

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2009
<b>Location</b>	Clarion Hotel, Cork City
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Niall Cahalane
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1963 <b>Home County:</b> Cork
<b>Education</b>	N/A
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> Eldest of ten <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 7 children
<b>Club(s)</b>	Castlehaven
<b>Occupation</b>	Auctioneer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A

<b>Date of Report</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1960s – 2009
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Cork
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Celebrations, Commiserations, Material Culture, Media, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Relationships
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Niall talks about a hugely successful career as a GAA footballer. He recalls his youth in Castlehaven, County Cork, where he played for the local team, following the example set by the generation that preceded his and winning various titles. He later got on the Cork panel at minor, Under-21 and senior level, enduring his fair share of heartbreak before eventually getting a taste of All-Ireland success. A dedicated club man who grew up in a tightly-knit community, he made sure that his children played football with Castlehaven even though the family was based in Cork city. Open and articulate, Niall recalls the titanic battles that Cork had with Meath in the late 1980s and into the 1990s, and talks candidly about his burning desire to get the better of Kerry's Pat Spillane and his deep sense of regret over a 12-month suspension he received in 1997, a defining moment in his life that has continued to haunt him as the years go by.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 Earliest GAA memory - playing with Castlehaven Under-12s.</p> <p>01:30 Winning a number of underage medals in the late 1960s / early 1970s.</p> <p>02:02 Club winning the junior A county championship and later losing an intermediate final before winning one, and then making a senior final.</p> <p>02:50 Playing hurling to a lesser extent, until the club decided to abandon hurling in 1979. Reasons for that decision and Niall's opinion on it.</p>

	<p>04:25 Losing a senior county final to St Finbarr's in 1979.</p> <p>04:35 Winning an Under-21 title two years later - a historic achievement in Cork GAA.</p> <p>05:15 Young people who had watched the adults succeed in the 1970s going on to achieve themselves in the 1980s.</p> <p>05:35 Winning a county senior title in 1989 and 1994. Beating rivals O'Donovan Rossa, Skibbereen in 1994 in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Large attendance.</p> <p>06:25 Success of Cork senior football team at the time.</p> <p>07:30 Losing a county final in 1997.</p> <p>07:40 Winning an Under-21 county title in 1998.</p> <p>07:45 Winning a county final with Castlehaven in 2003 at 40 years of age. Celebrating afterwards.</p> <p>08:45 Enjoying playing with younger players.</p> <p>09:20 Playing again in 2004.</p> <p>09:35 Serving a 12-month suspension after the 1997 county final and the reason for that. Media coverage of what happened.</p> <p>10:40 Reason he played until he was over 40.</p> <p>11:25 Struggling in 2004.</p> <p>11:35 Moving to Cork in his twenties. Working as an auctioneer, getting married and starting a family in Togher. Children playing with St Finbarr's.</p> <p>12:35 Children playing football with Castlehaven - a significant distance from the city. Children coming up against their St Finbarr's clubmates while playing football for Castlehaven.</p> <p>14:05 Number of children who are born and live in the city but play for their parents' club of Castlehaven.</p> <p>14:35 Population of Castlehaven.</p> <p>14:40 Collins and Minihane brothers forming the nucleus of</p>
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	<p>the team in the 1970s.</p> <p>14:55 Cahalanes, Clearys, Maguires and Collins brothers forming the basis of the teams in the 1980s and 1990s.</p> <p>15:25 Inter-marriage between the members of the families.</p> <p>16:00 Football the only sport in Castlehaven.</p> <p>16:20 Facilities in GAA clubs in towns and cities compared to Castlehaven.</p> <p>17:40 Moving the goalposts from farmer's field to farmer's field when he was young, before the club got their own pitch in the 1970s.</p> <p>18:15 Way in which the club is run.</p> <p>18:55 Question marks over the ability of future generations to take over the running of all aspects of the club.</p> <p>19:35 Players of the 1980s and 1990s coaching kids.</p> <p>19:55 Career with Cork minors. Type of player he was then.</p> <p>20:40 Making the Under-21 team and titles he won. Being made captain.</p> <p>21:05 Joining the senior football panel and playing in his first Munster championship in 1984. Marking Kerry's Pat Spillane. Memories of that</p> <p>23:15 Playing Kerry in a Munster final in 1985.</p> <p>23:40 Losing to Kerry in 1986. Kerry manager Mick O'Dwyer telling Cork they were the second best team in the country.</p> <p>24:20 Billy Morgan returning from the United States in 1986 and taking over the team.</p> <p>24:50 Reaching a League quarter-final and letting Billy Morgan know that he wanted to get the better of Pat Spillane in a Munster final.</p> <p>25:25 Getting the better of Pat Spillane in four Munster finals after that.</p> <p>26:20 Reaching All-Ireland finals in 1987 and 1988 and losing</p>
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	<p>to Meath on both occasions.</p> <p>26:25 Losing to Meath in the League semi-final in 1989 and discussing it in the dressing-room afterwards.</p> <p>27:05 Reaching an All-Ireland final that year and being disappointed that Meath were not there too.</p> <p>27:50 Meeting Meath in the All-Ireland final in 1990.</p> <p>28:20 Playing inter-county football until 1997 and reasons for playing for so long.</p> <p>29:00 Winning All Stars and playing in the Compromise Rules under Kevin Heffernan in Australia. How he felt about playing for him.</p> <p>30:10 Watching the club achieve success and enjoying it and the reasons for that.</p> <p>31:05 Different experience that was playing inter-county football.</p> <p>31:35 Cruel nature of sport.</p> <p>31:55 Inter-county football being a personal thing to him.</p> <p>32:50 Best GAA memory – representing his country in Australia.</p> <p>34:10 Pride in captaining Castlehaven in a county final in 1994.</p> <p>34:55 Playing in New York with Donegal in the 1980s and enjoying playing in Gaelic Park.</p> <p>37:35 Worst memory - getting a 12-month suspension. His reflections on what happened.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</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 type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input 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>Record as a Player</b></p>	<p>Played from the age of 7 up to 2004. He has won numerous</p>

**REFERENCE NO. CK/1/7**

(Titles won; Length of time played)	club titles, the last in 2003 and he was an All-Ireland and Munster Championship Winner with Cork
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:40:39
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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

Date:      \_\_\_\_\_12/06/12\_\_\_\_\_