

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
<b>Location</b>	Ardoyne Kickhams Clubhouse, Belfast, Co Antrim
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Stephen McVicker
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1964 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Edward Rice CBS, Belfast, Co. Antrim <b>Secondary:</b> St. Malachy's College, Belfast, Co. Antrim <b>Third Level:</b> Queens University Belfast
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers & 4 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 4 daughters and 3 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ardoyne Kickhams
<b>Occupation</b>	Computer Programmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Barber [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Nationalist
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimmy McLaughlin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1930 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Oxford Street CBS, Belfast, Co. Antrim <b>Secondary:</b> Harden Street CBS, Belfast, Co. Antrim
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers & 3 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 1 daughter and 3 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ardoyne Kickhams
<b>Occupation</b>	Postman
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Post Office Engineer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Nationalist
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Fortwilliam Golf Club

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Colm Gallagher
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1930 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Holy Cross, Co. Antrim <b>Secondary:</b> St. Mary's CBS, Co. Antrim <b>Third Level:</b> Queen's University Belfast
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 4 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ardoyne Kickhams
<b>Occupation</b>	Schoolmaster
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Driver [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Nationalist
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	St. Malachy Old College Boys Association, CB Old Boys.

**REFERENCE NO. AN/1/9**

<b>Date of Report</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1907 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Antrim, Dublin, Americas, Canada
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	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, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, 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, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Stephen, Jimmy and Colm discuss their involvement in the Ardoyne Kickhams over the years. They talk about the history of the club and how they became involved with the GAA. They discuss their family's involvement in the GAA and Jimmy recalls moving to Canada and getting involved with the GAA there. They discuss the role of the GAA in their school lives and Colm talks about playing hurling in St Mary's. They talk about handball in the club and the strength of camogie. They describe the club's various grounds and where they used to play matches in the past. They talk about the relationship between the GAA and soccer and how this has changed over the years. They discuss the various fundraising methods in the past and how the ban on foreign games and dances impacted on their ability to raise money. They describe the club's success over the years and highlight the most memorable moments in the club's history. Stephen, Jimmy and Colm recall how the Troubles impacted on the club and note the tension in Belfast during that period. They describe how a number of members lost their lives because of the Troubles.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:50 (Stephen) Talks about his earliest GAA memories. Playing handball in school. Joining Ardoyne in 1985. Getting involved through his sons. Discusses his family's involvement in the club and how his family's barber shop was used for</p>

	<p>club meetings. Growing up outside Ardoyne.</p> <p>04:48 (Jimmy) Discusses his early involvement in the GAA. Going to matches with his brothers Frankie, Brian and Kevin. Playing first for St. Paul's in Falls Park. Discusses the development of the Ardoyne club. Mentions Jimmy Lynch, Jimmy McClurkin. Meetings in the Hall.</p> <p>08:38 Talks about being introduced to hurling by Patsy Reid. Discusses his family's involvement in the club. Describes the type of jerseys and how they washed them.</p> <p>09:54 Discusses moving to Canada in 1952. Talks about getting on the Antrim team. Mentions Harry Maguire, Paddy Dobbin. The role of the Ardoyne club in the community and Father Joseph from Limerick. The popularity of soccer in Ardoyne.</p> <p>12:43 Talks about his involvement in the GAA in British Columbia in Canada. Going to Toronto.</p> <p>14:00 (Colm) Discusses his earliest GAA memories. Playing hurling in school in St Mary's and the role of the GAA there. The Belfast school leagues. Playing minor with Ardoyne. Mentions Terry Cullen and Jimmy Lynch.</p> <p>16:00 Talks about becoming secretary of the club in 1948 when he was 17 and still in school. Moving away from the game until recently. Describes the type of characters in the club, John McVicker, Harry Maguire.</p> <p>18:25 Discusses being secretary when the club won the reserve league in the early 1950s. Talks about the club's other successes.</p> <p>19:40 (Jimmy) Talks about the development of the club.</p> <p>20:20 (Colm) Recalls how Ken Mallon, Skeets Gallagher, Jack McNulty and Dessie O'Hara were on the county minor team in 1956.</p> <p>20:43 (All) They talk about the different teams that had county players. Jimmy recalls a dispute on the county team. Mentions Jimmy McClurkin, Benny White.</p> <p>22:13 (Jimmy) Talks about the senior reserve team and their winning record. Being kicked out of the league because of an incident with the trophy. Mentions Joe Cormack.</p> <p>23:40 Recall a story about a girl he used to work with in Woolworths. The connection with Joe Cormack.</p>
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	<p>24:30 (Colm) Talks about playing hurling in St Mary's and the primary schools' football and hurling leagues in Belfast and Dublin. The role of the Christian Brothers. Highlights the importance of clubs having their own grounds. Mentions Corrigan Park, Macrory Park.</p> <p>28:05 Discusses the St. Malachy's College team and ground. Recalls a row at a hurling match. Describes how school made him interested in hurling. Going to see cricket in Woodvale and the Protestant community on his street.</p> <p>30:38 (Jimmy) Talks about the role of the GAA in his school in Oxford Street. Only played with Ardoyne Kickhams.</p> <p>31:15 (Stephen) Discusses playing handball in school. Had no interest in hurling or football in school. Talks about his interest in handball and the involvement of Ardoyne Kickhams in the sport.</p> <p>34:21 (Colm) Talks about the history of handball in the club and the area and the role of the Passionists and Wheatfield House. Discusses the New Education Act following the Second World War. Mentions Davy Bell and a man named Liddy.</p> <p>37:56 Describes the Fleadh Ceoil that's held in the area.</p> <p>38:34 (All) They talk about women in the club and the history of camogie in Ardoyne. They discuss the introduction of a ladies' football team in recent years.</p> <p>40:09 (Colm) Talks about the club's facilities in the past. Gives his opinion on leagues not finishing and how this happened in the past. The lack of pitches for teams to play on in Belfast.</p> <p>44:00 (All) They describe how their pitch had to be abandoned because it was in a Protestant area.</p> <p>44:30 (Colm) Recalls training in 'The Old Triangle' when he was younger. Recalls how the club played cricket on the pitch.</p> <p>45:59 (Jimmy) Talks about training in Harry Whitley's field near Mountain View. The lack of pitch for the club.</p> <p>46:47 (Stephen) Talks about their trouble in getting their own pitch. Lack of money and space. Describes the pitch they use for underage teams. The problem of anti-social behaviour. Dealing with Belfast Council and the issue of politics. Talks about where the adult teams play.</p>
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	<p>53:30 Discusses purchasing a ground outside north Belfast.</p> <p>55:28 (All) They talk about the founding of the club in 1907. Discuss the various club houses, where meetings were held and their previous grounds. Flax mill area. The British Army taking them over during the Troubles. Mention William Gilmore, Joe Lavery.</p> <p>58:35 (Stephen) Talks about purchasing the club house in the 1980s.</p> <p>01:00:35 (Jimmy) Discusses his family's involvement in the GAA. The sense of community in the club.</p> <p>01:01:50 (Colm) Recalls standing outside Davy Bell's off license to inform players about matches.</p> <p>01:03:20 (Jimmy) Talks about the 'McLaughlin' incident. Having multiple McLaughlin's on the team and an issue with this.</p> <p>01:06:23 (All) They discuss the methods of travelling to matches. Walking to games through Protestant areas and when this became a problem during the 1960s. Hiring buses to play country teams.</p> <p>01:10:15 They talk about using public transport to go to Antrim matches in Belfast. Going to county training. Discuss the facilities at Macrory and Corrigan Park. Fields changing from year to year in the country.</p> <p>01:14:00 (Jimmy) Recalls hosting seven-a-side tournaments. Having nowhere to change and wearing wet clothes. Mentions Brian Mullins.</p> <p>01:15:58 Talks about travelling to matches in John Ray's taxi.</p> <p>01:17:20 (Colm) Discusses rationing during the Second World War and the prize of suit lines for winning sevens competitions.</p> <p>01:18:30 (Jimmy) Winning money in sevens competitions. Mentions Sandy McCardle.</p> <p>01:19:45 (Colm) Talks about the Wolfe Tone's team that used to be active in Greencastle. Playing challenge matches against them. Wolfe Tone's having good facilities with table tennis tables. Mentions Joe and Dominic Byrne.</p> <p>01:21:50 (Jimmy) Recalls playing Queens and using their baths.</p>
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	<p>01:22:17 (Stephen) Discusses travelling to matches on a minibus. Getting whole squads into his car. Going to watch matches at Ardoyne. Recalls Mrs Mac. Talks about his involvement in the club.</p> <p>01:25:45 Talks about the issue of transport for the club and having so many teams playing. Recalls the club buying a minibus.</p> <p>01:28:39 (Colm) Discusses the type of fundraising the club has done and the ban on foreign dancing, the problems this caused. Having to hold Céilís and the role of the Irish Dancing Commission. Holding a Céilí in the Husband Memorial Hall.</p> <p>01:31:55 Talks about holding Céilís and getting good bands and a good Fear an Ti. Means Seamus McFerran and Sean McGettigan, Seamus Regan.</p> <p>01:34:29 Recalls an incident at the Husband Memorial Hall over the British national anthem. Mentions Micheál Mac Liammóir and Harry Maguire.</p> <p>01:38:08 (Jimmy) Talks about Locky McCurdy a former chairman of the club.</p> <p>01:39:16 (Stephen) Discusses the club's finances. Having a bar in the club and the different fundraising they have tried. Talks about the Camogie team's trip to Boston. Trying to get grants in recent years.</p> <p>01:45:38 (All) They talk about the impact of the current economic downturn on the club.</p> <p>01:49:22 They discuss the club's local rivals. The role of the media in the St Enda's rivalry. Talk about the Patrick Pearce's club.</p> <p>01:52:00 They talk about the ban on foreign games. The role of the Crumlin Star soccer team in the area.</p> <p>01:53:50 (Jimmy) Describes how the lack of GAA fixtures meant players went to soccer clubs. The popularity of soccer in Belfast. Talks about the Bone Pitch, Old Park Avenue, Harry Maguire, Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy McClurkin.</p> <p>01:59:00 Talks about Paddy Dunne's county career.</p> <p>01:59:19 (Stephen) Discusses the relationship between soccer clubs and GAA clubs and the situation has been reversed.</p> <p>02:00:39 (Colm) Talks about Alec McGoran and St Malachy's.</p>
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	<p>The relationship between Gaelic football and soccer in the school. Mentions Stephen Morrow</p> <p>02:02:38 (Stephen) Discusses players prioritising soccer over Gaelic football. Talks about the impact of rugby and the opening of Croke Park on the GAA.</p> <p>02:07:10 Talks about the lack of televising games and the McKenna Cup.</p> <p>02:08:02 (Jimmy) Discusses the differences between playing for the county and the club. Mentions Benny White.</p> <p>02:10:57 Recalls playing in the O'Duffy Cup in Monaghan. Playing with Kevin Armstrong. Mentions Harry Maguire.</p> <p>02:13:30 (Colm) Discusses playing with Queen's University. Talks about the history of the GAA in the university, forming in the 1930s. The development of hurling in the 1940s. Playing in the Fitzgibbon Cup. Talks about a priest called Fr Cunningham, Dessie Cormack and Brendan Harvey.</p> <p>02:20:04 Talks about the Fitzgibbon Cup being held in Belfast. Being dropped from the team. Mentions Brendan Harvey.</p> <p>02:23:20 Discusses the difficulty of keeping hurling alive in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>02:24:26 (Stephen) Talks about the problem of hurling in schools.</p> <p>02:25:00 (Colm) Discusses the impact of soccer on hurling.</p> <p>02:26:05 Talks about the university's in the Fitzgibbon Cup when he was in college. Recalls an incident in the 1954 Fitzgibbon Cup in Galway and a player having to go to hospital. Discusses the All-Ireland final between Cork and Galway the previous year. Mentions Christy Ring.</p> <p>02:33:00 Talks about UCD playing in the Dublin league and the effect of this on club's players.</p> <p>02:36:00 (Stephen) Highlights issues with the McKenna Cup.</p> <p>02:36:30 Discusses the impact of the Troubles on the Ardoyne club. Seventeen club members killed during the conflict.</p> <p>02:39:30 (Jimmy) Talks about his involvement in the club during the Troubles. The murder of Frank Corr. Mentions James Anderson of the UDA.</p>
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	<p>02:43:45 (Stephen) Recalls a story told to him by Sammy Morrison and being shot.</p> <p>02:45:25 (All) They highlight the danger in Belfast at the time. Mentions Ciaran McKeown, Dina McKeown. Recall the club being raided by the British Army. Mentions Joe Lavery.</p> <p>02:49:20 They discuss the killings of Larry Kennedy and Benjamin Lagan. The experience of the St Enda's club. Discusses the question of the club members being in the IRA. The club's position on the Hunger Strikes.</p> <p>02:52:28 (Colm) Recalls the parade in Casement Park in 2006 to commemorate the hunger strikes.</p> <p>02:53:10 (All) They discuss the changes in hurling from the past in comparison to today. Improvements in grounds. Mentions Paddy Douglas, Frankie Gamble. Aerial hurling, ground hurling and hurling today. Recalls a head injury to Dan Butler in Corrigan Park. The impact of that on players in the club.</p> <p>02:58:00 (Colm) Recalls playing a match in UCC and the size of the pitch.</p> <p>02:59:40 (Stephen) Talks about his best memories from the GAA. The sense of community in the Ardoyne club.</p> <p>03:01:30 (Jimmy) Discusses the family spirit in the club. Winning the senior reserve championship. Talks about Seamus White moving them up hurling leagues and winning the all-county division 2 hurling league.</p> <p>03:03:09 (Colm) Laments that if the club had their own ground they would have been more successful.</p> <p>03:03:40 Talks about his best memory in the club, meeting his wife in the club. Listening to the gramophone with Harry Maguire and Davy Bell. Describes the music they listened to.</p> <p>03:06:00 (All) They talk about the Matthews family and their involvement in camogie in the club and for Antrim. Seven sisters playing. Mentions Niamh Gilroy, Geraldine Swindles, Liz Traynors. The success of camogie in the 1980s.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter   <input type="checkbox"/> Player   <input type="checkbox"/> Manager   <input type="checkbox"/> Coach   <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson   <input type="checkbox"/> 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>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 03:09:26
<b>Language</b>	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: \_\_\_\_\_ 17/07/12 \_\_\_\_\_