

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	18 th Aug 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Monaghan, Co. Monaghan
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Peter Sherry
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Tirraneil NS & Corracrin NS, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Was married to Kathleen (RIP) with 2 sons and 3 daughters
Club(s)	Scotstown; Emyvale
Occupation	Farmer; Carpenter; Agricultural Store Manager; Rate Collector
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	St. Vincent De Paul

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Date of Report	28 th June 2012
Period Covered	1860 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Monaghan
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Peter talks about his GAA involvement over the years. A native of Monaghan, he took to football at a young age and eventually played with the Emyvale club, before later lining out with Scotstown, which amalgamated with Tydavnet and Knockatalen. He talks about the process of amalgamation and the difficulties they faced in trying to make it work. After his playing days he became involved in administration, acting as vice-chairman and chairman of the county board. He talks about these experiences and about his policy of ensuring that discipline was enforced on the field. Peter also spent time refereeing games and although he enjoyed it, he did encounter some abuse along the way. He also discusses the issue of Northern Ireland politics permeating the GAA at times, as well as the involvement of Protestants and Presbyterians in the Association. He has given much of his time over to the Association but has been more than happy to do so, and was honoured with a President's Award for all his hard work.</p> <p>00:20 Earliest GAA memories - reading about football games in the newspapers and listening to the 1947 All-Ireland final between Cavan and Kerry.</p> <p>01:20 Going to Tirraneil school and playing with a sponge ball.</p> <p>01:50 Going to his grandmother's 'Granny Yankee' in Scotstown. His uncle Jimmy taking him to a game between</p>

	<p>Scotstown and Tydavnet. Peter Fellamy jumping high.</p> <p>02:45 Going to a game between Tullycorbet and Rockcorry.</p> <p>03:25 Starting to play football. Fr Benny Maguire organising a team to play St Patrick's Agricultural College.</p> <p>04:00 What the game was like. Fr Joe McDermott talking to him at half-time.</p> <p>04:55 Visiting his granduncle, Eoin Sherry, in Canada. Hearing stories of his playing days.</p> <p>06:05 Seeing a football in a shop window and saving up to buy it. Need to pump it up.</p> <p>07:15 Jimmy McCarron showing him how to use the football.</p> <p>07:30 Master Kelly at his school arranging a game against another school. How the game went.</p> <p>08:40 Playing at home with the Brady brothers. Skills improving.</p> <p>09:00 Gerry Browne asking him to go to Croke Park for a hurling game between Cork and Galway. What that was like. Mick Burke marking Cork's Christy Ring.</p> <p>10:00 Jimmy Doyle playing minor hurling.</p> <p>10:05 Watching Armagh lose to Kerry in 1953. Incidents he remembers in the game. Mal McEvoy playing.</p> <p>10:40 Going to hurling matches regularly.</p> <p>10:50 TG4 making a documentary about culture in Ireland. Hurling game between Tipperary and Wexford featuring. Peter and his wife featuring on the footage.</p> <p>11:50 Playing with Emyvale, who won a minor championship in 1950. Jim Smith of Cavan's sons playing. McKennas playing too.</p> <p>12:30 Mick Duffy chairman in 1955. Tydavnet winning a junior championship in 1935 on a walkover. No money for medals. Mick Duffy addressing the matter in 1955.</p> <p>13:35 Ciaran Canavan on the Tydavnet team with him.</p>
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	<p>13:50 Scotstown, Tydavnet and Knockatallon playing junior football in the parish. Kerry players playing for Knockatallon.</p> <p>14:15 Overage players on teams. Overage man given a false name when playing a game. Unable to give his name to the referee.</p> <p>15:10 Rivalry between Knockatallon and Tydavnet. George Pat Jimmy / George McAvinney at a game between the two teams. Jimmy Pat Andy McCarron shouting from the sidelines.</p> <p>16:45 Tydavnet and Scotstown amalgamating in 1957.</p> <p>17:25 Trying to bring the three teams in Scotstown together. Issues to be discussed.</p> <p>18:05 Winning a junior championship in 1958. His granddaughter winning a medal exactly 50 years later.</p> <p>18:35 Pascal McArdle playing with them and McQuaid of Tydavnet playing against him.</p> <p>19:05 Making a final in 1960. Playing Clontibret. How the game went. Sean Woods marking Tommy Moyna.</p> <p>20:20 Medals he has won.</p> <p>20:35 His brother, Jimmy Sherry, playing for the county minors and marking Jimmy McDonnell and Seamus McElroy of Cavan.</p> <p>21:00 Being nominated for vice-chairman of the county board.</p> <p>21:15 Becoming a referee.</p> <p>21:40 Refereeing a game between Truagh and Aughnamullen. Player, Billy Hughes urging him to get the game started.</p> <p>22:45 Leaving the pitch one evening and giving a girl a lift. Girl telling the story later on.</p> <p>23:50 Refereeing a game between Tyholland and Rockcorry. Dispute over a score. Jock McQuillan then slipping when taking a kick-out.</p>
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	<p>25:00 Ringing county secretary John McArdle after the game. Advice he was given.</p> <p>25:35 Refereeing a game featuring Clontibret in Currin. Having shotgun in the boot of his car. Meeting Tom Cullen and others walking down the road with goalposts. Hairy Ned Cord for crossbar.</p> <p>26:55 Born in Tydavnet parish and went to Corracrin school. Seamus McCloskey the master there. Playing for Emyvale and later moving to Scotstown.</p> <p>27:40 Father giving him his religious education.</p> <p>28:40 Father emigrated to the united States in 1923. Had little interest in Gaelic games.</p> <p>29:30 Process of getting the three parish teams to amalgamate. Getting Eoin Connolly, Prionsias McKenna and Freddie McKenna from Knockatallon.</p> <p>30:40 Elected chairman of Scotstown in 1963. Stressing the need for togging-out facilities. Trying to buy land and approaching Fr Mick Connolly about it. Striking a deal.</p> <p>32.40 Priest giving purchase money back to Mrs Joan Lillis to but cutlery for the club.</p> <p>33:05 Deciding on club colours.</p> <p>33:35 Outcome of amalgamation.</p> <p>34:00 Trying to build a sense of the new club. Seán Morgan playing a big part.</p> <p>34:00 Fr Maguire a pioneer who did not like to see people abusing alcohol. James McClusky avoiding Fr Maguire. The two bumping into each other one day at Moyna's in Scotstown.</p> <p>36:40 Rivalry between Emyvale and Tydavnet.</p> <p>37:00 Scotstown beating Emyvale.</p> <p>37:35 Big crowds at games when he was refereeing.</p> <p>38:50 Fr Breen playing for Truagh in a game he refereed.</p>
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	<p>38:50 Frank O'Brien questioning a balance sheet while he was chairman. National press taking an interest and ringing him about it. Talking to Michael Fisher about it. TP Kilfeather of The Irish Times asking him about it.</p> <p>40:20 H-Block protests in Northern Ireland and coming under pressure.</p> <p>41:05 County semi-final in Clones. People there desperate to win club title. Paddy Meegan the referee. Minute's silence at the start of the game. Protest at half-time. Journalists asking him about it.</p> <p>44:35 Role of the Troubles in the GAA. Gardaí feeling ostracised.</p> <p>45:20 Monaghan reaching the All-Ireland final in 1930 and getting little coverage in the Irish Independent. Dick Fitzgerald of Kerry's death getting more coverage.</p> <p>46:50 Gardaí transferred to Monaghan by Eoin O'Duffy in 1930.</p> <p>47:00 Enda O'Carroll's father getting his leg broken at a game.</p> <p>47:30 Tony Finnegan's band playing at Croke Park.</p> <p>47:45 Local bands in Scotstown. His family's involvement.</p> <p>48:40 Mentions Pat McKenna county chairman, nicknamed Packie Pat. Celebrations after winning the championship with Scotstown. Packie Pat giving a speech.</p> <p>50:00 Maggie Charlie's a famous football pub in the area.</p> <p>50:20 Barney Paddy / Barney McElwee being taken to games by Eddie Sherry. His son getting married.</p> <p>51:35 Reception for the team when they returned.</p> <p>51:55 Getting involved in administration.</p> <p>52:10 Playing against Castleblayney the year they won the championship.</p> <p>52:40 John Hughes of Clontibret remarking on his role as a referee.</p>
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	<p>53:05 Fr Coleman chairman at the club in the 1960s. Running against him.</p> <p>55:05 Neighbour, Tommy Hall, a big football fan.</p> <p>55:45 Protestants going to Clones to games in 1979.</p> <p>56:35 What he liked about refereeing.</p> <p>56:50 Getting John Maloney of Tipperary to talk to referees in Monaghan. Passing the recording to Seán McCague. What Maloney said in his talk.</p> <p>59:25 Being assaulted as a referee. What sparked the incidents.</p> <p>01:01:10 Refereeing a game between Killeevan and Smithboro. Incident between two players. Action he took. Consequences of that.</p> <p>01:03:10 Refereeing a game between Threemilehouse and Clones. Player making physical contact with him. Trouble ensuing.</p> <p>01:04:15 Refereeing a Magheracloone v Killeevan game and another referee knocked out.</p> <p>01:05:00 Support he got from the county board as a referee.</p> <p>01:05:30 Refereeing a Doohamlet v Cremartin game. Liam Maguire there to referee another game. Warning the teams before the game.</p> <p>01:07:30 Controversy in Leinster football final of 2010.</p> <p>01:08:00 Refereeing a game in Corrigan Park Belfast. Postponed due to funeral of Erskine Childers. Taking Paddy Murphy, Emyvale and three other umpires. Feeling uneasy in Belfast. Difficulty in getting directions.</p> <p>01:09:25 How he got into county administration. Mentions Frankie McAtavey.</p> <p>01:09:55 Convention in McCartan's Hall. Pat McGrane tied with Mick Duffy in a vote.</p> <p>01:10:25 Meetings held in McGrane's restaurant in Ballybay.</p>
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<p>Objection made between Threemilehouse and Carrickmacross at the meeting. Fr Markey not pleased with the verdict.</p> <p>01:12:20 Being strict on discipline as county chairman. Reason for that. Threatening to double suspensions. Bringing in fines.</p> <p>01:14:50 Needing to account for every penny spent.</p> <p>01:15:10 Tightening up the ways in which money was collected. Paddy O'Rourke working on this policy.</p> <p>01:16:40 Being annoyed that people were buying All-Ireland tickets on the black market. Tracking down who put their tickets on the black market.</p> <p>01:18:35 Seeing tickets advertised for sale in the local newspaper. What he did.</p> <p>01:20:20 Having an extra ticket one day and giving it to a priest.</p> <p>01:21:30 Buying five-year tickets for Croke Park.</p> <p>01:22:10 Hurling in Monaghan. Inniskeen winning a championship for the first time ever.</p> <p>01:22:25 Paddy O'Rourke teaching young people to play.</p> <p>01:22:55 Hurling across the local clubs.</p> <p>01:23:20 Monaghan Presbyterian, Marshall McAdoo of Killeevan lifting the Under-21 championship cup in Enniskillen on July 12th, 1976 / 1977.</p> <p>01:24:00 Three Protestants, the Wright brothers, playing for Tydavnet in 1935.</p> <p>01:24:30 Role of the priests in Monaghan. Fr Maguire working hard.</p> <p>01:25:00 Bishop McKenna donating the McKenna Cup. Final always supposed to be played in Monaghan.</p> <p>01:25:55 Priests as chairmen of clubs.</p> <p>01:26:10 Being at a presentation at Carrickmacross.</p>
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	<p>Protestant people in attendance there.</p> <p>01:26:55 Being chairman of the parish council. Different church leaders at their dinner.</p> <p>01:27:20 His daughter asking him about religious differences.</p> <p>01:28:50 People playing illegally and going to soccer matches.</p> <p>01:28:55 Going to a soccer game with Seán McCague.</p> <p>01:29:45 Clubs fielding illegal players.</p> <p>01:30:00 Paul Curran playing with Aghabog. Brendan Brady playing too. Suspicions about Curran playing illegally. Going to a match in Parnell Park, Dublin to see if Curran played there. Finding out the truth. Action taken against Aghabog.</p> <p>01:32:55 Facilities that Aghabog club has.</p> <p>01:34:15 Convention held in Castleblayney. Eamon Tavey suggesting getting Seán McCague as county team manager.</p> <p>01:35:35 Seán McCague's playing career.</p> <p>01:35:55 Beating Down in Castleblayney. Fergus Coffey clashing with Mick Coffey.</p> <p>01:36:30 Playing Armagh in Breffni Park. Brian Duffy videotaping a behind-closed-doors game between Armagh and Dublin. Analysing the game.</p> <p>01:37:55 Seán McCague telling Gene Finnegan to mark Joey Donnelly of Armagh.</p> <p>01:38:25 Seán McCague as motivator.</p> <p>01:39:15 Players getting tea and sandwiches.</p> <p>01:39:40 Roles he occupied when he finished as county chairman.</p> <p>01:40:00 Family's involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:41:05 Sacrifices he made for his GAA involvement.</p> <p>01:41:40 Friends he has made.</p>
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	<p>01:42:35 Aghabog player going before a disciplinary committee.</p> <p>01:43:20 Best GAA memories. Getting a President's Award.</p> <p>01:44:25 Monaghan clubs owning their own grounds.</p> <p>01:45:30 Cost of running clubs.</p> <p>01:45:50 GAA opening doors for his granddaughter.</p> <p>01:46:25 Parents getting very involved in juvenile games.</p> <p>01:47:40 Playing against 1957 Louth captain Dermot O'Brien.</p> <p>01:48:25 Scotstown playing Clontibret in a county final in the 1950s. Being told he wouldn't be playing.</p> <p>01:49:30 Different roles he has occupied.</p> <p>01:51:10 Getting a card from Bishop Mulligan after his comments on alcohol abuse.</p> <p>01:51:50 Genie James John / Genie Treanor from Corracrin, Fr Marren, Jack Rock Treanor, Gerry McCarville, Jack O'Shea of Kerry, Jack Boothman, Mick Loftus men he admires.</p> <p>01:53:50 GAA disappointments.</p> <p>01:55:05 Updating Monaghan's deeds of trust.</p> <p>01:56:20 Need for children to get involved in sport.</p> <p>01:56:55 Finding a ball down a field while he was working on reading meters.</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 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 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</p>	<p>Peter played from 1951 – 1963 winning a Junior Championship in 1958; a Brennan Cup in the 1960s; 2 Senior</p>

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of time played)	Championships in 1960 and 1961.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Peter first got involved in administration in the 1960s as a member of the club committee. He has held a range of positions: Club: Chairman 1963 County: Chairman of County Juvenile Board, 1966 – 1967; Vice-Chairman of County Board, 1973 – 1976; County Board Chairman, 1977 – 1982; Chairman of Parks Committee, 1984 – 1992. He won a Presidents Award in 2008.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:57:29
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: _____ Arlene Crampsie _____

Date: _____ 28/06/12 _____