

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

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| Name of Interviewer | Arlene Crampsie |
| Date of Interview | 5 th August 2010 |
| Location | Interviewee's home, near Collon, Co. Louth |
| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Niamh Reid |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Female |
| Born | Year Born: 1990 Home County: Louth |
| Education | Primary: Collon NS, Co. Louth Secondary: Ardee Community School, Co. Louth Third Level: Dundalk Institute of Technology |
| Family | Siblings: 1 sister |
| Club(s) | Mattock Rangers |
| Occupation | Student; Part-time Care Assistant |
| Parents' Occupation | Farmer / Fencer [Father]; Alzheimer's Care Assistant [Mother] |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | None |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | Basketball; Irish Dancing |

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| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Maria Reid |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Female |
| Born | Year Born: 1993 Home County: Louth |
| Education | Primary: Collon NS, Co. Louth Secondary: Ardee Community School, Co. Louth |
| Family | Siblings: 1 sister |
| Club(s) | Mattock Rangers |
| Occupation | Student |
| Parents' Occupation | Farmer / Fencer [Father]; Alzheimer's Care Assistant [Mother] |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | N/A |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | Basketball; Stage School |

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| Date of Report | 27 th June 2012 |
| Period Covered | 1980s – 2010 |
| Counties/Countries Covered | Louth |
| Key Themes Covered | Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Education, Media, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/ Economics |
| Interview Summary | <p>Niamh and Maria talk about their involvement with the GAA in Louth. Their local club is Mattock Rangers, Collon, but they could only play camogie at underage level there and then played for St. Mary's, Ardee and went on to represent their county. They talk about their experiences playing the games and the problems that they regularly face, such as lack of commitment from other players, poor structures in place and not being prioritised by their clubs. Niamh went on to work for the Louth County Board at a relatively young age and she talks about what this is like. She has to attend meetings frequently and work with people who have been in their positions for a long time, which can cause difficulties. Both are passionate about the GAA and take great enjoyment from their involvement, but believe that there is a strong need for vast improvements if ladies football and camogie are to have a healthy future in the county.</p> <p>00:30 (Niamh) Earliest GAA memories. Family involvement.</p> <p>00:45 (Niamh) Going to games in Collon.</p> <p>00:55 (Maria) Going to games with her father.</p> <p>01:10 (Niamh) Local club, Mattock Rangers. Teams they have.</p> <p>01:35 (Niamh) Playing with St Mary's Ardee.</p> <p>01:50 (Niamh) Family involvement. Uncles Seán and Damien playing with Louth. Father playing with the local club. Successes they had.</p> |

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| | <p>02:35 (Niamh) Facilities when they were growing up. James Englishby trying to start a ladies football team.</p> <p>02:50 (Niamh) Improved facilities at the club.</p> <p>03:20 (Niamh) Camogie in the area. Tony Corcoran from Kilkenny starting a camogie and hurling team.</p> <p>03:55(Niamh) Competing in Cumann na mBunscol.</p> <p>04:10 (Maria) Playing with her school and in Croke Park in a final.</p> <p>04:30 (Maria) How she got on the team. Atmosphere at Croke Park. Playing for Cork against Kilkenny.</p> <p>05:00 (Niamh) Club colours. Men reaching a senior final. Club colours all around the community.</p> <p>05:35 (Niamh) Celebrations after the team one. Kit Henry, the team trainer, taken aback by the extent of the celebrations. Parish priest hosting a barbecue.</p> <p>06:40 (Niamh) Social aspect of GAA. Going on excursions with clubmates.</p> <p>07:15 (Niamh) Making friends through the GAA.</p> <p>07:40 (Niamh) Starting playing camogie at 11. Playing football with the boys in Collon.</p> <p>08:05 (Niamh) Joining St Mary's Ardee. Success on the field.</p> <p>09:10 (Niamh) Losing a Leinster final to Westmeath. Later success. Reaching an All-Ireland final.</p> <p>09:35 (Maria) Losing a Leinster final to Wicklow. Beating them a week later.</p> <p>10:20 (Maria) Playing with the boys in Collon when she was 12.</p> <p>10:35 (Maria) Playing underage camogie with Collon and moving to St Mary's Ardee.</p> <p>11:00 (Maria) Playing for her county.</p> |
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| | <p>11:10 (Niamh) Career with the county side. First game. Excitement.</p> <p>12:15 (Maria) Reluctance to play with the county when she was younger. Later enjoying it.</p> <p>12:45 (Maria) Titles she has won with the county.</p> <p>13:20 (Niamh) Alan McGrath from Cooley, Pat Macken from Knockbridge, Dermot Agnew from the Malachy's, Gabriel Clarke from Ardee and Ann Fedigan in charge of the county team. Fedigan is secretary of Louth Ladies Football and is also involved with Hunterstown.</p> <p>13:45 (Niamh) Players being picked up in a bus.</p> <p>14:35 (Niamh) Players having to organise their own lifts in the past. Improved county structure.</p> <p>15:00 (Niamh) Louth's All-Ireland success. New manager, Brian Carroll from Ardee, coming in. His impact.</p> <p>16:15 (Niamh) Underage teams doing well. Father in charge of the Under-16 Louth team.</p> <p>16:50 (Niamh) Mother's interest in the GAA. Her mother's family's GAA involvement.</p> <p>17:55 (Niamh) Hurling and camogie in Louth. Working for the Louth county board.</p> <p>18:10 (Niamh) Not being able to field a team for certain games.</p> <p>18:30 (Niamh) Ladies football more prominent in the county. Six camogie teams in Louth.</p> <p>19:10 (Niamh) St Bride's, Knockbridge, Cooley Kickhams, St Kevin's, Philipstown, St Anne's, Togher and Kilkerry the other teams. Inniskeen from Monaghan participating in their competitions, but they are very strong.</p> <p>19:50 (Niamh) Niamh McKeown the oldest player on the team. Inniskeen older.</p> <p>20:35 (Niamh) Picking up camogie skills.</p> <p>21:15 (Niamh) Younger players starting to play earlier.</p> |
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| | <p>21:45 (Niamh) Getting involved in administration. Ann Callan and Sinéad Duffy involved for a long time. Regional development officer Ger Gribben suggesting getting more people involved.</p> <p>23:00 (Niamh) Other administrative experience. Role of family name.</p> <p>23:40 (Niamh) Work she does in the position. Working on the poc fada competition. Tipperary goalkeeper Brendan Cummins involved. Running a poc fada competition in Louth.</p> <p>25:15 (Niamh) Scarcity of referees in Louth.</p> <p>26:00 (Niamh) Attending county board meetings. Atmosphere there. Arguments.</p> <p>27:35 (Niamh) Being helped by chairperson Ann Callen.</p> <p>28:10 (Niamh) Ann and Sinéad adapting to new structure. Occasional resistance to change.</p> <p>28:55 (Niamh) Nuala Hoey and Bernie Kirk's involvement.</p> <p>30:10 (Niamh) Mary O'Connor working in Croke Park and attending county board meetings.</p> <p>30:25 (Niamh) Crehan family's involvement.</p> <p>30:40 (Niamh) Tony Corcoran's involvement.</p> <p>31:50 (Niamh) Uncles on the committee in Collon.</p> <p>32:15 (Niamh) Considering herself too young for the position on occasion. Busy GAA schedule.</p> <p>33:40 (Niamh) Role of gender in how she is perceived. Making suggestions.</p> <p>35:20 (Niamh) Fundraising.</p> <p>36:00 (Maria) Facilities in Collon. Inniskeen's facilities.</p> <p>37:00 (Niamh) Working in summer camps and what others say about Collon's facilities.</p> <p>38:00 (Maria) Making money out of the facilities.</p> |
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| | <p>38:10 (Niamh) Unrealised potential of facilities.</p> <p>38:35 (Niamh) Groups using their facilities for meetings.</p> <p>38:55 (Niamh) Relationship between ladies football and camogie in Louth. Fixture issues in 2009.</p> <p>39:55 (Niamh) Fixture clashes leading to tensions.</p> <p>40:55 (Niamh) Difficulties in fielding a team.</p> <p>40:35 (Niamh) Pat Macken and his wife Bernie's involvement in camogie.</p> <p>42:25 (Niamh) Being involved in the camogie county board and playing football. Potential conflict of interests.</p> <p>43:40 (Niamh) Reasons for clashes over administrative issues.</p> <p>44:55 (Niamh) Relationship between men's and women's teams. Terence Donegan as chairman and trying to unite people to work hard for the club.</p> <p>45:55 (Niamh) Locals angry when hurling was first introduced in the area.</p> <p>46:15 (Niamh) Football taking priority when it comes to pitch allocation.</p> <p>46:50 (Niamh) Men's and ladies football at county level. Lack of publicity for ladies' games.</p> <p>47:10 (Maria) Dermot Woods failing to mention games on the radio.</p> <p>47:55 (Niamh) Men getting more coverage in the newspapers.</p> <p>48:15 (Niamh) Women winning the Leinster final and little publicity about it.</p> <p>48:30 (Niamh) Improved facilities that they have. Availability of pitches. The new centre at Darver.</p> <p>49:50 (Niamh) Importance of getting publicity for their games.</p> |
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| | <p>51:00 (Maria) Camogie and ladies football in schools. Impact of recession.</p> <p>51:40 (Niamh) Teams they had when she was in school and how that has changed.</p> <p>52:35 (Maria) Differences between club and county level. Numbers in attendance.</p> <p>52:25 (Niamh) Dedication of Stabannon Parnells players and of the Lynchs.</p> <p>54:20 (Niamh) Lack of socialising between Ardee players.</p> <p>55:10 (Niamh) Support of Stabannon community for their teams.</p> <p>55:35 (Niamh) Some girls not being very committed.</p> <p>56:35 (Niamh) Plans to set up a team in Collon. Importance of having a strong sense of club identity.</p> <p>58:25 (Maria) Sense of identity they have with St Mary's.</p> <p>58:40 (Niamh) How that compares with previous years. Being close as a team.</p> <p>59:20 (Niamh) Being captain and trying to organise social events.</p> <p>01:00:25 (Niamh) Involvement of men in coaching ladies football and camogie teams.</p> <p>01:00:40 (Maria) Advantages of having male coaches.</p> <p>01:00:50 (Niamh) Disadvantages of having male coaches.</p> <p>01:01:50 (Niamh) Mary Foy from Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan is the sole female referee to officiate at their games.</p> <p>01:02:30 (Niamh) Difficult job referees have. Refereeing at summer camp games occasionally.</p> <p>01:03:25 (Niamh) Respect for referees in rugby compared to football.</p> <p>01:03:35 (Niamh) Incident during a O'Rahillys and</p> |
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| | <p>Tallanstown game involving a referee. Chairman Peter Murphy protecting the referee.</p> <p>01:05:15 (Niamh) Assistance they get from Croke Park. Weaker counties struggling.</p> <p>01:06:35 (Niamh) Bigger counties getting more attention.</p> <p>01:07:00 (Niamh) More teams involved in ladies football in the county.</p> <p>01:07:15 (Niamh) Plans to start another Louth club failing to come to fruition and reasons for that.</p> <p>01:07:45 (Niamh) Same faces at county board meetings every month.</p> <p>01:08:10 (Niamh) Camogie in the south of the county. Raising the issue with development officer Ger Gribben.</p> <p>01:08:50 (Niamh) Development officer Máiréad McGahan sending coaches into schools.</p> <p>01:09:35 (Niamh) Lack of adequate structures to maintain the interest of girls in schools in the south of the county.</p> <p>01:09:50 (Niamh) Importance of volunteers to the GAA.</p> <p>01:10:55 (Maria) Prospect of pay-for-play in the GAA.</p> <p>01:11:15 (Niamh) Men and women and their levels of commitment.</p> <p>01:11:55 (Niamh) Commitment of David Brennan from Collon despite a difficult domestic situation.</p> <p>01:13:15 (Niamh) Where the name 'Mattock Rangers' came from.</p> <p>01:13:35 (Maria) Getting a new crest.</p> <p>01:13:45 (Niamh) Having a competition to design the new crest. Cousin, Adrian Reid, designing the older crest.</p> <p>01:14:35 (Niamh) Participation in Scór. Working on that with Daniel Bannon.</p> <p>01:15:30 (Niamh) New man in the county board working to</p> |
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| | <p>boost Irish language and culture within the GAA.</p> <p>01:16:05 (Niamh) Success of Lá na gClub.</p> <p>01:16:35 (Maria) GAA hero - her uncle Damien. Cora Staunton of Mayo another hero.</p> <p>01:17:10 (Niamh) Admiration for her uncle and his GAA involvement.</p> <p>01:17:45 (Niamh) His sons following in his footsteps.</p> <p>01:17:55 (Niamh) Admiration for 'Micko'.</p> <p>01:18:20 (Niamh) Travelling to Limerick for a game.</p> <p>01:18:40 (Niamh) Playing on a strange pitch that resembles bogland. Facilities there.</p> <p>01:19:30 (Maria) Going to Westmeath and Wexford for games.</p> <p>01:19:45 (Niamh) Playing in London as part of the All-Ireland competition.</p> <p>01:20:30 (Maria) Playing in Croke Park and how that is a special memory.</p> <p>01:20:55 (Niamh) Winning the Leinster final and what that meant.</p> <p>01:21:20 (Niamh) Collon having success.</p> <p>01:21:40 (Niamh) Losing a minor Leinster final and how that felt.</p> <p>01:22:20 (Maria) Losing an Under-16 Leinster final to Westmeath.</p> <p>01:22:45 (Niamh) Losing an intermediate final and being captain.</p> <p>01:23:15 (Maria) What the GAA has meant to her. Making new friends.</p> <p>01:23:35 (Niamh) Role of GAA in her life. Enjoying her involvement with summer camps.</p> |
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| | <p>01:25:00 (Niamh) How she envisages her future involvement with the GAA.</p> <p>01:25:35 (Maria) Desire to work in management in the future.</p> <p>01:26:10 (Maria) Prospect of her getting involved in administration.</p> <p>01:26:20 (Niamh) Commitment involved when working in administration.</p> |
| <p>Involvement in GAA</p> | <p>Niamh: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Maria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> |
| <p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p> | <p>Niamh: Has been playing since the age of 10. In Ladies Football she has won a Leinster title in 2009; Intermediate Championship, 2009; Intermediate League and Championship in 2007; Junior League and Championship 2006; Under 18, 2007 and 2008; Under 16, 2006. She has also won a Camogie Under 18 championship.</p> <p>Maria: Has been playing since the age of 8/9. In Ladies Football she has won a Leinster Under 16, Under 18 and School's Primary Title. At club level she has won Under 16 League and Championships between 2006 and 2009; Minor Championships in 2007, 2008 and 2009; Intermediate Championship, 2009 and an Intermediate League, 2008.</p> |
| <p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how</p> | <p>N/A</p> |

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| long for) | |
| Format | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual |
| Duration | Length of Interview: 01:27:19 |
| Language | 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: _____27/06/12_____