

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Ann-Marie Smith
Date of Interview	04 th Feb 2009
Location	Maghera
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	James Molloy and Jim McGuigan (Biographical details available for James only)
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1950 Home County: Antrim
Education	Primary: St Josephs, Dunloy Secondary: Our Lady of Lourdes, Ballymoney
Family	Siblings: 4 sisters, 1 brother
Club(s)	Dunloy Cuchullains, Wattie Grahams GAC [Derry]
Occupation	Shop owner
Parents' Occupation	Bar owner
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DY/1/7

Date of Report	1 st April 2009
Period Covered	1950s – 2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Derry, Tyrone
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish, History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>00:25 His club is Watty Grahams Maghera, founded in 1948 but with roots going back to 1933</p> <p>01:10 Jim played minor football and became vice chairman of the South Derry Board before becoming chairman and then a member of the county board and county treasurer in 1963 after Wille John Halford until 1995</p> <p>02:25 In 1994 he became treasurer of the Ulster Council</p> <p>03:20 They used to have a football treasurer and club treasurer at the club and Sunday nights used to be very busy at the club</p> <p>03:50 Many Ulster GAA men would have met their wives at those social occasions</p> <p>04:15 He is on the Finance Committee of the Ulster Council</p> <p>06:05 His father was in the army in the south and played for Ballinascreen</p> <p>06:40 Soccer was strong back then and Gaelic was only finding its feet</p> <p>07:00 His brother Colm played for Derry</p> <p>08:30 In 1976 he was involved in organising buses to go to</p>

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	<p>Croke Park as Derry had three teams in action. Mary Kay Humphrey rang him to inquire about the bus. They lost a young boy along the way. The boy was Joe Brolly.</p> <p>10:35 When going to games Jim travelled in buses or cars</p> <p>12:10 Fr Seamus O'Neill used to play with Jim</p> <p>12:45 Jim refereed as well and enjoyed it even though it was tough at times</p> <p>13:40 Liam McGuire who played for Cavan would go to Croke Park with Jim as a refereeing representative.</p> <p>17:20 Referees have too much to do and think about today</p> <p>18:50 Jim has been involved with the Ballinascreen club and then from 1954 Maghera</p> <p>19:40 He refereed in Gaelic Park, New York in 1972. Derry were out there on a short tour. John Kerry O'Donnell was in charge of Gaelic Park then</p> <p>20:15 The game he refereed was between Connemara Gaels and Clare. The players did not seem to understand the rules fully</p> <p>20:56 He went to Connecticut, a New York policeman named Eddie Mcoughlin drove them there</p> <p>22:00 Talks about the game he refereed in Croke Park. Joe Childers was in charge of the Connemara team</p> <p>23:55 When he transferred to Maghera he was still playing with Ballinascreen and has a 1954 junior championship medal He also has one with Watty Grahams</p> <p>24:55 There are far more young people involved now</p> <p>JAMES enters the conversation</p> <p>26:55 (James) Maghera is a very strong club for underage</p> <p>27:15 (Jim) They have a connection with a club in Glasgow,</p>
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	<p>Coatbridge and the underage players go on exchange trips</p> <p>27:50 (James) They start to get underage children interested at primary school level, and then they go to secondary school at St Pat's</p> <p>28:20 (James) Dermot McNicholl, Anthony Tohill, Henry Dennehy, Seamus Dennehy have come through St Pat's</p> <p>28:40 James' son Denis played and he is now a surgeon</p> <p>30:00 Jim saw a photo of a St Pat's team in the Derry Post and a Bradley was the captain. They won the Hogan Cup that year</p> <p>30:40 Roddy Scelly is also a surgeon and played for St Pat's and the Derry minors around the same time as Anthony Tohill</p> <p>31:30 (James) In 1993 Derry played in the All-Ireland semi-final against Dublin in Croke Park and McNicholl, who was not long back from Australia, took the game to Dublin</p> <p>33:40 (James) In 1993 the team boarded the bus in Maghera for the All-Ireland final; it was a unique team and James had full confidence in them</p> <p>35:30 Jim was not as confident but he feels that the semi-final against Dublin was the game of the Championship</p> <p>35:35 James feels the semi-final was the best game ever played at Croke Park</p> <p>36:40 James is hoping that 2009 manager Damian Cassidy can unite the Derry team</p> <p>38:20 Jim was 32 years a treasurer and never saw a manager get any more than simple expenses</p> <p>42:00 The GAA is one big family to Jim and he mentions attending Tyrone captain Cormac McAnallen's wake</p> <p>42:40 James mentions the funeral of Frankie McNulty in Dunloy</p>
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	<p>43:55 Jim mentions southern teams not wanting to come north over the years, especially during the Troubles</p> <p>45:35 James wonders why southern teams did not take the train if they wanted to avoid checkpoints</p> <p>45:50 Jim remembers Cork visiting Derry in 1984 and arranging a bus to collect them in Portadown.</p> <p>48:00 James recalls being stoned coming through Cookstown after winning the All-Ireland in 1993</p> <p>48:45 Jim says it didn't happen as much with club football</p> <p>50:00 James says the border of Tyrone and Derry and is a blackspot</p> <p>50:40 (James) The clubs around Cookstown - Fr Rocks, and Money more - could have made the passage safe for the Derry fans coming through Money more</p> <p>53:15 Jim talks about the days after winning the final and going to Carrickdale, Armagh, Dungannon and Cookstown before arriving in Maghera</p> <p>55:25 James recalls being in Celtic Park to watch Derry play Tyrone in 1994 and a woman shouting</p> <p>56:30 Jim recalls a response to a person asking directions to 'Londonderry'</p> <p>56:50 Jim talks about Paddy Muldoon and Maura Graham and Joan overseeing the redevelopment of Celtic Park and he taking them for a flight over the Giant's Causeway</p> <p>59:00 Having the Ulster finals in Croke Park was a good idea</p> <p>59:25 Jim remember playing Gaelic football on Rochdale soccer pitch in England</p> <p>1:00:10 James says Ballymena had a dual pitch for years</p> <p>1:00:30 James says that Northern Ireland is 'crazy'</p>
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	<p>1:02:45 Jim recalls Derry playing Galway in the Brandywell in 1970</p> <p>1:03:25 James recalls Derry pulling out of the Irish League and joining the League of Ireland</p> <p>1:04:15 Jim was on the Ulster Council when decisions on pitches were made and met with Michael McGimpsey, Danny Murphy and Joan O'Reilly. Boyce of the FAI was with them. The rugby chairman was there too, as was someone from athletics.</p> <p>1:05:50 James says the Ulster Council has never said what they thought should have been done about the grounds at Long Kesh</p> <p>1:08:55 James says they weren't asked by the British government of it was okay to build the Maze prison</p> <p>1:10:20 Jim says challenges include maintaining what GAA already has. With pride.</p> <p>1:11:05 James says that there are some people in the Glen club who can get over-zealous</p> <p>1:15:20 They have no regrets about their involvement with the GAA; it is about their identity</p> <p>1:16:10 James has no great interest in soccer</p> <p>1:17:10 Jamie O'Hara, Tottenham Hotspur soccer player in 2009, is a grandnephew of Jim's wife and visited Maghera once</p> <p>1:19:20 Jim's son Colm is involved in the GAA and spent some time in New York.</p> <p>1:21:10 Jim received the President's Award in 2004</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</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 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 </p>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	No titles won, played for 15 years
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:19:31
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Ann-Marie Smith

Date: 1st April 2009