

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Kilcar, Co. Donegal
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mícheál Mac Giolla Easbuic
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1942 <b>Home County:</b> Donegal
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Muckross NS, Co. Donegal <b>Secondary:</b> Coláiste Éinde, Salthill, Co. Galway <b>Third Level:</b> St. Pat's, Drumcondra, Dublin
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 sister & 4 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Bernadette with 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	CLG Chill Chartha
<b>Occupation</b>	Teacher
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Áislann Cill Chartha, Civil Defence Instructor, First Aid Instructor, Donegal Partnership, Meitheal Forbatha na Gaeltachta, Tír Boghaine, Drama

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<b>Date of Report</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1924 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Donegal, Dublin, Derry, Americas, USA, Great Britain, England
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Material Culture, Education, Media, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Mícheál talks about his involvement in the GAA over the years. He discusses growing up in the Kilcar area and what the GAA was like there. He talks about the history of the Kilcar club and describes the amalgamation of many parishes to form a team due to emigration in the early years. Mícheál talks about attending St. Enda's in Salthill in Galway and highlights the role of the GAA in the school. He discusses attending St Patrick's College in Dublin and getting involved in the GAA there as well as working for the College's newspaper. He talks about his role in administration at club and county level, from secretary of the Kilcar club to chairman of the county board. Mícheál discusses his involvement on the central council and describes what those meetings were like. He talks about his involvement in the Gaeltacht competition, Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta and discusses the development of the competition over the years. Mícheál gives his opinion on various aspects of the GAA including the role of women in the Association and the opening of Croke Park for other sports. He talks about Donegal's All-Ireland win in 1992 and describes what that was like for the people of the county. Towards the end of the interview Mícheál highlights the important role the GAA has played in his life and describes what the Association means to him.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:37 Mícheál talks about his earliest memory of the GAA, his father playing for the Kilcar club. Going to school in St Enda's</p>

	<p>in Salthill in Galway. Talks about the role of the GAA there.</p> <p>02:44 Talks about going to St. Patrick's College in Dublin to train as a teacher. Mentions Fr McDyer. Becoming secretary of the club in 1962. Describes the make-up of the club and discusses amalgamating with other clubs in the past due to emigration. The club went from Glen head to Inver Bridge. Mentions Naomh Columba, Kilcar, Killybegs, Dunkineely and St. Nauls. Remembers amalgamating with Ardara.</p> <p>05:30 Discusses Donegal winning the All-Ireland and having players in the area on the team.</p> <p>06:00 Talks about the development of facilities for GAA in the area. Describes the type of facilities in the past and the pitch they played on.</p> <p>07:45 Discusses his father's involvement in the GAA and the Slieve League cup. Talks about the founding of the club in 1924 and the development of the club. Mentions the Democrat Cup.</p> <p>09:00 Talks about the Slieve League cup and mentions the interest in Glencolmcille and Kilcar.</p> <p>10:50 Describes the types of balls they used when he was growing up in Kilcar, people using a pig's bladder ball.</p> <p>12:15 Talks about going to St Enda's and playing football there. Playing for Kilcar during the holidays and being notified about matches.</p> <p>17:25 Describes how he travelled to matches.</p> <p>18:58 Talks about the county team at the time. Mentions James Patrick McGinley.</p> <p>20:45 Discusses getting involved in administration with the club. Being involved with the Gaeltacht competition, Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta. Held on Whit Weekend every year.</p> <p>23:39 Describes how the Gaeltacht competition began and developed. The effect on Raidió na Gaeltachta and TG4. Discusses the running of the competition.</p> <p>28:27 Talks about his role as chairman of the competition and how they decide what Gaeltacht holds it each year. Mentions Ráth Chairn. Keeping people in local houses.</p> <p>32:00 Discusses being ill in the early 1990s and how this</p>
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	<p>affected his work in the Gaeltacht competition.</p> <p>34:00 Talks about being Donegal county chairman during the 1980s. Mentions Centenary Year. Tells a story about a match being called off.</p> <p>37:15 Discusses working as a central council delegate and various administration roles at provincial and national level. Mentions Brendan O'Neill and Brian McEniff.</p> <p>38:50 Talks about Kilcar's biggest rivals and how this changed over the years. Describes how more teams began to form in parishes around the area.</p> <p>41:28 Talks about his involvement in the GAA in St Patrick's College. Writing for a college sport's paper. Playing for Erin's Hope. Mentions Seán Óg Ó Ceallacháin.</p> <p>43:00 Playing hurling in college. Discusses the playing of hurling in the Kilcar area.</p> <p>44:05 Recalls a story about John Doyle and Anthony Molloy.</p> <p>44:30 Talks about ringing Seán Óg Ó Ceallacháin to give him GAA results.</p> <p>45:33 Discusses the role of radio and television in the GAA. Listening to All-Irelands on the radio when he was young. Mentions Mícheál O'Hehir. Talks about the impact of television.</p> <p>49:10 Talks about returning from Dublin to Donegal to teach in 1961 and notes how he never did an interview for a job.</p> <p>50:40 Discusses taking up the role as secretary with the club in 1962. Becoming team manager in 1975 and winning the club's first county league. Gives his opinion on his work as manager.</p> <p>53:00 Describes what meetings were like during the early years and what the GAA in the area was like then. The impact of emigration on the area and having to form a team from different parishes.</p> <p>57:19 Talks about attending South West divisional board and county board meetings. Discusses the importance of the divisional board and their main role. Mentions Dungloe's move from the North West to the South West. Recalls a junior county final in 1961 and a referee being assaulted.</p> <p>01:02:15 Describes the celebrations after the 1975 county</p>
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	<p>final.</p> <p>01:02:50 Discusses his involvement in administration at a county level and becoming county chairman in 1980. Describes the main highlights and issues of his chairmanship, Donegal winning an Under 21 All-Ireland and talks about Donegal winning a senior All-Ireland in 1992.</p> <p>01:07:00 Talks about the role of teachers on the county team and players going to America during the summer.</p> <p>01:08:00 Discusses the change in county training over the years and highlights the work of Brain McEniff.</p> <p>01:09:05 Recalls the celebrations held for the centenary year in 1984. Visit of the Donegal club from New York and Tir Chonaill Gaels from London.</p> <p>01:11:55 Describes the type of characters at county board level. Talks about Noreen Doherty and how she was the first female at a central council meeting. Discusses being ill at the time.</p> <p>01:14:45 Recalls what his first central council meeting was like. Mentions Mick Loftus. Talks about the honesty of people involved in the administration of the GAA and the relationship with politics.</p> <p>01:17:17 Highlights the controversial issues he faced at central council level. Recalls an issue with a Dublin club's pitch and other sports. Talks about the opening of Croke Park to other sports.</p> <p>01:20:11 Discusses his work on the management committee in Croke Park. Being elected trustee of the GAA and chairman of the Gaeltacht competition.</p> <p>01:22:13 Gives his opinion on the role of the Irish language and culture in the GAA.</p> <p>01:24:45 Talks about the club's involvement in the Scór competition.</p> <p>01:26:13 Describes the development of the Kilcar club and its facilities over the years. Highlights the importance of the GAA in the community and for people.</p> <p>01:29:53 Talks about the role of women in the GAA. Notes how Donegal were the first county to have a female county secretary. Discusses the development of ladies' football.</p> <p>01:32:09 Talks about his best memories from his time in the</p>
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	<p>GAA. Highlights the work of the GAA in improving people's lives.</p> <p>01:34:30 Describes how the GAA has made him the man he is today.</p> <p>01:35:21 Talks about his GAA heroes, chooses the Donegal All-Ireland winning team of 1992. Mentions the current Glenties team.</p> <p>01:36:57 Describes his biggest disappointments in the GAA, Donegal not winning more titles.</p> <p>01:38:26 Discusses travelling to matches in Northern Ireland during the Troubles. Tells a story about going to Ballinascreen.</p> <p>01:40:00 Highlights the important role the GAA has played in his life.</p> <p>01:41:00 Recalls a story about Donegal winning the All-Ireland. Travelling on the train back with the team to Donegal after the match and the celebrations.</p> <p>01:43:58 Talks about the All-Ireland win in 1992. Discusses the death of Joyce McMullen's brother.</p> <p>01:49:00 Recalls a county convention in the 1960s.</p> <p>01:49:40 Tells a story about staying in a hotel during a central council meeting. Mentions John Doyle and Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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 checked="" 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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from 1958 – 1971. Won a junior championship and maybe a league in 1961 and a junior championship in 1971.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Was involved in administration from 1962 – 2002.</p> <p>Club: Secretary, Chairman, Delegate to South West Divisional Board, Delegate to County Board</p> <p>County: Chairman (1980 – 1987), Central Council Delegate</p>

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	Ulster: Delegate to Central Council (1993 – 1996) Central: Ard Comhairle Member (1987 – 1996), Coiste na Gaeilge (1996 – 2002), Oireachtas Committee (1990 – 2002), Trustee (1996 – 1999) Chairman of Comórtasáí Peile na Gaeltachta (1977 – 1979)
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:51:26
<b>Language</b>	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:      \_\_\_\_\_ 23/07/12 \_\_\_\_\_