

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	23 rd Sept 2009
Location	Road Safety Authority, Ballina, Co. Mayo
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Donal Tuohy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1959 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Bonniconlon NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: St. Muiredach's College, Co. Mayo
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Mary with 2 daughters
Club(s)	Bonniconlon
Occupation	Civil Servant with Road Safety Authority
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/8

Date of Report	20 th August 2012
Period Covered	1930s – 2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Mayo, Leitrim, Dublin, Great Britain, England
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Celebrations, Fundraising, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Professionalism
Interview Summary	<p>Donal talks of his father's influence and the origins of the club. He discusses the help given by teachers and priests in the area to the GAA. The cost of running a club are discussed and how emigration has impacted on the club. He then tells of his favourite moments, games and players before talking about what the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:22 Donal talks of his earliest memory being watching his father in the local parish leagues.</p> <p>01:08 Speaks of his father's involvement in the local club, Bonniconlon and his mother supporting her four sons while playing.</p> <p>02:18 Talks of the lack of facilities when he was young compared to those in place now.</p> <p>03:48 Tells of the field being donated by the local priest to the parish for a sports field in the 1930's and of it being invested in the GAA in 2008. Talks of the place held by the GAA club in the community.</p> <p>05:33 Speaks of the celebrations when titles were won.</p> <p>05:55 Talks of the national school tournaments in Mayo.</p> <p>06:46 Tells of the huge role played by teachers and priests in the development of GAA in schools. Mentions Fr. Padraig Costello, Fr. Michael Gallagher and Fr Tommy Towey.</p> <p>08:04 Talks of playing football but not being a star of the club. Mentions beating Ballina.</p> <p>09:05 Speaks of the impact of emigration and of people</p>

	<p>moving to Dublin and this impact on the GAA in Mayo. Mentions Portobello GAA Club.</p> <p>10:31 Talks of his time in management both in Mayo and Dublin. Mentions his coaching courses and being one of the first tutors in the area. Also mentions the response from the players and how fulfilling the role was.</p> <p>13:20 Discusses what makes a good manager and a good player.</p> <p>14:58 Speaks of his relationship with the club committee and county officers.</p> <p>15:42 Talks of the day to day routine of the manager and players.</p> <p>17:23 Tells of his successes as a manager over the years. Mentions Liam McHale of Ballina. Also mentions his time managing the Mayo Under 21 team.</p> <p>19:58 Speaks of driving to matches with his father when young. Mentions many walking or cycling to matches.</p> <p>21:15 Talks of travelling to Croke Park and outlines his matchday traditions. Mentions Tarmonbarry and Mother Hubbard's.</p> <p>22:55 Speaks of the fundraising activities over the years. Mentions the cost of running the club. Also mentions the county board draw. Talks of going to Leeds and Manchester with the club and the great social scene.</p> <p>25:45 Describes the weekend in Leeds and the games they played. Mentions the return visit by the Leeds team.</p> <p>27:34 Talks of the role of women within the GAA and how it has developed over the years. Mentions the advent of ladies football. Also mention camogie dropping off because of a lack of numbers.</p> <p>29:35 Speaks of the number of the current team based outside Bonniconlon. Mentions the numbers always being a problem when players moved away to Dublin. Also mentions fitness tests being used.</p> <p>31:56 Talks of the sacrifices he made over the years because of his involvement in the GAA. Mentions never going on holiday during the season.</p> <p>33:53 Speaks of the importance of volunteers to the GAA.</p>
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	<p>Mentions not being in favour of pay for play.</p> <p>34:52 Talks of the best match he ever watched; Mayo v Dublin. Mentions Sligo and Mickey Moran. Also mentions assisting in the Sligo training.</p> <p>36:11 Talks of Anthony Egan as his GAA hero.</p> <p>36:59 Speaks of his best memory being winning the county title and the worst memory being Mayo v Kerry and Bonniconlon v Achill.</p> <p>37:30 Tells of the GAA being his life and mentions the friends he has made.</p>
<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 type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:37:59</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____20/08/12_____