

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	3 rd Aug 2011
Location	Delaney's Bar, Patrick's Street, Kilkenny City
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seamus Delaney (Seamus's daughter Ailish also present)
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1938 Home County: Kilkenny
Education	Primary: St Patrick's De la Salle, Kilkenny City Secondary: Kilkenny Vocational School
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife (Elizabeth), 1 son & 3 daughters
Club(s)	James Stephens GAA [Kilkenny]; Muckalee GAA [Kilkenny]; Clan na Gael GFC [Kilkenny]
Occupation	Publican
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. KK/1/20

Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1932-2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Kilkenny
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, 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, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Séamus talks about his involvement with both football and hurling in Kilkenny. There was a GAA tradition in his family and he was soon playing at school and with his local club Conahys, who later amalgamated with O'Loughlin Gaels. On the hurling front he played with James Stephens, and he remembers a time when dual players were far more common than in 2011. Séamus also became involved with the county football board and he details the struggles they faced to promote the game in the county. When not doing that he was refereeing the occasional game and representing his fellow whistlers on the Leinster Council. Séamus also runs a pub and recalls the many characters that have walked through the doors and the memorable get-togethers that have taken place on his premises over numerous decades.</p> <p>00:20 Born in 1938. Family originally from Conahy. Father moved to Kilkenny in 1935.</p> <p>01:00 Spent some months in Templeogue, Dublin.</p> <p>01:15 Family's GAA involvement. Won an intermediate championship with Conahy in 1932. Father's uncle, Nicholas Maher, scored first football point in Nowlan Park, for Conahy Sarsfields.</p> <p>02:25 Playing football in 1950. De La Salle brothers introduced him. Success he had with St Patrick's at underage level.</p> <p>03:10 Interest in hurling. Morrisseys of Muckalee in the area. Playing football there. No parish rule at in the 1940s. Callan,</p>

REFERENCE NO. KK/1/20

	<p>Kilmoganny, Dunnamaggin all separate clubs.</p> <p>05:00 De La Salle brothers were from Cork. Brother Cyril one of them. Finals held in December. Need to promote football more in Kilkenny.</p> <p>06:40 Hurling with James Stephens. Missing out on a final. Refereeing hurling final. Administrative role on football board.</p> <p>07:15 Pat Henderson, Kieran Purcell, Cloney Brennan, Fran Larkin all good dual players. Less dual players over the years.</p> <p>08:05 Knockout system when he was growing up. Negative impact of that. Going to tournaments in Dunhill.</p> <p>09:05 Training with Muckalee. Later training at James' Park. Donie Murphy, a 1953 All-Ireland winner with Kerry, training them. Friend of Conor Sheehy. Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh attending his funeral. Granddaughter Rose of Tralee.</p> <p>10:20 Winning a junior final against Kilmacow. Playing Railyard in another big game, then Lamogue.</p> <p>11:10 Amalgamating with O'Loughlin Gaels. How that happened. Fran Larkin, Andy Heffernan, Con Shea central. Training in Loughboy. Getting jerseys from Bannistown. Approaching people who moved in from outside to play with them. How they travelled to games. Where they got footballs from.</p> <p>13:35 Winning a tournament in Wexford. Few football ones held, but many hurling ones in Ballyhale, Knocktopher, Mooncoin, Kilmoganny. Footballers playing tournaments in other counties.</p> <p>14:20 Football always playing second fiddle. Kilkenny doing well in National League. Players losing interest. Playing in the O'Byrne Cup against Wicklow. South Eastern Minor Football League. Beating Carlow in the Leinster Championship, then Louth. Players pathetic.</p> <p>15:50 Playing Waterford. Short of numbers.</p> <p>16:45 Pat Henderson, Ciaran Purcell, Christy Heffernan got people interested in football. Playing against Sligo in the 1970s. Snow on pitch.</p> <p>18:05 Set-up at James Stephens when he played hurling with them. Training they did. Rivalries.</p> <p>19:00 Involvement in administration. Joe Walsh running against him for position of secretary in late 1960s. Set-up in</p>
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	<p>county board at the time. Problems with junior players. Losing to Dublin in Carlow. Frank Cummins of Cork playing for them. What became of the Dublin team.</p> <p>21:20 Organising buses to games.</p> <p>21:45 Involvement with county football board and what that was like. Need to delay football season. Trying to promote football. Johnny Tobin, Mickey Fitz, Billy Walsh, Mick Dowd, Seán Doherty, Ollie Harrington from Kilmoganny all good footballers.</p> <p>24:15 Changes in how county board is run over the years. Technology. Changes in facilities.</p> <p>26:40 Tournaments in Kilkenny City.</p> <p>27:20 Organising football on the football board. Larry Hague involved. Johnny Tobin of Mooncoin too. Talking to Ned Quinn about Johnny Tobin.</p> <p>28:25 Glanmire in a hurling semi-final in 1968. Johnstown and Mooncoin in the other semi-final Refereeing that. Paddy Delaney going on a solo run. Passing the ball to Moriarty. Reaction he got after the game.</p> <p>29:35 Other refereeing that he did. Approach to the task. Muckalee and Railyard playing a game. Man roaring at him. Modern-day refereeing. Refereeing in Tyrone. Paddy Barry travelling with him. Umpires disagreeing over a decision. Paddy Cloghesy making a request of him. Paddy Barry telling him something important afterwards.</p> <p>33:55 Being a referees representative on Leinster Council. Need for umpires to have more of a say.</p> <p>35:10 Changes in GAA rules and how Association is run.</p> <p>35:40 Paddy Grace, once a secretary, and his abilities as an administrator. Taking care of people who needed help. Dealing with him.</p> <p>37:25 Former GAA President Nicky Brennan once chairman. Buggy's election in Killarney in 1984. Going to Congress every year in different parts of the country. Going for a meal in Dundalk en route home from Congress. Mick O'Neill chairman. Johnny Power from Thomastown was PRO. Winning a prize in a raffle. His reaction to that.</p> <p>43:05 The Ban in Kilkenny. Baker jeered because he was a 'vigilante'. Players suspended for playing soccer. First non-GAA game he attended was a rugby game in Cardiff between</p>
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REFERENCE NO. KK/1/20

	<p>Ireland and Wales. Willie Duggan and Eddie Byrne playing. Evergreen soccer team twinned with a Cardiff team. How the trip went.</p> <p>45:45 Fundraisers that were held.</p> <p>46:25 Wife, Elizabeth Killeen, playing camogie.</p> <p>47:15 Grandnephew playing for Galway minors.</p> <p>47:50 Kerry football team visiting in 1975 for beer festival. Jackie Lyne, Mick O'Connell, Mick O'Dwyer there. How the game went. Socialising afterwards.</p> <p>49:10 Bernadette Devlin visiting the pub. Special Branch members present. Pat Stakelum, Mick Roche visiting the pub. Tom Burns of Bord Gáis visiting. Getting photos of Sam Maguire Cup with the Kerry team, and the Dublin team another time.</p> <p>51:40 Music they had at the pub. Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Finance Minister Brian Lenihan visiting.</p> <p>*****Seamus's daughter , Ailish, joins conversation*****</p> <p>56:40 Man from South Africa calling into the pub.</p> <p>57:25 Typical match-day at the pub and how that has changed. Reason for changes. More children along in years gone by. Showing game on television. Buses leaving for Croke Park from outside the pub.</p> <p>01:00:20 Being first pub to park in Clonliffe College. Kilkenny TD Seán Walsh setting it up. Buses going to All-Ireland.</p> <p>01:01:35 Ballyhale Shamrocks success and festivities in the area.</p> <p>01:02:35 (Guest) Excitement ahead of Kilkenny's push for three-in-a-row of All-Irelands in 2008. People reacting to defeats.</p> <p>01:03:40 Former GAA President Jack Boothman visiting the pub. MJ Ryan's father a regular client.</p> <p>01:05:40 Bus driver having to play a game when they were short a player. Playing in goal against Tipperary because their team only had 14 players. How he knows former Tipperary hurling boss Babs Keating.</p> <p>01:05:45 Brother, Joe, involved with a club in Ballincollig, Cork. Work he did for them. Training Cork footballers.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. KK/1/20

	<p>01:07:25 Future of football in Kilkenny.</p> <p>01:08:50 Ladies football in Kilkenny.</p> <p>01:09:30 Has been attending All-Ireland finals since 1950. Has attended over 100.</p> <p>01:10:10 Enjoying going to see the Dublin footballers in Croke Park.</p> <p>01:10:30 Mugs from each county that he has in the pub. 1890 hurl in the window.</p> <p>01:12:15 Passion for hurling.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<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 checked="" 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Kilkenny Senior Gaelic Football Championship (1956, 57, 58, 59); Played on De la Salle school Gaelic Football team, 1952, 53. Played with Clan na Gael 1958 – 63, won Kilkenny Junior Gaelic Football Championship, 1963. Played hurling with James Stephens, 1959-67.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Secretary of Kilkenny Referees Board 1990s; Representative of referees on Leinster Council, 1990.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 01:16:46</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

REFERENCE NO. KK/1/20

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: 12th July 2012