

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie	
Date of Interview	22 nd Nov 2010	✓ Photograph of Interviewee
Location	Interviewee's home, near Roscommon, Co. Roscommon	
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Marie McAleer	
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>		
Gender	Female	
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Roscommon	
Education	Primary: St. Bride's, Ballintubber, Co. Roscommon Secondary: Convent of Mercy, Roscommon	
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married to Tiernan with 2 daughters	
Club(s)	St Croans; Roscommon Gaels	
Occupation	Executive Officer, Department of Agriculture	
Parents' Occupation	Commercial Traveller [Father]; Housewife [Mother]	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Brownies; Girl Guides; Parents Association; Board of Management; Public Service Executive Union	

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Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1920s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Roscommon, Cavan, Tipperary, Galway, Great Britain, England, Armagh
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Media, Emigration, Role of Women, Volunteers, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Career, Northern Ireland, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Socialising, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Marie talks about her role in establishing a ladies' football County Board in Roscommon. She describes the process through which the various administrative structures were set up and maintained from the Mid 1970s through to today. She also discusses her involvement in administration at club, county and national levels. She goes on to talk about the nature of the relationship between the men's games and women's games and between the Ladies Gaelic Football Association and the GAA.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 Marie recalls her earliest GAA memory. Mentions her father's involvement with St. Croan's GAA. Talks about going to games with him. Mentions Hyde Park. Mentions Irish (Gaeilge).</p> <p>01:55 Discusses her father managing the Under 12s team. Mentions travelling by car.</p> <p>02:35 Talks about establishing ladies' football in Roscommon around 1974. Recalls being chairperson of St. Croan's and of the Roscommon County Board, treasurer of the Connacht Council and secretary of the Central Council. Mentions Ballintubber, Roscommon, Castlerea. Mentions carnivals. Mentions Michael Naughton, Margaret Flanagan. Mentions handball.</p> <p>04:30 Describes the level of involvement required in ladies' football administration.</p> <p>05:07 Talks about the Roscommon senior ladies' team. Mentions the 1977 All-Ireland Championship campaign.</p>

	<p>Mentions Cavan, Kerry and Offaly. Mentions Castleisland and Hyde Park. Mentions the Shamrock Lodge. Mentions the Roscommon Champion. Mentions Pauline Gibbons, John Costello, Margaret Flanagan.</p> <p>08:04 Discusses the 1978 All Ireland Senior Championship and its aftermath. Mentions Cavan and Tipperary. Mentions Breffni Park, Hyde Park and Duggan Park, Ballinasloe. Mentions the ladies match not being held at same venue as the All-Ireland Under 21 Championship.</p> <p>09:24 Refers to Roscommon's role in Connacht's inter-provincial success. Mentions Bernie Boland.</p> <p>09:40 Talks about her family's interest in supporting Roscommon – her father and her daughters. Mentions her father's death in 2002. Mentions the 2006 All-Ireland Minor Championship.</p> <p>10:54 Recalls a story about Colm O'Callaghan illustrating the importance of the victory in 2006. Mentions Michael O'Callaghan.</p> <p>12:10 Discusses her involvement in administration. Mentions Central Council delegates and the executive. Also mentions being club chairperson, manager, selector and liaison. Mentions Roscommon Gaels.</p> <p>14:00 Recalls travelling by car with her father to matches. Her maiden name is Holland. Mentions the 1966 All-Ireland Under 21 Final. Mentions Croke Park. Mentions Knockcroghery.</p> <p>15:16 Talks about her parents' interest in the GAA.</p> <p>16:28 Describes St Croans club. Mentions Ballintubber, Ballymoe and Ballaghaderreen. Discusses the different catchments for men's and ladies' football – parish and county boundaries.</p> <p>19:20 Describes the facilities St. Croan's had when she was younger and the developments that have been made.</p> <p>20:27 Mentions her nephew's and her brother's involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>21:03 Talks about establishing ladies' football in the county. Refers to the players' expectations. Mentions the facilities in Creggs Rugby Club. Mentions Roosky, Strokestown and Co. Leitrim. Mentions Roosky St. Barry's GAA.</p> <p>24:02 Describes the steps to setting up the County Board. Mentions St. Croan's, Tulsk, Strokestown, St Barry's, Clann</p>
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	<p>na nGael and Roscommon Gaels. Refers to the state of ladies' football at county and provincial level at present and at national level in the 1970s.</p> <p>26:44 Talks about men's attitude toward ladies' football. Mentions Michael O'Callaghan and Dr Donal Keenan. Mentions the Roscommon Herald. Mentions attendance figures at Croke Park.</p> <p>30:02 Talks about the relationship between ladies' county board and the men's county board in Roscommon. Mentions integration programme.</p> <p>31:13 Discusses the relationship between ladies' football and camogie. Mentions Pádraig Pearses, St. Dominic's, Four Roads, Tulsk and Oran. Mentions the Fixtures Committee.</p> <p>32:37 Describes her early attempts at playing football and how she progressed. Mentions her club camogie outfit.</p> <p>34:33 Talks about the different rules in men's and ladies' football and the difficulty for referees who officiate for both codes.</p> <p>35:50 Discusses the number of women refereeing and problems they face.</p> <p>37:44 Recalls the early ladies' County Board and Central Council meetings. Mentions St. Coman's, the Percy French Hotel in Strokestown and the Tullamore Court Hotel. Mentions Roosky and Tulsk.</p> <p>38:52 Describes the rules of ladies' football. Also talks about the process by which rules are changed. Mentions Pat Quill.</p> <p>42:13 Talks about the roles she has held throughout her career, including playing and administration. Recalls being chairperson of club and County Board, Central Council Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Connacht Council. Mentions St Croans GAA. Mentions the Irish Times journalist Downey.</p> <p>44:30 Describes the involvement of the GAA administration in helping the ladies' County Board in its infancy. Mentions Con Murphy, Seán Ó Síocháin and Dr Donal Keenan.</p> <p>46:30 Talks about the social aspect of ladies' football.</p> <p>47:40 Discusses her levels of involvement in administration. Mentions standing in as chairperson of the County Board.</p> <p>48:55 Recalls a story of travelling home from a minor match</p>
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	<p>in Johnstown. Mentions her husband Tiernan and her daughter Kara.</p> <p>50:36 Talks about her husband's involvement in the GAA. Mentions Birmingham in England. Mentions the soccer team Aston Villa.</p> <p>51:53 Recalls certain characters that have been involved in ladies' football. Mentions Liz O'Brien (Liz Gibbons now), Triona Moran (Maguire now), Olive Dufficy. Mentions Kilglass GAA. Mentions the Roscommon Supporters Club in Dublin.</p> <p>53:40 Tells a story about having difficulty with a certain player (Madeleine) while being involved in management. Mentions Hyde Park and Elphin. Mentions Parks Reynolds, Michael Naughton and Anne Naughton. Mentions Roosky.</p> <p>55:35 Talks about her attitude towards training techniques.</p> <p>57:09 Discusses the relationship between club and county in relation to getting injuries.</p> <p>57:57 Talks about fundraising and expenditure for clubs and for the County Board. Mentions sponsorship. Mentions golf. Refers to the links between performance and costs.</p> <p>01:02:13 Describes transporting teams to matches. Mentions travelling by car and coach. Mentions expenses. Mentions Waterford. Refers to the social aspect of travelling together.</p> <p>01:04:16 Recalls travelling to the North during the Troubles. Mentions Daisy Hill Hospital in Armagh.</p> <p>01:05:38 Talks about the characters at provincial and national level. Mentions Tom Dowd from Crosserlough, Jim Kennedy the first chairman. The first meeting was held in Hays Hotel, Thurles. Mentions Lynda Colgan, Agnes Gorman and Veronica Sharkey. Mentions Breaffy House, Travellers Friend, Hudson Bay, Shamrock Lodge, West County and the Spa. Mentions Cavan, Offaly, Galway, Roscommon, Tipperary and Mayo.</p> <p>01:08:39 Discusses big decisions taken while she was Central Council Secretary. Mentions rules, elections and congress. Describes the process by which the administration structure was built up. Mentions Pat Quill, the association's President.</p> <p>01:11:20 Talks about the integration of ladies' football into the GAA. Mentions Roscommon Gaels. Mentions fundraising.</p> <p>01:14:02 Discusses the influence of the media on ladies'</p>
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	<p>football. Talks about newspapers covering underage games. Mentions TG4.</p> <p>01:16:54 Discusses volunteerism versus professionalism. Refers to emigration and unemployment. Mentions London, New York, Melbourne, Sydney. Highlights a difference between the men's and the ladies' games in this respect.</p> <p>01:20:40 Talks about her experiences of the GAA abroad. Mentions Brussels.</p> <p>01:21:17 Recalls winning the senior title in 1978. Describes the celebrations. Mentions winning an intermediate title. Mentions attendance figures. Mentions the Abbey Hotel.</p> <p>01:23:24 Talks about her favourite administrative position she has held. Mentions being delegate to the Central Council.</p> <p>01:24:15 Talks about her Gaelic games heroes. Mentions Dermot Earley.</p> <p>01:25:06 Recalls playing a camogie match in Taughmacconnell. Describes some of the pitches she has played on. Mentions the Convent of Mercy pitch, Hyde Park. Mentions Roscommon Gaels.</p> <p>01:26:56 Gives her opinion on some of the controversial rulings made by the GAA. Mentions Croke Park and the Aviva Stadium. Mentions the security forces and the DUP.</p> <p>01:28:49 Discusses her disappointments from her time with the GAA. Mentions winning a Connacht title in Castlebar.</p> <p>01:29:41 Talks about what her involvement in Gaelic games means to her. Mentions the Sunday Game. Mentions the closed season. Mentions Hyde Park.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p>✓ Caterer ✓ Jersey Washer ✓ 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>Played for 8 years.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1974.</p>

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long for)	Club: Chairperson County: Chairperson and Delegate to Central Council Connacht: Assistant Secretary Central: Secretary; Secretary of Hall of Fame Committee Awards: Sports Personality; Hall of Fame
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:31:22
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: _____12/07/12_____