

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	29 th March 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Clontarf, Dublin 3.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eileen Duffy O'Mahony
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1930 Home County: Dublin
Education	Primary: St Columba's Iona Road, Glasnevin Secondary: Holy Faith, Dominic Street
Family	Siblings: 4 sisters and 1 brother Current Family if Different: Husband [deceased], 3 daughters – Niamh, Gráinne and Síle
Club(s)	Na Droigheadóirí Camogie Club [Dublin]; Celtic Camogie Club [Dublin]
Occupation	Civil Servant
Parents' Occupation	Army Officer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Local Ladies Club

REFERENCE NO. DB/1/13

Date of Report	23 rd May 2012
Period Covered	1930-2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Dublin
Key Themes Covered	<p>Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Education, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers</p> <p>GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish, History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Northern Ireland, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics</p>
Interview Summary	<p>00:20 Born in 1930 in Newbridge, Kildare. Father in army and from Dublin. Mother from Meath.</p> <p>01:15 Family's background in sport.</p> <p>01:40 Playing in a field that later became known as Botanic Park. Father showing them how to hurl.</p> <p>02:35 Cycling around the neighbourhood.</p> <p>02:55 Father was OC of Clancy Barracks and died at the age of 57.</p> <p>03:15 Starting to play camogie in Iona National School. Teacher named Áine Ní Giollacailin from Roscommon instructing them. Playing matches against other schools.</p> <p>04:05 Playing against Holy Faith of Greystones. Talking the train and being given food after the game.</p> <p>04:30 Involvement of other schools in camogie.</p> <p>04:40 Secondary schools playing either hockey or camogie.</p> <p>05:05 Older sisters going to Glasnevin and playing camogie there. Two of her sisters representing Dublin. Marraige ban on players.</p> <p>06:20 Few camogie coaches in secondary school.</p>

	<p>06:40 Nell McCarthy from Carrigtwohill watching them play in the Phoenix Park when they were young.</p> <p>07:45 Playing for Na Droigheadóirí on a Saturday and Nell McCarthy being there. Nell giving her a raincoat during games if weather was bad.</p> <p>08:30 Joining the civil service and Nell McCarthy working in the office. Friendship developing.</p> <p>08:50 Nell involved with Celtic Camogie Club and on the Dublin Board. Nell asking her to join the club. Her sisters wanting to join too.</p> <p>09:40 Celtic having their own pitch in Coolock. Donneycarney a village on the way to Coolock. Celtic renting the pitch and what it cost.</p> <p>10:30 Few clubs had their own pitches at the time.</p> <p>10:35 Having a wooden pavillon and socialising there often over the years.</p> <p>11:35 Cutting the grass in the area during the summer and playing tennis.</p> <p>11:35 Cycling to Portmarnock for a swim and then getting chips in Coolock.</p> <p>12:00 Getting to know the people in Coolock. Dublin a small place at the time.</p> <p>12:55 Going window shopping as a young woman and seeing couples coming from the Theatre Royal.</p> <p>14:05 Cycling to training after work.</p> <p>14:40 Man collecting slop for the pigs and wishing them luck for upcoming games. Other locals supporting them.</p> <p>16:00 Mr Price and Seán O'Neill running Na Droigheadóirí team. Training done at school and playing games with the club. Many Price, Duffy and Phelan children playing on the team.</p> <p>17:10 Success they had. Reason for break-up of club.</p>
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	<p>17:50 Ailish Keegan running Celtic club with Nell McCarthy.</p> <p>18:30 First training session with Celtic. Playing in goal.</p> <p>19:30 Where their players came from.</p> <p>20:20 Awareness of inter-county players at the time.</p> <p>20:35 Father bringing them to games in Croke Park to watch games.</p> <p>21:00 Woman she knew who went to Croke Park every Sunday and often hit those criticising the referee with her umbrella. Strong reaction of one particular man to being hit.</p> <p>22:40 Pitch they had in national school. Using the Phoenix Park when they were in secondary school.</p> <p>23:15 What she thought of Phoenix Park pitches.</p> <p>24:20 Making friends through her involvement.</p> <p>25:30 Getting engaged. Terry O'Sullivan going to social occasions and writing on them. Terry visiting the pavillon in Coolock when she returned from her honeymoon.</p> <p>26:30 Having her hen party in Coolock. Terry O'Sullivan calling out and writing about it.</p> <p>27:35 Their pitch near a Cadbury's factory. Protestant church nearby.</p> <p>28:25 Five teams in the club at the time. Emphasis on youth.</p> <p>29:00 Monthly meetings with captains and vice-captains on how to improve things at the club.</p> <p>29:50 Impact of losing their pitch.</p> <p>30:30 Playing in St Anne's after they lost their pitch.</p> <p>30:55 Camogie losing out as Dublin people had more disposable income to do things with in their spare time.</p> <p>31:30 Male coaches instructing them in a way which she thought was unsuitable.</p> <p>31:50 Nell advising them to play the game a certain way.</p>
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	<p>33:20 Enjoying the game when it was 12-a-side.</p> <p>34:04 Men coaching at mixed schools and how that was reflected in their style of play.</p> <p>34:55 Antrim and Dublin playing a similar style of camogie.</p> <p>35:10 Travelling to Belfast by taxi to play a game in the 1950s. Being stopped at the border by soldiers with guns. Problem with one of the taxis and how they overcame that. How she felt about the incident.</p> <p>36:45 Playing a game in Ashbourne in Meath and travelling by bicycle. Getting toggged out at the side of the pitch.</p> <p>37:45 How camogie was perceived when she was growing up. Involvement of schools. Crowds at games.</p> <p>38:40 Main clubs included Eoin Roe, CIE, Austin Stacks.</p> <p>39:10 Recites a poem written by Nell McCarthy after they lost a game at Croke Park.</p> <p>46:20 Úna Ó'Connor winning 13 All-Ireland medals.</p> <p>46:40 Celebrations when they were successful. Going to the Palm Grove ice-cream parlour on O'Connell St in Dublin. Price of ice-cream.</p> <p>48:00 Being selected for the Dublin team in 1949.</p> <p>48:40 Travelling by bus to games. Rivalry with Wicklow. Singing songs.</p> <p>50:00 Winning the All-Ireland in 1951 and being invited to play in Mitcham Stadium in London.</p> <p>51:00 Molly Fitzgerald of Austin Stacks in charge of them on trip to England. Staying in the Bedford Hotel. Going to Lyon's Cafe. Chatting to some of the men.</p> <p>53:00 Meath men's football team staying at the hotel. Cristo Hand of the Meath team falling down a stairs due to drink taken. Cristo playing well the following day.</p> <p>53:55 Having to be formal in their dealings with the men.</p>
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	<p>54:25 Bringing tinned fruit to give to their opponents in London.</p> <p>55:00 Getting ready to leave London and talking to a maid working at the hotel.</p> <p>55:45 Socialising with the other team.</p> <p>55:55 How her parents felt about the trip to England.</p> <p>56:40 Losing to Antrim in Belfast and coping with the disappointment.</p> <p>57:55 Dances that were held when they were younger. Going to Limerick, Mayo, Tipperary, Ballycastle, Magherafelt, Longford for dances. Josie Parsons in Marino organising the excursions.</p> <p>59:15 Some women meeting their future husbands at dances.</p> <p>01:00:50 Going to Oireachtas competitions and doing recitations.</p> <p>01:01:45 Being invited to Áras an Uachtarán. Mrs Timmons from Naomh Aoife - who ran a camogie club for 62 years - going too. Lilly Spence and Rosina McManus there too, as well as rugby players like Willie John McBride and other GAA players.</p> <p>01:03:20 What happened at Áras an Uachtarán.</p> <p>01:05:45 Her mother often saying that her grandmother had been born in Áras an Uachtarán. Doing research on that later.</p> <p>01:05:05 Meeting President McAleese and having photographs taken. Talking to sports broadcaster Jimmy Magee.</p> <p>01:06:10 Lilly Spence from Antrim talking about knowing President McAleese when they were younger.</p> <p>01:07:15 What it felt like to play for Dublin. What they used to wear.</p> <p>01:09:10 What they wore playing for Celtic.</p> <p>01:09:45 Emphasis on modesty in what teams wore.</p>
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	<p>01:10:15 Playing in Croke Park and what that was like.</p> <p>01:10:50 Playing in first camogie match broadcast on radio. Micheál Ó hÉithir interviewing them for the radio.</p> <p>01:12:10 Impressions of Micheál Ó hÉithir.</p> <p>01:13:20 Winning an All-Ireland in Tipperary in 1949.</p> <p>01:15:45 Working hard the year after winning an All-Ireland.</p> <p>01:16:05 Celebrations after winning.</p> <p>01:16:15 Admiration for Kay Mills as a player.</p> <p>01:16:35 Talent of Sophie Brack.</p> <p>01:17:20 Úna O'Connor and Ali Hussey arriving at Colock and playing well.</p> <p>01:18:40 Media coverage of camogie. First All-Ireland against Antrim being broadcast. Micheál Ó Heiher interviewing them.</p> <p>01:19:30 Newspaper coverage of camogie - Evening Mail, Irish Press, Irish Independent.</p> <p>01:20:20 Mrs Purcell president of the Camogie Association and writing about camogie.</p> <p>01:21:20 Going to coaching courses in Gormanstown.</p> <p>01:22:10 Being introduced to the skills of the game.</p> <p>01:22:55 Talking to the Dublin junior team about camogie. Why she was there.</p> <p>01:24:30 Feeling embarrassed about something she said to the team.</p> <p>01:25:00 Being asked to say something to the team before a match in Dublin. Presenting them with jerseys.</p> <p>01:26:45 Problem of goalkeepers talking to referees.</p> <p>01:27:05 Not feeling pressure as a goalkeeper.</p> <p>01:27:25 Her record on the field.</p>
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	<p>01:27:35 Other counties getting stronger.</p> <p>01:28:00 Recognition they got for their achievements.</p> <p>01:28:25 Relationship between the Camogie Association and the GAA when she was playing.</p> <p>01:30:05 Doreen Rogers' daughter on the Dublin Board.</p> <p>01:30:35 How sportswomen were viewed in her time.</p> <p>01:30:55 Negative reaction from some people to camogie.</p> <p>01:31:20 Improved image of camogie.</p> <p>01:31:45 Admiration for Libby Howard as president.</p> <p>01:32:15 Becoming more aware of the Camogie Association and the work put in by people like Molly Fitzgerald, Ailish Keegan, Muriel Monnelly, Nell McCarthy and Mrs Timmons.</p> <p>01:33:45 Nell McCarthy giving a course at Gortnor Abbey boarding school in Mayo.</p> <p>01:35:25 Retiring from the game and missing out on another All-Ireland as a result of getting married,</p> <p>01:38:00 Archbishop McQuaid's attitude to women playing sports.</p> <p>01:36:25 How married women who played sports were perceived.</p> <p>01:36:40 Activities they did together when they were young.</p> <p>01:36:50 Travelling the Ring of Kerry in a horse-drawn caravan.</p> <p>01:37:30 Going to Scotland on a pony trekking holiday. Having trouble with the horse.</p> <p>01:38:45 Arriving for the trekking and people expecting them to be good with horses because of Iris Kellett.</p> <p>01:44:10 Irish group praised for their bravery at the end of their trip.</p> <p>01:44:35 Team going on a trip to England the year she got</p>
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	<p>married.</p> <p>01:46:00 Training teams in her garden.</p> <p>01:46:45 A girl ringing her on a trip home from Canada and meeting up with her.</p> <p>01:47:45 Political issues around the Camogie Association.</p> <p>01:48:00 Joining with the GAA and what she thought of that.</p> <p>01:49:00 Ban on foreign games and eventual lifting of that.</p> <p>01:50:10 Training schools teams and being successful.</p> <p>01:52:10 Going back playing for a second time.</p> <p>01:52:35 Her brother, Billy, playing soccer for Arsenal and how he fared.</p> <p>01:54:00 Billy getting TB.</p> <p>01:55:25 People at Arsenal writing to him when he was ill.</p> <p>01:56:15 Arsenal winning a cup that year and keeping in touch with Billy.</p> <p>01:56:40 Billy applying to join the army.</p> <p>01:57:25 Billy becoming an engineer and playing soccer locally.</p> <p>01:57:50 Reaction to Billy and Eileen playing sports.</p> <p>01:58:50 Role of Irish language in camogie circles.</p> <p>02:00:25 Liam Ó Murchú show turning into what she saw as a skit.</p> <p>02:01:30 Changes she has seen in the Camogie Association.</p> <p>02:02:00 Going to Croke Park for a function and seeing the work being done there.</p> <p>02:03:40 Giving a speech on what counts in a camogie game.</p> <p>02:04:00 Children playing camogie and how they fared.</p>
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	<p>02:04:35 Camogie in the civil service.</p> <p>02:05:25 Civil servants doing oral Irish.</p> <p>02:05:40 Playing for the Department of Finance.</p> <p>02:06:05 Civil Service team at the time.</p> <p>02:06:30 Nell McCarthy helping out new girls in the office.</p> <p>02:08:40 Seán O'Duffy and her memories of him and his wife.</p> <p>02:09:55 Losing their pitch and then players as a result.</p> <p>02:10:55 Most satisfying role she had.</p> <p>02:11:50 What camogie has meant to her.</p> <p>02:12:40 Going to Celtic and being told that she had the ability to play camogie.</p> <p>02:13:15 Enjoying her involvement.</p> <p>02:14:25 Mary O'Brien, an artist, playing with them and then becoming a nun.</p> <p>02:14:50 Nell McCarthy going to Italy and bumping into Mary.</p> <p>02:16:25 Cups she has donated to camogie. Her name on the international cup.</p> <p>02:17:05 Hopes for the future of the game.</p> <p>02:18:15 Junior team in the All-Ireland final. Game going to a replay in Portlaoise and Eileen watching.</p> <p>02:20:35 Fitness levels when she was playing.</p> <p>02:21:20 Need to people not to be dismissive of camogie.</p> <p>02:22:30 Sliotar she got autographed after the last All-Ireland she played in in 1957, which was against Antrim. Presidents of the Camogie Association signing the ball.</p> <p>02:24:45 Being named Goalkeeper of the Century.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. DB/1/13

Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <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)	Played all her life. Won 8 All-Ireland Senior Camogie medals with Dublin, won 5 Leinster titles and 5 leagues
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Celtic Committee for a good few years
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:26:10
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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 23rd May 2012.