

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010
<b>Location</b>	Clann na nGael Museum and Clubhouse, Johnstown, Co. Roscommon
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tony Whyte
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1939 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ardkeenán NS, Co. Roscommon <b>Secondary:</b> St. Joseph's College, Garbally Park, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Teresa with 3 daughters and 5 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Clann na nGael
<b>Occupation</b>	Health Board; Porter in Hospitals
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Truck Driver and Carpenter [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Drum Heritage Club; Athletics Club

**REFERENCE NO. RN/1/3**

<b>Date of Report</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1898 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Roscommon, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Americas, USA, Asia, Saudi Arabia
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Emigration, GAA Abroad, Role of Women, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memory, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Career, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Professionalism, Purchase of Grounds
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Tony discusses his involvement in Clann na nGael GAA club and in Roscommon GAA, as a player, manager and administrator and gives an account of the successes he experienced with both club and county at all levels. He recalls the games he played against Galway and Kerry in the Connacht and All-Ireland Championships in the 50s and 60s and recounts with great detail his trips to Dublin and Croke Park as a player. He also discusses his role in the establishment of the club museum.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:22 Tony recalls his first trip to Croke Park. Mentions All-Ireland. Mentions Paddy Prendergast, Sean Flanagan, Paddy ‘Bán’ Brosnan, Pádraig Kearney, Tom Langan. Mentions travelling by train from Athlone.</p> <p>02:35 Recalls early memories of his club, Clann na nGael GAA, and gives a brief history of how the club was formed in 1936. Mentions walking to matches. Club is formed from two half parishes: Drum and Clonown. Mentions hurling. Mentions Shine’s Hall, Keelty. Mentions Brendan Shine.</p> <p>05:55 Gives a brief account of club and county successes in the 1940s and 1950s. Mentions Frankie Kinlough. Mentions Moore parish.</p> <p>07:28 Talks about combining at minor level with another local club, Taughmaconnell, in the late 1950s. Mentions cars. Mentions rugby. Mentions Summerhill College, Sligo. Mentions Roscommon Minor Football Championships 1957, 1958 and 1959.</p> <p>09:45 Recalls winning the O’Rourke Cup in 1960. Mentions Dan O’Rourke.</p>

	<p>10:35 Talks about club successes in the 1960s. Highlights the difference between league and championship games.</p> <p>12:30 Recalls the purchase of their grounds in 1969. Mentions Drum Parish Hall. Mentions being Secretary at the time. Describes the fundraising techniques. Mentions Paddy Nicholson and Banny Henry.</p> <p>17:49 Describes the field as it was when they bought it and the various stages of development. Mentions Central Council and Connacht Council and Roscommon County Board.</p> <p>21:32 Talks about varying degrees of success in the 1970s and mentions playing his last match in 1979. Mentions being trainer.</p> <p>23:00 Recalls being first team manager in 1981 and the successes he had in the early 1980s. Mentions the Connacht Club Championship and the All-Ireland Club Championship of 1982. Mentions St Galls GAA and Portlaoise GAA. Mentions Tullamore. Mentions Tony McManus.</p> <p>28:10 Describes the campaign of 1984. Mentions county and Connacht championships. Mentions Castleisland GAA.</p> <p>29:20 Discusses stepping down as manager. Mentions Castlebar. Mentions Donie Shine. Mentions Connacht Championships. Mentions Croke Park. Mentions Kilmacud Crokes Sevens Competition, 1989.</p> <p>30:20 Talks about enjoying matches as a spectator. Mentions hiring buses and trains for supporters.</p> <p>31:45 Recalls becoming manager again in 1991 and having a successful year. Mentions Corofin GAA and St. Brigid's GAA. Mentions Connacht and county championships throughout the 1990s. Mentions John O'Mahony.</p> <p>32:51 Discusses the club's lack of success in recent years after earlier successes. Mentions famous clubs Tuam Stars GAA, Dunmore McHales GAA, Castlebar Mitchels, St. Mary's of Sligo and Castleisland GAA.</p> <p>34:36 Recalls playing rugby in school in Garbally College, Ballinasloe. Mentions athletics.</p> <p>36:05 Talks about playing Gaelic football when he was young and his first competitive senior game for Clann na nGael in November 1955. Mentions Athlone.</p> <p>38:05 Discusses his minor trial for Roscommon in 1955.</p>
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	<p>Mentions Connacht Championship. Mentions Castlebar.</p> <p>38:58 Talks about his mother's reaction to his selection to play for the county team. Refers to his own attitudes towards playing for club and county.</p> <p>40:28 Describes how he travelled to county matches including travelling in a Bedford van belonging to Mickey Durney. Mentions Castlebar.</p> <p>41:38 Talks about how the county minor team prepared for matches. Mentions Connacht Final.</p> <p>44:00 Discusses his progression to the county senior team for the league campaign in 1957. Mentions St Peter's GAA. Mentions County Final and Connacht Minor Championship.</p> <p>46:08 Talks about the difference in style of play between now and when he played.</p> <p>47:20 Talks about his senior county career. Mentions Connacht and All-Ireland Championships 1961, 1962. Recalls playing against Galway. Mentions Seán Purcell, Frank Stockwell, Frank Ivers.</p> <p>49:47 Talks about his experience playing in Croke Park and staying in Dublin. Describes the rituals before and after big games. Mentions Roscommon County Board. Mentions the Abbey Theatre, the Ambassador Cinema, the Gresham Hotel and Portmarnock Country Club.</p> <p>56:20 Talks about the championship campaign in 1962, in particular playing against Cavan. Mentions Castlebar. Mentions Croke Park. Mentions Charlie Gallagher, Tony Morris.</p> <p>57:37 Describes the preparation for the All-Ireland Final in 1962 against Kerry. Mentions collective training. Mentions the Royal Hotel owned by the late John O'Gara. Mentions St. Loman's Park.</p> <p>59:54 Talks about the aftermath of the 1962 Final and the journey back to Roscommon. Mentions Gerry O'Malley.</p> <p>01:02:00 Recalls being picked to play for the Ireland team at the end of the season. Mentions the university team.</p> <p>01:02:57 Talks about the Galway team of the early 1960s.</p> <p>01:03:48 Talks about his experience of the Railway Cup with Connacht. Discusses the demise of the Railway Cup.</p>
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	<p>Mentions All-Stars.</p> <p>01:05:20 Recalls travelling to the United States and playing there in 1966. Mentions New York, Boston, Chicago, Hartford.</p> <p>01:07:35 Discusses emigration from the area. Mentions Sonny Keenan and Michael Booth. Mentions the United States and England.</p> <p>01:08:25 Discusses the relationship between Roscommon and Kerry in the 1960s. Mentions Donal Keenan and Jim Brosnan. Mentions Tralee, Listowel and Killorglin.</p> <p>01:10:40 Talks about the development of ladies' football in the Clann na nGael club. Mentions Pat Lennon, Tom Dunne, Lizzie O'Brien, Carmel McManus and Mary Deignan. Mentions the County Championship Final 1973 and 1974. Mentions the All Ireland Senior Ladies' Football Final 1978.</p> <p>01:14:20 Discusses the decline of ladies' football in the club in the early 1980s and it's re-establishment in the 1990s. Mentions Connacht Senior Championships 1975. Mentions his role as trainer.</p> <p>01:17:04 Runs through recent successes the club has had in ladies' football at all levels. Mentions Senior County Championships 1995, 1996, 1997, Connacht Club Championships 1995, 1991, 1993, Connacht Club Intermediate Championships 2002, and Féile na nÓg.</p> <p>01:18:49 Talks about the history of camogie in the club.</p> <p>01:20:09 Recalls playing rugby at school. Discusses the Ban. Mentions rugby, soccer, hockey. Mentions going to Dalymount Park and Lansdowne Road. Playing as Tony Black, being reported.</p> <p>01:23:27 Mentions playing Gaelic football in Dublin.</p> <p>01:24:12 Describes the progression of his managerial career with Clann na nGael and Roscommon. Mentions Donal Keenan, Sean Young and Tom Heneghan. Mentions Connacht Championships in 1976 and 1977. Mentions Hyde Park. Mentions Galway.</p> <p>01:28:02 Discusses the social aspect of the GAA and the role the club played in the community. Mentions walking to matches. Mentions hiring buses. Mentions bicycle.</p> <p>01:31:33 Recalls the way in which the club museum came into existence. Talks about his memorabilia. Mentions</p>
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	<p>Pádraig Naughton. Mentions Lá na gClub.</p> <p>01:37:04 Talks about the role of volunteers in the GAA. Mentions professionalism and amateurism.</p> <p>01:40:13 Recalls his favourite memories about the GAA.</p> <p>01:40:50 Talks about his GAA idols. Mentions Michael Nolan, Jack McManus, Seán Purcell.</p> <p>01:41:35 Mentions playing gaelic football in New York and Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>01:42:35 Talks about his disappointments from his GAA career.</p> <p>01:43:15 Sums up what 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 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 checked="" 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>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played from 1955 – 1979. Club: Won 1 minor club; 6 county senior championships; 9/10 leagues (O'Rourke Cups). County: Won 2 Connacht Titles and 1 Railway Cup.</p>
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Got involved in administration in the 1960s. He was club secretary from 1960 – 1970; secretary of the development committee; chairman from 1995 – 1996 and a delegate to the county board in the 1960s.</p>
<b>Format</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:14:13</p>
<b>Language</b>	<p>English</p>

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_12/07/12\_\_\_\_\_