

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	26 th Jan 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Bellaghy, Co. Derry
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Maura McCloy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1960 Home County: Derry
Education	Primary: St. Mary's, Bellaghy, Co. Derry Secondary: St. Mary's, Clady, Co. Derry
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers
Club(s)	Bellaghy Wolfe Tones GAC
Occupation	Shirt Factory Worker
Parents' Occupation	Clay Works [Father]; Shirt Factory [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	1 st August 2012
Period Covered	1940s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Derry
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Maura’s enthusiasm for Gaelic games stretches back to when she was a child sneaking out of her house to play in the nearby field with her brothers. As a teenager she took up camogie and played for the Bellaghy club, before representing her county. She also took on administrative positions at club, county and provincial level, and was on the All-Stars selection committee. Her vast knowledge and experience meant that she was a natural fit when it was time to appoint a new manager for the local team. Maura talks about the ups and downs in her GAA career, from success on the pitch to diplomatic and financial struggles off it. She talks about how the game has evolved and sheds light on relations with both Croke Park and ladies football over the years. Derry has a proud camogie tradition, enjoying much success despite the Troubles. And although that has only come about through hard graft and perseverance Maura stresses the importance of approaching the task at hand with a smile on your face and a determination to have a bit of fun along the way.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 Earliest memory. Sneaking out to Bellaghy GAA pitch with her brothers. Hiding balls that came out from the pitch.</p> <p>02:35 Her father, James, telling her stories. Meeting point at ‘Cavan Green’. People listening to the All-Ireland final on the radio. Field near her house used by club until mid-1960s.</p> <p>03:35 Uncle playing for Bellaghy and Glenravel. His son</p>

	<p>playing for Antrim.</p> <p>04:25 Mary Lee asking her to stand in during a camogie game when she was 13. Regular player after that. Role as secretary with Bellaghy. Assistant treasurer with county board, then county chair. Role as inter-county secretary. Return to county administration.</p> <p>05:40 Watching games as a schoolchild. Reason for that. Mother dying when she was young. Playing football with her brothers for fun. Brother, Seamus, occupying county chair.</p> <p>07:10 First impressions of camogie. Going to games around the country as an All-Star selector.</p> <p>08:05 Derry minors winning an All-Ireland camogie title.</p> <p>08:40 Travelling to games when she was young. Susanna Molloy taking people in her car. Breakdown en route to a game in Banagher. How they solved the problem. Being stopped by security forces. Hurls as 'offensive weapons'.</p> <p>10:15 Recalls local characters including Mary Lee, Mairead Diamond, Karen, Angela and Emer Lee, Eithne Molloy. Karen Lee's skills. Her mother Mary offering to play a game in goals when pregnant.</p> <p>12:00 Training they did when she was playing. Learning the skills and how that was. Position she played in. Playing Swatragh. Serana not enjoying playing against her.</p> <p>13:55 Playing for the county team. Elizabeth Crampsie asking her to play a game in Eglis, Tyrone.</p> <p>15:15 Colours and attire they wore. What was worn by Bellaghy team before that.</p> <p>16:30 Playing for Bellaghy against St Paul's of Kilkenny in a 1971 All-Ireland final. St Paul's refusing to play. President Sheila McNulty of Down issuing an ultimatum. How everything panned out. Players travelling from Belfast to train for big game.</p> <p>18:20 Aisling Diamond first Bellaghy player to win an All-Star. Reception she got at home.</p> <p>19:10 History of camogie at the club. Game starting in the club during 1940s. Success they had. Mary Lee and her sisters Philomena and Kathleen, and the McNallys reviving camogie within the club in later years. Mary playing with three of her daughters on the team. Marie playing for Derry in 1978</p>
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	<p>All-Ireland winning team. Daughter doing the same in 2000.</p> <p>21:15 Aunt Maggie playing when she was young. Telling her about how rough the game often was. John Graffin their manager.</p> <p>22:10 Dan McCrystal Derry chairman when they were going to the All-Ireland. Team staying in Galway. No bed in Dan's hotel room. Bafflement all round. Solving the mystery.</p> <p>23:35 Kathleen Doherty telling her stories about balancing training and chores when she was young. Players cycling to training. Cars scarce. What they wore in the All-Ireland final during the 1960s. Where they got the uniforms from. Supplying players with gear in 2011. When that became the norm. Supplying All-Ireland finalists in 2000. Getting a sponsor. Later securing a main sponsor that took care of everything.</p> <p>29:20 Boot styles changing in 2000. Croke Park setting parameters. Different types of boots. Who pays for them. What they cost.</p> <p>30:25 Where the hurls came from. Scarcity in early years. Jimmy Darragh making them locally. Scullion Hurls developing from Loughgiel. Pat O'Kane in Swatragh providing the team in later years. What players in years gone by did for hurls.</p> <p>33:20 Skill levels improving over the years. Game developing from 12-a-side to 15-a-side. Which she prefers. Derry's first 15-a-side game against Antrim in Loughgiel. What that was like. Watching Gráinne McGoldrick play against Aisling Diamond and admiring their skills.</p> <p>35:20 Strength of camogie in Derry. St Colm's, St Pious' and St Pat's schools in 2011 All-Ireland semi-finals. Derry Under-16 and minor success. Aisling and Katie McCauley and Clare O'Kane Derry stalwarts. Training at Owenbeg.</p> <p>36:40 President Joan O'Flynn at a county dinner after an All-Ireland semi-final. How that semi-final went. Jordanstown, Queens and St Mary's full of Derry players. Bursary awards from Croke Park to play camogie at university and how many Derry players benefited. Losing an Ulster final by a point to Antrim. Youth prominent. Number of clubs playing in Derry. Newly-formed team in The Loup. Enthusiasm from them. Camogie tradition at that club inspiring new crop. Lissan expressing an interest in starting a club.</p> <p>41:55 New rule about player eligibility affecting clubs.</p>
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	<p>Governing body fearful of burnout.</p> <p>43:25 Swatragh starting in the 1970s. Drum and Glack folding up and starting up again in later years. Total number of clubs in Derry. Game prominent in areas other than Derry City. Na Magha a Derry City club that persevere. Trying to do away with North Derry and South Derry divide.</p> <p>45:45 Administrative involvement. Going to meetings with Susanna Molloy. Ulster Council meeting at Mrs McBride's house. Stories she told. Argument at the meeting. Crossmaglen man making a proposal and getting angry at how it was received. Stepping in as Ulster delegate after Susanna retired. Being registrar with Ulster.</p> <p>49:35 Issues dealt with at Ulster Council meetings. Mentions Bell O'Loughlin, Bernie Byrne and Tom Monaghan. Issues with Antrim resignations. Bell O'Loughlin (Ma Lynch) saying game they were due to play in jeopardy. What happened and how she felt about it.</p> <p>52:05 Issues about pitches and lack of sponsorship for Ulster team.</p> <p>53:20 Being part of first women's team to be acknowledged at Stormont. Mentions Lily Spence. Rosena giving a speech and dying soon after.</p> <p>54:35 Elizabeth telling a story about refereeing a game between Ballerin and Drumsurn. Substitute making an impact. Recognising the player, Antrim player Gregory O'Kane. Other instances of men playing camogie. Playing in Dublin at Kilmacud Sevens and wondering if one of the payers was male.</p> <p>57:55 Involvement with Derry County Board. Secretary's job split into two. Taking a break after her father died. Returning. Difficulty of role. Reason for that. Seeking sponsors to supplement budget. Team sleeping on a pub floor due to lack of funds. How that changed. Maghera their meeting point before departing for games. Working with Croke Park on travel arrangements.</p> <p>01:02:40 Fundraising and how that has changed over the years. Different initiatives. Cost of keeping everything running smoothly. Annual expenditure. Ensuring there is a big crowd at games between big clubs like Lavey and Coleraine.</p> <p>01:06:25 Player transfers a big issue. Her opinion on transfers.</p>
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	<p>01:08:45 Going to a meeting in Greenlough when Bridgid Kelly was county board president. Car keys going missing. Trying to locate the keys.</p> <p>01:11:00 Going to Ulster Council convention in Donegal. Snow falling on their way up Glenshane. Delegates booked in to Ballyliffin Hotel. Treacherous journey. Music in hotel. Singing a song. Reaction.</p> <p>01:13:20 Rules on camogie transfers.</p> <p>01:15:30 Relationship with ladies football. Fixture clashes and dual players. Ballerin players trying to balance commitments. Relations worsening. Croke Park mediating. Geraldine Giles Ladies Football President. Coming together.</p> <p>01:18:50 Magherafelt camogie and ladies teams reaching finals on same day. Negotiating around that. Mary O'Connor and Geraldine Giles due to discuss issues with them. Trying to sort it out before they arrived for meetings. Future plans for co-operation.</p> <p>01:20:50 Relationship with the GAA improving. Looking to use Celtic Park for a minor final. Ringing John Keenan. His reaction.</p> <p>01:22:45 How the change in relations with the GAA came about. Talking to John Keenan about arranging a meeting.</p> <p>01:25:30 Sharing pitches and how that works. Encouraging dual clubs. Bellaghy not a dual club. Football and camogie teams co-operating on fundraising initiatives.</p> <p>01:27:40 Camogie as a separate organisation at national level. Why that needs to change. Dublin offices separate from Croke Park. Working to bridge gap.</p> <p>01:32:35 Camogie Association President Joan O'Flynn asking her to get involved in All-Star selection. Meeting in Croke Park. Bronagh Gaughan, Marie Scully, Mags Finn, Sheila O'Donoghue, Eamonn Browne there. Being proposed for chair. Resolving not to pick players just because they were star names. Selection process.</p> <p>01:38:55 Derry due to host Tipperary players as they had no money for lodgings. Solution she came up with. Derry chairman Brian McQuillan arranging food. Late for Mass with Fr Andy.</p> <p>01:43:00 Work as manager. What she brought to the role. Attributes of a good player. Swatragh reaching an All-Ireland</p>
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	<p>final with eight Derry players, Lavey with six. Importance of county experience.</p> <p>01:47:30 Impact of Troubles. Hunger strikes. Movements restricted. Wanted posters for activist Francis Hughes. House raided frequently. Postman taking her to town to buy groceries. Being stopped by a soldier at 12 years old. Attempt to arrest her. Her brother Seamus arrested. Meeting the army near her house on way home from cinema. Why they tried to arrest her as a 12-year-old. Other possible reasons her house might have been raided. Brother on the Maidstone prison ship.</p> <p>01:58:20 Hopes for future of camogie. Watching television in James McGuckian's house and thinking of future. Realising dreams by reaching finals in Croke Park.</p> <p>02:01:55 Taking Derry chair same year as All-Ireland win. Bellaghy beating Swatragh to meet Castledawson in a county final. What it felt to be county chair on day of that final, and Derry All-Ireland final.</p> <p>02:03:45 Seamus getting her tickets for All-Ireland final.</p> <p>02:04:55 Derry winning an All-Ireland final in 2000 and significance of that. 2007 All-Ireland win over Clare and why that was special. Camogie Association President Liz Howard and Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness there. Incident between the two.</p> <p>02:08:55 Joining All-Star selection committee. Joan O'Flynn and Ard Stiúrthóir, Sinéad O'Connor visiting for an Antrim game and telling her she was picking the player of the match.</p> <p>02:09:40 What it felt like to see Derry players win All Stars.</p> <p>02:10:00 Admiration for footballer Fergal Doherty. Clare's hurling All-Ireland winning team of the 1990s and excitement they generated. Regina Gorman of Kildare a talented player who deserves recognition.</p> <p>02:12:40 Disappointments include club not winning more titles and losing an Ulster final. Amount of work players put in.</p> <p>02:14:55 Furthest away place she has watched a match. Going to a game in Cork.</p> <p>02:19:50 Bellaghy playing in an All-Ireland football club final. Being at home and trying to find out the result. Celebrations. Bellaghy losing 1995 final. Why game should not have been played.</p>
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<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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ </p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played camogie from 1974 – 1993. Won a division 2 league and championship, 3 leagues.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has been involved in camogie administration since 1979.</p> <p>Club: Secretary (31 years), Chairperson, Delegate to County Board</p> <p>County: Assistant Treasurer, Chairperson (1993), Delegate to Ulster, Inter-county secretary</p> <p>Ulster: Registrar (3 years)</p> <p>Central: All-Stars Committee</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual </p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 02:22:35</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____01/08/12_____

