

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	18 th Nov 2010
Location	Abbey Hotel, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Maeve Healy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1975 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: Runnamoate NS, Co. Roscommon Secondary: Roscommon Vocational School, Co. Roscommon
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister
Club(s)	Oran
Occupation	Sales Rep
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1983 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Roscommon, Antrim, Down, Galway, Armagh, Limerick, Cork, Kerry, Longford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Education, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Scór, Culture, All-Ireland, Family Involvement, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on life, Sacrifices, Trouble, Socialising, Career, Relationship with the Association
Interview Summary	<p>Maeve reflects on her career as a camogie player at club and inter-county level, and her time serving various administrative roles from club, to county, to Connacht and finally national level. She discusses the difficulties involved in keeping Camogie running in a county that is predominantly football and discusses the relationship between Camogie and the other Gaelic games.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:23 Recalls her earliest GAA memory playing in Féile na nGael in Wexford.</p> <p>00:48 Describes her involvement in Oran GAA club and the tradition of camogie in Roscommon.</p> <p>01:35 Discusses her family background in the GAA.</p> <p>02:55 Describes how she got started playing camogie at home and in school and what the facilities entailed at the beginning. Mentions still playing at club level and playing for the county for 18 years. Also mentions cycling to training and the lack of facilities when she was younger.</p> <p>04:45 Recalls her experience travelling to matches, sometimes in the boot of a car, sometimes 7 or 8 in a car. Also, discusses her brothers and sisters involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>06:37 Recalls her involvement in school with the GAA and in particular with Michael Kelly, former principal of Runnamoate National School, Co. Roscommon. Recalls going to Féile in Wexford.</p> <p>08:42 Describes the extent to which she kept playing camogie at secondary school and after leaving school. She was part of</p>

	<p>the Roscommon Junior camogie team that played and lost twice in Croke Park and has a 1991 Under 14 All Ireland Medal for Féile na nGael. Mentions joining the Roscommon camogie board and being an officer for the last seventeen years.</p> <p>09:55 Describes getting involved with the Roscommon inter-county camogie panel and the training facilities for that level. Mentions the trainer Michael Kelly and training all over Roscommon and in Four Roads as there are no county grounds.</p> <p>12:05 Describes her playing career and experiences with the Roscommon inter-county Junior camogie team including their victories over Antrim in 1995 and 1996 in replays. Also states that she left the team too early, as the county lifted their first ever camogie title in 2009, beating Armagh to lift the Nancy Murray trophy. Mentions playing Galway, Limerick, Down and Cork. Also mentions the great friends she made over the years.</p> <p>15:29 Describes the structure and organisation of competitions at club level and describes the support level for camogie in the county and details the camogie clubs in the county: Four Roads, Pádraig Pearses, St. Dominics, Athleague, Roscommon Gaels, Tulsk and Oran. Also mentions Castlerea and Tremane.</p> <p>18:49 Speaks about Door Tec's sponsorship and fundraising including the parish lotto. Accounts for the difficulty involved in raising money finding sponsorship and paying expenses. Describes some of the events that are held to raise money. Mentions jersey sponsor David Kelly Construction.</p> <p>23:54 Describes the acquisition of a new pitch and the funding involved for it. Describes her work on the parks committee and the hard work involved in preparing and community involvement. Mentions the difficulties in organising the use of the pitch.</p> <p>27:19 Elaborates on the spread between gaelic football and hurling in the parish, the various standards and duel players etc. Mentions how football fixtures would be more dominant in the county.</p> <p>29:08 Describes the administrative roles she held within her club, county board, regional level and national level.</p> <p>31:44 Speaks of the difficulty of getting people to volunteer to be an officer on the county board. Mentions the need to be</p>
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	<p>organised and how much easier it is if still playing.</p> <p>33:25 Tells of her favourite role so far, that of PRO. Discusses her current role.</p> <p>35:12 Describes how the roles have changed since she first got involved in administrative duties, in particular citing an increased workload through transport to games, buses, trying to get a pitch, etc. Mentions how games have increased in number because of an open draw and discusses playing in Kerry, Longford, Down and Antrim.</p> <p>38:27 Discusses the changes brought about by the advancement of technology, particular the benefits of mobile phone technology and e-mail compared to previous years.</p> <p>40:48 Discusses the procedure in organising meetings at county board level, arranging a room in the Abbey hotel etc.</p> <p>41:54 Describes the relationship between the county board and the men's county board, co-ordinating for fixtures etc.</p> <p>44:17 Describes some of the characters she met through her time involved with camogie. Describes Connacht council, and her role within it. Describes the different blitz tournaments and how they are limited by numbers.</p> <p>47:11 Discusses her role on the national fixtures committee and the communications between the members.</p> <p>49:14 Recalls her time as an inter-county camogie player, describing training in Four Roads and social life. In particular recalls her experience of travelling to Antrim in 1995, and of encounters with the security authorities in the region 'when the North was not the nicest place to live in'.</p> <p>52:16 Recalls her experiences of 1996, where she was on the team that played Antrim again before losing to Cork in the All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship final.</p> <p>53:05 Describes the accolades awarded to her in 1996.</p> <p>54:07 Describes the level of support the in county and the accommodation arrangements for the final.</p> <p>55:53 Describes her recollections of Croke Park and the All Ireland final weekend.</p> <p>57:26 Recalls the atmosphere of playing in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day.</p> <p>58:13 Describes her attendances in Croke Park each year</p>
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	<p>and her experiences travelling by car to Croke Park.</p> <p>01:00:56 Describes her views on the relationship between camogie and the GAA and the issues that need to be worked on at club level and then upwards, such as fixtures and affiliations.</p> <p>01:04:25 Gives her views on the relationship between camogie and ladies football on a county and national level including the issues of fixtures and dual players.</p> <p>01:06:33 Gives her views on the future of camogie, exploring issues such as financing, volunteering, and the teaching of Camogie in schools at both primary and secondary levels.</p> <p>01:09:54 Describes the Scór competition in her own club. Mentions Michael Kelly.</p> <p>01:10:46 Gives her views on the relationship between the Irish language / culture and the GAA.</p> <p>01:12:07 Gives her views on the portrayal of ladies sports in the media, and the coverage they receive. Makes a comparison to commentary stating that people are used to men's sports and it's hard to change that mindset like getting used to different commentators apart from Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh or Micheál O'Hehir.</p> <p>01:15:28 Gives her views on male referees in camogie and ladies football and recalls her experiences as a referee since the age of 16. Mentions never yellow carding or sending off a player. Also mentions that camogie and hurling both have different rules so refereeing the two is difficult.</p> <p>01:21:10 Gives her thoughts on the amount of training that referees receive with regards to fitness and the changes to the rules of the game.</p> <p>01:22:53 Describes the very few sacrifices that she had to make to undertake a career as a camogie player, very little impact on social life. Mentions being brought up to be part of the GAA.</p> <p>01:24:23 Describes her favourite memories and recollections over the years through her involvement with the GAA. Mentions playing in Croke Park and making friends over the years.</p> <p>01:25:07 Tells who her heroes of the GAA are, DJ Carey as a player and Michael Kelly, a national school teacher, as an inspiration and great administrator. Describes her biggest</p>
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	<p>disappointment as not having won an All-Ireland.</p> <p>01:27:05 Describes her hopes for the future and how happy she is where she is.</p> <p>01:27:49 Describes the various locations in the country where she has played.</p> <p>01:28:39 Describes what her involvement in the GAA means to her and the impact it has had on her life.</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 from the age of 8 and is still playing. Won Under 14, 16, 18; 13 Senior County Championships; Connacht titles in 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2001 and an All-Ireland Féile na Gael.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Got involved in club administration when she was 16. She has held every club position except treasurer. She got involved in county administration at 18 and there again has held every position except treasurer. She has been Connacht Camogie Secretary and Development Officer and has been on the National Camogie Fixtures Committee.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 01:29:26</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____12/07/12_____