

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Newtownbutler, Co. Fermanagh
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat Chapman
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1941 <b>Home County:</b> Cavan
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ballynarry NS, Co. Cavan <b>Secondary:</b> Technical School, Kilnaleck, Co. Cavan
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 5 sons and 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Crosserlough [Cavan]; Clones [Monaghan]; Newtownbutler First Fermanaghs [Fermanagh]
<b>Occupation</b>	Joiner / Cabinet Maker; General Foreman
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer, Butcher [Father]; Farmer [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Fianna Fáil Cumann, Community Games, Athletics Board

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<b>Date of Report</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1920s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Fermanagh, Cavan, Dublin, Monaghan, Tyrone
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Culture, Volunteers, Rivalries, Media, Religion, Club History, County History, Politics, Relationship with the Association
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Pat discusses his early days growing up in Cavan and his family's involvement in the GAA. He talks about settling in Newtownbutler in Fermanagh in the 1980s and becoming involved with the club at an administrative level. Pat discusses his role in the establishment of ladies football in Fermanagh and his continuing administrative role with ladies football in the county. He talks about the importance of volunteers in GAA and the important role that the GAA has played in his life.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:22 Earliest GAA memory – playing football in Cois Abhainn in Cavan and watching his father and uncles playing with the Kilnaleck team. Mentions Crosserlough. Difficulty of getting a football.</p> <p>01:15 Recalls the successes of the Cavan football team pre-1952. Talks about the tradition of football in Cavan. Mentions Tony Tighe, Mick Higgins, Peter Donohoe, the Phair family.</p> <p>03:44 Recalls his family moving to Clones, Co. Monaghan in the early 1950s and becoming involved with the Clones St. Tiarnach's Club.</p> <p>04:09 Discusses moving to Dublin in the mid 1950s. Mentions PJ McHugh and his connection with Michael Cusack.</p> <p>06:00 Recalls playing football illegally with a Dublin club.</p> <p>06:26 Discusses moving to Newtownbutler and becoming involved with the administration of the club in 1980. Discusses the history of the club.</p> <p>07:55 Describes the varying administrative roles he has undertaken with Newtownbutler club.</p>

	<p>08:27 Talks about the successes of the Newtownbutler club. Mentions that they have won 12 Fermanagh titles.</p> <p>08:50 Recalls his role as delegate to the County Board in 1993. Discusses the motion brought by the ladies football team in Devenish to form a GAA competition for women.</p> <p>09:20 Mentions his involvement in founding the Dr Croke games in Fermanagh. Campaigning for expanded membership of the GAA.</p> <p>10:09 Recalls Peter Quinn, GAA President at the time, addressing a convention in Fermanagh. Mentions his opposition to ladies football. Mentions Dr Mick Loftus.</p> <p>12:29 Discusses his involvement in founding ladies football in Fermanagh. Recalls the successes of the ladies team.</p> <p>14:16 Talks about family involvement in GAA and the importance of GAA in society.</p> <p>15:31 Recalls his father and uncles playing club football. Mentions that his mother was a physiotherapist.</p> <p>16:17 Describes poor facilities in Cavan in his early playing days.</p> <p>17:02 Describes the development of facilities in clubs in Fermanagh over the years. Compares club facilities in the GAA with poor soccer facilities.</p> <p>18:46 Discusses solidarity within the GAA.</p> <p>19:16 Describes the facilities in Newtownbutler in the 1980s and the development of facilities over the years.</p> <p>19:55 Mentions a neighbouring club, St. Patrick's, a break-away club of Newtownbutler. Discusses the successes of the St. Pat's club. They have their own clubhouse.</p> <p>21:05 Discusses the successes of Newtownbutler and the neighbouring parishes of Lisnaskea and Teemore.</p> <p>22:35 Describes working in Croke Park in 1958 building the Hogan Stand. Recalls an experience of lifting a piece of grass on the spot where Dan Hogan was shot on Bloody Sunday.</p> <p>24:29 Mentions Michael Hogan's association with Wattlebridge club in Newtownbutler in the 1920s, when he worked on the Great Northern Railway in Clones.</p> <p>25:28 Discusses the various teams in the parish over the years. Mentions connections with Martin McAleese and Dr</p>
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	<p>Douglas Hyde.</p> <p>29:05 Discusses travelling to matches by car after the closure of the railway station. Recalls that the closure of railway stations caused obstacles for the GAA.</p> <p>30:55 Talks about the effects of emigration on Newtownbutler club in the past and present day. Mentions that Fermanagh is not as badly affected as other parts of Ulster.</p> <p>33:08 Talks about becoming involved with Newtownbutler club in the 1980s. Discusses the importance of volunteers within GAA.</p> <p>35:37 Discusses issues addressed within Newtownbutler club in his early involvement – the development of a second pitch. Talks about the events surrounding the acquisition of the second pitch.</p> <p>38:00 Talks about the strength of Newtownbutler club. Mentions victory in the senior championship in 2007.</p> <p>38:55 Discusses ladies football in Fermanagh. Recalls setting up a county board for the ladies in 1993. Mentions the obstacles that faced the county board.</p> <p>39:28 Mentions Tom Boyle and his wife Josie Boyle, former manager of the Fermanagh ladies. Talks about her contribution to ladies football.</p> <p>40:20 Talks about the success of Fermanagh ladies football under the management of Paula Cunningham. Mentions that Paula brought them to an All-Ireland final in 2009.</p> <p>40:51 Talks about the lack of fierce ambition in Fermanagh football in terms of winning. Discusses successes and failures of Fermanagh ladies and men in football.</p> <p>44:25 Talks about his involvement with Community Games in Dublin and Fermanagh and the difference in attitude between both counties to defeat.</p> <p>45:33 Talks about the convention in 1993 where Peter Quinn spoke out against ladies football. Mentions that Mick Loftus had held similar views.</p> <p>47:59 Discusses ladies football being a separate entity to the GAA. Talks about the closer integration of camogie with the GAA.</p> <p>50:07 Talks about ladies football paying the GAA for facilities. Expresses his opinion that ladies football should be under the</p>
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	<p>GAA umbrella.</p> <p>52:35 Discusses Peter Quinn's role as President of the GAA. Talks about the contribution he made.</p> <p>53:15 Talks about the early relationship between the Fermanagh men's county board and ladies county board.</p> <p>53:50 Describes the small level of supporters attending ladies football matches.</p> <p>55:25 Talks about more recent communication between the men and ladies county boards in Fermanagh. Mentions Joe McGurn, Tom Boyle, Josie Boyle and Peter Carty.</p> <p>56:35 Discusses the demise of camogie within the county. Talks about negativity from members of the camogie community towards the introduction of ladies football into the county.</p> <p>58:40 Talks about the history of camogie in Fermanagh.</p> <p>59:32 Discusses the demise of camogie in Ulster. Mentions animosity between Cumman Peil na mBan and Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael. Mentions tensions due to dual players and facilities.</p> <p>01:02:11 Discusses the big issues facing ladies football in Fermanagh – a lack of volunteers at club level. Mentions that clubs do not have full committees.</p> <p>01:03:33 Talks about administrative roles that he has held over the years. Mentions how time consuming these roles can be.</p> <p>01:05:20 Describes the dedication of volunteers in men's football compared to ladies football. Talks about the hard work of a few volunteers in ladies football. Mentions Rosaleen Lynch.</p> <p>01:06:38 Discusses the effects of the recession on ladies football. Talks about funding and sponsorship issues.</p> <p>01:07:08 Compares ladies football in Fermanagh to ladies football throughout Ulster and at a National level. Talks about political issues that face the GAA in Ulster.</p> <p>01:09:30 Describes his best memories of being involved with the GAA – getting to Croke Park with the ladies football team. Recalls a police escort taking them to the stadium. Mentions Cavan winning the All-Ireland in 1952.</p>
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	<p>01:11:56 Talks about his GAA heroes – Mick Higgins, Peter Donohoe, Tony Tighe, Des Foley and Paddy McCormack.</p> <p>01:13:28 Recalls socialising with the Dublin footballers of the 1970s while he lived in Clontarf. Mentions attending hurling and football matches in Croke Park on a regular basis at this time.</p> <p>01:15:26 Talks about the rule changes within the GAA. Expresses his approval at broadening the GAA community.</p> <p>01:16:04 Expresses slight disappointment at the distance the GAA put between themselves and politics in Northern Ireland during The Troubles.</p> <p>01:17:12 Talks about what his involvement in GAA has meant to him over the years.</p> <p>01:18:25 Talks about highlights within the GAA in his lifetime.</p> <p>01:19:10 Discusses the importance of the GAA from a social and cultural aspect.</p> <p>01:20:30 Discusses the death of Mickey Harte's daughter Michaela Harte and the strength that he took from the GAA.</p> <p>01:20:55 Talks about a photograph taken in 1961 showing the first supporter to wear a GAA jersey – a character in Newtownbutler - John Billy Smokey Wilson.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p>✓ Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ 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 1952 / 1953 to 1972.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since the 1960s.</p> <p>Club: Clones Delegate to Monaghan County Board; Newtownbutler Treasurer, PRO, Development Officer, Delegate to County Board</p> <p>County: Monaghan Youth Officer; Fermanagh Fixtures Committee</p> <p>Ladies Club: Founder, Treasurer, Administrator</p>

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	Ladies County: Founder, Development Officer, Vice-chairman, Treasurer (12 years), Administrator, History Officer, Delegate to Ulster Council and Delegate to Central Council.  Ladies Ulster: Development Officer (3/4 years), Appeals Committee, Finance Committee, Delegate to Central Council  Ladies Central: Fixtures Officer, Disciplinary Committee, Hall of Fame Chairperson, Finance Committee.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:24:13
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_06/08/12\_\_\_\_\_