

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2010
<b>Location</b>	Michael's home, near Redhills, Co. Cavan
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Reilly
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1950 <b>Home County:</b> Cavan
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Treehoo NS, Co. Cavan <b>Secondary:</b> St. Tiernach's, Clones, Co. Monaghan <b>Third Level:</b> Kevin Street College of Technology, Dublin
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Fidelma with 3 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Redhills GAA
<b>Occupation</b>	Site Supervisor with Obelisk Communications
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fine Gael
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Communication Workers Union, Group Water Scheme, Redhills Development Association, Redhills Tidy Towns, Killoughter Parish Council, Director of Credit Union, Fundraiser for Kidney Dialysis

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Ollie Brady
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1953 <b>Home County:</b> Cavan
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Keeney NS <b>Secondary:</b> CBS Dublin; St. Pat's, Cavan <b>Third Level:</b> Radio and Technology College, North Cork
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 9 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Linda with 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Redhills [Cavan]; Sean McDermotts [Birmingham]
<b>Occupation</b>	Self Employed Company Owner
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Small Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Golf – Redhills, Cavan and Clones
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1920s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Cavan, Dublin, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA, Fermanagh, Monaghan, Down
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Michael and Ollie discuss the role of the GAA in their lives and the experiences they have had as part of the Association. They recall what the GAA was like in their local area of Redhills in Cavan during their youth, the amalgamation with other local clubs and the changes in the club over the years. They discuss their schooldays and Ollie discusses going to school in Dublin before returning to Cavan. They talk about the importance of St Pat's College for Cavan football during the 1960s and the success the county enjoyed during this period. Ollie discusses his county career, winning an All-Star in 1978 and travelling to America with the All-Stars. Michael recalls Redhills' 1973 championship win and the celebrations in the village after. They discuss the issue of emigration and Ollie moving to Birmingham in the 1970s and playing with the Sean McDermott club. Michael discusses his involvement in the club and county, from playing with the county in the early 1970s to being selector of the county team from the 1990s onwards. He recalls becoming secretary of the club when he was only 19 and discusses the various roles he held before becoming chairman in 2004. He describes the impact of the Troubles on the area and effect it had on the club. Michael talks about the role of the GAA in his life and towards the end of the interview he discusses how important the Association has been to him over the years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p>

	<p>00:30 (Michael) Recalls his earliest GAA memory. Going to a junior match with his father on a bicycle to see Butlersbridge play Redhills in Killafana.</p> <p>01:16 (Ollie) Talks about his earliest GAA memory. Playing Under 14 football. College in Dublin taking them to the All-Ireland football final in Croke Park in 1965.</p> <p>01:50 (Michael) Discusses the changes in Croke Park over the years. Going to the All-Ireland final in 1966 when Galway won the three in a row. Seeing Meath, Down and Cavan winning it the following years. Mentions Martin McHugh.</p> <p>02:43 Talks about the club's facilities in the past. Renting Bidy Reilly's field. Played with Belturbet as Annagh in 1973. Improvements over the years- changing in a byre loft; lights strung around pitch.</p> <p>04:44 Describes how Redhills amalgamated with various other clubs like Ballyhaise and Belturbet in the 1950s and 1960s. Gardai and customs men playing with them illegally.</p> <p>05:29 (Ollie) Talks about emigrating to Birmingham and playing with the Sean McDermott's club. Mentions the Reilly family.</p> <p>06:08 (Michael and Ollie) Discuss how GAA was the main sport in the area. Club played only football until the 1980s, Erin Gaels ladies football now play in Belturbet, there was a bit of Camogie. Hurling starting in the club. Football started at Under 14.</p> <p>07:22 Talks about playing football in the local schools, Shannow Wood, Killoughter and Treehoo and the facilities there.</p> <p>07:58 (Ollie) Discusses attending Keeny National School and the role of Father Morris from Belturbet and his role in football in the school.</p> <p>08:18 (Michael and Ollie) Talks about Willie Faulkner having the only car in the area and everyone travelling in his car. Describe walking and cycling to matches.</p> <p>09:35 (Michael) Describes the type of training they did. Nicknamed the 'Hare' because he was fast.</p> <p>10:09 (Ollie and Michael) Highlights the amount of injuries players get now compared to the past. Talks about the lack of money for gear in the past. Getting shorts made out of flour bags.</p>
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	<p>11:27 (Michael) Recalls the colours the club played in, originally blue and white stripe and then yellow. Amalgamating as Annagh. Success of Redhills recently.</p> <p>12:54 Talks about losing players to emigration the impact of emigration on the club.</p> <p>13:24 (Ollie) Discusses going to school in the Christian Brothers in Baldoyle and Swords before going to St Pat's in Cavan. Winning the first Hogan cup in 1972. Mentions Niall Brennan.</p> <p>14:00 Talks about moving around and playing in different schools. Discusses his father Benny Brady who played with Cavan team that won the 1927 junior All-Ireland.</p> <p>15:00 Recalls the important role of the GAA in St Pat's. Mentions Ray Carlin, Jimmy Stafford and Jean Cusack.</p> <p>15:44 (Michael) Describes how St Pat's was important for Cavan football during the 1970s. Mentions Father Benny Maguire.</p> <p>16:10 (Ollie) Talks about playing and training in St Pat's. Describes how footballers had a harder time than other students.</p> <p>17:00 (Michael) Discusses going to school in St Tiernach's in Clones, Monaghan. Left to work in Posts and Telegraphs when he was 17. Played club football with Navan O'Mahonys in the 1960s. Trained with Plunketts in Drogheda.</p> <p>18:40 Recalls being asked to play illegally and playing a championship match for a different team.</p> <p>19:40 (Ollie) Talks about being called up to the Cavan senior panel for a match against Donegal in Clones and discusses playing for the county.</p> <p>20:28 (Michael) Describes how Cavan and Down were the dominant teams in the Ulster championship in the 1960s. Talks about his own football career. Playing against Donegal. Mentions Brian McEniff of Donegal and Seamus Brides of the Cavan Under 21 team. Reaction of neighbours.</p> <p>23:00 Compares the difference between county and club training. Playing football all day after mass when they were in school.</p> <p>24:30 (Ollie and Michael) Recalls playing a match for the club and the county on the same day. Ollie winning an All-Star in</p>
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	<p>1978.</p> <p>24:48 (Ollie) Discusses his football career with Cavan, starting in 1972. Talks about the differences between then and today. Recalls winning an All-Star and going to America on a trip. Being offered a job. Mentions Frank McGuigan.</p> <p>27:36 Describes the type of places they went on the trip, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles. Playing matches against the All-Ireland winners.</p> <p>28:28 Talks about moving to Birmingham in 1973. GAA looking after players abroad. Differences in the game in England. Getting interested in hurling. Playing in Glebe Farm but now based in Páirc na hÉireann. Mentions the McLeans of Skibbereen, Cork.</p> <p>30:17 (Michael) Notes that one of the club's best players has left to go to Birmingham and is now playing for Sean McDermott's.</p> <p>31:05 Talks about playing football in Birmingham on a tour with Redhills in tournaments. Playing the Kingdom, a team from London. Mentions Michael Reilly and Martin McHugh.</p> <p>31:57 Discusses going to New York to play Kerry in 1997, fiftieth anniversary of the 1947 All-Ireland final. Played in Randall's Island. Mentions Rudy Giuliani.</p> <p>33:22 (Ollie and Michael) Talks about Ulster teams in All-Ireland finals during the 1990s. Mentions Peter Quinn.</p> <p>34:18 (Michael) Discusses Cavan people in New York in 1997. Mentions Brian Carty.</p> <p>35:09 Recalls the celebrations in the green in the village after the club won the 1973 senior and intermediate championship. A carnival – marquees set up, showbands playing e.g. the Mighty Avons. Mentions Hugh McInerney.</p> <p>36:44 Being paraded into the village by the Bannow Brass Band. Sean Kelly from Cornafean paraded the team into the village in 2008.</p> <p>37:28 Discusses the relationship between music and the GAA. Talks about the Annagh String Band, the McInerney family, the Francie McKiernan, the Eugene Leddy's Ceili Band, Ollie Leddy, Sean Leddy and Packie Leddy playing football with Butlersbridge.</p> <p>38:48 ***Ollie Brady leaves interview***</p>
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	<p>38:51 Discusses the purchasing of the club's grounds and the facilities of the club over the years. Making the pitch from back gardens. The disused Great Northern railway line runs through their new pitch. Fundraising for the club.</p> <p>40:38 Talks about the type of fundraising for the club. Sponsored by Erne Tiles.</p> <p>41:40 Recalls the type of the celebrations in the past. Carnival in the green in the village. Films being made in the village.</p> <p>42:45 Discusses the characters of the club in the past. The work done by Willie Faulkner and Father Morris for underage football. Also notes the support for the club from local ladies. Involvement of the youth in the club.</p> <p>45:34 Talks about the involvement of women in the club. Current secretary is Geraldine West. Former secretary Orla Reilly now assistant secretary of the Cavan county board. Tournaments in the past – gold watch tournaments.</p> <p>46:52 Discusses the demise of tournaments in the past. Playing in the Drumgoon tournament and recalls the Bailieborough Golden Watch Tournament. Recalls the prominence of the Railway Cup in the 1960s and 1970s and going to neighbours houses to watch the matches.</p> <p>48:50 Describes his involvement as a selector for Cavan. Working for Eircom and FÁS. Talks about his administrative work in the club.</p> <p>50:02 Talks about how his role in Eircom led him to becoming involved in the Cavan team. Mentions Brendan Keeney and Martin McHugh.</p> <p>51:10 Discusses getting involved in the Breffni Park development committee and Club Breffni. Chairman of Redhills for past 6 years. Selector for Redhills before Cavan.</p> <p>52:24 Describes the type of qualities needed to be a good selector.</p> <p>53:11 Recalls an average day as a selector for Cavan, going to training, getting gear together, booking hotels. Amount of work involved. How this developed under different managers.</p> <p>55:00 Talks about winning the Ulster championship in 1997. The importance of the GAA to Cavan people. Mentions Val Andrews.</p> <p>56:07 Describes the type of qualities that make a good</p>
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	<p>manager. The interaction with the selector.</p> <p>58:42 Talks about being club secretary when he was 19. Discusses his various roles in the club from management to chairman. Different roles in different organisations. Treasurer of the local group water scheme.</p> <p>01:00:55 Discusses his love for the GAA. Friendships made in the Association.</p> <p>01:01:57 Talks about the development of the role of secretary in modern times. Telephone in the Post Office. Benefit of working in telecommunications.</p> <p>01:03:13 Recalls the work in getting lights for the pitch.</p> <p>01:04:18 Talks about being secretary while playing for the club.</p> <p>01:04:47 Discusses his family's involvement in the GAA. Father against football.</p> <p>01:05:46 Playing football in primitive gear. Changes over time.</p> <p>01:06:31 Recalls the location of club meetings when he first became secretary, mainly in the town hall or pubs. Had to make sure to use both pubs in the village. Importance of the pub to the GAA.</p> <p>01:07:54 Discusses the role of politics in the GAA. Being director of elections for different parties. Importance of keeping politics separate from the GAA.</p> <p>01:09:02 Talks about the impact of the Troubles on the area. Travelling to matches in Fermanagh to Lisnaskea and Newtownbutler and to Currin in Monaghan. Rivalries with neighbouring counties.</p> <p>01:11:00 Avoiding crossing the border during the Troubles. Cars hijacked. Body dumped on the border. Mentions Inspector Sam Donegan.</p> <p>01:13:00 Talks about the GAA in the North. Mentions Eamon Coleman.</p> <p>01:14:30 Describes his involvement in advertisement signage in Breffni Park after being asked by George Cartwright. Downturn because of recent recession.</p> <p>01:16:04 Discusses his involvement in the re-development of</p>
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	<p>Breffni Park.</p> <p>01:17:09 Describes what a 3G pitch is.</p> <p>01:18:32 Talks about the history of Breffni Park and being a Prunty pitch.</p> <p>01:19:23 Discusses his involvement in the GAA in the future.</p> <p>01:20:38 Talks about his daughters' involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:21:42 Describes the impact of the GAA on his family life and the support he gets from his family.</p> <p>01:22:34 Gives his opinion on the role of professionalism in the GAA and the issue of pay for play and management payments.</p> <p>01:26:01 Chooses winning two club championships in 1973, the Ulster championship with Cavan in 1997 and the trip to New York that year as his best GAA memories.</p> <p>01:27:08 Talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions Ollie Brady, the Down team of the 1990s and Mickey Linden, Maurice Fitzgerald and the Kerry and Dublin teams of the 1970s.</p> <p>01:28:30 Describes the change in the way football is played over the years. Changes in tactics and technology. Mentions Mick O'Connell.</p> <p>01:31:17 Discusses his biggest disappointments in the GAA. Seeing players not fulfilling their potential. Being beaten in local finals. Losing the 1995 Ulster final and the 1996 Under 21 final.</p> <p>01:34:09 Talks about watching football in New York and the International Rules series.</p> <p>01:35:32 Describes what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him. Having no regrets.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Michael:</b></p> <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): ____ County Selector 1994 - 2006 ____</p> <p><b>Ollie:</b></p>

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	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" 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> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Michael:</b> Played for 30 years until he was 49/50. Won 2 Over 40's All-Irelands, a senior club championship in 1973 with Annagh, an intermediate title with Redhills in 1973 and 2 Post Office All-Irelands in 1973 and 1984.</p> <p><b>Ollie:</b> Played from Under 14 level until he was 35/36 at club and county level.</p> <p>School: In 1972: MacRory Cup and Hogan Cup (St Pat's 1<sup>st</sup> All-Ireland win)</p> <p>Club: Minor League, Intermediate League, Intermediate Championship (1973), Senior Championship (Annagh, 1973).</p> <p>Birmingham: 4 Warwickshire senior championships, 4 Warwickshire senior leagues and 1 club championship of Great Britain.</p> <p>Inter-County: Lost 3 Ulster Championships, was awarded an All-Star replacement in 1976 and a full All-Star as centre half back in 1978.</p> <p>Inter-Provincial: Railway Cup with Ulster in 1976</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Michael:</b> Has been involved in administration since c. 1968.</p> <p>Club: Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman</p> <p>County: Delegate from the Club, Breffni Park Development Committee, Club Breffni</p> <p><b>Ollie:</b> Committee Member in the 1980s</p>

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<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:37:03
<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:      \_\_\_\_\_05/07/12\_\_\_\_\_