

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	14 th Dec 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Marie-Louise Kaiser
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1957 Home County: Clare (from Europe, but requested to be listed as Clare)
Education	Primary: Gunten and Bernhardzell, Switzerland Secondary: Will and St. Gallen, Switzerland Third Level: Winterthur (Nursing), Switzerland
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married to Martin with four daughters
Club(s)	Newmarket-on-Fergus
Occupation	Homeopath
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. CE/1/6

Date of Report	13 th July 2012
Period Covered	1981 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Clare, Antrim, Europe, Switzerland, Germany
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Marie-Louise discusses her involvement in GAA over the last fifteen years through her daughters' playing in school right through to their playing at county level. Also covered is her own involvement in the administration of the GAA at club and county board level. She talks about the place of the GAA in the community and how it helped her and her family to become part of the community when they moved from Switzerland. She goes on to speak about fundraising and sponsorship at club and county level. Finally, Marie-Louise talks about what the GAA means to her.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:33 Talks of her earliest memory of the GAA in her daughters' school at Newmarket on Fergus after moving here, with her family, from Switzerland 15 years ago.</p> <p>01:05 Recalls the differences in GAA games to what her daughters had been used to at home in Switzerland.</p> <p>02:11 Talks of her time as an instructor in Mother and Child Gymnastics in Switzerland.</p> <p>02:50 Talks of being involved in first aid with the club when her daughter was playing Under 12 camogie.</p> <p>03:35 Speaks of getting involved due to her children's involvement and the community openness.</p> <p>04:40 Talks of moving from First Aid for the camogie teams to becoming Secretary of the club five years ago. Also talks of her involvement in the Newmarket on Fergus Football club.</p> <p>05:40 The GAA club is one club with sub-committees for both camogie and ladies football.</p> <p>06:00 Talks of being involved and being given more and more</p>

	<p>to do over time. A natural progression over time.</p> <p>06:44 Talks of playing football and camogie with the kids but not for any of the teams.</p> <p>07:04 Discusses the achievements of the teams in 2010 with the Under 12's, Under 16's and the Seniors winning their Championships.</p> <p>07:39 Tells of ladies football being played before camogie and that there are teams in every age group with several players playing at county level. However, camogie is probably taken more seriously with football being more recreational.</p> <p>08:38 Speaks of camogie starting in 1981 with football some years earlier. Men's football and hurling were together but the football again is more recreational.</p> <p>09:40 Talks of the help given to her by her husband.</p> <p>10:10 Talks of being chairperson of the ladies football club and the role of running the club, fundraising etc.</p> <p>11:05 Talks of her involvement recently at county level as secretary of the Camogie County Board and assistant secretary of the Ladies Football County Board.</p> <p>11:42 Discusses fundraising for the club, GAA Lotto, Church gate collection etc. This varies year to year.</p> <p>12:42 Describes the role of the GAA in the local community and the impact through the schools and then on to the club level.</p> <p>13:40 Talks of other sports played in the community such as soccer, handball, gymnastics, athletics and tennis but not to the same level as the GAA.</p> <p>14:30 Discusses Shannon Athletics cross country events and All-Irelands at Nenagh.</p> <p>15:00 Speaks of Veronica McMahon and her work with training the school club.</p> <p>15:35 Talks of some of the characters in the club, Seán McMahon Bridie O'Looney former Secretary of the Club.</p> <p>16:35 Speaks of driving the girls to matches sometimes outside the county such as to Féile in 2002 in Antrim when about ten cars made the trip.</p> <p>18:13 Talks of travelling to inter county matches to support</p>
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	<p>Clare.</p> <p>18:44 Speaks of the similarity in supporting club and county teams.</p> <p>19:06 Discusses the work involved in the role of secretary in the club and how much easier it gets over time.</p> <p>19:50 Speaks of the relationship between camogie and football. Gives the example of fixtures with camogie's fixed and ladies football fitting in where it can.</p> <p>20:54 Talks of the relationship with men's football and hurling.</p> <p>21:17 Discusses the facilities, pitches for playing and training etc.</p> <p>22:02 Speaks about the relationship between the camogie and ladies football county boards and the willingness to work together.</p> <p>22:48 Talks of the equality between the football and camogie county boards with the ladies football team winning the Intermediate All-Ireland last year.</p> <p>23:34 Tells of the good relations and communications between the men's and ladies county boards. Mentions Cusack Park and some of the congestion around trying to play there.</p> <p>24:48 Talks of the characters at county level such as Maura Sheedy, former chairperson of the Camogie County Board. In Ladies Football Johnny Hayes is mentioned.</p> <p>26:20 Discusses the workload associated with her new position of secretary of the Camogie County Board.</p> <p>26:53 Talks of her reasons for taking on the role of County Board Secretary and giving back something to the GAA. Also mentions others on the board including Chairperson Orla Considine, Treasurer Michael Maher, Bríd McNamara.</p> <p>28:40 Discusses her daughters' playing careers. All four of her daughters, (aged from 24 to 15) have played Camogie and Ladies Football all along and have won every medal open to them. They have won inter-county medals, Under 12 to Senior inter-club medals, Under 16, Under 18 and Munster Championship.</p> <p>29:45 Discusses her daughters' training schedule in the club panels and for three of them in the county panels also. Ruth on the senior camogie panel, Iris is no longer involved at</p>
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	<p>county level, Carol is involved in Cork and in the county panels and Nicki in the Under 16's, 14's and next 18's.</p> <p>31:56 Talks of her daughters' travelling home from college to play and recalls the time she spent herself bringing the girls to matches and training over the years by car.</p> <p>32:50 Speaks of a funny incident at an Under 12 match with two of her daughters.</p> <p>33:46 Talks of her daughter Ruth and her work on the administrative side of the GAA as registrar of the club. Iris is coaching and Carol is refereeing.</p> <p>34:35 Talks about the county board's plans for development of a pitch and facilities.</p> <p>35:37 Speaks about the fundraising that takes place at county level. Also mentions sponsors that are involved in the Ladies Football and Camogie at club level.</p> <p>37:54 Talks about the sponsors at county level.</p> <p>38:37 Discusses the celebrations that take place immediately following a big win, e.g. driving through the village with the cup. Also mentions other celebrations during the year including a dinner dance in the Clare Inn on 15th January.</p> <p>40:01 Talks of the support for Camogie and Ladies Football at county level for example after the Junior Final two years ago in Ennis.</p> <p>41:00 Talks of the problems with fixture clashes between football and camogie and the possible solutions.</p> <p>42:33 Talks of relations with Munster Councils.</p> <p>43:37 Discusses the role of the media in promoting the sports of ladies football and camogie at local level. Mentions <i>Clare People</i>, <i>Clare Champion</i> and <i>Clare FM</i>.</p> <p>44:47 Talks of the media coverage at national level and how it brings camogie to the same level as hurling.</p> <p>45:37 Speaks of the use of Irish language within the GAA and how it helps to keep the language alive.</p> <p>46:36 Talks of keeping the team lists in both English and Irish.</p> <p>47:17 Talks of the role played by the teachers in the GAA including coaching during the summer.</p>
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	<p>48:12 Discusses the big changes in the club since her arrival in the area including an increase in the activities on offer to the girls.</p> <p>49:24 Talks of the increase in population in the area and getting them involved in the club through the schools.</p> <p>50:15 Talks of the various nationalities involved in the club, including Swiss, German etc.</p> <p>51:12 Speaks of how getting involved in the club helped the family settle into the area.</p> <p>52:10 Talks of the other women involved in the administration of the club.</p> <p>52:35 Discusses the role of women in the GAA and how it is developing.</p> <p>53:25 Discusses her thoughts on the GAA both in the past and now. Looks at both the total organisation and the local people around her.</p> <p>54:50 Talks of travelling to Croke Park and the atmosphere there when watching the team. This is also seen at juvenile level.</p> <p>56:14 Talks of how the GAA compares to sporting organisations in Switzerland.</p> <p>57:06 Discusses what she would like changed in the GAA including better communications and not just laying down the rules.</p> <p>57:59 Speaks about the GAA as a democratic organisation and where it may be found wanting.</p> <p>58:44 Recalls her best memories of her involvement in the GAA including winning a Championship.</p> <p>59:17 Discusses her GAA hero Maura McMahon an outstanding team player who has many abilities.</p> <p>59:58 Talks of watching a match in Antrim on the Ards Peninsula.</p> <p>01:00:36 Speaks of her biggest disappointment in 2009 when the team lost a final by a point.</p> <p>01:01:27 Talks of how her involvement with the GAA has made her feel a sense of identity with the local community and county. Mentions how open they were to letting them in.</p>
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	01:01:58 Tells how her involvement in Gaelic Games has given her fun and made her feel part of the community and the opportunity to give something back.
Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Has been involved in administration since 2005. Club: Camogie Secretary (2005); Chairperson Ladies Football (2007) County: Assistant Secretary Ladies Football (2008), Secretary Camogie Board (2010)
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:02:51
Language	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 _____