

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2010
<b>Location</b>	Davitts GAC, Falls Road, Belfast, Co. Antrim
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Donna Coyle
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1973 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. John the Baptist Girls PS, Belfast, Co. Antrim <b>Secondary:</b> St. Louise's Comprehensive College, Belfast, Co. Antrim <b>Third Level:</b> College of Medicine, University Hospital Wales
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers & 1 sister
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Paul's
<b>Occupation</b>	Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Publican, HGV Driver [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b> (Optional)	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b> (Optional)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. AN/1/4

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Brian Coyle [Bernard Coyle]
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1951 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Gall's, Co. Antrim <b>Secondary:</b> St. Thomas, Co. Antrim
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 4 sons and 2 daughters (Donna is one)
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Paul's
<b>Occupation</b>	Publican, HGV Driver
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. AN/1/4

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Aine McElroy
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1980 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Carlane Primary School, Toomebridge, Co. Antrim <b>Secondary:</b> St. Olcan's Secondary School, Co. Antrim <b>Third Level:</b> UUJ
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 3 sisters
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Ergnat's GAC, Moneyglass
<b>Occupation</b>	Manager
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Director
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. AN/1/4

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Nóirín McGoldrick
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1952 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b> (Optional)	<b>Primary:</b> St. Vincent's, Co. Antrim <b>Secondary:</b> St. Dominic's, Falls Road, Belfast, Co. Antrim
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 sister & 3 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 3 children
<b>Club(s)</b>	Michael Davitts GAC
<b>Occupation</b>	Teaching Assistant Special Needs
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. AN/1/4

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eddie McKeever
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1942 <b>Home County:</b> Derry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Treas, Ballymaguigan, Co. Derry <b>Secondary:</b> Rainey Endowed School, Magherafelt, Co. Derry
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers & 4 sisters
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Trea's, Ballymaguigan [Derry]; Erin's Own GAC, Cargin [Antrim]
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer, Bus Driver
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. AN/1/4

<b>Date of Report</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1950s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Antrim, Derry, Australasia, Australia, Cork, Kerry, Dublin, Down, Tipperary
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Media, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Five individuals involved in Antrim Ladies Football discuss the formation of the sport in the county and their respective contributions to ladies football. They outline the 15-year history of the sport in Antrim and mention the various individuals responsible for its development. In addition, they describe the challenges facing ladies football, such as the lack of publicity surrounding the sport and the difficulty of coordinating fixtures with camogie and men's football. They also reflect on the impact of the political situation in Northern Ireland on both ladies and men's football, and finally, they recall their best and worst moments in the GAA.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:28 Brian recalls playing football and hurling in De La Salle Brothers - St. Gall's Primary School. Travelling to All-Ireland finals with his father since he was 8, 10-year tickets. Getting involved in Antrim Ladies Football in 2003.</p> <p>01:15 Donna describes her involvement in athletics. Returning from university, getting involved in Antrim minor county football team, her father managing team. Coaching young lads. Coaching boys' teams at St Paul's GAC. Also getting involved in Antrim Ladies Football in 2003. Encouragement from Eddie McKeever.</p> <p>02:22 Aine McElroy and Eddie McKeever join the interview. Aine recalls her earliest GAA memories: started playing ladies football in 1997. Playing for St. Ergnat's, Moneyglass, also playing camogie. Outlines history of Antrim Ladies Football teams: Moneyglass, Glenravel, St. Mary's Rasharkin the dominant teams. Ups and downs of Moneyglass. Describes</p>

	<p>the formation of St. Paul's Ladies Football team in 2003, its domination. Move from rural clubs to Belfast. Recalls her earliest memory: Antrim vs Tipperary in 1989 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final.</p> <p>04:18 Eddie reflects on his involvement in Ladies Football, from coaching an Under-14 team to managing senior teams. Mentions Paddy Kelly, first manager of the senior county team. Recalls girls playing football but no organised ladies football, 60 years ago. Playing his first game in 1952. Playing for Ballymaguigan in Derry, getting involved with Cargin, Antrim.</p> <p>07:47 Brian describes going to Croke Park for the first time in 1959. Being in the Hogan Stand when Down won the 1960 All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Celebrations, his sister going to a dance. Family had 10-year hurling and football tickets. Leaving weddings, christenings etc. to attend matches.</p> <p>09:46 Discussion about establishment of Antrim Ladies Football team. Eddie McKeever motivating people to start a team in Belfast. Decline and resurgence of Lámh Dhearg team. Students in Queens University kickstarting competitions in 1996. Starting in clubs rather than Antrim County Board. First committee 1999. The sport's lack of profile. Increased participation of schools today. Resistance from men's football, also from camogie.</p> <p>12:14 Discussion about Camogie in North Antrim and Belfast. Few clubs with camogie and ladies football, Glenravel and Glenariffe play both. Negative reaction to Ladies Football. Their efforts to coordinate fixtures with camogie. Eddie mentions physiotherapist Ciara McAteer in Creggan Kickhams. Differences in fitness levels between camogie and ladies football.</p> <p>14:05 Description of the enthusiasm about setting up the sport in the 1990s. Current difficulty organising fixtures, challenge of getting time on the pitch.</p> <p>15:15 Discussion of some of the main figures involved in starting ladies football. Paddy Kelly, Pauline McCoy (Pauline McIntosh now), Marie McKee.</p> <p>16:09 Brian explains that several rural clubs had leagues before St. Paul's, Belfast joined in 2003. Recent successes, including underage Ulster titles at B championship level, Junior All-Ireland title in 2009. Participation of schools on board today. List of different titles won by various clubs.</p>
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	<p>18:42 Comparison between ladies football and men's football. Eddie mentions problem of walking into changing rooms. Difference in rules. Psychology of coaching females. Differences in girls' reactions to criticism, more sensitive. Different way of dealing with them.</p> <p>22:11 Donna recalls the formation of teams. Her coaching experience. Coaching awards and refereeing course. Tearing cruciate ligament in early match. Admiration for athleticism and skills of girls. Respect of boys now for girls playing football.</p> <p>23:58 Aine describes starting to play as a teenager. Excitement about new sport, encouragement from men. Bringing success to parish. Playing football in school and at home. Meeting people from other counties, playing in Michael Cusacks, Sydney, Australia in 2005. Also the State Games, New South Wales. Discussion about the expansion of ladies football in Ireland. Aine describes playing in Australia: high standard, lots of Irish people, intense competition.</p> <p>26:50 Donna considers the importance of school involvement in ladies football. Traditionally netball and hockey offered in schools, now PE teachers playing ladies football and supporting it. Mentions Ulster Council funding development officers. Role of schools in attracting more players and raising standards.</p> <p>27:51 Brian discusses growing strength of county team. Optimism for the future, strong All-Ireland junior winning team. Success at provincial level with juveniles. All-Star Awards in schools, Antrim's success. Mentions Kirsty McGuinness winning sports award.</p> <p>30:00 Noirín reflects on the significance of the calm political climate on ladies football. Antrim's invitation to Stormont Castle after winning All-Ireland, St Gall's camogie players also visiting Stormont.</p> <p>30:47 Impact of the 12<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations on men's games, no fixtures. Army road blocks stopping people going to matches. Brian recalls a violent incident during a match.</p> <p>31:37 Discussion about fundraising. Donna mentions Paul Cooper. Selling programs, challenge of raising money. Ladies football not recognised as separate from men's, therefore they can't apply for grants. Sponsorship from Belfast Media Group, also provides publicity.</p> <p>33:24 The importance of publicity, boosting the morale of</p>
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	<p>players.</p> <p>34:27 Nóirín reflects on being named county chair. Played camogie in school, no football. Enjoyment of working with girls of all ages.</p> <p>35:55 Description of the developing relationship between men's board and ladies' board. Use of county ground twice a year. Hopes of further participation from new chairman, Jim Murray. Also mention vice chairman Joe Edwards. Discussion about the support from politicians, including Gerry Adams, Mary McAleese, lord mayors.</p> <p>38:22 Description of relationship with camogie board. Meeting to coordinate fixtures, particularly for dual players. Mentions Ulster camogie president Catherine O'Hara, her work in fundraising for and profiling camogie. Hopes for increased participation between the two sports.</p> <p>39:44 Discussion about lack of assistance from the Ladies Central Council. Efforts of development officer Lyn Savage to encourage people onto committee. Disappointment about lack of practical support. Mentions Geraldine Downes.</p> <p>41:01 Description of GAA highlights, including Croke Park in 2009, beating Down in the Ulster minor final, Antrim beating Derry in a 2008 league game, Moneyglass winning its first Antrim championship in 2007, ladies football team winning the All-Ireland junior title.</p> <p>44:23 Discussion of GAA heroes: Nicky English, Jim McKeever, Pauline McIntosh, Danny Dougan, Cork ladies football team.</p> <p>46:08 Description of their GAA disappointments: losing to Kerry in the 1982 All-Ireland semi-final, losing the 2009 All-Ireland semi-final with St Paul's ladies intermediate team, losing a replay in the 1998 Antrim Ladies senior championship, failure to retain success after winning the All-Ireland title.</p> <p>48:43 Discussion of the significance of the GAA: instant bonds with different age groups, friendships, socialising, making a difference to children's lives, reading results in the <i>Irish News</i>.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter   <input 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>

**REFERENCE NO. (OFFICE USE ONLY): AN/1/4**

	<input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
<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: 00:52:50
<b>Language</b>	English

**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:              \_\_\_\_\_13/07/12\_\_\_\_\_