

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	29/10/08
<b>Location</b>	Interviewees home near Rathmore, Co. Kerry
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Daniel Joseph (DJ) O'Connor
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1988 <b>Home County:</b> Kerry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Gneeveguilla National School, Gneeveguilla <b>Secondary:</b> Rathmore Secondary School
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers, 2 sisters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Gneeveguilla
<b>Occupation</b>	C&C Deliveries
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Munster Joinery [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A

<b>Date of Report</b>	16/12/08
<b>Period Covered</b>	1996 – 2008
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Kerry, Dublin
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Family involvement, Role of the Club in the Community, Travel, Playing, Training, Impact on life, Rivalries, Volunteers, Sponsorship, Professionalism
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>DJ is a twenty year old who plays for Gneeveguilla club. He has two brothers and two sisters. The GAA is an important part of his life. He's been playing football since he was eight and loves being involved and being able to play the game. He hopes to be able to train teams after he retires as a player.</p> <p>0.00 Introduction</p> <p>0.23 His club Gneeveguilla</p> <p>0.35 Home County is Kerry</p> <p>0.50 Earliest memory is watching the 1997 All-Ireland final between Kerry and Mayo on TV. Kerry won it and Maurice Fitzgerald broke Billy Shea's leg the same day.</p> <p>1.10 His family all go to games and his sister plays with Rathmore Ladies GAA Club and East Kerry.</p> <p>1.30 He believes that rivalries are very important to the GAA, they give people something to go to and give the crowd something to look forward to. Rathmore club are his biggest rivals, they are 'only down the road'. They were joined at one time, but we pulled away from them.</p> <p>1.50 His playing career lasted from 8 – 20. He plays for his club, he played with the county U-16 team and nearly made the County Minor team.</p> <p>2.15 Club is currently (29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008) in second or third place in Division One and they are in their first Intermediate final for thirty years where they will meet St. Michael's/Foilmore. St Michael's/Foilmore are South Kerry and Gneeveguilla are East Kerry so DJ is hoping it will be a big game.</p> <p>2.45 He first got involved when 'his neighbour across the road just came over one Saturday and said would you train in the</p>

	<p>morning, Sunday morning.'</p> <p>3.00 He now trains four times a week and then they play match at the weekend. He believes it's well worth it.</p> <p>3.13 He doesn't mind not drinking, he loves playing so it doesn't matter.</p> <p>3.25 He started playing full back as a child, they had a strong team and it was great to make friends.</p> <p>3.45 'You make friends not just from your own club but from round the county and other teams. If you're out on the town on a Saturday night you meet other players from the other clubs and go out with them and have fun and stuff and its good craic.'</p> <p>4.15 Liam Murphy was one of his biggest influences, he was one of the clubs best players and played for Kerry at County, County Minor and County U-21 levels. 'You'd listen to him when he says stuff.'</p> <p>4.40 Talks about nicknames in the GAA e.g. Peter Canavan – Peter the Great or God.</p> <p>5.11 Talks about the positions he's played in. 'I've played a lot now bar goal I'd say. Started off full back, centre back, midfield, centre forward, full forward – straight up the middle. Now I'm back with No.5 with the senior team.'</p> <p>5.40 Best memory is getting man of the match when playing for Kerry in an U-16 Munster Final. His worst is getting dropped from Kerry Minors at the very last stage though he says he 'just wasn't good enough at the end of the day.'</p> <p>6.15 His hero is Seamus Moynihan. He's from the nearby Glenflesk club and DJ played with him when he played for East Kerry. DJ thinks he was one of the greatest footballers that ever wore the Kerry jersey.</p> <p>6.35 He believes he's set apart from other players by his ambition and his determination to win every game he plays in.</p> <p>7.05 His club plays an important role in his community. They hadn't gotten to a final in 30 years, so now there are flags and banners up in the village and everyone is excited.</p> <p>7.35 If the club is celebrating they have a get together in the bar.</p> <p>8.03 The club have only ever been on one overseas trip to</p>
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	<p>Lanzarote, after they won the East Kerry final.</p> <p>8.35 You have to want to play, you have to like it and be dedicated.</p> <p>8.55 DJ played soccer for QPR for one season, last season. He thinks soccer is more laid back in the area, 'if you miss a chance in football you curse yourself, in soccer you'd laugh it off.'</p> <p>9.30 No bad feeling in the community if players miss chances.</p> <p>9.52 He's been lucky so far as he hasn't had any injuries.</p> <p>10.05 'County players have a great time, sure they go on holidays and sure the gear they get is unbelievable and just playing for the county is just enough sure to walk out there in Croke Park sure that's what every person wants when they grow up.'</p> <p>10.30 He doesn't agree with the idea of pay for play. 'Sure lads round my age would do anything to play with the county without payment and people that have made it shouldn't be wanting money so they shouldn't. They should just be glad to go out there in September of the All-Ireland final and be able to play in it not watch it.'</p> <p>11.23 Volunteers are very important to the club for having linesmen and referees for the U-8 and U-10 games. He thinks that senior players should train underage players as they look up to the senior players, and give them confidence if they tell them that they are playing well.</p> <p>12.08 His toughest opponent in training is Liam Murphy but every opponent is tough when you're playing matches.</p> <p>12.25 His routine the evening before the match is to eat right, go to bed early and make sure his gear is ready. 'Sleep and eat right is the most important.'</p> <p>12.59 Talks about the impact of playing on his social life: 'It's a thing I love doing. In another 12 to 15 years it'll be all over so I can go out as many nights as I want then so I don't mind that.'</p> <p>13.20 Soccer and other sports are the biggest thing keeping people away from the GAA.</p> <p>14.15 Advantages of being a player are keeping fit, meeting people and socialising with other players.</p>
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	<p>14.38 He doesn't think there are any disadvantages.</p> <p>14.48 Typical training session starts at 7pm and is over by 8.30pm. They go out do a warm up, while the trainer fixes the cones, then do drills, kicking and passing the balls, taking shots, running etc and then they play a game and have a warm down.</p> <p>15.25 The Gaeltacht team uses the Irish language, but it is not strong around Gneeveguilla. DJ feels that it is our native language and the GAA could do more to encourage it by maybe running Irish classes in the clubs or something like that.</p> <p>16.12 He thinks the price of going to matches is too high. He mentions one particular game where it was €13 a ticket. This is too expensive if you have four or five from one family going.</p> <p>16.52 Croke Park was the furthest they ever travelled for a match. They watched Armagh vs Kerry. The club organised a bus for all the team. They left early on the bus, arrived in Dublin, went for something to eat and then went to the match. The club paid for the bus and the food, as it was the end of the season.</p> <p>18.10 Club gets its sponsorship from Murphys Trailers, they sponsor every jersey.</p> <p>18.55 Talks about role of the school in developing players of the future.</p> <p>19.45 They have no club song, but might make up one after next game if they win.</p> <p>20.11 'It means everything to be honest.'</p> <p>20.27 DJ hopes to stay involved after his playing career maybe in training the local club.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input 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>Won medals in the Community Games U-10 competition, in secondary school competitions. Won U-16 Munster Medal with Co. Kerry and won Minor Medal with East Kerry. He's</p>

**REFERENCE NO. KY/1/3**

	been playing since he was 8 and is 20 now. He also plays with the Gneeveguilla Senior Team.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 20min 51sec
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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

Date:      \_16/12/08\_\_\_\_\_