

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	15 th Nov 2010
Location	John's home, near Ballymurn, Co. Wexford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Doyle
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Ballymurn NS. Co. Wexford Secondary: Enniscorthy Vocational School, Co. Wexford
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 5 sisters
Club(s)	Crossabeg – Ballymurn GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Retired Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Doyle
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1954 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Ballymurn NS. Co. Wexford Secondary: Enniscorthy Vocational School, Co. Wexford.
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 5 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife (Catherine) & 3 children
Club(s)	Crossabeg – Ballymurn GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Retired Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	22 nd August 2012
Period Covered	1930s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Kilkenny
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Religion, Emigration, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>John and Michael Doyle discuss their involvement in the GAA in Ballymurn. They recall their earliest memories, and talk about their family's involvement in the Association. They recall the history of hurling in the area, and recall the amalgamation of Crossabeg and Ballymurn in 1966. Michael discusses the purchase of the club's own pitch, and recalls fundraising efforts undertaken by the club. They recall anecdotes concerning their uncles and father, and compare hurling in their own playing days with the modern version of the game. They recall their GAA heroes, discuss their sisters' camogie careers, and talk about tradition in the GAA. Both recall their administrative careers in the GAA. Michael talks about the positive role that the GAA plays in communities. Michael concludes by discussing various issues in the GAA such as professionalism and the organisational structure of the Association in Wexford. He also explains what the GAA means to him.</p> <p>00:30 Michael recalls growing up in Ballylucas, Co Wexford. Mentions parents' background. Recalls father fixing hurleys.</p> <p>01:38 They mention uncle, James Doyle, who played for Wexford. Recall his appearance on the BBC demonstrating the art of hurling.</p> <p>02:48 Michael recalls uncles hurling for Ballymurn – Larry, Phil, Jim and his father Mick.</p> <p>03:10 Michael recalls the Echo Shield competition. Mentions Mick Cummins.</p> <p>03:29 Michael discusses family involvement in GAA. Mentions niece Kate Kelly and his sisters Peggy Kelly and</p>

	<p>Mary Sheehan.</p> <p>04:16 They discuss the history of the GAA in the area. Mention Crossabeg and Ballymurn. They recalls anniversary match against Ballyduff to mark centenary of All-Ireland contest in 1890s.</p> <p>06:05 Michael recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. Mentions Paudie Horan.</p> <p>06:30 They recall the amalgamation of Crossabeg and Ballymurn in 1966. They mention Tom Dixon, Michael Sinnott and Sean McDonnell.</p> <p>09:05 Michael recalls intermediate county final defeat to Gorey in 1975. Mentions Sean Kinsella.</p> <p>09:36 They discuss the club's rivals. Mention Blackwater, Shelmaliers, Glynn-Bartown, St Martins, St Fintans and Na Fianna.</p> <p>10:23 Michael recalls hurling when growing up. Mentions economic circumstances.</p> <p>10:56 Michael discusses Gaelic football in the club.</p> <p>11:27 John recalls playing hurling and Gaelic football growing up. He recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. Recalls going to Wexford Park on a horse and cart with his uncle Larry Doyle.</p> <p>12:35 Michael discusses the role of the club in the parish.</p> <p>13:24 Michael recalls local fields used by the club. Mentions Mickey Grannell's field as well as Eoin Kavanagh's, Michael Cullinan's, Scallion's, Larry Doyle's and Barlow's fields. In Crossabeg there was Michael Sinnott's field, Foley's field and Carthy's field.</p> <p>14:13 Michael recalls the purchase of the club's pitch in 1979. Mentions Ballysilla and John and Mary Anne Sunderland. Also mentions Michael Sinnott, his brother John Doyle, Sean McDonnell and Padraic Moran. John recalls the field was bought before it went to auction.</p> <p>15:57 They recall fundraising for the club.</p> <p>16:22 Michael recalls the development of the club's pitch. Mentions Gerry Cowman and his contribution. Recalls Gerry dying on the field of play. Michael recalls amalgamating with Oylegate for underage hurling.</p>
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	<p>18:28 Michael discusses fundraising for the club.</p> <p>19:26 Michael talks about membership of the club.</p> <p>20:42 Michael discusses the GAA and the Church in the parish. Mentions Fr Eugene McCoy from Enniscorthy.</p> <p>21:40 They discuss the GAA in the local school. Mention Nicky Rackard League and Johnny Murphy. They recall hurling in their school days. Mention Enniscorthy Vocational School, St Peter's College and the CBS.</p> <p>24:09 They discuss playing equipment in their playing days. John mentions their uncle Larry, recalls second-hand boots from Johnny Hore's store.</p> <p>25:09 Michael recalls story concerning his father Mick and uncle Phil.</p> <p>26:01 They discuss their uncle Jim Doyle. Mention him playing with Faughs and Dublin. John recalls medal he has of an uncle Martin Furlong.</p> <p>27:43 Michael recalls teams he played on. Discusses style of play. Recalls injury he received in a match.</p> <p>29:37 They discuss training in their playing days.</p> <p>31:05 Michael compares modern game of hurling with their own playing days.</p> <p>32:11 Michael discusses his GAA heroes when growing up. Mentions Tony Doran, Colm Doran, Jack Berry, Willie Murphy, Pat Nolan, Eddie Kelly and Mick Jacob.</p> <p>32:45 John recalls Wexford team of 1950s. Recalls travelling to Croke Park. Mentions the Rackards, Jim English, Ned Wheeler, Jim Morrissey, Mick O'Donnell and Mark Foley.</p> <p>34:29 Michael mentions homecoming of Wexford 1968 camogie All-Ireland winning team.</p> <p>34:48 Michael discusses his sisters' camogie career. Mentions Oylegate, Seamus Keelans and St Ivors. Recalls father dying at camogie match. Recalls 1968 and 1969 camogie All-Ireland finals.</p> <p>37:09 Michael discusses camogie community in the 1960s.</p> <p>37:42 Michael discusses tradition of the GAA being passed down through the generations. Mentions Henry Shefflin, Brian Cody and Keith Rossiter and niece Kate.</p>
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	<p>40:50 Michael recalls his administrative career with the club. Recalls becoming youngest chairman of the club.</p> <p>42:45 Michael describes the impact of success on a club.</p> <p>43:40 John discusses his administrative career with the club. Michael recalls where meetings were held, mentions Ballymurn Hall and Crossabeg. John describes the changes he as seen in the financial management of clubs.</p> <p>45:14 They recall the key developments they have seen in the club. Michael mentions opening of club's new pitch, recalls Ballyduff from Kerry playing in match to mark opening.</p> <p>46:26 Michael discusses club sponsorship, mentions local pub The Anvil.</p> <p>46:55 Michael discusses membership numbers in the club. Mentions female participation in the club. Talks about ladies football, mentions Oylegate-Glenbrien. Discusses facilities at the club.</p> <p>48:49 Michael talks about the man sources of employment in the area.</p> <p>49:22 Michael describes the effects of emigration on the club. Recalls the effect of the Celtic Tiger on the GAA.</p> <p>50:41 Michael discusses the drinking culture in the GAA.</p> <p>51:54 Michael recalls difficult circumstances when he was chairman.</p> <p>53:14 Michael debates the hardest part of GAA administration.</p> <p>54:10 Michael discusses professionalism in the GAA. Mentions inter-county player who sought payment for presentation of medals, comparing to DJ Carey doing it for nothing. Mentions Johnny Murphy.</p> <p>56:28 Michael discusses the ethos of volunteerism in the GAA.</p> <p>57:03 Michael discusses the change in expectations of players regarding the way they are treated.</p> <p>58:46 Michael recalls training teams.</p> <p>1:00:06 Michael recalls effect of GAA commitments on family life.</p> <p>1:00:38 Michael discusses what he has enjoyed most from</p>
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	<p>the GAA, mentions the camaraderie experienced. Mentions Shelmaliers. Also mentions Mickey Laffan of Barntown. Mentions lack of segregation in Croke Park for matches. John also recalls what he has enjoyed most in the GAA.</p> <p>1:06:18 Michael recalls social element to the GAA.</p> <p>1:06:47 Michael discusses the GAA as an expression of identity.</p> <p>1:07:06 Michael discusses dealing with defeat in the GAA.</p> <p>1:08:02 Michael discusses the organisational structure of the GAA. Mentions Wexford County Board and their treatment of junior clubs in the county.</p> <p>1:10:52 Michael discusses challenges that the club faces. Talks about his hopes for the future of the club.</p> <p>1:11:51 Michael talks about his thoughts on the future of Wexford hurling. Mentions Oulart-the-Ballagh.</p> <p>1:12:37 Michael talks about what the GAA means to him. Mentions the camaraderie involved.</p> <p>1:15:29 Michael discusses the importance of the GAA to communities.</p> <p>1:16:53 Michael talks about the fact that there is no camogie team in the parish. Mentions Oylegate-Glenbrien.</p> <p>1:18:39 Michael recalls events at the club. Recalls fundraising walk from Ashford to Ballymurn. Mentions Brian Mullins. Also mentions duck race.</p> <p>1:20:02 Michael thanks all club members for keeping the GAA alive in the parish.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>John Doyle:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ 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>Michael Doyle:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" 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)	John: Played for 2-3 years with Crossabeg – Ballymurn GAA Michael: Played for 10yrs – 40yrs with Crossabeg-Ballymurn GAA.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	John: Trustee of Crossabeg-Ballymurn GAA (1979 – current); Treasurer of Crossabeg-Ballymurn GAA (1979 – 1989). Michael: Chairman of Croassabeg-Ballymurn, 1985 – 1992; 2009 – ongoing; Crossabeg-Ballymurn delegate to Wexford to County Board.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:20:32
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: 22nd August 2012