

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	20 th Jan 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tom Daly
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1954 Home County: Donegal
Education	Primary: St. Catherine's NS and De La Salle, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal Secondary: De La Salle, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal Third Level: University of Brighton
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Frances
Club(s)	Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon; Naomh Padraig, Lifford
Occupation	Senior Manager Health Service Executive (HSE)
Parents' Occupation	Journalist [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Abbey Centre Trust Theatre; Vice-chairman of Ballyshannon Folk Festival; Ceoltas; St Vincent de Paul; School Board of Management

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Date of Report	1 st August 2012
Period Covered	1887 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Donegal, Fermanagh, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Tom talks about his involvement in the GAA over the years. He discusses his father Hugh's involvement in Donegal County Board and his family's association with the GAA. He recalls his school days and the role of the GAA in the De La Salle school in Ballyshannon. He describes the type of work his father did for the GAA in Donegal and how his job as a journalist impacted on this work. Tom discusses the history of the Aodh Ruadh club and how the club developed. He talks about his role in setting up a GAA club in Lifford before returning as chairman of the Aodh Ruadh club. He describes his various roles in administration at club, county and provincial level and also being involved at central council level. Tom discusses the main issues on the Ulster Council during the Troubles and talks about the measures they took to ensure the Association survived during this period. He highlights the important role the GAA played for people during the conflict and talks about the perceptions many people had about the GAA in the North. He discusses a range of topics such as the role of women, the development of Aodh Ruadh's grounds and the state of the GAA in Donegal. He recalls his trips to the United States with the Ulster Council and the work done to promote the game there. Towards the end of the interview, Tom highlights the important role the GAA has played in his life and recalls some of his favourite memories and heroes from his time involved with the Association.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p>

	<p>00:19 Tom talks about his earliest memories of the GAA and his father Hugh Daly being county secretary from 1952 to 1973. Discusses his family's involvement in the GAA and recalls his mother washing the county jerseys. His mother and grandmother making numbers for them.</p> <p>02:28 Talks about playing football in St Catherine's primary school. Mentions Sr Rosario, Sean Óg Kane, Laurence Sweeney and Patsy Donnelly. Bringing goal posts to the school and using string as a crossbar. Mentions William Allingham Park.</p> <p>03:55 Discusses playing football in the De La Salle school.</p> <p>04:20 Talks about his father's involvement in the GAA, his work as a journalist with the Donegal Democrat and organising the first Ballyshannon Drama Festival in 1952.</p> <p>05:30 Describes helping his father to send newsletters and talks about him using an Underwood typewriter and duplicator.</p> <p>08:15 Talks about his father's work as a journalist. Mentions him sending reports to the Irish Press. Mentions the Gallagher's, Sheeran's and the McDermott's.</p> <p>09:26 Describes the type of jerseys that were always in the house. Recalls finding a pair of Rugby togs that belonged to Des Houlihan.</p> <p>11:25 Talks about his mother's interest in the Irish language and culture and her criticism of the GAA's role in promoting Irish.</p> <p>14:43 Describes the workload his father had with the GAA.</p> <p>18:00 Talks about his father's involvement in the GAA in the 1940s, playing for Corlea. Finding a reference in the Donegal Independent to a gaelic football match in Meelick in 1887. Mentions the Slevin family. Discusses the strength of Gaelic games in that area and the nearby Belleek Young Emmet's.</p> <p>21:56 Discusses the role of the GAA in the De La Salle school in Ballyshannon and playing in competitions. Describes the location of the school in the old Fever Hospital, in association with the workhouse and near Fr Tierney Park. Mentions the Bakery Cup. Mentions Martin Carney.</p> <p>28:00 Talks about hurling in the school and efforts by the De La Salle brothers to promote the game. Mentions Owen Roe O'Neill and Barry O'Neill.</p>
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	<p>30:00 Describes playing with old leather style footballs. Talks about handball being played. Discusses his wife's (Frances) involvement in rounders.</p> <p>32:53 Mentions 'the Rock' enclosure. Talks about the development of the Aodh Ruadh club's facilities in Father Tierney Park. Mentions John McDermott (Dodger McDermott) a former county chairman and selector, Sean Slevin and Jim Gallagher.</p> <p>34:30 Discusses the history of the Aodh Ruadh club. Mentions influence of the Gaelic League. Talks about the amalgamation with Bundoran to form St. Joseph's. Discusses being part of the re-formation of the GAA club in Lifford. Becoming chairman of Aodh Ruadh in 1980.</p> <p>39:40 Talks about the role of the Aodh Ruadh club in the community. Discusses the development of the club and its successes. Being involved in a youth employment scheme.</p> <p>45:53 Discusses the success of the St. Joseph's team in Ballyshannon and the eventual separation of Ballyshannon and Bundoran.</p> <p>49:00 Talks about his role in the setting up of the GAA club in Lifford. Describes Lifford when he went to work there as a member of the Committee of Agriculture – a soccer town. Mentions Abbey Shamrocks in Ballyshannon and Danny Bannigan. Mentions Harry Carey, Sean MacCumhaill and Alf Murray. Harry having run a hurling club in Lifford in the past. Talks about a fibre-glass hurley.</p> <p>53:35 Became treasurer of the Lifford club. Mentions the McDermott family in Lifford. Barney McDermott was club President. Mentions Kevin Doherty, Packie Keeney, Brendan Davitt, Willie Lynch. Purchasing a pitch and grounds and getting involved in fundraising. Running a ten week draw. Tell a story about Danny Bannigan working on the bus having passengers in the draw. Describes the involvement in the club of Gardaí and army men stationed along the border.</p> <p>57:43 Describes his pride in setting up the club in Lifford. Talks about moving back to Ballyshannon.</p> <p>59:58 Talks about his involvement in the county board. Being elected youth officer. Discusses his involvement in developing the club's grounds in the 1980s.</p> <p>01:08:25 Discusses being elected to the Ulster Council. Talks about what the job involved. Gives his opinion on the 1993 Ulster final. Describes his different administrative roles on the</p>
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	<p>Ulster Council and his involvement in policy. Mentions Naul McCole and PJ McGowan. Mentions Danny Murphy, Provincial Secretary.</p> <p>01:20:08 Describes what the role of treasurer for the Ulster Council involved. Working with different departments in the Northern Ireland government.</p> <p>01:23:06 Discusses the issue of the Troubles and the impact on the GAA. Describes travelling at night through the North after meetings. Dealing with security issues for big matches.</p> <p>01:27:38 Compares the GAA experience between those living in the North and the South. Talks about the involvement of those in the Protestant community.</p> <p>01:30:10 Describes the main issues he faced while working on the Ulster Council. Facing challenges as a result of the Troubles. Talks about the development of clubs and their place in the local community. Discusses the relationship with the Ulster Council and the GAA at a national level.</p> <p>01:38:13 Discusses the perception that Ulster Council liked to be different than the rest of the country. Describes issues with some counties being in a different jurisdiction to others.</p> <p>01:44:35 Talks about the issue over the 3 Ulster counties that are not in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>01:46:43 Discusses his term as president of the Ulster Council and talks about the highlights of his term.</p> <p>01:52:20 Recalls travelling to Washington in the United States for a GAA exhibition.</p> <p>01:54:40 Tells a story about carrying the Sam Maguire and Liam McCarthy cups to America and having issues at the airport.</p> <p>01:59:33 Talks about bringing cross-community teams to America.</p> <p>02:00:40 Discusses his role on the Donegal county executive. Working as a youth officer, Ulster council delegate and vice chairman. Set up foundation coaching courses in 1985 and 1986. Mentions PJ McGowan, Anthony Harkin, Jim McKeever. Women getting involved in these courses, even before establishment of ladies football. Worked on grant applications for the redevelopment of MacCumhaill Park.</p> <p>02:03:20 Legal Issues. A case taken by three former county board officers against the then chairman Naul McCole over a</p>
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	<p>FÁS scheme during Tom's time as vice chairman. Difficulties for him as he knew everybody involved.</p> <p>02:06:37 Describes the type of politics that were involved in the Donegal county board. Talks about the importance of the different officers working well together.</p> <p>02:09:50 Discusses the perceived issue of geographical rivalry among those involved in the county board. Talks about his respect for those involved in the GAA around the Inishowen peninsula. Mentions Tom Farren, Colm Toland, the Friels, Urris and Bunrana, Sean Masterson. In Burt people like the Callaghans, Whoriskeys, Dowds and Campbells and in Movice and Muff P Michael O'Donnell and Michael McMenamin. Discusses the stronger closeness of the GAA in counties in the North in comparison to Donegal.</p> <p>02:15:27 Talks about the role of women in the GAA and how this has developed over the years. Mentions his mother attending Congress and the Congress Banquets – emphasis on culture at Cork congresses. Establishment of a separate Bord na nÓg in Ballyshannon and Betty McIntyre who is now senior club secretary getting involved. Describes the introduction of ladies' football in the club and their success. Mentions PJ Flood, Grace Meade, Claire Flood. Club being integrated from the start. Gives his opinion on the introduction of ladies football to the club.</p> <p>02:23:36 Recalls his best memories from his time in the GAA. Talks about the enjoyment he got from playing. Recalls playing both football and hurling for the club. Being chairman of the club and becoming president of the Ulster Council.</p> <p>02:26:35 Talks about Donegal winning the Ulster championship in 1972 and bringing his father to the match. Discusses his father and mother.</p> <p>02:27:30 Tells a story about his brother Michael and a mix up over the date on his birth certificate.</p> <p>02:29:13 Talks about his GAA heroes, mentions Jimmy Barry Murphy, Teddy McCarthy. Tells a story about travelling to Cork to play a league match. Mentions Denis Conroy. Talks about the players he admires in Donegal – Mickey McLoone, Pauric McShea, PJ Flood, Frankie McFeely, Andy Curran, Brian McEniff, Seamie Granaghan, Martin Carney. Within the club Phil McLoone and Sean Slevin and within the county Micheál Gillespie.</p> <p>02:35:18 Describes the type of people he worked with at a</p>
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	<p>provincial level. Mentions Peter Quinn, Brian McLernon, John Vesey and the current staff.</p> <p>02:36:35 Currently involved in the twinning of Britain and Canada and the HR committee. Talks about his role in the future development of Casement Park. His role on the Overseas committee. Need to decide on his nomination for the Presidency.</p> <p>02:38:58 Discusses the role of the GAA in his life and what the Association has meant to him. Gives his hopes for the future of the GAA.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p>✓ 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>Played from 1976 – 1984. Won a senior football championship medal, senior football reserve championship medal, senior shield hurling medal, junior hurling championship, junior shield medal, Fermanagh hurling league, couple of Division 3 and 4 shields and leagues.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1976.</p> <p>Lifford Club: Treasurer, County Delegate</p> <p>Aodh Ruadh Club: Chairman, Park Development Committee Chairman (30 years), Trustee of Pitches, Hall of Fame</p> <p>South Board: Secretary (1980 – 1985)</p> <p>County: Youth Officer (1985 – 1986), Ulster Council Delegate (1988 – 2000), County Vice-chairman (1991/1992)</p> <p>Ulster: Treasurer, Vice President, President, Past President</p> <p>National: Commercial and Marketing Committee (3 years), National Insurance Workgroup Secretary (3 years), Overseas Committee, Management Committee, Ard Comhairle.</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:42:17
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____01/08/12_____