experiences. Rob grew up in Ballymore, watching games and playing for the local club. He went on to play at schools level and was on the Westmeath minor, Under-21 and senior panel. He describes his playing days - how they trained, who their rivals were and making their way to games. He then moved to Mullingar where he played with the local Shamrocks team before getting involved in administration and eventually becoming secretary of the Westmeath Football Board. His wife, Detty, is originally from Mullingar and was heavily involved with her local club, organising fundraising drives, setting up underage ladies football teams and becoming secretary and chairperson of the ladies county board, and promoting Scór in the area. Both Rob and Detty see the GAA as an integral aspect of community life around the country. They are grateful for what it has given them and are more than happy to give something back in return.</p> <p>00:20 Rob born in 1945, Detty in 1943.</p> <p>00:55 Rob is from Ballymore and used to watch GAA matches in the local pitch as a child when he was supposed to be at church. What the players used to wear. Physical nature of games. Castleday and Cullion playing.</p> <p>03:05 (Rob) Playing with the school team in Ballymore. Teacher's involvement. Cycling to games. Attempts to start up hurling in the school. Maryland, Tang, Tubberclair and Ballymore combining to put out underage teams in 1957. Winning an Under-15 football medal.</p>

	<p>05:35 (Rob) Cycling to school at the Carmelite College in Moate and playing football with the junior team. Prominence of GAA there. Getting a trial for the Westmeath minors in 1962. College team in final of Clonard Cup. Training in the winter. Losing to Marist College of Athlone in 1963.</p> <p>09:15 (Rob) Making the Westmeath minor panel and losing the All-Ireland final to Kerry in Croke Park in 1963. Feelings on being selected. Parents' views. Playing Laois in a Leinster semi-final replay in Croke Park. Other visits to Croke Park. Winning the Clonard Cup in 1964. Supporters going to games. Celebrations.</p> <p>13:25 (Rob) Fr Cremin in charge of college and Westmeath minor team. Training regime. Playing the minor semi-final in 1963 in Portlaoise and getting into a car to go play a club game after it finished. Beating Dublin in Tullamore in the Leinster minor final. Playing a club game in Ballymahon. Regularity of games and training. Being driven to games and post-match meals. Using the same jerseys and not being allowed to keep them.</p> <p>19:05 (Rob) Club success. Playing with the senior team. Description of Ballymore club. Getting injured playing Moate one day. Role of club in the community. Training. Pitch they used. Flooding problems. Games being played while holy hour was taking place on a Sunday.</p> <p>25:15 (Rob) Strength and achievements of Ballymore teams. Playing on the Westmeath Under-21 team and the senior team. First game for Westmeath seniors. Tom Carey and Mick Murphy from Ballymore there too.</p> <p>28:10 (Rob) Club rivals included Maryland, Tang, Drumraney. Arguments during games. Playing Maryland in Ballymahon and trouble breaking out. Nun trying to make peace.</p> <p>32:15 (Rob) Employment in the Ballymore area. Working life and its impact on his football playing. Joining Mullingar Shamrocks and how that was received in Ballymore.</p> <p>35:35 (Rob) Inter-county career. Playing Fermanagh in Lisnaskea. Driving to Mullingar and then taking a bus. Arriving home late. Alcohol. Deciding to leave the panel.</p> <p>38:50 (Rob) Getting married in 1967. Living in Gainestown outside Mullingar. Experience of playing for Mullingar</p>
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	<p>Shamrocks and how it differed from Ballymore. Being secretary at both clubs. Duties involved. Use of Irish language in the role. Tom Cleary of Ballymore moving away. Murt Murphy moving to Dublin and staying involved with Ballymore club.</p> <p>44:45 (Rob) How he was received at Mullingar Shamrocks when he started playing in the early 1970s. Decision to move into administration. Playing hurling with Streamstown. Positions he played on football teams. Stopped playing around 1972. Burnout.</p> <p>01:16:20 (Rob) Becoming secretary of Westmeath Football Board in 1984. Continuing until 1998. Ex-footballers training teams. Going outside the county for trainers. Costs involved. Relationship between county board and football board. Relationship between players and the two boards. Tension over keeping jerseys. Challenges of the job. Enthusiasm for the GAA.</p> <p>01:01:35 Detty's GAA involvement. Going to games as a child. Micheál Ó hÉithir on the radio. Growing up in Gainestown and cycling to Mullingar Shamrock games in the 1950s. Supporting Rochfortbridge as well. Family involvement. Playing with a paper ball. Brother getting plurality. Going to Cusack Park. Watching an Offaly-Roscommon game in Croke Park in the 1960s.</p> <p>01:05:55 (Detty) Pearse's the hurling branch of Mullingar Shamrocks. Selling tickets to raise funds. Organising a feis. Feis Lár na hÉireann running from the early 1900s to 1963. John McCoy's involvement. Scór involvement and how it was when she started. Eventual success in Scór. Problems over judging. Being part of a novelty act and objections over a particular line in the act.</p> <p>01:12:10 (Detty) Involvement of women in the GAA when she started in the 1960s. Having American tea parties and how that worked. Being president of Shamrocks. Fundraising strategies.</p> <p>01:14:25 (Detty) Starting ladies football in the club. Lisa Burke played on a football team at Presentation School in the mid 1990s and the club recruited players from there. Detty as secretary and chairperson of the ladies county board. Starting underage teams. Early success followed by decline. Detty talking to Terry Dowd taking over managerial duties. Girls leaving the team to go to college.</p>
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	<p>01:18:00 (Detty) Recruiting girls. Reason for Detty's interest. Rochfortbridge and Coralstown independent of their men's clubs. Milltown and Logans starting clubs. Relationship with county and national ladies football bodies. Moate and Athlone also having teams. Girls from Kinnegad and Killucan joining other teams before starting their own. Gender breakdown of administrators. Increased popularity of ladies football. Work done by Geraldine Giles.</p> <p>01:21:35 (Detty) Starting Scór and men taking an interest. Tom Hunt supporting them. Benefits of Scór. Contribution of women. Trying to get use of a pitch. Attendances at games. Rules in ladies football that are different to the men's game.</p> <p>01:27:50 Detty as the sole woman on committees. Organising fundraising events. How she felt being the sole woman on committees.</p> <p>01:30:45 (Detty) Getting involved with Scór. Seán Nolan, Gabriel Clancy and Annette O'Dowd involved. Living in Kilcock. Inagh Mullen preparing participants for competition. Patsy Ryland involved. Getting to an All-Ireland. Detty's daughter Mary's involvement. The Whelehans involved with the ballad group. Paul Doolin involved with the novelty act. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Winning a county final and going to Longford to compete.</p> <p>01:37:20 (Detty) Rules of Scór. Mixing up Irish and Scottish material. Marty Monaghan training ballad groups. Judges' qualifications.</p> <p>01:38:55 Rob as Westmeath sports secretary and encountering trouble over Scór judges. Controversy. Selection process for judges. Clothes worn by different participants and a judge objecting to that.</p> <p>01:42:55 (Detty) Parents thinking that their children deserve to win. Fluctuating standards in Scór. Popularity in Westmeath. Winning the Club of the Year award and the selection process involved. The Downs, Bunbrosna and Ballymore also winning it. Status of Scór within the club. Irish culture and Scór. Writing sketches for novelty. Writing a song after Willie O'Dea leaving the FF/Greens government in 2010. Winning an All-Ireland. Standards at that level. Leitrim's achievements.</p> <p>01:53:40 (Rob) Children's involvement in GAA., playing</p>
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	<p>football and hurling.</p> <p>01:55:30 (Detty) Brother McGary calling on her son to play for Shamrocks.</p> <p>01:56:25 What GAA means to them and to parishes around the country. Talking to Mick Burke, Joe Shelly and Pat McCarthy on a Sunday night about the GAA. Facilities of local soccer club. Opening of Croke Park. Allocation of GAA funds to clubs.</p> <p>02:01:25 Importance of volunteerism. Pat Collins training underage teams.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Detty:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Rob:</b></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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Detty:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Rob:</b> Played underage football with Ballymore GAA; played at the Carmelites in Moate and won a Leinster Colleges Football Championship; Played minor football with Westmeath.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Detty:</b> Served as secretary and chairperson of Westmeath Ladies Gaelic Football County Board; President of Mullingar Shamrocks; Member of Mullingar Shamrocks Scór committee; Chairperson of Mullingar Shamrocks Scór committee.</p> <p><b>Rob:</b> Served as secretary of Ballymore GAA and Secretary of Mullingar Shamrocks; Was secretary of Westmeath Football</p>

**REFERENCE NO. WH/1/4**

	Board for 15 years and secretary of Westmeath Scór committee for 3 years.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 02:06:12
<b>Language</b>	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:              25<sup>th</sup> June 2012