

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	13 th Oct 2010
Location	Cliff House Hotel, Ardmore, Co. Waterford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Liam Gleeson
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Cork
Education	Primary: Clonpriest NS, Co. Cork Secondary: Vocational School, Youghal, Co. Cork Third Level: Cirencester College, UK
Family	Siblings: 4 sisters & 1 brother Current Family if Different: Wife (Bridget), 3 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Killeagh GAA [Cork]; St Ita's GAA [Cork]; St Declans GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Managing Director of Ardmore Equine Nutrition
Parents' Occupation	Market Gardener [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Peace Commissioner; St Vincent de Paul; Grange School Board of Management

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Date of Report	18 th July 2012
Period Covered	1940s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Cork, Waterford, Wexford, Tipperary, Limerick, Kilkenny, Clare, Roscommon, Galway, Kerry, Tyrone
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Playing, Coaching, Administration, Fundraising, Material Culture, Media, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Professionalism, Purchase of Grounds, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Liam recalls growing up in Cork and the role that the GAA played in his life. He mentions his family's involvement in the GAA. He describes listening to matches on the radio growing up, and playing hurling during his school days. Liam mentions the economic situation of the 1940s and 50s that meant some aunts and uncles had to emigrate. He describes the social gatherings that ensued whenever they returned to visit Ireland. He discusses his transfer to the Ardmore club in Waterford, his administrative roles with the club and the struggles of bringing the game of hurling to a predominantly football area. He also discusses the role of Scór in the GAA. Liam articulates how he sees the GAA as an expression of Irish culture and identity, emphasising the importance of a sense of place. He speaks of some of the changes that he has seen in the Association over his lifetime, and mentions the importance of volunteerism in the GAA. Liam recalls his happiest memories of the GAA, and also mentions some areas where he feels improvement is needed. He concludes by stating what the GAA means to him.</p> <p>00:23 Liam details his background. Mentions being born in Cork, in Gortroe (between Youghal and Killagh). Describes life growing up in Gortroe. Mentions Red Barn Beach.</p> <p>01:26 Recalls history of GAA in the area. Mentions rivalry with Youghal. Mentions determination to form GAA club in the area.</p> <p>02:13 Discusses family history of involvement in Gaelic games. Mentions mother was an aunt of former GAA President Christy Cooney. Mentions an uncle, Paddy Cooney. Mentions 1969 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final against Kilkenny.</p>

	<p>03:25 Remembers his earliest memories of Gaelic games. Recalls listening to matches on the radio, mentions Micheál Ó hÉithir. Mentions Christy Ring, 1956 All-Ireland Hurling Final between Cork and Wexford. Mentions Art Foley, the Rackard brothers.</p> <p>04:48 Recounts his school days. Mentions Clann Chríost National School, Gortroe. Mentions teacher, Eoin Bermingham. Recalls playing hurling in school without hurleys, emulating Tony Doran and Michael “Babs” Keating. Mentions Kilkenny. Recalls buying a “hurling ball” with his confirmation money. Mentions economic circumstances of the time.</p> <p>06:22 Discusses interests he had other than Gaelic games, such as dancing. Mentions Red Barn and the acts that played there, such as The Dixielanders, Brendan Bowyer, Maurice Mulcahy, Mick Delahunty, Clipper Carlton, Johnny Butler.</p> <p>07:03 Recalls growing up in an era of “American Wakes” when uncles and aunts emigrated to America. Describes what would happen at the “wakes”. Mentions England and America.</p> <p>08:32 Discusses his playing career. Explains what he got out of his playing days. Surmises what the GAA brings to people's lives.</p> <p>09:46 Explains what role the GAA played in his life. Mentions point-to-points.</p> <p>10:22 Recalls travelling to matches in his younger days. Mentions cycling to matches, getting lifts in cars. Mentions his uncle Paddy Cooney and Castlemartyr; also Ted Sullivan, Liam Dowling, Dominic Barry, the Abernethys. Recalls how hurling was his only love.</p> <p>11:31 Recalls teams that he played with. Mentions Killagh in 1971 and winning the county championship, Gortroe, Ardmore in Waterford.</p> <p>12:17 Discusses the concept of the GAA and sense of place.</p> <p>13:34 Describes different feeling of playing for home place, Killagh, as opposed to playing for Youghal. Mentions Gortroe and St Itas.</p> <p>14:13 Recalls moving to Ardmore and transferring clubs. Mentions undertaking an administrative role with Naomh Deaglán Ard Mhór. He explains what motivated him to become involved with Ardmore. Mentions 1979 Junior Hurling</p>
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	<p>Championship win, as well as Dick Ducey from Toureen. Mentions Toureen beating Mount Sion in 1950 County Final, in which Pat Fanning and former Waterford captain and trainer John Keane played. Mentions Gortore and Killagh, and how he befriended Dick Ducey. Reveals new coaching concepts introduced by Dick Ducey. Mentions Midleton.</p> <p>17:49 Recalls reaction to hurling being introduced to Ardmore. Explains demographics of Waterford re Gaelic football and hurling. Mentions Christy Ring and his quote - "football is only for people who can't play hurling". Mentions Tyrone and Kerry. Mentions the "charisma" of Waterford huling and their style of play. Mentions the years 1957, 1959, 1963. Mentions Justin McCarthy, David Fitzgerald. Mentions 2002 and 2004.</p> <p>20:54 Discusses the challenges that hurling faces in West Waterford. Emphasises the role that schools play in Gaelic games. Mentions other sports – soccer and rugby. Speaks of sports competing for the hearts and minds of young players.</p> <p>22:45 Recalls how he transferred to Ardmore. Mentions role he undertook, and how the club financed the purchase of its own field. Mentions Paddy Buggy officiating at its opening in 1984.</p> <p>24:00 Details his administrative roles with Ardmore. Mentions Scór, strong in the area, including Dungarvan. Mentions Scór county final in the Lakelands, Galway in 1975. Recalls two busloads of supporters attending from Ardmore. Mentions Derry Gowen, instigator of Scór.</p> <p>26:45 Describes what he feels Scór brings to a GAA club. Explains the contribution it has made to the preservation of Irish culture. Assesses where Scór comes in the hierarchy of a GAA club. Discusses how it has attracted females to become involved in the GAA.</p> <p>29:59 Details his own specific interest in Scór, mentioning recitations. Mentions John Duggan, songwriter who wrote songs for Foster and Allen as well as Brendan Shine. Mentions song "The Greatest Game" regarding football. Describes collaborating with John Duggan on monologues.</p> <p>31:35 Describes how he sees the GAA as an expression of Irish identity and culture. Describes how reminiscing is a pastime of his. Mentions Ring and Mackey. Mentions culture of success with Kilkenny, Tipperary and Cork. Mentions players such as Jimmy Smyth, Joe Sammon of Galway, Gerry O'Malley of Roscommon, Sean Purcell of Galway,</p>
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	<p>Dermot Earley from Roscommon. Mentions Tony Browne, Ken McGrath, Paul Flynn.</p> <p>34:30 Recalls raising finance for St Declans Ardmore to purchase field. Mentions draws, greyhound races, raffles. Describe community's response to the fundraising initiative.</p> <p>36:42 Discusses the impact of economic downturn on St Declans.</p> <p>38:20 Discusses landmark changes that he has seen in the GAA. Mentions The Ban, opening Croke Park. Mentions former GAA President Pat Fanning and Congress in Belfast.</p> <p>39:21 Discusses amateurism and volunteerism in the GAA. Mentions finances in soccer in England and Ireland. Mentions rugby. Mentions the honour and glory of the club and parish.</p> <p>41:07 Discusses where his loyalties lie when his native Cork play his adopted home county of Waterford. Mentions 2010 Munster Championship match between Cork and Waterford in Thurles. Mentions nephew Ray Ryan of Sarsfields playing for Cork being marked by his friend Seamus Prendergast from Ardmore GAA club. Mentions nephew Pat Ryan playing with Sarsfields and winning Cork County Hurling Final.</p> <p>42:32 Discusses his happiest GAA memory. Mentions Willie Walsh from Youghal, Paddy Cooney, 1969 All-Ireland Final against Kilkenny, 1970 All-Ireland Final against Wexford. Mentions Dan Quigley of Wexford, Eddie O'Brien of Cork. Mentions 1970 Munster Final against Tipperary. Recalls growing up with Willie.</p> <p>44:04 Mentions improvements that could be made in the GAA. Discusses rules and regulations.</p> <p>46:43 Describes what the GAA means to him.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input 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>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for 18 years. Won East Cork Junior Hurling Championship in 1971 playing with Killeagh.</p>

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Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Trustee and Vice-President of St Declan's, Ardmore. Has held several roles in the club including Selector, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Financial Committee.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:47:06
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 18th July 2012