

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	16 th Aug 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tommy Donnelly
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1947 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: St. Mary's CBS, Monaghan Secondary: St. Mary's CBS, Monaghan Third Level: UCD
Family	Siblings: 5 sisters & 3 brothers
Club(s)	None
Occupation	Newsagent / Shop Owner
Parents' Occupation	Shop Owner; Army Commandant until 1924 [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	2 nd July 2012
Period Covered	1920s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Monaghan
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, 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, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Professionalism
Interview Summary	<p>Tommy talks about his experiences of the GAA. Although not hugely involved with the Association, he has always been aware of it, and remembers with fondness watching the Down football team of the 1960s. His father was a Republican and involved with the GAA in the 1920s, a difficult and divisive period in Irish history. Tommy shares what he knows about the GAA in Monaghan during those times. He also reflects on how the Association has changed over the years, gaining greater recognition from organisations like the BBC and acting as a positive force within the community.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:20 Earliest GAA memory. 1961 All-Ireland final featuring Down. Taking the bus to Dundalk and then getting the train to Dublin.</p> <p>00:45 Atmosphere in Dublin and in Croke Park.</p> <p>01:55 Family's GAA involvement. Father a Republican and involved in the 1920s. Father friendly with Eoin O'Duffy.</p> <p>02:45 Father involved with the Ulster Council in later years.</p> <p>03:15 Minute book from 1922 that he has. Describes what it contains including information on re-starting street leagues after the War of Independence.</p> <p>04:40 Sad aspects of the book. People falling out with each other.</p> <p>04:50 Incident in Monaghan Town in 1922 when the IRA raided the banks. Lieutenant Thomas Gillanders was shot dead.</p> <p>06:00 Dr Paddy McCarville arrested by his father.</p>

	<p>06:55 Success of Monaghan Harps. Dr McCarville and Dr Con Ward on that team, as was a brother of Thomas Gillanders, Gerry.</p> <p>07:35 Divisions within the GAA in Kerry due to the Civil War.</p> <p>08:50 Father's later GAA involvement. Father's admiration for Kerry.</p> <p>10:00 His friends playing GAA. Going to games to watch them.</p> <p>10:20 GAA at school.</p> <p>10:35 Role of GAA in his life.</p> <p>11:10 Role of GAA in Monaghan.</p> <p>11:55 GAA's role in Irish society.</p> <p>13:05 Preferring to watch games on television.</p> <p>13:25 Media coverage of the GAA. BBC covering games in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>14:40 Listening to Micheál O'Hehir and matches on the radio. People gathering to listen to games on the radio.</p> <p>15:35 Inclusivity and the GAA.</p> <p>16:15 Other sports becoming more and more popular.</p> <p>16:40 Monaghan Harps' lack of success. Possible reasons for that.</p> <p>17:55 People showing their support for the county team.</p> <p>18:35 Link between politics and the GAA. Eoin O'Duffy in the 1920s. Former President Seán Kelly a Fine Gael man. Sinn Féin and Fianna Fáil members in the GAA.</p> <p>20:10 Negative aspects of the GAA.</p> <p>21:30 Need for GAA to stay true to its origins.</p> <p>21:55 Positive aspects of the GAA.</p>
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	<p>23:20 Importance of volunteers and of the GAA's amateur status.</p> <p>24:50 Entertainment that the GAA offers.</p> <p>25:25 Admiration for Down players of the 1960s. James McCartan, Seán O'Neill, Paddy Doherty.</p> <p>26:00 What the GAA has meant to him.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input checked="" 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	None
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	None
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:27:09
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____02/07/12_____