

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010
<b>Location</b>	St. Brigid's Clubhouse, Kiltoom, Co. Roscommon
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	PJ Fallon
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1951 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Brideswell NS, Co. Westmeath <b>Secondary:</b> Athlone Vocational School, Co. Westmeath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 5 brothers & 4 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Brigid's
<b>Occupation</b>	FÁS Supervisor
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	St. Aidan's FÁS; Clann na nGael FÁS; Soccer

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Peter McHugh
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1959 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Curraghboy NS, Co. Westmeath <b>Secondary:</b> St Aloysius, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers & 3 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with one son and two daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Brigid's
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers and Shopkeepers
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paddy Kenny
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1944 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Cornafulla NS, Co. Westmeath <b>Secondary:</b> Marist College, Athlone, Co. Westmeath <b>Third Level:</b> NUIG
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 3 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 3 children
<b>Club(s)</b>	Clann na nGael; St. Brigid's
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Civil Engineer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat Dennehy
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1942 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Lismoyle NS; Carrick NS; Curraghboy NS <b>Secondary:</b> Summerhill College, Co. Sligo
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with one daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Brigid's
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Garda [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	IFA

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	PJ Martin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1945 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ballybay NS, Co. Roscommon
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 4 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 4 children
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Brigid's
<b>Occupation</b>	Postman; Postman Inspector
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	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>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Frank Kenny
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1934 <b>Home County:</b> Roscommon
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Curraghboy NS, Co. Westmeath <b>Secondary:</b> Marist College, Athlone, Co. Westmeath <b>Third Level:</b> UCC
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 4 children
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Brigid's [Roscommon]; UCC [Cork]; Rathangan [Kildare]
<b>Occupation</b>	School Principal
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Suck Valley Beekeeper's Association

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<b>Date of Report</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1919 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Roscommon, Americas, USA
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Facilities, Playing, Administration, Fundraising, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Volunteers, Rivalries, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Alcohol, Violence, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>The group talk about their involvement in the GAA, specifically with St. Brigid's GAA Club. They each also discuss their playing careers and the administrative offices they have held at local, county and national level. They discuss travelling to games and recall numerous incidents involving club members and people involved in the GAA in Roscommon in general.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:58 Frank recalls seeing some men training in 1938. Mentions Michael John Fallon's field. Mentions Pat Butler and Willie Fallon.</p> <p>01:43 PJ Martin tells of playing for St. Brigid's GAA as a teenager. Mentions Ballyforan. Mentions Kevin Barry's GAA.</p> <p>01:55 Pat remembers seeing his first match in 1949. Mentions Willie Donnelly, Paddy Donnelly and Bill Jackson. Mentions Hoey's field in Athlone.</p> <p>03:03 Frank mentions that Hoey's Field is now Goldenisland Shopping Centre.</p> <p>03:15 Paddy describes going to see the 1953 Connacht Final between Roscommon and Mayo. Mentions Clann na nGael. Mentions Pat Lynch. Mentions St Coman's Park.</p> <p>05:13 Peter tells of playing an Under 12s game with St. Brigid's. Mentions St. Coman's Park. Mentions PJ Martin and Pat Dennehy. Mentions travelling in a Mini car.</p> <p>06:24 PJ Fallon remembers playing at national school. Mentions Brideswell, Curraghboy and Ballyline. Mentions Michael John Fallon's field.</p> <p>06:49 Pat remembers the rivalry around these school games.</p>

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	<p>07:25 PJ Martin and Pat tell of incidents that happened while bringing underage teams to matches. Mentions Knockcroghery. Mentions St. Coman's Park. Mention Kevin Campbell.</p> <p>09:10 Frank talks about travelling to matches in the back of Harry Byrne's lorry. Described the difficulty in communicating in the 1950s. Mentions phones.</p> <p>10:20 PJ Martin and Pat talk about travelling by lorry. Mention Cunningham Brothers in Curraghmore. Mention Clann na nGael GAA.</p> <p>11:32 Frank tells a story about P McHugh (Peter's dad). Mentions Ballyforan. Mentions Eoin Rua's GAA and Clann na nGael.</p> <p>12:35 Pat recalls the rivalry between Roscommon Gaels and St. Brigid's.</p> <p>13:23 Paddy talks about how he used to travel to games as a member of Clann na nGaels. Refers to social aspect of travelling. Mentions Mike Durney and his van.</p> <p>14:35 Pat talks about Paddy Finneran giving people lifts to Michael John Fallon's field. Mentions Pádraig Pearse's GAA.</p> <p>15:26 Frank explains why Pat Clogher used to walk to matches. Mentions Taughmacconnell.</p> <p>16:01 PJ Fallon and Pat talk about travelling by bicycle. Mention Mickey Cunningham.</p> <p>17:00 Frank and Pat recalls the distances people would cycle to matches in the early 1940s. Mentions Dublin, Tuam. Mentions Jim Brennan.</p> <p>18:05 Frank talks about the village in the early 1940s. Remembers listening to the All-Ireland matches on the radio. Mentions John Joe Nerney, Liam Gilmartin and Brendan Lynch, Larry Cummins, Ger Cummins.</p> <p>19:20 Peter and PJ Martin talk about gaelic games in the national schools in the 1960s and 1970s. Mention the drink culture. Mentions Maura Murray's field. Mentions Curraghboy, Ballybay. Mention Fr Larkin Cup.</p> <p>21:17 PJ Fallon recalls the crowds playing in Gerry O'Malley's field in the late 1950s. Mentions walking there.</p> <p>21:37 PJ Martin and Pat refer to drinking culture. Mentions</p>
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	<p>County final in 1969. Mentions McCrann's in Roscommon.</p> <p>22:40 Frank brings up the topic of handball. Mentions Curraghboy. Describes the difficulties in organising games, because of communication. Mentions Paddy Donnelly. Mentions Cam, Brideswell, Curnalee.</p> <p>24:26 Frank gives a brief history of St. Brigid's and the early games of the club, beating Kiltreevan. Describes how the club was named. Mentions Gerry O'Malley, Sean Óg O'Ceallacháin, Paddy Donnelly, Paddy Kenny, Fr Larkin, Bill Jackson, Eamonn Donoghue. Mentions St Patricks GAA, Kevin Barry's GAA. Mentions Kiltreevan, Curraghboy, Kiltoom, Brideswell, Cam.</p> <p>27:50 Frank, Pat and PJ Martin discuss ladies' football in the club. Mentions the parish rule. Mentions the All Ireland Ladies Intermediate Championships, County Championships. Mentions Pearces. Mentions Jimmy Gacquin and John Gavin.</p> <p>29:30 PJ Martin recalls when the club was fighting relegation in the late 80s. Mentions being secretary. Mentions St. Ronan's GAA. Mentions Eddie Nestor and Colm Lennon.</p> <p>30:38 Paddy talks about how he got involved in St. Brigid's, having come from Clann na nGael. Mentions Michael Fayne and Martin McDermott. Mentions Pádraig Pearse's.</p> <p>33:10 Paddy, Pat and PJ Martin talk about the diversity of people in the club – highlight the relevance of proximity to Athlone. Mention Anne Sugrue who's flying into Knock for the next match. Also mentions Seán Lemass, Peter Lemass, Clann na nGael and the Monksland area.</p> <p>37:03 Frank talks about the development of facilities at the club, including fundraising and the club's finances in general. Mentions Michael John Fallon's field, Paddy Mannion's field in Whitepark, Curraghclough, Farmore, Levinson's Estate, Cornaseer. Mentions the Land Commission. Describes fundraising. Mentions Johnny Killion, club treasurer.</p> <p>41:05 Pat and PJ Martin describe the carnivals used for fundraising for the grounds in the late 1950s.</p> <p>42:30 Pat, PJ Martin and Paddy recall the opening of the ground in 1962 with a match between Dublin vs Roscommon. Mentions Leo Casey, Tony Keane, PJ Shine, Tony Whyte, Peter Watson. Mention the All-Ireland Senior Football Championships 1962. Mention the Gael Linn Cup.</p> <p>43:50 Frank and PJ Martin recall a number of incidents that</p>
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	<p>happened at the carnivals.</p> <p>44:43 Frank and PJ Martin talk about incidents at matches. Mention PJ Kyle, Michael Fayne, Pat Jordan, Murray Family, Willie Cummins, Larry Cummins. Mentions Rahara.</p> <p>46:09 PJ Martin recalls how he informed players about training and matches while he was secretary. Mentions being a postman.</p> <p>47:02 Pat, PJ Martin and Frank talk about hurling and camogie in the area. Mentions Garrycastle. Mention Parnell Park. Mention Padraig Pearse's GAA, Clann na nGael GAA. Mention Jimmy Curley, Gately's, Frank Court, and Gerry O'Malley who all played with Four Roads. Mentions Mike Cuddy, Michael O'Brien, Howard Costello. Mentions camogie players Maureen O'Malley, Aggie Crehan. Mentions U-14 Division 2 League Final. Mention the first County Camogie Championship.</p> <p>49:50 Pat talks about Johnny Killen's influence on the club as treasurer.</p> <p>50:56 Paddy, Peter and Pat talk about PJ Martin's influence on the club as secretary and treasurer and describe fundraising techniques in 1986 for the clubhouse. Mention Michael Fayne, Martin McDermott, Jimmy Mangan. Mention Curraghboy, Knockcroghery, Lecarrow, St Johns, Four Roads, Dysart, Ballyforan.</p> <p>57:48 Paddy and Pat talks about the current facilities of the club. Mention Lough Ree. Mention Anthony O'Connor, Mick Cuddy, Seamus Brennan.</p> <p>59:35 Frank talks about his GAA career playing football for club and county. Mentions regrets he has from his playing career. Mentions the administrative offices he has held in the GAA at local, county, Connacht and national levels and in the vocational schools' organisations. Describes the playing structures in place for handball. Mention St Coman's Park. Mentions Michael John Fallon. Mentions United Stars GAA.</p> <p>01:02:30 Pat talks about the successes of the St. Brigid's teams in the late 1950s. Mentions Fr Aidan Fenlon.</p> <p>01:03:15 Frank talks about people's reaction to referees. Mentions a match between Rahara and Clann na nGael at Michael John Fallon's field. Mentions the Red Boggy, St Coman's Park. Recalls playing for Rathangan GAA, Co. Kildare.</p>
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	<p>01:04:56 PJ Martin recalls his GAA career. Describes his playing record with St Brigids. Mentions Junior championships, Senior club championships, Senior league and South Roscommon divisional league. Mentions administrative roles he has held at divisional and county level. Mentions Kevin Barry's GAA, St. Patrick's GAA, Creggs GAA and Roscommon Gaels. Recalls being club secretary, chairman and treasurer.</p> <p>01:06:45 PJ Martin explains Roscommon's divisional and administrative structure. Mentions the County Fixtures Committee.</p> <p>01:08:00 Pat talks about his playing career. Mentions U-16 County Football Final 1957, Junior Hurling Championship 1968. Mentions John Whelan. Mentions St Patricks GAA. Mentions travelling by bicycle. Mentions Moore.</p> <p>01:09:11 Pat recalls his joining the executive in 1963. Mentions being treasurer and secretary. Mentions John F Kennedy. Mentions Ballybay.</p> <p>01:10:05 Pat talks about Scór and other committees of which he is a member. Mentions Tom Lane.</p> <p>01:11:44 PJ Martin and Pat talk about memories of being members of the executive. Mention Michael Fayne and Paddy Curran.</p> <p>01:14:16 Pat and PJ Martin talks about the club's record in Scór. Mentions St Dominic's GAA.</p> <p>01:15:49 Paddy talks about his involvement in the GAA. Mentions Clann na nGael. Tells a story about John F Kennedy's funeral. Mentions Frank Coakley, Tom Coakley, Frank Kenny and Paddy Kenny. Mentions Marist College, Athlone. Mentions handball.</p> <p>01:20:03 Peter goes through his football playing career with club and county. Mentions handball. Mentions Jimmy Menton. Mentions his injuries.</p> <p>01:21:15 Peter stresses the importance of the club to the GAA. Outlines his administrative career. Recalls joining the executive, becoming chairman of the football committee and club chairman.</p> <p>01:22:20 Peter talks about recent club successes, stressing the importance of ladies' football. Mentions handball.</p> <p>01:23:30 Peter talks about the importance of the club's roots</p>
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	<p>and also its ability to integrate new members in its modern successes Mentions Michael Fayne, John McGee, Johnny Killion, Paddy Kenny. Mentions Claregalway.</p> <p>01:25:30 Peter describes how the FÁS programme has been of benefit to the club.</p> <p>01:26:22 PJ Fallon talks about his relationship with the club. Mentions O'Malley's field. Mentions Michael Fayne.</p> <p>01:27:45 PJ Martin and Peter discuss Eamon Gavin and his ties to the club.</p> <p>01:28:45 Pat and PJ Martin talks about the facilities in the 1950s, animals on the fields. Mentions Frank. Mention Michael John Fallon's field. Mention Tommy, Molly and Sonny Finneran.</p> <p>01:30:05 Frank talks about a number of people who have contributed to the club. Mentions Sean Hickey who taught in Curraghboy, Larry Butler, Michael John Fallon, George Harrison, Eugene Feeley, Louis Feeley, Pat Mailey, Tom Coakley, John McGee, Paddy Donnelly, Jim Morris. Mentions Gaeilge, Irish language.</p> <p>01:31:34 Frank, PJ Martin and Pat recall the Junior final in 1967 against Creggs in Knockcroghery. Mention Eamon Beades, Pat Dennehy, Dr Keenan, Tadhg Mannion, Paddy Harrison, Eugene Mannion, Dennis Mannion and Frank Daly.</p> <p>01:34:10 Frank talks about the relationship between gaelic games and the Irish language (Gaeilge).</p> <p>01:34:47 Frank and Pat talk about the role of the clergy in the GAA in the area. Pat also compares life now to life when he was young. Mention Taughmconnell. Mention Fr Larkin. Mentions walking, cycling and travelling in cars.</p> <p>01:37:03 Peter tells a story about Fr McGauran's involvement in organising transport for an Under 14 team. Mentions Elphin, Tulsk and Ballinameen. Mentions a minibus. Mentions Tadhg Mannion.</p> <p>01:40:45 Frank and Pat highlight the importance of schools to the GAA. Mentions rugby and soccer. Mentions Kieran Kilkenny.</p> <p>01:43:03 PJ Martin discusses the costs of running the club. Mentions fundraising. Mentions Martin McDermott and Johnny Killen. Mentions golf.</p> <p>01:45:10 The group discuss club songs. Also discuss club</p>
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	<p>disappointments in county finals in 1973, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1989, 2000, 2002 and 2003. Mention John Tiernan. Mentions Clann na nGael.</p> <p>01:46:43 PJ Martin, Pat talk about the club's relationship with the county board. Paddy describes the importance of St Brigid's facilities to the county board. Mentions Hyde Park. Mentions Tom Lane. Mentions Marist College, Athlone.</p> <p>01:49:11 Peter describes celebrations after Roscommon won the All-Ireland Minor Championship. Mentions Ennis.</p> <p>01:50:18 Paddy talks about good days and bad days with the club. Mentions Mullingar and Ballina. Mentions Crossmaglen GAA.</p> <p>01:51:34 Pat and PJ Martin talks about the 1997 county final. Also give insight into the rivalry between St. Brigid's and Clann na nGael. Mentions Hyde Park. Mentions Michael Fayne and Tom Gallagher.</p> <p>01:54:09 PJ Martin mentions travelling to New York and Australia. Also recalls his favourite memories. Mentions Killereerin GAA. Mentions Ballyfarnan. Mentions Under 14 title in 1973.</p> <p>01:55:20 Frank recalls his highlights. Mentions being elected a trustee at the 1988 Congress, Bundoran. Mentions Croke Park. Mentions being a referee. Mentions Dermot Earley and Gorthaganny. Mentions St Michaels.</p> <p>01:56:30 PJ Martin discusses Roscommon's trip to the United States. Mentions Gaelic Park, New York. Goes on to mention the 1992 County Minor Title. Mentions Castlebar. Mentions Noel O'Brien.</p> <p>01:57:30 Peter, Paddy and Pat recall St. Brigid's winning the Connacht Championship final against Corofin. Mentions Karl Mannion. Mentions Meath and Louth.</p> <p>01:58:45 Peter describes the funerals of Dermot Earley and Michael Fayne.</p> <p>01:59:25 Pat explains why Gerry O'Malley is his GAA hero. Mentions Tony McManus, Colm Cooper. Mentions Clann na nGael.</p> <p>02:00:30 Pat talks about his biggest disappointment with the GAA. Mentions Roscommon. Mentions 1980 All-Ireland Senior Final, 2006 Minor All Ireland Final. Mentions Kerry team.</p>
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	<p>*** Pat leaves interview***</p> <p>02:01:47 Frank talks about his GAA heroes. Gerry O'Malley Henry Shefflin, Christy Ring, Paul Brady the handballer.</p> <p>02:02:12 PJ Martin talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions Gerry O'Malley, Tony McManus, Dermot Earley, Frankie Dolan.</p> <p>02:02:47 Paddy explains why Jamesie Murray (Jimmy) is his GAA hero.</p> <p>02:03:20 Peter lists his GAA heroes. Mentions Dermot Early, Tony McManus, Gerry O'Malley, Colm Cooper, Henry Shefflin, Michael 'Ducksy' Walsh and Mickey Welsh. Mentions the opening of the handball alley at Curraghboy.</p> <p>02:04:13 Peter talks about the relationship between the grassroots and the leadership of the GAA. Also discusses the rule changes in football. Mentions emigration.</p> <p>02:05:57 Paddy recalls the 1980 All Ireland final. Mentions Croke Park.</p> <p>02:07:09 PJ Martin talks about losing to Ballina GAA in the Connacht Club final. Mentions Mark O'Carroll and Karl Mannion. Mentions 1980 All Ireland.</p> <p>02:08:16 Frank talks about the 1979 All Ireland. Also discusses how clubs are treated by the GAA administration. Mentions Dublin. Mentions Tommy Drumm, Sean Kilbride and Christy Cooney.</p> <p>02:10:30 Frank talks about his disappointments as an administrator. Recalls his time on the Connacht Council. Mentions Tony Keady, Dr Keenan, Dr Mick Loftus, John Dowling, Con Murphy, John Doyle, Bob Honohan. Mentions New York. Mentions Croke Park. Talks about media coverage.</p> <p>02:15:11 The group discuss changes they would like to see in the GAA. Mentions ladies' football, soccer, International rules, New York, rule changes, schools.</p> <p>02:18:36 The group talks about the enjoyment the GAA has given them. Mentions the importance of the youth. Mentions NAMA.</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>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <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: 02:23:23
<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: \_\_\_\_\_ 12/07/12 \_\_\_\_\_