

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2011
<b>Location</b>	Tommy's Home, near Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tommy Gunn
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1944 <b>Home County:</b> Fermanagh
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Derrylin PS, Co. Fermanagh <b>Secondary:</b> St. Michael's College, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh <b>Third Level:</b> St. Joseph's College of Education, Belfast; Queen's University Belfast
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 2 sons and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Derrylin O'Connell's
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired School Principal
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer and Taxi Driver [Father]; Farmer [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Nationalist
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Various Voluntary Organisations as Chairperson and Secretary

REFERENCE NO. FR/1/7

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eamon McBrien
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1943 <b>Home County:</b> Fermanagh
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Aughakillymaude <b>Secondary:</b> Fermanagh College <b>Third Level:</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 2 sons and 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Derrylin O'Connells
<b>Occupation</b>	Motor Mechanic
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. FR/1/7

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Patrick Drumm
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1932 <b>Home County:</b> Fermanagh
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Yes <b>Secondary:</b> N/A
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers
<b>Club(s)</b>	Derrylin O'Connell's
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Nationalist
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Credit Union; Skittles; Parish Council

REFERENCE NO. FR/1/7

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Patrick Maguire (Paddy Slates)
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1924 <b>Home County:</b> Fermanagh
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Derrylin PS, Co. Fermanagh
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Winnifred with 1 son and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Derrylin Harps; Derrylin O'Connells; Lisnaskea Emmets
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer and Village Orderly
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Nationalist
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	President of the Pioneers; Parochial Committee; Badminton

REFERENCE NO. FR/1/7

<b>Date of Report</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1933 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Fermanagh, Armagh, Great Britain, England, Dublin
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Playing, Training, Refereeing, 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
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Paddy Maguire, Patrick Drumm, Eamon McBride and Tommy Gunn discuss their earliest GAA memories of playing with Derrylin. They describe the development of facilities in the area and the fundraising efforts to facilitate the developments. Tommy gives an account of the history of the GAA in Derrylin. The men recall experiences of playing matches for Derrylin and discuss their later involvement in administrative roles within the club. The group talk about the importance of GAA in their lives.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>01:01 Paddy Maguire discusses his earliest memory of the GAA – travelling with his father to matches. Recalls 2 teams in the area, the Derrylin Harps (his team) and Derrylin O’Connells. Recalls experiences of playing on the team.</p> <p>03:00 Paddy discusses the lack of facilities in the area in his playing days. Recalls changing for matches in local stables. He mentions the poor pitch facilities, playing in a local field.</p> <p>04:36 Tommy recalls the development of the new pitch in 1969. He recalls taking steel from a disused stables and assembling a makeshift changing rooms at one end of the pitch.</p> <p>05:56 Patrick Drumm recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. He recalls playing football with Derrylin O’Connells. Recalls an experience of playing against Derrygonnelly in a final. Mentions the Lee brothers that played with Derrylin O’Connells.</p> <p>07:13 Patrick recalls his enjoyment in playing football. Recalls matches being cancelled due to rows and fights. Mentions a local rival team, Teemore and James Cassidy and Seamus Murray. Going to Lisnaskea by bus.</p>

	<p>08:51 Patrick describes the facilities in Derrylin O'Connells at the time. He discusses the team "breaking up". Mentions the Gunn brothers and Cassidy's.</p> <p>10:25 Tommy discusses the facilities in Derrylin in his playing days in the 1960s. He recalls having to tog out for matches in bushes.</p> <p>11:01 The men recall washing themselves in the local river.</p> <p>12:10 Eamon discusses his earliest GAA memories – recalls starting to play in the late 1960s. Mentions winning a minor championship.</p> <p>13:22 Eamon discusses his role as Chairman of the club, a position he held for 13 years.</p> <p>13:45 Tommy describes his earliest GAA memories – recalls playing football at school. Mentions Malachy Mahon, a county player who taught football after school. Recalls the old boots he wore. Recalls experiences of playing football at school.</p> <p>16:38 Recalls an experience of playing a match at Under 14 level against Kinawley.</p> <p>18:02 Paddy Maguire recalls using a pig's bladder as a makeshift football in his early playing days.</p> <p>18:27 Paddy Drumm and Tommy recall the old style of laced football used.</p> <p>19:57 Tommy discusses the lack of kit for the teams in earlier days. Mentions the team colours, green and gold.</p> <p>20:33 Discuss a match between Derrylin Harps and Derrylin O'Connells, recalls their colours and Peter Maguire refereeing the match.</p> <p>***Paddy Drumm leaves the interview***</p> <p>21:40 Tommy talks about the history of GAA in Derrylin. He mentions that football was played from the late 1880s. Recalls team names - Drumdowney Slashers, Derrymacausey Grattans and The Mitchels.</p> <p>22:40 Tommy and Paddy talk about the 1920s and the success of the Knockninny Harps. They recall their victories in the county championship in 1927 and 1932. Mention the McDonnell brothers, who went on to play on the Fermanagh County team.</p> <p>24.40 Describe Knockninny parish – Derrylin and Teemore.</p>
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	<p>24:55 Tommy talks about the decline of Knockninny Harps in the 1930s and the subsequent formation of Derrylin O'Connells.</p> <p>25:38 Paddy talks about playing with Lisnaskea in 1949 and 1950 as football had fallen away in Derrylin due to emigration. He recalls the re-establishment of the Derrylin team in 1951 and their subsequent successes at junior level.</p> <p>26:40 Paddy Maguire recalls winning a senior championship and league with Lisnaskea. He recalls being approached by Lisnaskea to play and taking the chance as they were one of the top teams in Fermanagh at the time.</p> <p>27:30 Paddy Maguire talks about the cooperation in the community in 1951 in re-establishing a football team in Derrylin. Recalls smuggling in a kit from Dublin.</p> <p>28:23 Tommy mentions that Derrylin won the junior league in 1957 and has remained Derrylin O'Connells since 1951.</p> <p>28:55 Tommy and Paddy Maguire recall an incident when the 1957 team went to get a group photograph taken in Hudson's in Enniskillen.</p> <p>32:58 Tommy discusses the purchase of a piece of land in the parish to develop new grounds in 1969. He talks about a recent purchase of more land to develop a second pitch.</p> <p>34:15 The group discuss the fundraising efforts to acquire the grounds in 1969. Mention door-to-door collections, concerts, raffles.</p> <p>36:28 Paddy Maguire talks about the grounds acquired in 1969. He recalls that they were parochial grounds. Tommy talks about the voluntary work in the community to build the grounds once the land was purchased.</p> <p>37:36 Tommy talks about the future development plans for Derrylin O'Connells.</p> <p>38:00 Paddy Maguire discusses his family's involvement in the GAA. He recalls his father playing with Derrylin Harps. Mentions the different style of football.</p> <p>39:54 Eamon discusses his family's lack of involvement in GAA – his father didn't play football. He recalls moving to Derrylin in 1943 and taking an interest from attending local matches.</p> <p>41:12 Eamon talks about attending the Tech school in Fermanagh. He mentions being part of the first football team</p>
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	<p>within the school.</p> <p>42:05 Tommy talks about family interest in the GAA. He notes that he can't recall his father playing football.</p> <p>42:35 Tommy talks about his playing days at St. Michael's College. He recalls the rise of underage football in Fermanagh in the 1960s and progressing at underage levels in school.</p> <p>44:12 Tommy talks about a Minutes Book from 1932 which mentions his father being on the committee.</p> <p>45:32 Paddy Maguire talks about the ban on attending soccer and rugby matches. Tommy remembers watching matches in Tully.</p> <p>46:24 Tommy discusses working in Belfast. He recalls playing a soccer match for a Belfast pub team and narrowly missing a suspension from the GAA. Mentions Seamus Brennan from Galway and ending up in Oriel Park.</p> <p>48:20 Paddy Maguire talks about his interest in rugby, although he never played. He mentions that he has no interest in soccer at all.</p> <p>49:20 Paddy Maguire and Eamon recall travelling to matches on bicycle.</p> <p>50:22 Paddy Maguire recalls returning to Derrlyin and a match against Tempo. He discusses playing football with Fermanagh. He recalls a match against Tyrone resulting in a draw and being defeated by them the following week.</p> <p>51:30 Paddy mentions that there was no training with the Fermanagh team.</p> <p>52:25 Tommy discusses his county career with Fermanagh. He discusses the differing styles of training compared to nowadays. He recalls training in Enniskillen – discusses the poor quality of the pitch. Losing a ball into Lough Erne.</p> <p>54:25 Tommy talks about the selection committee that looked after the management and training of the county team in his county playing days.</p> <p>56:15 Paddy talks about half time at matches. He recalls drinking poitin.</p> <p>57:30 Eamon talks about the lack of safety for goalkeepers. He recalls receiving knocks.</p>
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	<p>58:38 The group talk about moving into administrative roles within the club. Paddy recalls the meetings being held in a local house beside the football field. Tommy recalls attending meetings at a young age in a roof space in a local hall.</p> <p>01:00:41 Tommy recalls committee meetings being held in the parochial hall and in the dressing rooms in later years.</p> <p>01:01:10 The group talk about the role of the clergy in the club. Tommy mentions Fr Tiernan and his contribution to the purchase of the pitch in 1969. Paddy recalls Fr Tiernan's interest in camogie.</p> <p>01:03:36 Tommy talks about hurling and camogie in the club. He mentions records of camogie being played in the 1930s. He describes his efforts to establish hurling in the club at underage level. He describes a lack of support and expertise bringing an end to hurling in the club.</p> <p>01:05:50 Tommy and Paddy Maguire talk about handball being played in Derrylin in the early years. Mentions Fr. Frank McDonnell. First handball alley in Fermanagh was in Derrylin. Tells a story about Mick McBrien a local teacher, Canon McGuinness and the breaking of a school window.</p> <p>01:08:52 Tommy talks about playing rounders at school. The group mentions that rounders was not played competitively in Derrylin.</p> <p>01:09:54 Tommy discusses the rise of ladies football in Derrylin and the subsequent fall of camogie. He discusses the successes of the underage ladies football teams.</p> <p>01:11:20 Tommy discusses the resurrection of the Scór competitions in Derrylin.</p> <p>01:11:38 The group talk about the role of women in administrative roles in Derrylin club.</p> <p>01:12:34 The group discuss cultural activities and the Irish language within the club. Tommy mentions that Irish conversational classes were held for a number of years in the club.</p> <p>01:16:47 Paddy recalls that The Troubles didn't impact on the club.</p> <p>01:17:52 Tommy recalls being stopped by the police travelling to matches.</p> <p>01:18:51 The group discuss the biggest changes in the GAA in their lifetimes. Paddy Maguire discusses his dislike of the</p>
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	<p>style of football today. Eamon discusses the improvement to club facilities. Tommy notes the improvement of facilities from his playing days. He also notes the commitment of county players at the expense of the club.</p> <p>01:22:50 The group discuss the growing professionalism in the GAA with regard to players and administration. They note their opposition to the payment of players. Tommy talks about his support on a small level for payment to officials.</p> <p>01:26:16 Paddy discusses his best GAA memory. He recalls Derrylin winning the Fr O'Dowd Cup for the most sporting team in the county.</p> <p>01:27:18 Eamon recalls his best GAA memories – winning the junior league with Derrylin in 1967, the opening of the new pitch, travelling to Corby.</p> <p>01:28:00 Eamon discusses the celebrations that ensued after winning the junior league two years consecutively.</p> <p>01:28:29 Tommy recalls his best GAA memories – winning the junior league with Derrylin, playing Newtownbutler in the senior championship in 1975, the development of facilities within the club.</p> <p>01:31:05 Tommy and Paddy discusses the camaraderie and friendships developed through playing football.</p> <p>01:31:49 The group discuss people they admire within the GAA. Mentions P.T. Treacy, Mick O'Connell, Tom Fee, John Vesey, Paul Brewster, Paddy Drumm and John Drumm.</p> <p>01:34:10 The group talk about long distances travelled to watch or play matches. Tommy recalls a match in London and Downings in Donegal. Eamon mentions the trip to Corby in England and describes the link between Derrylin and Corby.</p> <p>01:37:30 Paddy talks about playing with Fermanagh in London in New Eltham in 1959. Describes the journey there and back.</p> <p>01:38:00 Paddy talks about his involvement as a selector for the All-Ireland winning Fermanagh Junior Football Championship team in 1959. He discusses the excitement in the county. Mentions Paddy O'Hara from Antrim, PT Treacy, JJ Treacy, James Cassidy and Mickey Brewster.</p> <p>01:39:29 Paddy describes the celebrations that followed the All-Ireland victory. Stopping in Newtownbutler, Lisnaskea and</p>
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	<p>then Enniskillen.</p> <p>01:40:25 Paddy Maguire talks about his biggest disappointments within the GAA – he mentions Fermanagh’s defeat in the Ulster Final against Armagh in 2008. Eamon also mentions this as his biggest disappointment.</p> <p>01:41:34 Tommy discusses his biggest disappointment with the GAA – failing to win a county senior championship with Derrylin.</p> <p>01:42:25 The group discuss what their involvement with the GAA has meant to them – Paddy talks about his passion for football and that it “meant everything” to him. Eamon talks about the camaraderie and pride with being involved with Derrylin. Tommy discusses the bonds and friendships forged throughout the country.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Tommy:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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 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>Eamon:</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" 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> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Patrick D:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" 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> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Patrick M:</b></p>

REFERENCE NO. FR/1/7

	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Selector with Junior All-Ireland team 1959</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Tommy:</b> Played for 25 years. Won Fermanagh junior football league and championship, Antrim junior football leagues, Inter-county O'Duffy Cup and numerous tournaments.</p> <p><b>Eamon:</b> Played for 20 years. Won a minor championship, and a junior league and championship.</p> <p><b>Patrick D:</b> Won junior football leagues in 1957 and 1967 and a junior football championship in 1967.</p> <p><b>Patrick M:</b> Played for 13 years. Won senior championship and league with Lisnaskea, junior league with Derrylin.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Tommy:</b> Has been development committee secretary (1969 – 1977), chairman (2000 – 2006), cultural officer (2005 – 2009) and county board delegate several times.</p> <p><b>Eamon:</b> Club chairman for 13 years</p> <p><b>Patrick D:</b> Club chairman (10 years), treasurer (15 years) and committee member for (40 years)</p> <p><b>Patrick M:</b> Was involved in administration from 1951 until the late 1970s. Club: Secretary and Delegate to the County Board County: County Board Registrar.</p>

**REFERENCE NO. FR/1/7**

<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:46:09
<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:        \_\_\_\_\_03/08/12\_\_\_\_\_