

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	9 th Feb 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Belleek, Co. Fermanagh
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimmy Mulrone
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1928 Home County: Donegal
Education	Primary: Fassagh NS
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: Married to Kathleen Kerrigan (RIP) with 1 daughter and 6 sons
Club(s)	Corlea [Donegal/Fermanagh]; Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon [Donegal]; Devenish St. Mary's [Fermanagh]
Occupation	Fitter-Driver with P Carty and Sons
Parents' Occupation	Labourer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/22

Date of Report	6 th August 2012
Period Covered	1940s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Fermanagh, Donegal, Leitrim, Cavan, Antrim, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Playing, Training, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Culture, Volunteers, Rivalries, Media, Religion, Scór
Interview Summary	<p>Jimmy recalls his early days playing football with Corlea in Donegal. He discusses the disbandment of the team for a number of years and his continuing disappointment with the GAA in relation to that. Jimmy talks about his move to Devenish in Fermanagh and the success of the team in the 1960s in the county championship. He talks about his roles in administration through the years and his current role as joint President for Devenish Club. Jimmy recalls travelling to Croke Park to attend All-Ireland finals. He discusses the importance of developing football at underage level and what being involved in GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:29 Recalls his earliest GAA memory – attending a junior club final between Corlea and Convoy in 1943. Discusses his early playing days with Corlea and the success of the team in the 1940s.</p> <p>01:50 Describes a defeat by Gweedore in 1948 in the final of the Democrat Cup.</p> <p>02:22 Discusses playing football with Ballyshannon in 1949 and 1950. Mentions that the football team was revived in Corlea in 1951. Recalls reaching the semi final of the junior championship.</p> <p>03:45 Talks about the Corlea club. Mentions administrators – Billy Moore, Henry McCauley, Willie McCauley, Tommy Campbell, Mickey Ward, Willie McLaughlin.</p> <p>05:19 Discusses the area that Corlea club covered in Donegal and Fermanagh. Mentions players within the club at the time – Kevin McCann and his brothers Tom, Paddy and John, Vincie and Willie McCauley, Pat Quinn, Dan Quinn, Patsy Rooney, Neil Doherty, Benny Monaghan.</p> <p>07:44 Recalls playing his club matches in a field that was</p>

	<p>later flooded by the Ballyshannon dam. Talks about the small size of the field compared to playing fields nowadays.</p> <p>09:10 Discusses the style of football played in his early days.</p> <p>09:36 Talks about the lack of structured training. Mentions that manual labour kept the team fit.</p> <p>10:04 Discusses their rival teams in Donegal – mentions Killygordon beating them in a final. Recalls the Gallens.</p> <p>11:05 Recalls travelling to matches on a bus, on the narrow gauge railway. Staying in Seapoint Hotel, Mountcharles owned by Mrs Winters. Recalls playing a semi-final against Lettermacaward, but an Annagry team turning up too.</p> <p>14:11 Discusses the disbanding of the Corlea Club in 1949 and 1950.</p> <p>17:04 Discusses his county football career with Donegal. Recalls playing minor and junior football until 1951.</p> <p>18:13 Discusses the lack of preparation for county games. Mentions John McDermott's (Dodger McDermott) involvement in taking charge of the team.</p> <p>19:04 Recalls structured training in the 1960s with Devenish in Fermanagh.</p> <p>20:30 Discusses family involvement in the GAA – notes that his father died in 1940. Recalls attending football matches with his uncle.</p> <p>21:50 Describes using rolled up newspapers tied with string as a football.</p> <p>22:17 Recalls attending a dance in Glenties after a match with Ballyshannon on St. Patrick's Day and walking home afterwards.</p> <p>23:32 Recalls starting to play with Devenish in Fermanagh after he got married. Discusses his move to Devenish after marrying a girl from there (Kathleen).</p> <p>26:22 Discusses starting to play with Devenish in 1952. Mentions his role as chairman of the club and his involvement with underage football.</p> <p>27:36 Talks about his successes while playing on the Devenish team. Recalls an amalgamation with Mulleek in 1960 for the senior championship.</p> <p>29:39 Discusses characters within the Devenish club.</p>
--	---

	<p>Mentions Seamus Heron, Chairman of the Club, Michael Joe McGlone, Danny McGee, Canon Coyle, Eddie McGarrigle, Paddy Carty, Paddy Flanagan and JJ Treacy.</p> <p>31:35 Mentions Peter Carty's involvement in the Scór in Devenish. Talks about the contribution of women in the club.</p> <p>33:00 Discusses the effects of other sports, particularly soccer, on football in Fermanagh.</p> <p>33:57 Talks about the poor facilities in Devenish in his early playing days. Recalls toggng out for matches in a local house.</p> <p>35:49 Discusses John James Treacy introducing training into the club in the 1960s. Talks about the successes of the team in the 1960s, winning 5 consecutive county championships.</p> <p>38:13 Describes the celebrations that ensued after championship victory.</p> <p>39:42 Talks about the unofficial Ulster Club Championship sponsored by Guinness. St. John's in Belfast and Omagh got it organised. Recalls reaching the final in 1964, getting beaten on a foggy day by St. John's and both teams being taken to the Guinness Storehouse on a day out.</p> <p>41:35 Talks about the drinking culture in teams today compared to his early playing days.</p> <p>42:56 Discusses fundraising in Devenish Club. Mentions A Night at the Races and the club lotto. Talks about fundraising in earlier years.</p> <p>44:30 Discusses the expenses attached with running Devenish Club today. Mentions the wealth of teams in the club from underage to senior level.</p> <p>45:18 Discusses the past success of hurling in the neighbouring club, Erne Gaels. Mentions that some of the Devenish football players also played hurling with Erne Gaels.</p> <p>47:10 Recalls camogie being played in his early years. Mentions Joe McNulty's involvement with camogie. Mentions camogie's fortunes in Devenish, Corlea, Belleek, Mulleek and Garrison. Mentions the Bannigan family.</p> <p>49:30 Recalls the impact of The Troubles and the decline of business in Garrison, particularly with the neighbouring county Leitrim and the Rossinver area.</p> <p>51:07 Discusses the history of the Devenish club. Recalls that</p>
--	--

	<p>they won a junior championship in the 1920s.</p> <p>52:39 Recalls the popularity of handball in Devenish. Recalls that there was a small handball alley in the community.</p> <p>54:22 Talks about his sadness at the decline of handball in Devenish.</p> <p>55:54 Discusses illegal players within Devenish over the years. Notes that people from the neighbouring county of Leitrim played illegally with Devenish. Doesn't recall any suspensions.</p> <p>57:55 Discusses his annoyance at players feigning injury and attempts at having an opponent sent off in football today.</p> <p>59:34 Discusses the ban on foreign games. Talks about his approval of the lifting of the ban.</p> <p>01:01:14 Recalls becoming involved in the administrative side of Devenish club in the early 1970s. Talks about his sons' involvement in administrative roles within the club. Mentions his current position as joint President of the Club.</p> <p>01:03:01 Talks about the development of the club and facilities during Peter Carty's tenure as Chairman. Mentions the development of dressing rooms and pitches.</p> <p>01:05:16 Recalls holding committee meetings in the parish hall and the old school in Devenish.</p> <p>01:06:48 Discusses issues that were raised at committee meetings. Notes that finance was the main topic of conversation. Talks about the excellent condition of the pitches in Devenish today.</p> <p>01:09:30 Talks about the role of the clergy in the GAA in Devenish.</p> <p>01:11:05 Discusses the role of women in administrative roles within the club. Mentions Mary O'Brien.</p> <p>01:12:19 Discusses ladies football in Devenish. Mentions that the ladies won the intermediate championship and league in 2010.</p> <p>01:13:42 Recalls the longstanding involvement of the club in the Scór competition. Talks about the limited ability of the Irish community to speak the native language.</p> <p>01:16:04 Describes the role of Devenish club in the local community. Mentions the recent gala ball.</p>
--	--

	<p>01:17:03 Recalls the first match he listened to on the radio – a rugby match between Ireland and England in 1938. Recalls travelling to his first All-Ireland in Croke Park by train in 1948. Mentions Jim Knox.</p> <p>01:21:18 Recalls the All-Ireland finals he attended over the years.</p> <p>01:22:27 Recalls travelling to the 1947 Ulster final between Cavan and Antrim.</p> <p>01:23:28 Talks about his children’s involvement in GAA. Mentions that his sons all played football with Devenish and his daughter played ladies football. Talks about rivalry with Lisnaskea, Roslea and Newtownbutler.</p> <p>01:24:45 Discusses his support for Fermanagh football above his native Donegal. Recalls the championships he won within Fermanagh and the friendships he made through the years.</p> <p>01:26:10 Talks about the impact of his involvement in GAA on his local, county and national identity.</p> <p>01:27:24 Discusses the impact of The Troubles on Devenish Club. Recalls roadblocks when travelling with the underage teams to matches.</p> <p>01:28:29 Recalls an experience of working in Enniskillen and being stopped by the B Specials.</p> <p>01:31:50 Describes his best memories of being involved in the GAA – his four sons winning the senior league with Devenish.</p> <p>01:32:48 Mentions his GAA hero – PT Treacy. Talks about the success of P.T. Treacy and what made him such a special player.</p> <p>01:34:35 Describes changes within the GAA in his lifetime – mentions the development of football at underage level.</p> <p>01:36:03 Discusses his approval of the changes in administrative rules within the GAA – mentions Rule 21 and the ban on foreign games.</p> <p>01:38:19 Gives his opinion on the growing professionalism within the GAA – talks about the need for progression.</p> <p>01:39:02 Biggest disappointment within the GAA – the disbanding of Corlea.</p> <p>01:41:08 Describes what his involvement has meant to him –</p>
--	---

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/22

	<p>talks of his pride at being involved, the confidence it instilled in him and the friends he made over the years.</p> <p>01:42:18 Discusses makeshift lines on the pitches in his early playing days.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): ___Co-President of Club_____</p>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played from 1943 – 1967 (but was still a stand-in up until 1980). Won senior championships with a combined Mulleek and Devenish team in 1960 and 1965; a junior championship with Devenish in 1960; leagues 1962 – 1965 and a number of 7-A-Sides.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Has been involved in administration since the late 1970s.</p> <p>Devenish Club: Chairman, Delegate to the County Board, Co-President of Club.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 01:43:29</p>
Language	<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

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/22

the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____06/08/12_____

The logo of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), featuring the letters 'GAA' in a stylized, white, serif font on a black background.