

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	23 rd Nov 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Loughglynn, Co. Roscommon
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seamus Regan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1960 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: Lisacul NS, Co. Roscommon Secondary: St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen Third Level: Sligo Institute of Technology & Athlone Institute of Technology (Night classes in Special Needs and Classroom Assistant).
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Married to Marie with one daughter
Club(s)	Éire Óg; Michael Glaveys
Occupation	Special Needs Assistant and Coach
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Set Dancing; Handball; Youth Club

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Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1950s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Roscommon, Dublin, Mayo
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Media, Emigration, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Impact on Life, Career, Alcohol, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Seamus begins by talking about his early days playing with Michael Glaveys GAA and how his and others' disillusionment with that club led them to form Éire Óg GAA. He talks about the initial difficulties with the County Board and with his former club. He goes on to discuss his involvement in administration with the Northwest Board and the County Board and recalls a recent period of financial difficulty for the County Board. He then focuses on his career as a referee. He refers to the responsibilities and stresses of being an official and explains his occasional frustration at the role internal politics plays in the selection of referees and the association in general.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:22 Seamus talks about his earliest memory of the GAA. Recalls playing with Michael Glaveys GAA and winning an Under-16 medal with them. Mentions Loughglynn, Gorthaganny, Lisacul, Ballyhaunis, Cloonfad and Dunmore. Mentions Dermot Earley.</p> <p>02:00 Describes the reasons for leaving Michael Glaveys GAA and forming a new club Éire Óg. Refers to the parish rule. Mentions the County Board. Mentions John Higgins, Jim Higgins, Tommie Kenoy, Sean Stanley and the Earley Family.</p> <p>05:38 Briefly goes through early successes with Éire Óg. Mentions the Junior Championship, the Tansey Cup. Briefly refers to club tragedies. Mentions James Timothy.</p> <p>06:50 Talks about the girls' team. Mentions recent performances of the senior team. Mentions emigration. Mentions Dublin and Galway.</p> <p>08:08 Discusses the initial officers in Éire Óg and discusses</p>

	<p>his attitudes towards administration. Mentions Tony Coleman and Richard Canny. Recalls being assistant secretary. Briefly mentions volunteerism.</p> <p>09:20 Recalls his first game as a referee in Elphin. Talks about the nature of the job and the various levels he has refereed. Mentions Seamus Nolan, meeting Paddy Devlin from Omagh.</p> <p>12:00 Discusses going for delegate to the Connacht Council. Mentions having been Chairman of the Northwest Board. Mentions his daughter.</p> <p>12:50 Talks about his recent and upcoming fixtures as a referee. Mentions his wife's attitude to the GAA. Discusses the difficulties of refereeing and people's expectations.</p> <p>15:51 Describes his time with Michael Glavey's GAA. Mentions travelling by bus. Talks about his father. Being involved in the local youth club with Gerry Keane and Bernie Cafferkey. Mentions Pat Doory, James Timothy. Mentions soccer.</p> <p>17:49 Discusses the problems with Michael Glavey's GAA and people becoming disillusioned. Describes the series of events that led to Éire Óg being formed. Mentions Noel Skehan.</p> <p>19:54 Recalls a particular incident travelling by car to Boyle to canvass for the new club. Mentions Fr Seán Byrne.</p> <p>20:45 Talks about the voluntary effort that was put into the club. Tells of an incident involving Patsy Larkin in Croke Park. Mentions Noel Larkin, Bríd Larkin, Gerry Keane. Mentions travelling by train.</p> <p>22:35 Describes the nature of people he has met through his involvement in administration. Describes other clubs' attitude towards Éire Óg. Mentions Paddy Mulvey. Mentions Shannon Gaels, Pádraig Pearse's, Tulsk, Western Gaels, Kilglass Gaels, St Barrys, and Kilmore.</p> <p>24:50 Talks about the reaction of the County Board to the new club. Refers to tensions with Michael Glavey's GAA regarding a particular player. Mentions Michael O'Callaghan, Peadar Earley, Pat Doory.</p> <p>26:11 Discusses the nature of talent. Talks of his own involvement in the club. Recalls being chairman, secretary, PRO, and insurance officer. Mentions Eamon Crawley, John</p>
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	<p>Gallagher who had played with Loughglynn.</p> <p>27:11 Talks about the old team that played in Loughglynn. Stresses the importance of history. Mentions Western Gaels GAA, Ballaghaderreen GAA. Mentions Peter Crawley, Pat Doory Sr and Patsy Larkin.</p> <p>28:28 Describes the involvement of the local parish priest Fr O'Rourke. Mentions Dan O'Rourke. Mentions Tulsk GAA.</p> <p>29:20 Talks about the involvement of women in the club. Mentions Gabrielle Barrett and Josie Regan.</p> <p>29:53 Talks about the purchase and development of the club grounds and facilities. Describes how they raised money. Mentions James Creighton, Terry Leydon, Tommie Kenoy, Christy Cooney. Mentions St. Nathy's GAA, Sligo.</p> <p>32:20 Talks about the demographics of the new club when it was set up. Mentions Michael Glaveys GAA. Mentions the Dohertys. Mentions soccer.</p> <p>33:45 Discusses the history of football in the area. Mentions Keane's field. Mentions Johnny Lynch, Pat Doory, Fr Duignan, Johnny Lavan, John Gallagher, the Gilligans, the Creightons and John Connolly. Recalls Roscommon winning the Minor All-Ireland in 1956. Mentions emigration.</p> <p>35:10 Discusses the tradition of handball in the area. Mentions Stephen French, Martin Bruin and Noel Raftery.</p> <p>36:00 Briefly refers to the relationships the GAA builds. Recalls an incident involving his brother. Mentions the Carty's.</p> <p>37:00 Talks about hurling and rounders in the area. Recalls hearing of games of football being played on the roads. Mentions cars and bicycles.</p> <p>37:50 Discusses his father's attitude towards the GAA. Refers to the support he received from his family. Mentions farming. Refers to women's role in the association.</p> <p>39:40 Explains the reasons for picking the club name and colours. Refers to the club's sponsors and fundraising. Mentions Lynch Roofing. Mentions Colman Lynch.</p> <p>42:00 Recalls becoming involved in the Northwest Board. Talks about his attitude towards administration. Mentions Paddy Mulvey, Peter Kearney, Jim Henry (from St. Michael's), Sean Mangan. Mentions being chairman and</p>
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	<p>secretary.</p> <p>45:30 Discusses the responsibilities of the Northwest Board. Recalls a period of financial difficulty for the County Board. Mentions John Murphy, Michael McGuire. Mentions the Garda Cup, the Keenan Cup, the Ahern Cup, the North Junior Championships, Division 4 of the League, the Tansey Cup and the O’Gara Cup.</p> <p>47:40 Recalls the power of the executive being lessened and the reasons for it. Mentions getting All-Ireland tickets. Mentions the Connacht Council. Mentions Johnny Prenty.</p> <p>49:14 Talks in more detail about Roscommon’s financial trouble. Mentions Frank Dennehy.</p> <p>51:50 Laments the fact that Roscommon don’t have a training ground. Mentions Kilbride, Ballyforan, Hyde Park, Castlebar. Mentions Roscommon Gaels. Talks about different developments going on around Connacht.</p> <p>54:00 Recalls the early difficulties with Éire Óg GAA, specifically with keeping young players. Mentions Michael Glaveys GAA. Mentions emigration. Refers to drinking culture and education.</p> <p>56:40 Talks about the influence of the Celtic Tiger on the youth today and the different influences on their lives. Tells of a particular incident involving a young player on the pitch.</p> <p>59:11 Discusses early successes in the club and the importance of success. Mentions Clann na nGael GAA and Castlerea GAA. Mentions the Junior Championships. Mentions Jim McDonnell. Briefly refers to the introduction of ladies’ football. Mentions soccer.</p> <p>01:01:10 Talks about the relationship between the county teams and the club teams. Mentions Pat Doory.</p> <p>01:02:00 Stresses the importance of school competitions. Mentions rugby and soccer. Refers to drinking culture.</p> <p>01:03:40 Talks of his worries for the future of the club. Highlights the importance of the youth. Mentions emigration.</p> <p>01:05:05 Recalls how he became involved in refereeing. Explains what he likes about it. Refers to internal politics. Talks about his training and the physical requirements. Mentions Elphin. Mentions Brian White.</p> <p>01:10:26 Talks about the impact on his family life.</p>
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	<p>01:12:00 Talks about his relationship with his team of umpires. Refers to the social aspect and tells some stories about incidents at various matches around the country. Mentions Paddy Duignan, Hugh Lynn, Martin Freeman, Kevin Murtagh, Donal Lafferty, Martin Walsh and Johnny Carroll.</p> <p>01:15:20 Discusses the role of an umpire. Refers to goal-line technology. Mentions rugby.</p> <p>01:16:45 Talks about the pressure that's on referees. Illustrates this using examples from specific games. Refers to rule changes and TV analysts. Mentions the Munster Semi-Final and the Leinster Final. Mentions Louth, Meath, Limerick and Mayo. Mentions Pat Spillane, Colm O'Rourke.</p> <p>01:20:40 Discusses the monitoring and assessment processes. Outlines his attitude towards criticism. Refers to the administrative structures of refereeing.</p> <p>01:23:05 Highlights the difference between ladies' and men's football. Refers to controversies with players. Mentions County Mayo. Recalls an incident from a Ladies' Championship game he refereed in Leitrim.</p> <p>01:25:50 Talks about the club's involvement in Scór and Scór na nÓg. Refers to volunteerism.</p> <p>01:27:35 Discusses about the importance of women's involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:28:49 Talks about the role of technology in society.</p> <p>01:29:46 Talks about the friendships he has made through the GAA. Also mentions begrudgery.</p> <p>01:30:35 Mentions his wife's attitude towards the GAA. Mentions golf. Mentions the importance of mediation.</p> <p>01:32:00 Talks about the current interest in the County Board. Mentions Dermot Earley and Gerry Connellan.</p> <p>01:33:20 Discusses his GAA hero. Mentions Colm O'Rourke, Dermot Earley, Harry Keegan, Mike Sheehy, John Egan, Pat Spillane, Jack Ó Sé, Seamus Darby.</p> <p>01:34:10 Highlights the good and the bad of the GAA.</p> <p>01:34:56 Talks about the Roscommon minor team. Mentions the 1980 All-Ireland Final. Mentions rugby. Refers to university grants and the importance of employment.</p> <p>01:36:46 Describes what his involvement in the GAA has</p>
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	<p>meant to him. Outlines the commitment required. Highlights the importance of family. Mentions set dancing.</p> <p>01:39:36 Concludes the interview by thanking everyone and highlighting the importance of the club. Refers to fundraising. Mentions Martin Walsh, Catherine Walsh, Donal Lafferty, Jimmy Nolan.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played for 5 years. Won and Under 16 with Michael Glaveys.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1984.</p> <p>Club: Assistant Secretary, Chairman, Secretary, PRO, Insurance Officer, Delegate to the County Board</p> <p>North West Board: Chairman</p> <p>County: Parks Committees, Fundraising Committees, Referees Committees.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 01:41:23</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

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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: _____ 12/07/12 _____