

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	28 th Oct 2008
Location	Michael Cusack Centre, Carron, Co. Clare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Elizabeth Flynn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1983 Home County: Galway
Education	Primary: Drim NS, Moyglass, Co. Galway and Ballinakill NS, Co. Galway Secondary: Mercy College, Woodford Third Level: Waterford Institute of Technology
Family	Siblings: 1 sister and 4 brothers
Club(s)	Davitts Camogie Club
Occupation	Manager Michael Cusack Centre
Parents' Occupation	Nurses Aid; Farmer and construction worker
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A

REFERENCE NO. GY/1/2

Date of Report	26 th Nov 2008
Period Covered	1990 – 2008
Counties/Countries Covered	Galway, Waterford, Clare, Cork
Key Themes Covered	Role of the Club in the Community, Family Involvement, Celebrations, Rivalries, Coaching, Administration, Playing, Education, Alcohol, Identity, Irish language
Interview Summary	<p>Liz has been involved in GAA since she was a child. She has played at every level from club to county including third level with Waterford Institute of Technology. She has won a range of title's at county and national level and has played on the County Galway Senior panel. In addition to her training and coaching, she is highly involved in the administrative side of Camogie and is currently the Secretary of the third level CCAO. She talks mainly about the role of the GAA in her life and in her community, role models, rivalries and local celebrations.</p> <p>0.00 Introduction</p> <p>0.38 Involved since she was 7 or eight. When she started school she started playing with the boys and girls team. She played hurling and football with the boy's team. Her first real involvement was at 12 when she joined the local Camogie team.</p> <p>1.12 There was no football team locally.</p> <p>1.21 Her father trained them.</p> <p>1.28 She has a sister and 4 brothers, but her sister only ever played U-10, she wasn't great at it and didn't enjoy it. Her brother Alan quit after minor; Paul played with Tommy Larkin's club, at minor, at U-21, and was on the Senior panel with Galway; Michael still plays Junior C; John who's 14 plays as well.</p> <p>2.50 Her fathers and uncles played at school</p> <p>3.08 Her earliest memory is her father and another neighbour training her and the boys at the pitch after school.</p> <p>3.35 There was no other girl involved. Only 2 other girls in the class, so a lot of the time it was just her. She moved to a second national school where there were more girls who played.</p> <p>4.09 She lists her various roles in Camogie.</p> <p>4.16 She played U-12 with her local club, U-14, U-16 (which was minor then). She played in the Junior All-Ireland in 2003,</p>

	<p>Intermediate All-Ireland in 2004 and Senior 2004 and 2007.</p> <p>5.13 She is involved in third level camogie as Secretary of the CCAO.</p> <p>5.30 Played with fresher and Ashbourne teams at college in Waterford IT.</p> <p>5.50 She immediately became involved in the committee and was secretary and chairperson of the Camogie club.</p> <p>6.10 She received a third level scholarship for Camogie, the first time it was offered in Ireland.</p> <p>6.22 She was asked to get involved on the third level committee after college and for her 'sins' she did.</p> <p>6.30 Its challenging to maintain such a level of involvement. When she left college it wasn't so bad, she was working part-time in a gym and then had coaching in the evening so she was hurling all the time, now she needs to get out of work by 5 / 5.30 at the latest to make training. She's gone 6 or 7 days a week.</p> <p>7.20 It's a huge commitment playing at inter-county level. She says its not that they were on a drinking ban, but she wouldn't be drinking or going out.</p> <p>7.42 The way she was brought up means that she wouldn't go out on a Friday night if she was training on a Saturday morning. It something she's always done.</p> <p>8.01 You can only play at the highest level for a few years, then you have the rest of your life. You have the winter to go out.</p> <p>8.25 Its phenomenal the amount of people's she met from all over – the North, Waterford, Dublin, Cork.</p> <p>8.45 All she wanted to do was play with Galway.</p> <p>8.50 Her biggest achievements are winning an All-Ireland Junior in 2003 and an Inter-mediate the following year and playing on the senior team in 2004.</p> <p>9.18 Her club has been one of the most successful in the county, they contested 8 or 9 finals in ten years and one three (maybe four) in a row.</p> <p>9.45 Being successful 'probably helped keep my interest as well'.</p> <p>10.00 Losing to Cork in All-Ireland this year was one of her biggest disappointments. Last time the team won was and only one player and one sub were still there.</p> <p>10.40 It's a huge achievement to get that far and it gives them hope for next year.</p>
--	---

	<p>11.04 Camogie club plays a huge role in the community. Club tried to get her involved from an early stage. There's a great community feeling.</p> <p>11.30 Our club has a pick of a few different areas.</p> <p>11.54 When things go wrong the club is there to pick things up.</p> <p>12.31 Biggest change is the amount of girls who drop out. The whole culture is changing. 'Culture has an impact as opposed to just the community'.</p> <p>13.05 Girls are drinking at a younger age; culture is very different to now. Previously girls were dropping out at 14, 15, 16, but now its 12, 13, 14. The whole culture has changed.</p> <p>13.45 Drink culture is a problem, she knows girls who were drinking since they were 14.</p> <p>14.06 Maybe in a rural area it doesn't effect it as much, 'but within ... large towns Camogie in my own opinion struggles in some ways to keep alive'. Girls are wearing make-up at 13 and 14 to discos and into school now.</p> <p>14.50 Her hero when she was growing up was Gerry McInerney, the Galway hurler, but at different points in her life different people inspired her. Her national school teacher Desmond Donnelly. 'Definitely, without a shadow of a doubt I don't even know that I'd be playing now only for him.' Great ethos within the school.</p> <p>15.40 Huge amount to be said for primary teachers carrying on an ethos of sport and fairness.</p> <p>16.00 When she was training with senior team, Caitriona Finnegan was another person she admired. At different stages of her life it's been different people.</p> <p>16.40 'Its always the team that's winning the county final that you say are your biggest rivals'. Pearse's Camogie club are one of their biggest rivals as they beat them in three county finals in a row by a point and won club All-Ireland. Davitt's beat them three times comprehensively enough, in two of them anyway, but never won an All-Ireland.</p> <p>17.20 Athenry are now club of form so they are now rivals, but it has been Pearse's over the years.</p> <p>17.50 At Inter-County level Cork because they beat us. At that level there is no team that you are definitely going to win or lose against. Kilkenny were bogey team this year as they were the only team that had beaten them at all in league or group stages of championship.</p> <p>18.40 'Healthy rivalry is always good' Makes games more exciting.</p>
--	---

REFERENCE NO. GY/1/2

	<p>19.15 Women are getting more recognition as players and administrators.</p> <p>19.30 Camogie na nGael are making huge strides to put the image of Camogie out there in a better light than maybe ten years ago.</p> <p>20.10 Irish has a useful place, but because you're not speaking Irish everyday it's not reflected in society. They run bi-lingual tours at Cusack Centre during Seactain na Gaeilge.</p> <p>21.05 Cusack himself was a great Irish speaker.</p> <p>21.43 The club has an important role in the community. There was a tragic death in her community recently, and it was amazing the work that Tommy Larkin's GAA club did. GAA has a huge role to play in communities. She's just realising that now. 'The GAA has a huge role to play in communities ... sometimes when something goes wrong in a community it can often be ... the local GAA club that will ... pick things up and ... carry people forward.'</p> <p>22.45 Local celebrations include the boys and girls going to local pub and all round the community you see the bonfires – illegal and all as they are meant to be now and there'll be a tour done regardless of whether it's the U-10, Intermediates or Seniors and 'there'll be a bonfire at the end of every road'.</p> <p>23.20 The community will rally behind the local team, the lads or the girls go out and the community will be out there celebrating with them.</p> <p>23.30 When Tommy Larkins went from Intermediate to Senior they went to the club Intermediate All-Ireland Final. Meant so much to them because they were playing since they were knee-high to a grasshopper, but it meant so much to the community to. There were people who weren't involved now, but were involved ten years ago and there was a great family feel locally.</p> <p>24.20 GAA has been a huge part of my life. 'If I hadn't the GAA I'm not sure what my interest would be because literally sport is my interest, but GAA is my absolute love'.</p> <p>24.40 If she wasn't playing herself she'd probably be at more games.</p> <p>24.50 'Most of my friends I've known them because of the GAA through Camogie or through hurling or through football. Whether it's locally or at inter-county level or even at third level the amount of people I've got to know is just phenomenal ... it's a huge part of my life and I suppose it always will be.'</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</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>

REFERENCE NO. GY/1/2

	<input checked="" 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)	Liz has won a series of titles: A Féile U-14, an U-16, 5 U-18s, a Junior Club, 4 Senior Club, a Pan-Celtic and several Kilmacud 7-A-Side's. At County Level she has won: an U-14 Galway, an U-16 (then Minor), Junior Connacht, Junior League and Junior All-Ireland's in 2003, and an Intermediate All-Ireland in 2004. She played senior for Galway in 2004 and won two leagues and two Gael Linn Inter-provincials. She was a member of the Senior panel which made it to the All-Ireland in 2004, and were beaten by Cork. She also played in Fresher and Ashbourne cup tournaments with Waterford Institute of Technology.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Chairperson, Secretary and PRO of WIT Camogie Club – 1 year each; Co-manager of fresher team WIT – 1 year; Co-manager of the Division 2 team – 1 year; Coach: Involved in summer camps for years, coached in schools for a year and a half after leaving college and has been involved in Camogie Development Squads at U-13 and U-15; Secretary of the third level CCAO – 3 years out of a 4 year term in 2008.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 25min 14sec
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

REFERENCE NO. GY/1/2

the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: ___Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____26/11/08_____