

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010
<b>Location</b>	Jim's home, near Dromahair
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jim Meehan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1951 <b>Home County:</b> Leitrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ardvarney NS, Co. Leitrim <b>Secondary:</b> St. Joseph's, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 6 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 3 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Patrick's, Dromahair
<b>Occupation</b>	Bread Run, Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer, Postman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Town Development

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Teddy Loughlin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1942 <b>Home County:</b> Leitrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Joseph's, Ballinagar
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 2 sons and 1 girl
<b>Club(s)</b>	Drumkeerin [Leitrim]; Ballaghaderreen [Mayo]; Charlestown Sarsfields [Mayo]; St. Patrick's, Dromahair [Leitrim]
<b>Occupation</b>	Linesmen ESB
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Madden
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1937 <b>Home County:</b> Leitrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Drumleese NS, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 2 sisters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Kinnegad Slashers [Westmeath]; St. Patrick's, Dromahair [Leitrim]
<b>Occupation</b>	Shop Assistant, Bar Man
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Postman, Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1886 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Leitrim, Monaghan, Armagh, Kerry, Dublin, Westmeath
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Culture, Volunteers, Rivalries, Media, Religion, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Emigration, Club History, County History, All-Ireland, Material Culture, Northern Ireland, The Troubles
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>The men talk about their early playing days with Dromahair. They discuss the history of the club and the effects of emigration and the war on the club over the years. They discuss the successes of the club at senior and underage level over the years. They discuss club facilities and fundraising efforts over the years to develop the facilities. The men talk about their roles in administration within the club. Jim talks about his roles in administration at county and national level. They discuss ladies football in Dromahair and their hopes for the club into the future. The men talk about the importance of GAA in their lives.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:38 John describes his earliest GAA memory – watching local matches after Sunday dinner. Recalls moving to Kinnegad in Westmeath after finishing school, won minor championship with Kinnegad Slashers in 1956.</p> <p>02:02 Teddy discusses his earliest GAA memory – playing ball in a field. Using a stuffed sock as a makeshift football. Recalls playing on a different field every Sunday.</p> <p>03:13 Jim talks about his earliest GAA memory – recalls a juvenile club being formed in Dromahair in 1964 – notes that the club contested 13 junior finals before winning in 1976.</p> <p>04:21 Talks about successes in the club. Notes the promotion of the club to senior status this year.</p> <p>05:13 Discusses the history of Dromahair club. Notes that the club was originally formed in 1886. Talks about neighbouring parishes forming clubs shortly after.</p> <p>08:15 Discusses the local playing field and the history of</p>

	<p>acquiring the land. Recalls a bridge being built by volunteers within the community to make access to the pitch easier from the main road.</p> <p>09:09 Jim talks about his early playing days. Recalls a serious injury in 1977 which ended his football career. Talks about his move into administration.</p> <p>09:31 John discusses facilities in his early playing days. Recalls using pig bladders as makeshift footballs.</p> <p>10:39 John talks about small family involvement in GAA – notes that his brother played a small bit of football.</p> <p>11:19 Teddy discusses playing football in Westmeath. He talks about family involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>12:43 Jim discusses lack of family involvement in the GAA. Notes that his own 2 sons played with Dromahair.</p> <p>13:28 The men discuss the reasoning behind the regular disbandment of the Dromahair club – lack of interest and leadership and lack of involvement at an administration level.</p> <p>14:25 Note that the club won the league and championship at Under-14 level in 2009.</p> <p>14:55 The men discuss the club's involvement in Celebrity Bainisteoir in 2009. Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of being involved with the show.</p> <p>15:58 Jim recalls travelling to matches in the early days – walking to the village and getting a lift with Josie Thornton. One person using a hearse.</p> <p>17:22 Talks about the club colours – red and white, changed from green. Jerseys sponsored by O'Neills.</p> <p>18:25 John and Teddy recall cycling to watch matches being played.</p> <p>19:38 The men recall the older generation travelling to the All-Ireland minor final in 1956 by train.</p> <p>20:24 Jim notes that he has only missed one All-Ireland football final since 1978.</p> <p>21:25 Teddy talks about playing with Drumkeerin when the Dromahair team disbanded. Recalls winning a Junior Championship. Notes that there was not the same spirit in the team.</p> <p>25:02 The men discuss Josie Thornton and his contribution to</p>
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	<p>developing junior football in the club.</p> <p>25:35 Fundraisers within the club both past and present – raffles, race nights, American tea parties. The men talk about current plans for the development of facilities in the area.</p> <p>29:22 The men discuss the jerseys and kit in the early playing days. Recall a local woman making the togs out of flour bags with 'Pride of the West' on them. Changed colour of jersey in 1976.</p> <p>31:10 The men talk about current and former sponsors for the Dromahair team.</p> <p>32:11 Club rivals – Drumkeerin.</p> <p>33:37 Jim talks about the prominence of the club in the community – note that it is the strongest organisation in the area.</p> <p>34:38 John discusses the changes within the club when he returned to the area. Talks about his immediate involvement in the club.</p> <p>36:44 Teddy talks about his role as selector for the club in 1998. Discuss celebrations after the victory of 1998. Mention the homecoming.</p> <p>38:36 Talk about the lack of hurling in Dromahair. Mention the strength of ladies football in the club.</p> <p>40:03 Talk about a possible move of club to the Greenfields site due to a lack of facilities to cater for all that is carried out in the club.</p> <p>40:45 Jim talks about his administrative roles within the GAA. His favourite position – treasurer of the Leitrim County Board. Also found the role the most challenging.</p> <p>44:00 Notes that there were no controversial decisions taken in his time.</p> <p>44:58 Discusses his involvement at Central Council level. Notes that meetings are held once a month.</p> <p>46:00 The men discuss the role of women within the Dromahair club both past and present. They discuss the growing expenses involved in running a club.</p> <p>47:05 The men discuss the role of the clergy and teachers in the community. Recall that they had a peripheral role to play.</p> <p>50:37 GAA heroes – mention Packie McGarty, Jack O'Shea</p>
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	<p>and Pat Spillane.</p> <p>52:45 The men discuss the rule changes within the GAA. John and Teddy give their opinion that the opening of Croke Park to foreign games was a bad decision. Jim talks about the positive aspects of opening the stadium to foreign sports and the lifting of the ban on security forces.</p> <p>55:51 The men recall travelling to the North during the Troubles. John recalls attending matches in Crossmaglen when helicopters would come down on the field during a match.</p> <p>58:14 The men discuss their best memories of being involved in the GAA.</p> <p>59:48 The men discuss their biggest disappointments in being involved in the GAA.</p> <p>01:00:54 The men talk about what has hindered Leitrim's success at county level – a lack of players due to a small population.</p> <p>01:01:36 The men discuss challenges facing the club into the future.</p> <p>01:05:03 The men talk about what the GAA has meant to them in their lifetime.</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> <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><b>Jim:</b> Won 2 senior leagues with Allen Gaels, 1 junior title with Allen Gaels, 1 junior title with Dromahair</p> <p><b>Teddy:</b> Won a North Leitrim minor, county junior title with Drumkeerin and 2 ESB All-Irelands.</p> <p><b>John:</b> Won a minor county championship with Kinnegad Slashers.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how</p>	<p><b>Jim:</b> Has been involved in administration since 1978.</p>

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long for)	Club: Chair, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Treasurer (1978 – 2001) County: Treasurer (2001 – 2006) Connacht: Treasurer (2004 – 2006) Has been on Central Council since 2007. <b>Teddy:</b> N/A <b>John:</b> Has been club treasurer a number of times
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:06:44
<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: \_\_\_\_\_ 16/08/12 \_\_\_\_\_