

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

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| Name of Interviewer | Arlene Crampsie |
| Date of Interview | 19 th Jan 2011 |
| Location | Church of Irish Martyrs, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal |
| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Garry Coll |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male |
| Born | Year Born: 1963 Home County: Donegal |
| Education | Primary: Castlefinn NS, Co. Donegal Secondary: St. Columba's College, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal |
| Family | Siblings: 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Patricia with 3 daughters and 1 son |
| Club(s) | Robert Emmet's, Castlefinn; Letterkenny Gaels |
| Occupation | Civil Servant |
| Parents' Occupation | Teachers |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | N/A |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | Letterkenny Musical Society; Letterkenny Pantomime Society |

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| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Sean McBrearty |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male |
| Born | Year Born: 1958 Home County: Donegal |
| Education | Primary: Kilcar NS, Co. Donegal Secondary: St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Third Level: Sligo IT |
| Family | Siblings: 3 brothers & 5 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 sons |
| Club(s) | CLG Chill Chartha; Letterkenny Gaels |
| Occupation | Eircom Planner |
| Parents' Occupation | Factory Worker [Father]; Housewife [Mother] |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | N/A |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | Letterkenny Athletic Club |

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| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Dan Harnett |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male |
| Born | Year Born: 1960 Home County: Limerick |
| Education | Primary: Glengort NS, Tournafulla NS, Co. Limerick Secondary: St. Ita's College, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick |
| Family | Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: Married with one daughter |
| Club(s) | Tournafulla [Limerick]; Letterkenny Gaels [Donegal] |
| Occupation | Telephone Technician |
| Parents' Occupation | Farmers |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | Fianna Fáil |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | Special Olympics |

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| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | Jim McGlynn |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male |
| Born | Year Born: 1959 Home County: Donegal |
| Education | Primary: Lettershanbo NS, Co. Donegal Secondary: St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal |
| Family | Siblings: 5 Current Family if Different: Married to Frances with 3 children |
| Club(s) | Glenfinn; Letterkenny Gaels |
| Occupation | Assistant Principal Officer / Director of Services |
| Parents' Occupation | Farmer [Father]; Homemaker [Mother] |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | N/A |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | Letterkenny Golf Club and Donegal VEC Golf Society |

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| Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname) | James Frain |
| <u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u> | |
| Gender | Male |
| Born | Year Born: 1961 Home County: Mayo |
| Education | Primary: Moylough NS, Co. Sligo Secondary: Banada Abbey, Co. Sligo |
| Family | Siblings: 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Married with 3 children |
| Club(s) | Bunninadden [Sligo]; Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon [Donegal]; Naomh Conaill, Glenties [Donegal]; Letterkenny Gaels [Donegal] |
| Occupation | Detective Garda |
| Parents' Occupation | FÁS Instructor [Father]; Housewife [Mother] |
| Religion | Roman Catholic |
| Political Affiliation / Membership | N/A |
| Other Club/Society Membership(s) | Rugby, Letterkenny Athletic Club |

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| Date of Report | 25 th July 2012 |
| Period Covered | 1960s – 2011 |
| Counties/Countries Covered | Donegal, Mayo, Sligo, Limerick, Dublin, Americas, USA, Great Britain, England |
| Key Themes Covered | Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Violence, Northern Ireland, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics |
| Interview Summary | <p>Members of Letterkenny Gaels talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years. They discuss their early memories of the Association and how they became involved first in the GAA and then with Letterkenny Gaels. Dan discusses moving to Birmingham and playing with a GAA club there while Garry talks about leaving for America and playing football there. The group talks about the founding of the Letterkenny Gaels and recall the early days of the clubs. They discuss the problems they had with being affiliated to the GAA and how there were objections from other areas. They talk about the initial make-up of the club and how it fared in its early matches. They describe the club's first grounds and the development of the club's facilities since the beginning. They talk about the building of a new club house and what that will mean for the club. The group talks about the role of the club in the community and the rivalry with the other GAA club in Letterkenny, St. Eunan's. Towards the end of the interview the group talks about the highpoints of Letterkenny Gaels so far and give their hopes for the future of the club.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:50 (James) Talks about his earliest GAA memories. Going to match in Bunninadden with Father Patten. Recalls sports days being held and GAA tournaments being part of the day.</p> <p>02:23 (Jim) Discusses his earliest memories of the GAA, cycling to matches. Playing football in a field in Glenfinn. Club</p> |

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| | <p>only formed in the 1970s. Playing in a field at home before the club was founded. The club founders included John McMahon, Francie Ward, Sean Marley, Francie Martin Senior and Mickey McDermott.</p> <p>04:50 (Dan) Talks about his early memories of the GAA, going to a hurling match with his father. Changing in whin / furze bushes. Development of facilities.</p> <p>07:03 (Sean) Recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. Going to Kilcar matches with his father in Fintra and Ardara. Talks about going to Croke Park to see Kerry play Galway in the 1965 All-Ireland final in a Volkswagan car. Mentions Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer, Cyril Dunne, Mattie McDonagh and the Colleran brothers. Staying in a house in Drumcondra.</p> <p>09:39 (Garry) Discusses his early memories of the GAA. Going to MacCumhaill Park. Going to see MacCumhaill's (McCools) play Gaoth Dobhair (Gweedore) in a county final. Going to Croke Park in 1975. Playing his first match with Robert Emmet's Under 12 and getting lost on his way to the pitch in Tiernisk. Club was an amalgamation between Castlefinn and Killygordon – describes some of the issues with this. Red Hughs being formed. Recalls the Sunday Independent bringing out a colour paper on All-Ireland final day.</p> <p>13:40 (James) Talks about his involvement with the GAA. Joining the Gardaí in 1983 and travelling around the country and getting involved with the GAA in places like Glenties. Recalls a series of matches between Glenties and Ardara. Getting involved with Letterkenny Gaels.</p> <p>17:35 (Jim) Discusses how he became involved in the GAA. Becoming assistant secretary of the Glenfinn club. Getting involved with the Letterkenny Gaels through his sons. Becoming club secretary.</p> <p>21:28 (James) Talks about going to the Banada Abbey school in Sligo and the role of the GAA in the school. Winning a Connacht Colleges' final. Mentions St. Nathy's and St. Jarlath's and a teacher Michael Collins.</p> <p>22:54 (Dan) Talks about his involvement in the GAA. First in Tournafulla in Limerick before moving to Donegal. Emigrating to Birmingham and playing there. Getting involved with Letterkenny Gaels.</p> <p>28:00 (Sean) Discusses how he became involved with the GAA. Getting involved with the Kilcar club. Mentions the</p> |
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| | <p>McHugh brothers. An amalgamation between Kilcar and Glencolmcille. Not getting to trials because they were working on the farm. Going to the opening of the folk village in Glencolmcille and seeing Charlie Mitchell. Going to board in St. Eunan's College in Letterkenny. Getting Blackthorn Boots. Mentions the Loughanure Cup and Herald Cup. Playing football in Sligo Regional College and making the county minor team.</p> <p>32:42 Recalls playing senior football for Kilcar and getting his first car. Playing with and managing the reserve team. Helping with managing Letterkenny Gaels in the 1990s.</p> <p>38:00 (Jim) Talks about his best memories of his time in the GAA, being in Croke Park in 1992 when Donegal won the All-Ireland football final. Discusses his worst memories about the GAA. Talks about the role of the GAA in his life.</p> <p>40:24 *** Jim leaves the interview ***</p> <p>40:25 (Garry) Talks about his involvement in the GAA. Discusses being part of the Robert Emmet's club in Castlefinn. Describes holding a competition in memory of Sandy Harper. Talks about moving to America and playing football there. Moving to Letterkenny and getting involved with the Letterkenny Gaels. Describes getting the club affiliated with the GAA. Discusses his various roles he has held in the club.</p> <p>46:54 (James) Discusses the formation of the club. Mentions his involvement with Naomh Conaill, Glenties. His first experiences with St. Eunan's. Discusses why he felt there was a need for a second GAA club in Letterkenny. Describes the games played in the club.</p> <p>50:34 Talks about the reaction to the setting up of the club. Facing opposition from many areas.</p> <p>52:20 (Garry) Recalls other attempts to set up clubs in Letterkenny.</p> <p>52:47 (James) Talks about the strength of soccer in Letterkenny.</p> <p>53:46 (Garry) Discusses the first meetings of the club and deciding the club's name and colours. Holding a competition in local schools to design the club's colours. Talks about the club's first season and the people involved.</p> <p>57:28 Talks about his involvement in the club's first match. Recalls the early days of the club. Describes the first field</p> |
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| | <p>they used.</p> <p>59:49 (All) They describe the club's first ground and issues with getting goalposts. Going with Liam Emery to Rockhill. Developing their current ground at the Glebe.</p> <p>01:03:25 (James) Notes how they have received no grants from the GAA. Talks about purchasing their first ground at the Glebe with Letterkenny Rugby Club. Discusses forming a company with the rugby club.</p> <p>01:10:40 (Sean and James) Describes the type of fundraising they have done for the club.</p> <p>01:16:37 (Sean) Talks about where they got their players from in the early days of the club. Describes the current senior team.</p> <p>01:19:40 (All) They discuss the location of the club and the issue of boundaries in the past and today. Mentions the Church of the Irish Martyrs and the proposed new parish of Aughanishin taking part of the parish of Conwal and Leck. Dealing with complaints from the county board and from the St Eunan's club and the issue going to Croke Park.</p> <p>01:27:11 The group talks about people involved in the club who were first involved in St. Eunan's. Discuss attracting young people to the club.</p> <p>01:33:16 (James) Discusses the high points of the club so far. Fielding adult and juvenile teams and getting to county finals. Having players represent the club at county level.</p> <p>01:35:00 Talks about his biggest disappointments in the GAA. Discusses his highlights, being in Croke Park when Donegal won the All-Ireland in 1992.</p> <p>01:36:54 *** James leaves the interview ***</p> <p>01:36:55 (Dan) Discusses the highpoints of the club, developing the club and its facilities. Highlights the importance of having good facilities for young people.</p> <p>01:38:57 (Sean) Talks about his best memories from his time in the GAA. Describes the increase in juvenile participation in the club and the success they've had. Talks about beating St. Eunan's. Describes being in Croke Park for the All-Ireland in 1992.</p> <p>01:42:53 (Garry) Talks about the highlights of the club, having county players and developing the club's facilities. Recalls the visit of President Mary McAleese. Recalls a story about going</p> |
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| | <p>to the pub after losing two matches in the same day. Mentions Liam Emery. Talks about the All-Ireland win in 1992.</p> <p>01:46:55 Discusses the club's crest. Designed by Enda Mannion. Mentions Aughanishin Abbey.</p> <p>01:48:10 (Dan) Talks about his biggest disappointments in the GAA. Discusses his best memory. Mentions Liam Emery. Talks about supporting Limerick and being in Croke Park when they lost to Offaly in the 1994 All-Ireland hurling final.</p> <p>01:51:08 (All) They discuss the sense of place for Letterkenny Gaels.</p> <p>01:52:48 They talk about the role of non-nationals and other religious groups in the club. Describe the need for a home for the club.</p> <p>01:56:10 They give their hopes for the future</p> <p>01:56:30 (Garry) Discusses the relationship with St Eunan's.</p> |
| <p>Involvement in GAA</p> | <p>Garry: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Sean: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Dan: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> |

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| | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Jim: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>James: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input 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): _____</p> |
| <p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p> | <p>Garry: Played from 1979 – 2011. Won a Donegal Division 4 Shield with Robert Emmets (1994).</p> <p>Sean: County League Centenary Medal, 1984; All Junior Gaeltacht, 1989.</p> <p>Dan: Won 3 West Limerick Titles.</p> <p>Jim: Played from 1974 – 1983.</p> <p>James: Played for 25 years. Won Connacht Colleges Junior B Championship and County Sligo Junior Championship.</p> |
| <p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p> | <p>Garry: Secretary (1996 – 2008)</p> <p>Sean: Chairman Letterkenny Gaels (2 years); PRO Letterkenny Gaels (3 years)</p> <p>Dan: Secretary of Tournafulla GAA, Limerick (7 years); Chairman Letterkenny Gaels (3 years)</p> |

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| | <p>Jim: Has been involved in administration since 1979. He has been Assistant Secretary of Glenfinn (1979 – 1981); Assistant Secretary of Letterkenny Gaels (1997 – 2004); Chairperson of Bord na nÓg (2004 – 2008); Secretary Letterkenny Gaels (2009+)</p> <p>James: Committee member and chairman for 3 years.</p> |
| Format | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual |
| Duration | Length of Interview: 01:57:54 |
| 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: _____25/07/12_____