

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
<b>Location</b>	Faughanvale Clubhouse, Greysteel, Derry
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Conor Nicholl
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1976 <b>Home County:</b> Derry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Faughanvale PS, Co. Derry <b>Secondary:</b> Limavady Grammar School, Co. Derry
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 3 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Mary's, Faughanvale
<b>Occupation</b>	Self Employed: Krazy Kartz
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Shops and Retail
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Sinn Féin
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1980 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Derry
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Playing, Managing, Coaching, Travel, Supporting, Administration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Scór, Culture, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Refereeing, Education, Media, Religion, Facilities
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Conor talks about his early days playing with Faughanvale. He discusses the history of the Club and recalls the successes of the senior football team in the 1990s. Conor discusses his roles in administration within Faughanvale Club and their constant desire to better the club. He discusses fundraising efforts and the development of new facilities in Faughanvale. He mentions key figures in the community that have helped develop GAA. Conor discusses the impact of The Troubles on the GAA and the efforts within the community to bring people together. Conor talks about the dominance of football in Faughanvale and the development of hurling and camogie at underage level. He discusses the club's participation in Celebrity Bainisteoir. Conor highlights the role of the GAA within society and its importance over the years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:19 Earliest GAA Memory – watching his brother playing with the senior Faughanvale team, travelling to county matches with him.</p> <p>00:53 Discusses the restricted facilities in Faughanvale in the early 1980s.</p> <p>01:28 Discusses family involvement in the GAA. Talks about his brothers' involvement in club football at senior level. Describes the social aspects of being involved in GAA.</p> <p>02:00 Describes travelling to play underage matches in Geordie O'Kane's bus. Recalls the bus being used as a meeting room and changing room.</p> <p>02:35 Recalls travelling to play senior matches in cars.</p> <p>03:22 Discusses the success of the Faughanvale club in the late 1980s. Recalls being beaten in a replay of a county</p>

	<p>championship final in 1990 by Bellaghy and subsequent promotion into the Senior League. Mentions Lavey winning the All-Ireland Club Championship in 1991.</p> <p>04:39 Recalls Faughanvale winning 3 club championships in the 1990s. Mentions being involved with the team at a management level in 1998 and 1999.</p> <p>05:06 Discusses friendly rivalry with the neighbouring team Slaughtmanus. Mentions that matches against Slaughtmanus attract large crowds. Recalls a league match in June 2009 at the opening of the new facilities in Faughanvale.</p> <p>06:16 Discusses the history of the Faughanvale club. Notes that the club was formed in 1933. Mentions a school teacher from Donegal, John McLaughlin. Mentions that their first matches were played where Derry City Airport now stands.</p> <p>07:18 Describes the impact that emigration and lack of manpower had on the club in the early days and the struggle to keep the club alive.</p> <p>08:35 Discusses his early days playing with Faughanvale. Mentions that local farmers allowed the teams to train on their fields. Mentions the Bryson family, the O'Neills and the Nicholls.</p> <p>09:35 Discusses the development of facilities in the Faughanvale club in the 1980s. Mentions O'Neills, Bradleys', McNicholl's, Brysons. Recalls the grounds being purchased in 1981 and the official opening in 1983.</p> <p>11:03 Discusses the recent developments to facilities at Faughanvale Club. Talks about the establishment of a Youth Programme in the club in early 2000 and the "snowball effect" of people becoming more involved in the club.</p> <p>12:19 Talks about setting up a sub-committee and a development committee in 2003. Discusses fundraising efforts to acquire a second pitch and facilities.</p> <p>13:20 Discusses the grounds which they have now acquired. Mentions funding provided by the Sports Council.</p> <p>13:54 Discusses the establishment of Club Faughanvale. Talks about the contribution of local people in terms of fundraising and developing the club.</p> <p>14:53 Discusses the effectiveness of the corporate dinners in raising money. Mentions Derek McFeely. Recalls enlisting Pat Spillane as guest speaker in 2004, Joe Brolly in 2006 in the</p>
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	<p>Clanree Hotel in Letterkenny.</p> <p>17:35 Discusses the thought process that went into selecting people to invite to the corporate dinners.</p> <p>18:34 Discusses the corporate dinner in 2008 in Jacksons in Ballybofey. Recalls Faughanvale being involved in Celebrity Bainisteoir in the same year. Talks about high-profile guests – Christy Cooney, Nell McCafferty, John Kenny, Gerard Keane, Brian McEniff and Jarlath Burns. Explains why the dinners weren't held in Derry.</p> <p>21:03 Talks about the club colours, green and white. Mentions that it is believed that the colours were chosen in tribute to Glasgow Celtic to commemorate people who had been forced to emigrate from Ireland to Scotland.</p> <p>21:41 Discusses the club crest.</p> <p>22:06 Discusses the increase in population in Greysteel. Mentions that it has now become a commuter village, bringing younger families into the community and subsequently into GAA.</p> <p>23:20 Describes “characters” in the club throughout the years. Mentions Sean O’Neill, a Trustee of Faughanvale. Discusses Sean’s extensive administrative roles within the club and his involvement in the GAA in Faughanvale. Mentions Gabriel McGuinness and John McElhinney.</p> <p>25:50 Discusses the Faughanvale Bar, owned by John McElhinney.</p> <p>26:36 Talks about local family involvement in Faughanvale Club. Mentions Bradleys, Brysons, O’Neills, McNicholls, McElhinneys, Quinns.</p> <p>27:45 Talks about Charlie McGurk, the oldest living surviving player for Faughanvale team that played in the 1947 county final. Recalls a story about buying jerseys made with Irish Linen in Carndonagh and getting them through Customs.</p> <p>30:41 Discusses his own playing career with Faughanvale. Recalls his success at underage.</p> <p>31:27 Discusses his move into administration within Faughanvale at the age of nineteen. Recalls his role as manager of the Under 14 team. Talks about beating Glenullin in the North Derry final. Mentions Liam Bradley, Paddy Bradley and Gerard O’Kane. Recalls being beaten by Bellaghy in the county final. Mentions Fergal Doherty.</p>
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	<p>33:07 Discusses his move to management within the senior panel in 1998. Recalls the team winning the county intermediate championship in 1998 and 1999.</p> <p>34:40 Discusses becoming Secretary for Faughanvale Club in 2009.</p> <p>35:25 Talks about the establishment of ladies football within the club at the turn of the Millennium. Talks about Eamon King, the current chairman, and his contribution to the club.</p> <p>37:59 Describes the attributes he brought to the club in his role as manager. Talks about encouraging enjoyment at underage level, discipline, respect.</p> <p>40:40 Discusses the changes in training methods from his playing days to now. Describes training as being “more professional” today. Talks about discipline and commitment within the team and alcohol bans.</p> <p>42:07 Describes being involved with Celebrity Bainisteoir. Recalls travelling to Bundoran for a training camp. Discusses the commitment and dedication of the team.</p> <p>43:53 Discusses Faughanvale’s participation in Celebrity Bainisteoir. Mentions hosting Maryland, but the grounds being redeveloped. Discusses the advantages and disadvantages of being involved in it. Mentions Micheál O’Muircheartaigh and Nell McCafferty.</p> <p>48:09 Recalls travelling to Limerick to play Galtee Gaels as part of Celebrity Bainisteoir. Discusses the ongoing relationship with Galtee Gaels and other people involved with Celebrity Bainisteoir.</p> <p>51:11 Discusses the dominance of football in Faughanvale Club at the present time. Mentions that hurling and camogie have been reintroduced to the club at underage level.</p> <p>52:20 Discusses plans to build a new clubhouse at Faughanvale. Talks about the future intention of the club to promote Scór and the Irish language.</p> <p>53:21 Discusses the introduction of ladies football into the club. Mentions that the girls had to pay extra fees to cover insurance costs. Discusses the successes of the ladies football team at junior and intermediate level.</p> <p>54:11 Recalls ex-senior club players becoming involved in training for the ladies football team.</p> <p>54:38 Mentions the Under 14 girls team that played in the</p>
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	<p>Féile competition in 2010. Discusses successful players in the club at county and national level.</p> <p>55:45 Discusses hurling within Faughanvale. Mentions Sean O'Hara.</p> <p>57:12 Discusses the efforts in Faughanvale to break down political and religious barriers and to involve the wider community in GAA. Discusses the link with City of Derry Rugby Club.</p> <p>01:00:00 Discusses the impact of The Troubles on the club. Recalls the murder of eight people at a local bar. Mentions Michaela Harte, Cormac McAnallen and Paul McGirr. Describes the night of the attack on the Rising Sun Bar, Greysteel the night before Hallowe'en. Discusses the impact of the event on the local community.</p> <p>01:04:11 Discusses the importance of grants and funding to the club.</p> <p>01:04:46 Discusses the relationship between Faughanvale and the Derry County Board. Mentions that the club facilities were used for County minor trials in 2010.</p> <p>01:05:58 Discusses the limited connection with the Ulster Council and Croke Park. Mentions Ryan Feeney.</p> <p>01:07:15 Discusses rule changes within the GAA. Talks about his disapproval of the Gaelic Players Association and his approval of the lifting of the ban of foreign games in Croke Park.</p> <p>01:09:45 Describes the active role of women in administration in Faughanvale Club. Mentions Breige McGuinness, John McGee and Joanne O'Donnell.</p> <p>01:11:35 Describes a Child Protection Policy put in place in the club by Sheila Gamble.</p> <p>01:12:37 Discusses the role of teachers and the clergy. Mentions the Fr Jack Gallagher Memorial Trophy.</p> <p>01:14:38 Discusses the immediate challenges facing the club. Mentions the financial challenges of the economic downturn.</p> <p>01:16:31 Describes his highlights of being involved in GAA.</p> <p>01:17:33 Discusses inspirational people within the GAA. Mentions Mickey Moran and his involvement with the club.</p> <p>01:19:25 Recalls travelling to New York and attending a GAA</p>
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	<p>match. Mentions watching a football match in a bar in Spain.</p> <p>01:21:04 Discusses “politics” within the GAA.</p> <p>01:22:34 Describes what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played from the age of 12 to 31. Won underage championships and reserve leagues.</p>
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1994.</p> <p>Club: Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary of the Development Committee (for 6 years), Secretary, Delegate to County Board.</p>
<b>Format</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:23:53</p>
<b>Language</b>	<p>English</p>

**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.

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_02/08/12\_\_\_\_\_

