

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2011
<b>Location</b>	Carberry's Pub, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Dinny McCarthy
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1946 <b>Home County:</b> Meath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Seachnaill's, Co. Meath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with one son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Dunshaughlin
<b>Occupation</b>	Builder / Labourer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paddy O'Dwyer
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1945 <b>Home County:</b> Meath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Seachnail's NS, Co. Meath <b>Secondary:</b> O'Connell's Boys School, North Circular Road, Dublin
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 6 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 3 daughters and 2 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Dunshaughlin
<b>Occupation</b>	Dublin District Meat Board; Department of Agriculture
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jim Smith
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1961 <b>Home County:</b> Meath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Dunsany NS, Co. Meath <b>Secondary:</b> St. Finian's, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 4 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 1 son and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Dunshaughlin
<b>Occupation</b>	Irish Rail
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Builders Labourer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Golf Society

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<b>Date of Report</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1940s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Meath, Dublin
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Education, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Purchase of Grounds, Relationship with Association, Socialising, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Jim, Paddy and Dinny talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years, mainly with the Dunshaughlin GAA Club. They discuss the early days of the club when fundraising was vital and the different type of fundraising events held. Jim and Paddy discuss the various administrative roles that they have held, and hold, within Dunshaughlin and recall their days as referees. Dinny discusses his role as umpire and his involvement in the club from an early age. They discuss the development of the club in recent years and describe how following Dunshaughlin's step up to senior in 1997, the club went on to win three Meath Senior Football Championships in 2000, 2001 and 2002. They talk about the growth of the club in recent times and how many Meath clubs have had to amalgamate at underage due to low numbers. The men conclude the interview by highlighting the important sense of community there is within the GAA and the important role it plays.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:45 Earliest memories of the GAA - (Jim) Going to matches with his father. Dunshaughlin vs the flat-house team in the Black Bull. Mentions Ben Lynam's lorry. Dunshaughlin winning the 1967 Junior Championship.</p> <p>01:36 Earliest memories of the GAA - (Paddy) The GAA in the area in the early 1960s. Describes how the club had one team, rented a field and had no dressing rooms. Trying to get a bike to get to matches. Discusses the development of the club.</p> <p>03:05 Earliest memories of the GAA – (Dinny) Going to Croke Park in 1954. Travelled with his father on a push-bike and sat in the Canal End. Discusses his involvement in the club and the field the team used to play in, 'the cowboy' in Rath Hill.</p>

	<p>Carnival held there and in Madden's Lawn. Fundraising for the club for injured players and for the rent for the field.</p> <p>04:40 (Paddy) Discusses the type of fundraising for the club. The carnival was the main source of income. Artists like Joe Dolan played.</p> <p>05:37 (Dinny) Recalls the type of food and prices at fundraising events.</p> <p>05:55 Talks about his involvement on committees. Fighting at meetings.</p> <p>06:18 (Jim) Discusses the club moving to its new grounds in 1976. End of the fundraising carnival in 1979 due a fatal road accident.</p> <p>06:58 (Dinny) Recalls how women were stopped from going into the fundraising events because their skirts were too short, 'hula hoop' skirts. People trying to get in for free.</p> <p>08:06 Discusses his family involvement in the GAA. His mother washed the jerseys and his father was the President. Lack of toilet facilities.</p> <p>08:59 (Paddy) Discusses his family involvement in the GAA. Recalls the various roles he held in the club.</p> <p>09:48 (Jim) Discusses his family involvement in the GAA. Mentions his uncle Joe. Holds the role of chairman now.</p> <p>11:02 Talks about the development of the club and its successes. Breakthrough to senior in 1997. The loss against Crossmolina in Hyde Park in a Club All-Ireland Semi-Final. Unfortunate to miss playing against Nemo Rangers in the final.</p> <p>12:00 Talks about how things have changed in the club. Now it's run like a business and there is a €1 million project underway.</p> <p>12:57 Discusses the history of the club. 125 years old. 'Black and Amber' book celebrated 100 years of the club in 1984. Mentions the authors Patsy McLaughlin, Jim Gilligan and Micheál O'Brien from Walterstown.</p> <p>14:14 (Paddy) Recalls collecting money for the club. Hurling the main sport for the club in the early years. Discusses the various winning teams over the years. Describes the club winning its first ever senior football championship in 2000. Lost the previous year against Skryne. Cites Eamonn Barry</p>
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	<p>as being an important figure for the club.</p> <p>17:07 Discusses his playing days with the club. Underage success for the club in the 1950s. Winning the junior in 1967. Growth in numbers in modern times.</p> <p>18:59 (Jim) Talks about the pride of having Noel Curran, the All-Ireland winning Meath county footballer, on their club team in 1967. Mentions Richie Kealy. Discusses how clubs were based on families.</p> <p>19:50 Discusses how clubs were based on families and how important they are. Mentions the Dowds, O'Dwyers, Kealys, Kellys, McCales and the Gogans. The GAA as the hub of the community.</p> <p>21:15 (Dinny) Discusses his playing days with the club. Non-playing captain. Under 14 three-in-a-row team.</p> <p>21:50 Describes the types of football fields in the area.</p> <p>22:20 (Jim) Recalls his father going to Croke Park on the back of Ben Lynam's council lorry.</p> <p>22:31 (Dinny) Recalls his father, Patsy McLaughlin and Seamus Drim getting a lift to county board meetings in Navan and having to walk home.</p> <p>23:02 Discusses travelling to matches. Mostly by bike.</p> <p>23:23 (Jim) Always travelled by car to matches. Nowadays they travel to Croke Park by train from Clonsilla.</p> <p>23:54 (Paddy) Recalls travel prior to the 1960s. Having to borrow bicycles. Got lifts in cars in the 1960s. Describes the types of pitches in the local area and highlights the importance of the Land Commission in Meath for getting pitches.</p> <p>26:13 Describes being outside the parish, the parish rule. Difficulties of being in Ratoath parish.</p> <p>27:43 (Jim) Discusses playing juvenile football in Ratoath but moved to Dunshaughlin.</p> <p>28:26 (Paddy) Discusses possible exemptions of the parish rule.</p> <p>29:05 (Jim) Talks about the make up of Dunshaughlin parish. Another club in the parish, Drumree.</p> <p>30:15 Discusses the hurling tradition in the parish in the past.</p>
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	<p>Mentions Finian Englishby and the Foley family.</p> <p>31:10 (Paddy) Recalls attempts to resurrect the tradition in the area. Discusses why hurling is the minority code in the county.</p> <p>33:16 (Jim) Discusses the role of the club in the community. Describes the growth of Dunshaughlin in recent years. The differences between town and rural GAA clubs.</p> <p>35:03 (Paddy) Describes various attempts to encourage young people to join and take part in the club. Lack of involvement of players in the club once their playing career ends.</p> <p>36:42 (Jim) Discusses the growth in the club since the influx of new people into the area.</p> <p>37:37 (Paddy) Talks about membership growth in the club in recent years and compares this to the early years.</p> <p>38:56 (Jim and Paddy) Describes the various ways the club keeps in contact with its members. Website, facebook, newsletters. Discusses the benefits of the website, match reports.</p> <p>40:27 (Jim) Emigration did not affect the club to a great extent in the past but fears it may do in the near future.</p> <p>41:09 (Paddy) Expresses his concern for the future of rural clubs in the coming years. Northern Meath clubs are worse off and many have to amalgamate.</p> <p>42:53 (Jim) Describes how the club's next minor match is against an amalgamation of three clubs, Longwood, Ballivor and Kildalkey.</p> <p>43:26 (Jim) Describes his playing career. Injured at 21 and didn't play again until his 30s. Played a lot of handball when he was younger. Discusses his involvement in administration, being treasurer, vice-chairman and chairman.</p> <p>44:41 (Paddy) Describes his playing career starting with minor with Dunboyne. Recalls his various successes over the years. Mentions Gerry McEntee and Noel Curran.</p> <p>45:18 Recalls that he was always involved in administration, being a committee member when he was 14. Chairman of Dunshaughlin for 8 years. Winning the Senior Championship and playing against top clubs in Leinster including Rathnew from Wicklow. Patsy McLaughlin introduced him to</p>
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	<p>administration. Working on the Leinster Council.</p> <p>48:20 Discusses his 20 year career as a referee. In charge of two Meath senior finals, 1985 and 1987. Mentions players like Colm O'Rourke, Mick Lyons, Liam Hannon and Brian Stafford.</p> <p>49:19 (Jim) Recalls his 16 year refereeing career. Refereed in every county apart from Kerry and Derry. Talks about his team of umpires, Dennis, John Sullivan, Michael 'The Curate' Walsh, Ollie O'Neill and Stephen Burke. Mentions Larry McCormack.</p> <p>50:51 Discusses the role of Stephen Burke in the club and the various matches they worked together on. Mentions Mick Curley. Recalls a trip to Casement Park. Describes his refereeing days as his best. Refereeing players like Maurice Fitzgerald and Colm 'Gooch' Cooper.</p> <p>53:38 (Paddy) Recalls the team of umpires he worked with, Patsy McLaughlin, Paddy Lynam, Stephen Burke, Ollie O'Neill, Con O'Neill, Pat Farrell, Michael Walsh and Dinny McCarthy.</p> <p>55:07 (Paddy and Jim) Discuss the work of the referee. Conflicts of missing club games because you had to referee somewhere else.</p> <p>56:35 (Dinny) Talks about how he never gets to see a Dunshaughlin game because of umpire commitments.</p> <p>56:49 Discusses his playing career. Didn't play much and left school at 11.</p> <p>57:16 (Paddy) Emphasises the important role Dinny plays in the club.</p> <p>57:52 Discusses trouble at the club. Highlights the importance of Eamonn Barry, formally of St Peregrine's GAA.</p> <p>01:00:08 (Paddy and Jim) Discuss the developments in the infrastructure of the club in recent times. Importance of fundraising for the club.</p> <p>01:02:23 (Jim) Talks about the difficulties facing the club and the club's relationship with the county board. Mentions former secretary of the club Cyril Creavin, Patsy McLaughlin and Mairead Delaney.</p> <p>01:03:42 (Paddy) Discusses the club's relationship with the county board.</p> <p>01:04:09 (Paddy and Jim) Recalls players playing for teams</p>
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	<p>illegally. Does not happen nowadays. Describes how one player who was 17 was playing for the Under 14 team.</p> <p>01:06:13 (Jim) Discusses playing underage for Dunsany illegally.</p> <p>01:06:40 (Jim) Talks about other sports in the town, mainly soccer. No rugby teams. Some local people went to rugby school.</p> <p>01:08:00 (Paddy) Describes his best memory in the GAA. Chooses Dunshaughlin winning the Meath Senior Football Championship in 2000.</p> <p>01:09:15 (Dinny) Describes his best memory in the GAA. Also chooses winning the Championship in 2000.</p> <p>01:10:08 (Jim) Describes his best memory in the GAA. Dunshaughlin winning three Meath Senior Football Championships in a row. Winning 2 All-Irelands for handball. Also, refereeing the Leinster final in Croke Park.</p> <p>01:10:49 (Dinny) Recalls nearly getting in a fight at the final in 2000.</p> <p>01:11:35 (Jim) Chooses Stephen Burke as his GAA hero. Discusses bringing him to Castlebar for a handball match.</p> <p>01:12:45 (Paddy) Chooses the 1987 Meath team as his GAA heroes. Mentions Gerry McEntee, Mick Lyons, Liam Harnon, Bernard Flynn and Colm O'Rourke.</p> <p>01:13:45 (Paddy and Dinny) Discuss the years before the 1987 Meath team. Mentions Seán Boylan, Snitchy Ferguson, Pdraig Finnerty, Liam Creavin.</p> <p>01:15:36 (Dinny) Describes his biggest disappointment in the GAA. The 1991 All-Ireland Semi-Final, Meath beaten by Down.</p> <p>01:16:10 (Paddy) Describes his biggest disappointment in the GAA. How long it took the GAA to provide proper facilities for its players and members.</p> <p>01:16:53 (Jim) Describes his biggest disappointment in the GAA. When Carmelite College beat St Finian's of Mullingar in the 1978 Leinster Colleges Final in Moate. Mentions Father Jim Duignan.</p> <p>01:17:32 Highlights the importance of football in St Finian's. Travelling around Ireland with Fergus Kearney playing handball. Stopping for food in the Darnley Inn. Recalls the</p>
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	<p>friends he made. Mentions Shane McEntee.</p> <p>01:20:24 (Jim) Discusses the club's involvement in the Scór competition.</p> <p>01:20:45 Talks about the work of the GAA in promoting Irish language. Discusses multiculturalism.</p> <p>01:22:15 (Paddy) Discusses the club's involvement in the Scór competition and the promotion of the Irish language within the GAA.</p> <p>01:23:15 (Dinny) Talks about how he has no interest in the Irish language.</p> <p>01:23:29 (Jim) Describes what the GAA has meant to him. It is part of his life, a labour of love.</p> <p>01:24:28 (Paddy) Describes what the GAA has meant to him. Sacrifices made.</p> <p>01:25:22 (Dinny) Describes what the GAA has meant to him. The GAA has been part of his life forever. The great friendships made.</p> <p>01:26:28 (Jim) Discusses the sense of community within the GAA following the death of Michaela Harte. The GAA community in Galway in relation to the death of Michael Coleman.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Dinny:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Paddy:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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 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> <p><b>Jim:</b></p>

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	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager   <input type="checkbox"/> Coach   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer   <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee   <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____         </p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Dinny:</b> Played for 3 years. Won an Under 14 championship.</p> <p><b>Paddy:</b> Played for 18 years. Won a junior title in 1967, an intermediate championship in 1977, a few leagues and 7-A-Sides.</p> <p><b>Jim:</b> Played for 12 years. Won a minor championship, leagues, 2 All-Ireland Minor Handball Titles.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Dinny:</b> Has been a committee member since 1960.</p> <p><b>Paddy:</b> Has been involved in administration since 1960.</p> <p>Club: Chairman (8 years), Vice-chairman, Secretary, Delegate to County Board</p> <p>County: Leinster Council Delegate (7 years), Assistant Secretary, Referee's Co-ordinator</p> <p>Leinster: Referees Appointment Committee, Competitions Controls Committee.</p> <p><b>Jim:</b> Has been involved in administration since 1977.</p> <p>Club: Cloakroom Committee at the Carnival, Treasurer (6 years), Vice-chairman (6 years), Chairman (6 years)</p> <p>County: Referee's Committee.</p>

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<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:27:58
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<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:      \_\_\_\_\_06/08/12\_\_\_\_\_