

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2009
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Mitchelstown, Co. Cork
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Noel O' Neill
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1957 <b>Home County:</b> Cork
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ballindangan NS, Scoil na nÓg <b>Secondary:</b> St Colman's College, Fermoy, Co. Cork
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Margaret with 3 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Glanworth
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/4

<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>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, 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, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Noel talks about his involvement with the Glanworth club in Cork. He has had an interest in Gaelic games all his life and after playing with the club he became involved in administration, paying special attention to youth development. He has played a major role in guiding juvenile teams over the years and has also been involved in Féile na nÓg, which he sees as vitally important. Noel stresses the importance of fundraising drives and ensuring GAA clubs get coverage in local media. For him it takes a collective effort from the community to run a successful GAA club - youth, teachers, parents, women and clergy. He also talks about problems he has encountered over the years and speculates on challenges facing the GAA, as well as recalling fond memories of his involvement with the Association.</p> <p>00:15 His club is Glanworth. Early GAA memories include going to a Munster final in Thurles in the late 1960s with local curate Fr Donovan in his car. Noel was an altar boy at the time. Gaining admission to stadium. Man in stadium making a remark to them.</p> <p>02:45 Role of clergy in local club. Parish is made up of Glanworth, Ballindangan and Curraghagalla. Role of club in community. Sports played in the club and successes they have had. Outstanding teams over the years. Donal Ahern from the club guiding the Cork minor hurlers to All-Ireland victory. Ned Coughlan on the first Cork minor football team to win an All-Ireland. Owen McAuliffe an important coach.</p> <p>05:30 His own playing career. Going to Irish college in</p>

	<p>Trabolgan. Attending St Colman's and prominence of hurling there. Losing out on a club title to Ballyhea. Joe O'Brien a good player for Glanworth.</p> <p>07:05 Juvenile section of the club. Emigration problems. Players coming to the club from outside in the 1980s. Problems relating to height of players.</p> <p>08:50 History of the club and his family's involvement. Administrative positions he has held. Working with juvenile finals.</p> <p>10:14 Hosting the Féile na nÓg and organisation required. Ballygiblin involved and a club from Kenmare in Kerry, and one from Monaghan. Going to parade in Cork.</p> <p>12:50 Lisbellaw taking part in the Féile. Club playing against Carraig na bhFear. Kieran O'Brien getting an important goal. Reaching the final. GAA President Sean Kelly present at each final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh and Páirc Uí Rinn. Visiting local schools after the Féile.</p> <p>14:55 Importance of Féile na nÓg and of spreading it around the country. Going to a function in Kilmallock. Trying to keep young people involved in hurling.</p> <p>17:30 Players from Féile going on to play with Avondhu and enjoying success. Bill O'Connor, Jerry and Neil Ronan having played with Avondhu in the past. Disappointment at certain players not making the Cork minor hurling panel.</p> <p>18:45 Joining the Cork Divisional Board. Work involved there. Importance of giving every player a chance. Introducing Under-10 ground hurling.</p> <p>21:55 Time commitment involved in his role. Meetings in Doneraile. Chairman is Tom Fox from Kildorrery, Secretary is Pat O' Connor from Dromina, Dan Collins is treasurer, Barry Hearne is PRO and Denis O'Hanlon is vice chairman.</p> <p>23:15 Debates about finances at conventions. Value of purchasing land. Importance of being careful with finances.</p> <p>24:40 Club income and where it comes from. Support at club games. Fundraising and upgrading club facilities.</p> <p>27:45 Ladies football within the club. Ladies team travelling a lot for games. 'Home and away' system introduced for men's games.</p>
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	<p>28:40 Clubs's presence within the community. Pitch-time allocation for different teams. Co-operation when games clash.</p> <p>30:35 Women's involvement in club. Joan O'Neill club juvenile treasurer. Lynn Fahey is junior club secretary. Kathleen Finn is membership officer. Club sponsor is Glanworth Tyres.</p> <p>31:50 Social events in the club. Club lotto held in pubs. Presenting medals in local hall. Using Firgrove Hotel in Mitchelstown. Social events when he was growing up. Celebrations when titles were won.</p> <p>34:15 Effect of Media on GAA. Local newspapers and work of PRO. Paddy Ryan and Barry Hearne getting juvenile games coverage. Importance of local newspapers. Usefulness of text messaging for communication.</p> <p>35:50 Role of schools in the GAA. Paudie Kissane from the 2009 Cork senior football panel working with schools. Competition from other sports. Need to work harder. Importance of attracting players when they are young. Primary school teams playing at half-time during senior games.</p> <p>39:35 Role of teachers. Mary Kelly's work for the local GAA.</p> <p>40:25 Role of club in community. Attendance at games and functions.</p> <p>41:00 Importance of volunteers. Costs associated with coaches and physios. Spending on pitch development. Problem of people getting paid for what they do for the GAA.</p> <p>44:10 Contribution of club president over the years.</p> <p>44:45 Issue of pay-for-play within the GAA and his opinion on that.</p> <p>45:50 Best GAA memories. Going to 1971 All-Ireland at Croke Park. Criticism of Cork administrator Frank Murphy.</p> <p>47:45 GAA disappointments. Allocation of All-Ireland tickets.</p> <p>49:15 Best game he ever watched - Kilkenny-Tipperary All-Ireland final 2009. Marty Morrissey interviewing Kilkenny</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. CK/1/4**

	<p>manager Brian Cody afterwards. All-Ireland semi-final between Dublin and Kerry in 1977. Kevin Heffernan's contribution to Gaelic football. Meath-Dublin rivalry in the 1990s. Fran Larkin interviewed after his fourth All-Ireland win in the 1970s. Cork football manager Conor Counihan responding to critics in RTÉ in 2008.</p> <p>52:50 GAA heroes are Brian Mullins of Dublin footballers and Cork's Jimmy Barry Murphy.</p> <p>53:10 Opening of Croke Park and former GAA President Sean Kelly's role in that.</p> <p>54:05 Challenges facing the GAA.</p> <p>55:25 Sacrifices he has made.</p> <p>56:30 What the GAA has meant to him. Collective effort involved.</p> <p>57:50 Semple Stadium in Thurles and Fitzgerald Stadium in Killarney and how Páirc Uí Chaoimh in Cork compares to them. Advantages of winning the Féile.</p> <p>01:00:10 Need for more referees and for discipline within clubs.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" 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>Played from the age of 12 up to the age of 20. Played Handball with St Colman's.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Secretary of the Glanworth Junior GAA Club for 5 years; Member of Juvenile GAA Board, Avondhu; Registrar and Development Officer with North Cork Board for ten years; Registrar of Cork County Juvenile Board for 2 years.</p>

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<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:01:39
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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

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