

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	10 th Feb 2011
Location	Martin Carey Insurance Office, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Martin Carey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1959 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: St. Eugene's PS, Knock, Co. Fermanagh Secondary: St. Colman's, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh Third Level: University of Reading
Family	Siblings: 5 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Siobhán with 3 daughters
Club(s)	Knocks Grattan's; St. Patrick's GFC Donagh; Donagh Sons of Erin
Occupation	Insurance Consultant; Mortgage Broker
Parents' Occupation	HGV Driver [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Nationalist
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Enniskillen Running Club, Fermanagh Table Tennis Association

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Date of Report	6 th August 2012
Period Covered	1960 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Fermanagh, Armagh, Tyrone, Monaghan, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Playing, Training, Coaching, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Volunteers, Rivalries, Media, Religion, The Troubles, Emigration, Northern Ireland, GAA Abroad, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Impact on Life
Interview Summary	<p>Martin recalls his early playing days with the Knocks GAA Club in Fermanagh. He discusses his involvement on the committee that reformed the Knocks Hurling Club in the early 2000s. Martin recalls his selection onto the Fermanagh hurling squad and the differing styles of training compared with hurling at club level. He discusses his involvement with the Knocks at an administrative level and his hopes and aspirations for the club in the future. Martin talks about the importance of the GAA in community life.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:18 Earliest memory of the GAA – playing an Under 14 match and winning a medal with his club, the Knocks GAA Club. Moving to St Patricks GFC, Donagh.</p> <p>00:59 Talks about facilities in the club in his early playing days. Mentions the poor quality of the field - Calvary.</p> <p>01:56 Talks about Paddy Foster, a former chairman of the club and driving force in the development of facilities.</p> <p>02:30 Discusses the history of the Knocks GAA Club. Mentions Dinny Hogan. Talks about family involvement within the club.</p> <p>04:04 Describes the events that surrounded the move of the club to Donagh, the widening of the catchment area and the changing of the name to St Patricks GFC. Talks about the influence of The Troubles and emigration.</p> <p>06:45 Recalls early memories of travelling to matches in a Morris Minor belonging to Michael McManus. Frank McElroy brought the oranges. Mentions Donagh. Recalls travelling to matches by bicycle, car or motorbike.</p>

	<p>08:50 Talks about family involvement within the GAA – notes that his father played little football. Mentions that his brothers played at underage level.</p> <p>09:54 Talks about the importance of the GAA in his life in his early playing days.</p> <p>10:44 Recalls that he did not have much involvement in GAA at school. Mentions that Pat Treacy approached him to play with the club.</p> <p>11:45 Talks about club rivalry – mentions rivalry within both hurling and football within the county.</p> <p>12:26 Discusses the decline in hurling in Fermanagh – mentions the influential role of Brother John McGinn in promoting hurling at county board level.</p> <p>13:08 Discusses hurling in Donagh - mentions Donagh Sons of Erin and Lisnaskea.</p> <p>14:16 Recalls his introduction to playing hurling at the age of fourteen. Discusses the differences in training and structure within hurling compared to nowadays.</p> <p>15:01 Reflects upon his involvement in club hurling. Recalls winning a championship medal with Lisnaskea in 1983 prior to the move to Donagh.</p> <p>15:25 Discusses being selected to play on the county team. Talks about the camaraderie and friendships formed because of his involvement in hurling.</p> <p>16:18 Describes the differences at being involved in hurling at county level as opposed to club level. Mentions the handball alley. Mentions the structured training in Enniskillen and going to Brewster Park. Mentions Brother McGinn and Finian Baker.</p> <p>17:55 Discusses the tradition of hurling in Fermanagh – talks about the dominance of football.</p> <p>18:35 Recalls playing matches with the county team against other Ulster teams. Discusses travelling to matches by car.</p> <p>19:26 Talks about the re-foundation of the Knocks Hurling Club. Mentions the committee members involved – Paulinius Leonard, Noel Maguire, Noel McElroy, James Mulligan, Martin Carey, John McElroy, Emmet Fidgin and Patrick Boyle.</p> <p>21:12 Discusses the steps involved in re-founding the club. Mentions the involvement of Fabian Burns, the Hurling Development Officer in Fermanagh at the time. Talks about</p>
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	<p>the colours selected. Some perceptions of the club.</p> <p>24:42 Describes the role of county board in the re-founding of the club.</p> <p>26:00 Talks about local reaction to the setting up of the Knocks Hurling Club. Recalls the initial matches and battles with the neighbouring team, Lisnaskea.</p> <p>28:16 Discusses playing home games for the Knocks in Donagh. Talks about the connection with St. Patrick's GFC in Donagh.</p> <p>29:15 Discusses an "ongoing project" to develop a playing field, changing room and sports hall for the Knocks Hurling Club.</p> <p>30:45 Discusses an initial investment by Sport NI on paper, which was later retracted, into the development of facilities in the Knocks.</p> <p>32:29 Discusses minimal support from the county board. Recalls funding of hurling materials – hurls, helmets, sliotars - from the Ulster Council.</p> <p>33:50 Recalls the early successes of the Knocks Hurling Club – winning the Under 14 championship, leading to qualification for Féile.</p> <p>35:06 Talks about the progression of the Knocks Hurling Club over the years. Discusses the introduction of a senior hurling team into the club for the first time in 2010. Mentions the success of the Under 16 hurling team in both the league and championship in 2010.</p> <p>35:54 Describes his varying roles within the club. Mentions his role as Chairman of the club for 3 years.</p> <p>36:54 Discusses previous administrative roles within Donagh Sons of Erin.</p> <p>39:11 Discusses celebrations in the community when the club performs well.</p> <p>40:01 Talks about community identification with the Knocks Hurling Club. Mentions that it is taking time for people to adjust to having a sporting club back in the community.</p> <p>41:05 Discusses the club's ethos to include all members of the community regardless of nationality, religion or political backgrounds.</p>
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	<p>41:54 Discusses his hopes for the Knocks Hurling Club into the future. Mentions his desire for the progression of the senior hurling team within the county and the province.</p> <p>42:49 Talks about the impact of his involvement in hurling on family life. Mentions the support from his wife and children.</p> <p>44:38 Describes his best memories of being involved in GAA – mentions the network of friends, accolades, social elements.</p> <p>47:07 Discusses rules changes within the GAA down through the years. Mentions Rule 21 and his opposition to the lifting of this ban.</p> <p>49:32 Talks about watching GAA matches whilst on holidays abroad.</p> <p>50:18 Discusses the importance of the GAA in the community.</p> <p>51:42 Describes his plans for involvement within the club over the coming years.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from 1968 / 1969 to 2010. Won Under 14, intermediate, junior, division 3, division 2 and county hurling titles (everything except senior championship and league).</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since the age of 22/23.</p> <p>Donagh Sons of Erin Secretary; St. Patrick's Fundraising; Knocks Chairman, Development Officer and Delegate to County Board.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:54:01</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: ___Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: ___06/08/12_____