

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	10 th March 2011
Location	Loughlinisland GAC Clubhouse
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Vincent McGlen
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1945 Home County: Down
Education	Primary: Loughlinisland PS, Secondary: St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: Wife, 2 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Loughlinisland GAC [Down]
Occupation	Quantity Surveyor
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DN/1/9

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eamonn O'Toole
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Down
Education	Primary: Loughlinisland PS Secondary: St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters and 1 brother Current Family if Different: Wife & 6 children
Club(s)	Loughlinisland GAC [Down]
Occupation	Retired Civil Servant
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DN/1/9

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Hugh McNamara
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1928 Home County: Down
Education	Primary: Loughlinisland PS Secondary: St Patrick's, Downpatrick Third Level: Queen's University; St Mary's Teaching College
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters & 2 sons
Club(s)	Loughlinisland GAC [Down]; Newry Shamrocks [Down]
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Teacher [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Warrenpoint Gold Club

REFERENCE NO. DN/1/9

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Donal Gordan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Down
Education	Primary: St McCartan's Secondary: Down College
Family	Siblings: 2 siblings Current Family if Different: Wife & 2 sons
Club(s)	Loughlinisland GAC [Down]
Occupation	Retired Secretary of Northern Ireland Juvenile Justice Board
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	None

REFERENCE NO. DN/1/9

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gerry Toman
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1948 Home County: Down
Education	Primary: Loughlinisland PS Secondary: Downpatrick Technical College Third Level: UK Fire College
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters & 1 brother Current Family if Different: Wife, 2 sons & 2 daughters
Club(s)	Loughlinisland GAC [Down]
Occupation	Retired Fire Officer
Parents' Occupation	General Labourer [Father]; School Caretaker [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	SDLP
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	None

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Date of Report	25 th July 2012
Period Covered	1906 - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Down, Antrim, Armagh, Fermanagh, Dublin, Cork, Kerry, England, Great Britain, USA, Americas, New Zealand, Australasia
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Role of Clergy, 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, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsiders' Perspectives, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Members of Loughinisland GAC, Co. Down, discuss their involvement in the GAA. They outline the history of the club, with particular reference to the rise of ladies football since the 90s, representation of Loughinisland players on the Down football team, and recent efforts to revive an athletics club in the parish. They also describe the positive impact of purchasing a pitch in 1972 on the club. In addition, the members present reflect on the positive and negative impact of The Troubles on their club. They discuss the 1994 Loughinisland Massacre, in which 6 civilians were killed by UVF members, and they consider the role of the GAA club in the community in providing a non-violent outlet for the expression of emotion. Furthermore, they ponder the difference between GAA clubs in the North and the South and their views on the lifting of various bans by the organisation.</p> <p>00:53 Discussion about the founding of the club. Donal describes games played before start of informal team in 1906. Playing in such fields as The Scrog. No committees then, no facilities. Growth of club. Green and white jersey. Called The Shamrocks. Decline of club due to lack of players, small parish. Hugh mentions hurling teams in the 1940s. Recalls playing with Donal's father. Outlines dimensions of old pitch, Scrog. In college in Belfast. Mentions McMahan, who fought</p>

	<p>in the 1916 Rising and hurled in the Tailteann Games in New York. McMahon training Hugh in Falls Park in Belfast.</p> <p>04:20 Discussion of camogie team at that time. Mentions Pat Murtagh and Alec Garragh.</p> <p>04:35 Reports of hurling in 1890s. Mentions John Dole. Also mentions Fr. Tully's involvement in hurling in parish. Dominance of hurling in the Ards peninsula. Description of emergence of dominant clubs in 50s and 60s. Also strength of hurling team in Newry, Faugh an Ballagh.</p> <p>06:35 Discussion of dominance of athletics in that time. Stronger athletics than football teams. Loughinisland players playing football for other teams, for example, Gerry playing for Ballinahinch. Description of different events at athletic meetings. Also mentions tradition of cycling races. Mentions Molly Creanny, Pat Toman, the Valentines. Also road racing. Mentions Ned McNamara. Recent reforming of local athletic club, Donal's brother's involvement.</p> <p>10:18 McMullans family: girls playing camogie, boys playing hurling. Mentions Raymond McMullan and Paddy Murray. McMullan playing with a whin root.</p> <p>11:24 Mentions footballer Traynor who played for county team, despite lack of success of football. First county representative in 1915/1916. Mentions Paddy Traynor. Also mentions county footballer Barney Traynor. Scutchers by trade.</p> <p>13:42 Discussion about how club was conceived. Meeting of men at The Stick, local crossroads. Mentions Danny Rooney and Paddy Murray. Rise and fall of the club's fortunes. Strong at junior and intermediate levels. Mentions Michael Madine's uncle, Bobby "The Bishop" Madine, starting team in the 1940s. Also mentions Dan Lavery.</p> <p>16:03 Hughie recalls playing on the 1940s team aged 16. During Second World War. Shortage of petrol. Cycling all over county to football matches. His brothers cycling to Dundalk. Little training. Occasionally hiring taxis driven by the Connollys from Downpatrick. Recounts story of one taxi breaking down, all 15 players travelling in other taxi. Also recalls travelling by cattle lorry. Mentions Pat Mullen.</p> <p>19:03 Collapse of 1940s team. Mentions Dan Lavery and Pat McCreanor. Players from different surrounding towns. Also mentions Noel McCarthy. Dan Lavery playing for county, province, and soccer for Glasgow Celtic. Explanation of origin</p>
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	<p>of Bobby Madine's nickname. Reforming of team.</p> <p>22: Description of Loughinisland winning the county minor championship in 1951. Start of success of club. Mentions Mick McCabe. Winning junior championship twice in 50s. Mentions footballers of the 50s team: Joe McGrath, John Oprey, Jim Smith, Tony Oprey.</p> <p>25:45 Playing in Maguires bog. Mentions Dr Walsh. Structure forming in club in 60s. Gerry McNamara starting schoolboy team. Mentions Johnny McMullan, Pat Foy, Paddy Heaney, John McGrath. Initial lack of success, followed by success after training at Under-16 level. Age range of players.</p> <p>28:36 Gerry McNamara's contribution to coaching in Loughinisland Primary School. Buying Rowntrees Fruit Pastilles from local shop, where notice of players was. The contribution of Eamon and Vincent to formation of committee structure of club in mid-60s. Assuming roles of chairmen and secretaries.</p> <p>31:09 Mentions Dessie Mason and Pat Houghnane. Importance of looking after underage players. Winning East Down League in 1968. Progressing into A-League in 1971 for a couple of decades. Mentions Nick Rogers, Dessie Mason, Danny Rogers on county teams. Discussion of representation of club on county team over the years. Mentions Gerry McCashin, James Fitzpatrick, Gary Mason, Brendan Mason. Also mentions Colm Mason, Sean Brennan. Population of parish.</p> <p>35:37 Discussion about employment in area. Farm labourers, teachers, construction workers. Working in mill in the past. Mentions Danny Madine. Lack of impact of emigration on club. Loyalty of club members. Winning championship in 1975, celebrating in The Traveller's Friend. Mentions Donard King, Jordie McKinney, Mickey Lavery. Donard King the club solicitor. His contribution to 1989 winning team.</p> <p>39:06 Rise of players who had been educated at third level from mid-1950s. Returning to play. Mentions Glen Pherson, Quinns. Mentions families who benefitted from free second level education. De La Salle Brothers' promotion of Gaelic games in St. Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick. Mentions Kevin Flynn. Opening in 1934, Welshman in charge, cricket and rugby played. Mentions Brother Augustine's skill at football. Recollections of cycling races at athletics meetings. Recounts story of incident in Brannigan's meadow: stage collapsing during magic show. Also story of violence at a challenge match between Down and Antrim players. Mentions</p>
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	<p>Harry Doherty.</p> <p>49:00 Description of the Land League. Naming of Liberty Hall after Liberty Hall in Dublin. Crossover between GAA and Gaelic League. Recollections of playing in fields which animals grazed on. Recounting story about player hitting referee in face with cow dung.</p> <p>52:27 Discussion about refusal of referees to referee games between Ballykinlar and Loughinisland. Intense rivalry since previous generations. Mentions Ned Carr. Referees' fears of violence against them. Playing in Magees' meadow. Mentions Tommy McAleer, Liam Murphy. Mentions county players James McCartan and his brother Dan.</p> <p>56:40 Discussion about fields. Ballykinlar allowing Loughinisland to use their pitch when Loughinisland progressed to senior in 60s and 70s. Mentions Seán McGoey. Purchasing three fields in 1972. First match in late 70s. Mentions Eugene Savage in charge of construction. Building dressing rooms. Mentions Jimmy Valentine. Official opening in August 1979: Offaly footballers and Antrim hurlers playing. Mentions Offaly chairman John Dowling in attendance, also James and Dan McCartan.</p> <p>01:00:40 Description of fundraising efforts: savings in bank. Willie McIlly Silver Circle. Mentions Pat Murtagh, Tom and Molly McIlly, Tom Toman collecting. Also sponsored walk. Mentions Michael Madine's father, Danny. Scant funds from grants then.</p> <p>01:05:16 Reflections on the impact on club of having its own pitch. Positive. Recollections of playing in old pitches. Mentions Pat Toman removing dung from pitch with wheelbarrow before match. Also mentions John Madine, Jimmy Doran, Tom Rogan.</p> <p>01:07:52 Discussion about demolition of clubhouse. Decision taken due to lack of facilities for women. Unanimous decision. Voluntary labour building the facilities. Using incentive Gift Aid so donors could claim tax back. Funding from Sports Lotto.</p> <p>01:11:34 Reflection on the role of the club in the community. Mention of the Loughinisland Massacre, the club functioning as a non-violent outlet in which people could express their feelings. O'Tooles' bar the site of the massacre. Explanation of the 1994 massacre, in which 6 civilians were shot dead by UVF men watching Ireland play a soccer match. Mentions Brian McIlly, Close-knit community. Predominantly Catholic area. Openness of club, welcoming to all backgrounds. Vital</p>
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	<p>role of club in community. Mentions Sean Duignan collecting for club lotto. Lotto contributors living in New Zealand, Boston, etc. Newcomers to parish contributing to club. Mentions Benny Corrigan, John Nugent , Aaron McKeown, Angela Fitzpatrick.</p> <p>01:19:20 Discussion about advantages and disadvantages of having players on county team. Loss of strong players, but gain in knowledge about diet, body-building. County players attracting young players to club. Mentions Donal's son Dan. Mentions Brendan "Bundy", Gary, and Colm Mason, who also played for Down. Also Alan Molloy and Dan Gordon. Excitement of watching Loughinisland players on county team.</p> <p>01:22:59 Description of relationship with county board. Eamon elected chairman of county board in 1999, the first one to serve an extended stint. Eamon recalls his efforts to fundraise. Mentions Pete McNamara and Fr. Watson in the past on county boards. Also mentions Paddy Murray. Eamon reflects on his views on criticism of the county board. The club's outward thinking. Mentions Morris Fay.</p> <p>01:29:35 Discussion of professional organisation of clubs. Paying certain roles. Mentions Ger Cullen and Ambrose Rogers. Importance of legislation now.</p> <p>01:33:25 Reflection on club's response to the GAA's lifting of various bans. Agreement with county line. No major split in club. Mention of attending Ireland vs. England match in Croke Park: fervour of national anthem being sung. Also attending rugby match in Croke Park. Background of family internment in Ballykinlar.</p> <p>01:36:56 Disqualification of certain GAA clubs from funding available to other sports in Northern Ireland. Rule 27. Part funding from lotto. Views on the rule.</p> <p>01:39:51 Discussion about lack of understanding in the South about place of GAA clubs in the North. Impact of The Troubles on Northern clubs. Attitude towards Southern nationalist sentiment. Positive impact of The Troubles on GAA clubs in the North: boosting enthusiasm for Gaelic games. Fighting spirit on 1960 winning Down football team. Description of army presence on Crossmaglen pitch, positive impact on skill levels of Crossmaglen team. British Army taking over stand on Casement Park. Recounting story about Protestant girl attending All-Ireland final, mistaking Sam Maguire for a Republican terrorist.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. DN/1/9

	<p>01:48:57 Discussion about Scór participation. Mentions Colleen Russell, Ursula Oprey. Mentions Tom Mulholland, East Down chairman in 1960s, his enthusiasm for quizzes, introducing social dimension to clubs. Also mentions Emmet Harte.</p> <p>01:51:38 Description of ladies football in club. 10 teams. Successes. Initial challenges: overcoming male-dominated environment, opposition from some men. Starting in the 90s. Mentions Helen Rice. Junior teams winning four county titles. Also mentions Elaine Oprey. Importance of women in club. Mentions Lorraine Colgan. Ladies football teams coached and refereed by women.</p> <p>01:55:54 Efforts to reform an athletics club. Arts Council funding. Music, dancing, art events, inclusivity of club. Hiring club to different groups of people.</p> <p>01:57:26 Mentions Gerry's role in improving club. Current chairman. Mentions Evan Putts attending Gaelic match in Newry. Also mentions rugby player Trevor Ringland and Harvey Bicker, both Unionist supporters of the GAA.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Vincent:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <hr/> <p>Eamonn:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <hr/> <p>Hugh:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p>

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	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Donal:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Gerry:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input 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>Vincent: Played for 20 years, won U18 Ulster Championship and championships</p> <p>Eamonn: 2 Down SF Championships</p> <p>Hugh: Played Football with Loughlinisland 1944-55; played with Newry Shamrocks, 1958-61</p> <p>Donal: Played with Loughlinisland for 27 years, won 1 championship and 4 leagues; played with Down for 6 years, won one Ulster Championship and 1 McKenna Cup</p> <p>Gerry: Senior League and Championship medals playing with Loughlinisland</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Vincent: Club secretary for 25 years; Club chairman for 2 years</p> <p>Eamonn: Club secretary (3 years); Club chairman (15 years); East Down Board chairman; Loughlinisland delegate to Down County Board; Down representative to Ulster Council (4 years); County development officer (10 years); County vice-chairperson (3 years), county chairman (5 years)</p> <p>Hugh: Loughlinisland club chairman, 1950-58; Secretary of East Down League, 1950-58</p> <p>Donal: Loughlinisland Vice-Chairman (2 years); Treasurer (2 years); Committee member (8 years)</p>

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	Gerry: Loughlinisland committee member (30 years); Club development officer (7 years); Chairperson (6 years).
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:00:40
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: 25th July 2012