

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
<b>Location</b>	County Board Offices, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Noreen Doherty
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1957 <b>Home County:</b> Donegal
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Glencovitt NS, Co. Donegal <b>Secondary:</b> St. Columba's College, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal <b>Third Level:</b> IPA
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Aidan
<b>Club(s)</b>	MacCumhalls
<b>Occupation</b>	County Administrator
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	ICA

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<b>Date of Report</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1950s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Donegal, Dublin, Down, Derry, Sligo
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Media, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Noreen talks about her involvement in the GAA over the years. She recalls her earliest memories of the Association and her family's involvement in the MacCumhaill's club. She discusses her early involvement in administration as club secretary and what this role involved. Noreen talks about getting involved in administration at a county level as county secretary and at national level. She notes that she was the first female on the Donegal county board and the first female in Ireland to be a county secretary and on the Central Council. She discusses what these roles involved and the issues and challenges she faced over the years. She talks about her involvement in the Donegal team that won the All-Ireland football final in 1992. Noreen gives her opinion on the various rule changes within the GAA over the years and discusses the relationship between the media and the county board. She talks about the different committees she has served on at a national level and the important work that they have done. Towards the end of the interview Noreen talks about what the GAA has meant to her over the years and highlights the important role that the Association has played in her life.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:23 Noreen talks about her earliest memory of the GAA, going to see Donegal play Tyrone in MacCumhaill Park (McCool Park) in 1973.</p> <p>02:08 Discusses playing handball beside her home when she was young. Trying to set up a camogie team in St Columba's</p>

	<p>College.</p> <p>03:37 Talks about her first memories of the local club, Sean MacCumhail's (Sean McCool's). Was first known as Erin's Hope. Discusses her involvement in administration and her family's involvement in the club.</p> <p>05:23 Recalls her father talking about the club in the past and the rivalry between Corgary and Knock.</p> <p>06:56 Discusses travelling to club matches in places like Glenties, Letterkenny and Donegal Town.</p> <p>08:05 Talks about her first trip to Croke Park to see Donegal play during the Troubles. Describes travelling on a bus down to Dublin on the same day that IRA prisoners broke out of Portlaoise prison.</p> <p>12:10 Discusses her involvement in administration. Becoming club secretary. Getting involved with the county in 1986. Being the first female on the county board, the first female county secretary in Ireland and the first female on the central council.</p> <p>14:46 Describes what club meetings were like and the issues she faced. Doing a training course in Croke Park.</p> <p>16:50 Discusses being a female in administration.</p> <p>17:55 Describes the role of club secretary. Talks about the types of characters in the club during that time. Discusses attending county board meetings.</p> <p>20:05 Recalls her first county board meeting in Glenties. Taking time to get confidence to speak.</p> <p>21:25 Talks about the development of the club while she was secretary.</p> <p>22:20 Describes the role of county assistant secretary and secretary and the difficulties with the job. The impact of technology on the job. Recalls winning the All-Ireland in 1992. Issues with tickets.</p> <p>26:22 Describes an average day as county secretary and the training programmes available when she was involved. Recalls doing a computer course in the local vocational college.</p> <p>30:26 Talks about her husband's interest in the GAA.</p> <p>31:03 Discusses the social side of the GAA.</p>
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	<p>31:46 Describes the types of issues she faced as county secretary. Talks about the development of MacCumhaill Park.</p> <p>32:55 Talks about the various rule changes over the years, the opening of Croke Park and the ban on security forces. Recalls debating it on the Primetime programme on RTÉ.</p> <p>35:20 Discusses her role as county secretary during 1992 when Donegal won the All-Ireland. Mentions Brian McEniff.</p> <p>36:11 Talks about finishing the post as county secretary and starting to work for the Ulster Council. Working as central council delegate and county administrator with Donegal. Mentions Micheál Gillespie and going to a central council meeting. Notes the difference between then and today.</p> <p>42:47 Discusses being appointment to work groups by different GAA presidents. Mentions Joe Connolly and the Alcohol and Substance Abuse workgroup. She was also on a Fixtures workgroup and a Club Policy and Planning workgroup. Mentions Sean Kelly.</p> <p>44:57 Talks about the relationship between the media and the county board. Gives her opinion on the press.</p> <p>45:58 Describes the impact of local radio like Highland Radio on the GAA in Donegal.</p> <p>48:20 Discusses the role of women in the GAA and how this has changed since she first became involved.</p> <p>52:51 Talks about the setting up of ladies' football in Donegal. Discusses the relationship between the camogie board and the county board. Mentions Joe McDonagh.</p> <p>54:45 Gives her opinion on professionalism in the GAA.</p> <p>57:10 Talks about her best memories in the GAA, Donegal winning the All-Ireland football final in 1992.</p> <p>58:15 Discusses her biggest disappointments in the GAA, Donegal not winning more All-Irelands, losing the Ulster final in 1993.</p> <p>59:36 Talks about her future involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:00:57 Describes the role of the GAA in her life and the sacrifices she has made for the Association. Recalls the different work groups she was involved in.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played handball from the age of 8 to 16/17.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1980.</p> <p>Club: Secretary, Delegate to County Board</p> <p>County: Assistant Secretary (1986), Secretary (1991 – 2005), County Administrator</p> <p>Ulster: County Administration Management, Central Council Delegate (2009)</p>
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:03:12
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Arlene Crampsie \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 01/08/12 \_\_\_\_\_