

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Julian O'Donoghue
Date of Interview	13 th Dec 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Blarney, Co. Cork
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimmy Duggan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1939 Home County: Cork
Education	Primary: Waterloo NS Secondary: The North Monastery, Cork
Family	Siblings: 1 sister
Club(s)	Blarney Hurling and Football Club [Cork]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	Train driver with CIE [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	13 th Dec 2011
Period Covered	1945-2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Cork
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Politics, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Jimmy Duggan opens the interview with a story about attending a game in Blarney in the 1940s. He discusses his early memories of the GAA which included travelling to All-Ireland finals, using the same railway lines on which his father worked until his death in 1955. Duggan talks about Gaelic games in the primary and secondary schools he attended and comments on the organisation of underage activity in Blarney in the 1950s, and its concentration around the village. Duggan sheds light on some of the major changes since then, highlighting, for instance, the importance of tournaments in the 1940s and 50s, and parish leagues from the late 1950s. Road bowling is also mentioned as a popular local sport, and one which involves many members of the Blarney GAA community.</p> <p>In addition, Duggan addresses developments in the wider society - in particular the pre-eminence of the mill and the social dynamics around it – impacted upon the GAA. He touches too on issues of politics and the role of clergy and women in the local GAA. Finally, he discusses the administrative roles he has held within the Blarney club, in particular that of PRO. He talks about what the role involves and considers the treatment that Gaelic games receive in the local and national media.</p> <p>00:12:35 Discusses Harty Cup games, the trainloads of supporters that attended, the use of Buttevant as a venue.</p> <p>00:13:09 Talks about the lack of underage in Blarney GAA, the lack of transport, the concentration of the GAA in Blarney around the village. Describes the playing and administrative population of the club as ‘confined’.</p> <p>00:14:33 Recalls the informal games that were organised by</p>

	<p>the children in the area and the lack of travel for organised fixtures.</p> <p>00:15:12 Remarks on the 'massive improvement' in the GAA organisation in Blarney. Discusses the importance of the street leagues in the late 1950s, bringing people in from the 'perimeters'.</p> <p>00:16:30 Discusses changes in communications, lack of telephones or cars in the 1950s. Mentions travelling to a junior hurling game in the back of a truck.</p> <p>00:17:30 Mentions the rivalry between Blarney and surrounding areas through working in the mill and marriage connections.</p> <p>00:17:45 Explains why he didn't play junior with reference to the void in the club following the 1940s and 50s.</p> <p>00:18:15 Refers to Coachford as the centre of mid-Cork and lists other clubs in the region.</p> <p>00:18:38 Talks about the popularity of tournament and inter-firms competitions.</p> <p>00:18:55 Discusses grounds and facilities in the 1940s and 50s.</p> <p>00:19:40 Returns to the important role of parish leagues in late 1950s.</p> <p>00:19:55 Refers to closure of mill in 1970, the damage to Blarney and the strength of the people's response. Talks about people working in different jobs (Pfizer, for example), in different areas, meeting different people and how this impacted on the Blarney GAA.</p> <p>00:21:30 Comments on the social dynamics of the woollen mills and how this impacted on the GAA.</p> <p>00:22:30 Remarks that the GAA expanded with Blarney. Remarks on serving as Treasurer of the club and other officer been drawn from a range of counties.</p> <p>00:23:53 Discusses volunteerism and why people commit their time: comments on comparisons with athletics and cycling, affluence, move to 5 day week, background.</p> <p>00:25:02 Discusses the popularity of road bowling in the Blarney area. Refers to the Madden family from 'the Groves' and that some people combined bowls with Gaelic games.</p>
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	<p>Refers also to bowls in Wexford and Armagh.</p> <p>00:26:13 Comments on the holding of bowling tournament as fundraisers for the GAA.</p> <p>00:26:44 Talks about the contribution of the social dimension to GAA activities: mentions, for instance, a long-running card game associated with the club.</p> <p>00:27:45 Discusses his 7 years as Treasurer (c.1998-2004), the fundraising initiatives that were undertaken.</p> <p>00:28:40 Remarks on attending seminars as Treasurer, the importance of trust and of acquiring a second opinion.</p> <p>00:30:00 Talks about the opening of Croke Park and his admiration for Sean Kelly – ‘a man of vision’. Talks also of his admiration for Christy Kelleher in Blarney and what he did for the GAA in the village.</p> <p>00:31:30 Talks about ‘The Level’ – a ground rented from Joe Cremin.</p> <p>00:32:08 Disappointment: Discusses recent loss of status as a senior club.</p> <p>00:33:00 Considers the role of the church in the GAA – reflects on the influence of Fr. O’Neill on the GAA in Blarney, acting as chairman in the 1930s. Comments on the value of priests in the parish having and interest in the GAA and comments on those who came to the parish without it. Describes the GAA in 2011 as ‘self sufficient’.</p> <p>00:34:50 GAA and politics: comments on the various political affiliations of Blarney GAA members, the ‘coldness’ that might set in around elections and the belief that the club was ‘above politics’.</p> <p>00:36:06 Discusses the growing role of women in the local GAA – reflects on a revival of camogie over the previous 20 years and the increased involvement of women within the club.</p> <p>00:37:17 Response to an observation from interviewer Julian O’Donoghue that no women had been in attendance at recent club AGM.</p> <p>00:37:43 Talks about raising finance for a club trip to Manchester over a St. Patrick’s weekend in 2000.</p> <p>[Interruption as tea is delivered to interviewer and</p>
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	<p>interviewee]</p> <p>00:38:48 Discusses his first administrative role in the club as registrar, how it came about and what it involved. Compares what was collected in registration dues in the past and present.</p> <p>00:41:46 Progression to role of PRO – writing reports, photographs. Tells story of doctoring photograph to insert an injured player into a team photograph.</p> <p>00:43:25 Talks about the help he received from Pat Kelleher, son of Christy Kelleher.</p> <p>00:44:30 Talks about others who assisted him in his PRO role, the production of a monthly newsletter and the reporting of matches. Talks about attending seminars about dealing with the media.</p> <p>00:47:43 Discusses the importance of developing a relationship with local media and comments on the quality of coverage Blarney received during their all-Ireland run.</p> <p>00:49:36 Describes himself as happy with coverage Blarney receives from Cork media.</p> <p>00:50:09 Considers the challenges facing the GAA: stresses the need to be more supportive of players and comments on the importance of insurance.</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</p> <p><input 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>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Treasurer, Registrar, PRO</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview 00:51:00
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Julian O'Donoghue

Date: 13th Dec 2011