

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 2010
<b>Location</b>	Joanne's home, near Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Martin Silke
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1947 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Marist Brothers, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon <b>Secondary:</b> Mean Scoil Seosamh Naofa, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 3 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 3 children
<b>Club(s)</b>	Castlerea St. Kevin's; Strokestown
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Garda
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Strokestown Golf Club

REFERENCE NO. RN/1/9

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Joanne Beirne McGinley
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1978 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Mary's NS, Co. Roscommon <b>Secondary:</b> Scoil Mhuire, Co. Roscommon
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 2 children
<b>Club(s)</b>	Strokestown
<b>Occupation</b>	Legal Secretary
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Careworker and Painter
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. RN/1/9

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tommy Flanagan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1939 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	N/A
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 4 daughters & 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Strokestown
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Farmer and County Council Worker
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. RN/1/9

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gerry O'Connor
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1951 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Kiltristan NS, Co. Roscommon <b>Secondary:</b> Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 3 daughters & 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Strokestown
<b>Occupation</b>	Builder
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1890s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Roscommon, Dublin, Kilkenny, Offaly, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA, Leitrim
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Alcohol, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>The group discuss their early memories of going to games in grounds all over Roscommon and in Dublin. They talk through their involvement in administration in Strokestown GAA – and in Martin’s case, with Castlerea GAA as well – describing their responsibilities and how they raised funds for particular projects. They also talk through their playing careers, with Gerry and Martin telling stories of playing illegally while they lived in Dublin. They describe the places they played as children and the development plans they have for the club’s current grounds in Farnbeg. They discuss successes that have been experienced over the years by club and county and particular players and characters that have contributed to them. They share their fears for the future, and describe how emigration has impacted their form at club level.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:48 Tommy recalls going to a game with his father in the demesne owned by the Pakenham Mahons. Mentions Killina and Elphin. Mentions walking.</p> <p>01:37 Gerry recalls going to see Strokestown GAA play against Elphin GAA with his father. Mentions the Bull Field near Carrick-on-Shannon. Mentions the rivalry between the two clubs. Mentions the clergy. Mentions Des Cryan, Des Dockery, Mícheál Mulleady, Eamon Brady, Aidan Brady, John Stafford Kelly, the twin Dowds, Malachy Brennan, Syl McPhillips, Eamon Shiel and Danny Flood from Kildare. Mentions Mountjoy Prison.</p> <p>05:00 Martin talks about going to a match in Castlerea with his father. Mentions Eoghan Ruadh’s GAA and Elphin GAA. Recalls playing against Strokestown. Mentions Slieve Bán</p>

	<p>mountain. Mentions Danny Burke, a Christian Brother and Simpson's Pub.</p> <p>06:25 Martin talks about facilities in Castlerea when he was playing there. Mentions Danny Burke. Refers to success at Under 15 and Minor levels in the 1960s.</p> <p>07:31 Joanne recalls going to matches with her parents. Mentions being secretary. Mentions Croke Park. Talks about rivalry between her father and his brother. Mentions Elphin GAA and Strokestown GAA.</p> <p>09:09 Gerry talks about Joanne's grandfather.</p> <p>09:36 Joanne discusses her mother's involvement in the club.</p> <p>10:05 Tommy talks about his family background in the GAA. Also describes where his interest in football came from. Mentions Tusk. Mentions playing Minor and Junior.</p> <p>10:51 Gerry describes the influence of the GAA in his house growing up. Mentions Kilbride.</p> <p>11:50 Gerry talks violence in football and gives a brief run-down on the football fields in the north of the county when he was young. Mentions Elphin.</p> <p>13:21 Martin talks about his family's involvement. Mentions his uncle. Memories of playing football in the house. Mentions Tremane GAA. Mentions Danny Burke. Mentions Castlerea.</p> <p>14:16 Tommy talks through his involvement in the GAA. Mentions being secretary, chairman and selector with the club. Mentions winning a senior championship and league in 1992.</p> <p>15:18 Joanne talks through her involvement in the club. Mentions ladies' playing in Strokestown. Describes her activities as secretary.</p> <p>16:41 Gerry recalls his first juvenile game. Mentions the field King's Turlough. Describes how he came to play for the senior team. Mentions Joe Fingleton.</p> <p>19:20 Gerry discusses making up numbers for teams when he was younger. Mentions Hugh McCormack, John McManus. Mentions travelling by car.</p> <p>20:17 Gerry talks about his playing career at county level. Discusses playing illegally during his time in Dublin for Cuala GAA in Dalkey. Mentions John Bailey.</p>
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	<p>22:14 Gerry mentions being chairman, selector of the club. Refers to the changes that have happened to club administration over the years.</p> <p>22:57 Martin remembers playing Under-15s for Castlerea in 1959 against Roscommon Gaels at the back of McDermott's Pub, Ballymacurley. Recalls stories about playing illegally for Park Rangers in Dublin and for another team in Kilkenny. Mentions Phoenix Park and Nowlan Park. Recalls on objection. Mentions St. Vincent's GAA and Railyard GAA. Mentions Pat Hartnett from Kerry giving out the jerseys. His false name Martin Sherry and playing with Fran Larkin.</p> <p>25:43 Martin recalls being chairman of Castlerea GAA. Also mentions being secretary and chairman of Strokestown GAA.</p> <p>26:35 Martin discusses his arrival to Strokestown and reasons for leaving Castlerea. Mentions Kilmore.</p> <p>28:10 Gerry briefly talks about club loyalty.</p> <p>28:28 Tommy explains how the club came to play on the Pakenham Mahon Estate. Discusses buying their own ground. Mentions fundraising.</p> <p>29:29 The group give a brief history of the Strokestown GAA. Mentions Dr Hugh Gibbons, Jasper Tully, Jack Higgins. Mentions two old clubs, Brian Boru's and St. Patrick's – natives and shop boys. Mentions Land League.</p> <p>31:30 Gerry and Tommy tell of controversy surrounding the involvement of J Walpole in the club. Mention the Land League. Mention Rugby.</p> <p>32:34 Gerry talks about Tom Shevlin, a cobbler, and his involvement in the club in the early years. Mentions Hayden's Hotel, now the Percy French.</p> <p>34:38 Martin and Gerry talk through club members who were successful while playing at county level. Mentions the All-Ireland Senior Championships 1980, the All-Ireland Under 21 Championships 1978, All-Ireland Minor Championships 1939, 1941, 1951 and 2006. Mention John 'The Jigger' O'Connor, Aidan McHugh, Richard O'Beirne, Gerry O'Beirne, Cathal Beirne, Joey Campbell, Leo Duffy, Hugh Gibbons, Peter Connellan, John Joe Fallon, Niall Brogan, Eoin Donnellan, Michael Donnellan, Damien Donnellan, Luke Dolan, Colin Compton, Paddy Brogan.</p> <p>37:32 Joanne and Martin discuss club membership and the sports that are played in the club. Explains that hurling isn't</p>
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	<p>played.</p> <p>38:17 Gerry recalls the first medal he won playing hurling. Mentions Elphin. Mentions winning the Northern Division. Mentions Brother Chris and Mousey Kearney.</p> <p>40:00 The group talk about the history of hurling in the area. Mention the Masons from Tipperary around 1910. Mentions Elphin GAA.</p> <p>41:16 Joanne, Martin and Tommy discuss the development of the club grounds. Describes how funds were raised. Mentions Prunty Pitch. Created a company called the Farnbeg Punt Ltd and got Lotto funding. Mentions the local secondary school.</p> <p>45:00 Martin and Tommy talk about the old grounds.</p> <p>45:30 Joanne and Martin describe some other fundraising activities. Briefly discuss club finances.</p> <p>46:44 Gerry talks about the sense of identity the GAA has given him. Discusses the club's role in the community – mentions the involvement of boys and girls.</p> <p>48:38 Martin, Joanne and Gerry talk about ladies' football in the area. Discuss clashing of fixtures.</p> <p>50:05 Martin and Tommy discuss women's involvement in Strokestown GAA over the year. Recalls Mrs Comiskey who washed the jerseys. Mentions administration, fundraising and jersey washing.</p> <p>51:54 The group talk about club rivalries and their importance. Mentions Elphin and Tulsk, Kilmore, Clann na nGael, St. Brigid's and Castlerea. Mentions Croke Park and Castlebar.</p> <p>53:59 Martin explains the parish rule. Also gives some notable exceptions.</p> <p>54:40 Martin talks about the club's relationship with the County Board.</p> <p>55:10 Gerry recalls refereeing an All-Ireland Inter Firms Semi-Final in the early 1970s. Mentions Bord na Móna. Mentions Offaly. Mentions Seamus Darby and Mícheál O'Callaghan.</p> <p>56:45 Gerry talks about the difficulty of getting ex-players to become referees.</p> <p>57:55 Tommy, Gerry and Martin discuss the number of people involved in the club and the difference between how it</p>
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	<p>is now and how it was when Tommy was chairman.</p> <p>59:40 Martin, Tommy and Gerry talks about the impact of emigration on the club. Mentions the County Senior Club Championships 2002. Mentions New York, Australia, London. Mentions the Cassidy's, Derry Hagan.</p> <p>1:01:02 Gerry discusses the fluctuating fortunes of the club. The group then discuss their fears for the future of the club. Mentions the 1969 Minor Final. Mention club loyalty. Mention emigration. Mention Dublin, Aberdeen.</p> <p>1:03:20 Martin talks about Scór na nÓg. Mentions Catherine Connolly. Mentions Clooncagh NS.</p> <p>1:04:20 Martin discusses the Irish language.</p> <p>1:04:58 The group talks about the club song.</p> <p>1:05:18 The group discuss trips abroad that the club has taken in the 1980s. Mention London and Leeds (because Pat Comiskey was involved in Leeds).</p> <p>1:06:07 The group discusses the involvement of the local teachers. Martin mentions the success of the local secondary school. Mentions lack of facilities and resources.</p> <p>1:07:44 The group discusses different nationalities becoming involved in the club, in particular at underage level. Mention England and Poland. Mentions Cosgrave, Stieger and Paisley.</p> <p>1:09:19 The group discusses the role of volunteers and professionalism. Gerry refers to soccer in England. Mentions attendance figures at Roscommon matches.</p> <p>1:11:16 The group describes what celebrations in the town are like. Refer to drinking culture. Mention Carrick-on-Shannon. Mention the Percy French Hotel.</p> <p>1:13:04 Martin and Gerry refer to politics in the club. Gerry recalls an incident at a county board meeting. Mentions Blueshirts, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael.</p> <p>1:14:17 Tommy reveals his favourite memory from his involvement in the GAA. Recalls the club winning an Intermediate and a Senior Championship.</p> <p>1:14:59 Gerry recalls winning the Senior Championship. Talks about his GAA highlights. Discusses people's expectations.</p> <p>1:16:00 Tommy tells a story about a particular supporter's</p>
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	<p>reaction to a loss. Mentions Elphin and Tulsk.</p> <p>1:16:41 Joanne recalls winning the Senior Championship in 2002, while she was secretary.</p> <p>1:17:03 Martin talks about going to underage matches and his hopes for the future.</p> <p>1:17:37 Tommy mentions Dermot Earley. Martin talks about Gerry O'Malley.</p> <p>1:18:01 Gerry recalls going with his father to see Gerry O'Malley play for Roscommon against Galway.</p> <p>1:18:36 Joanne very briefly mentions her admiration for the Strokestown players.</p> <p>1:19:00 Tommy, Martin and Gerry talk about the 1980 All-Ireland Final and the build up to it. Mention Croke Park. Mention Roscommon and Kerry. Mention Eoin Liston. Mention travelling by car and train to Dublin.</p> <p>1:21:05 Gerry talks about the early 1960s. Mentions Elphin GAA and St. Brigid's. Recalls a county semi-final being on the same day as a match on television. Mentions Tom Corcoran. Mentions travelling on a lorry. Refers to drinking culture.</p> <p>1:23:10 Martin recalls playing in Gaelic Park in New York in 1972. Also mentions London and Leeds.</p> <p>1:24:22 Gerry and Tommy recall travelling to London and Leeds.</p> <p>1:24:54 Gerry tells of an incident at the Bull Field in Carrick on Shannon. Mentions Mícheál Gilleran and PJ Kirwan. Mentions trains.</p> <p>1:25:53 The group discusses their disappointments. Mention the Connacht Intermediate Final.</p> <p>1:26:45 Martin talks about the evolution of the GAA. Mentions Down and Tyrone.</p> <p>1:27:36 The group talk about the importance of having high quality referees. Gerry mentions the rules. Also criticises the modern style of football.</p> <p>1:29:47 The group describes the enjoyment and importance of being involved in the GAA.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input 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): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:31:41
<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: \_\_\_\_\_ Arlene Crampsie \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 12/07/12 \_\_\_\_\_