

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	3 rd Nov 2011
Location	Breaffy House Hotel, Breaffy, Co. Mayo
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Noel Burke
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Plovervale NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: St. Gerald's, Castlebar, Co. Mayo Third Level: UCG
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Mary with 1 sons and 3 daughters
Club(s)	Ballyvary; Breaffy; Ballyvary Hurling Club
Occupation	County Council Engineer
Parents' Occupation	Small Farmer, Health Board Employee [Father]; Housewife, Farmer [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Golf Club; Drama; Social Committee; Ballyvary Keellogues Development Company

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Date of Report	9 th July 2012
Period Covered	1960s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Mayo
Key Themes Covered	Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Managing, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Media, Role of the Club in the Community; Volunteers; Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Noel starts by talking about his own experiences playing football as a child. He mentions there were several clubs in his parish, but the one he joined had no facilities. He mentions how the creation of another local team, Parke, created difficulties for his team of Ballyvary. Much of the interview focuses on how Noel and other members of his community came together to create a community wide sporting facility which catered to a wide variety of ages, sports and people. He describes the difficulties and joys that come with creating such a facility and how it can be used as a means of bridging barriers in a community. Noel also gives his hopes of how the GAA and clubs will manage players and facilities in the future. He concludes by talking about his favourite GAA figures and memorable moments in his personal GAA history.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:20 Earliest GAA memory- playing football locally in any field they could find.</p> <p>00:33 Local club, Ballyvary Junior club that lasted until 1973.</p> <p>00:54 History of the club Ballyvary, attempts to amalgamate with Foxford.</p> <p>01:38 Association of Ballyvary within the parish of Keelogue, too far away from Breaffy.</p> <p>01:57 School he went to and teacher, Tony Golden who had a county junior medal.</p> <p>02:07 Interest in football from an early age, but no facilities. He played minor football for Ballyvary where most games were played at Irwin’s field until he graduated to the junior</p>

	<p>team.</p> <p>02:47 His regret of Ballyvary ending the team, and the importance of the support from the community leaders.</p> <p>03:15 Setting up of a local football team called Parke. How it impacted Ballyvary and the success of Parke. They are junior league champions. Noel has current family connections to Parke.</p> <p>03:38 Communication with chairman of Parke, already commissioned to play with Breaffy.</p> <p>04:02 Lifelong wish to create a place for kids to play football, which lead to the creation of a committee and setting up of a community football facility. Describes facilities and how it caters for more than just GAA sports.</p> <p>04:59 1995 set up a hurling club, source of pride that spurred the re-emergence of Ballyvary's sporting community. Mentions Andy Walsh.</p> <p>05:44 Noel's role as an engineer and how that was useful in creating a community sporting centre. Had already practiced with Breaffy pitch and Kiltimagh.</p> <p>06:30 Decision to start the Ballyvary club back up again, facilities and funding were major issues, locals were allowed to play with other clubs.</p> <p>07:00 Importance of money in sustaining sporting clubs, independence from GAA, facilities are self-maintained and the club is not driven by the GAA, strategic placement of the facilities near a school.</p> <p>08:05 Unique funding.</p> <p>08:24 Fair play among all sports at the Ballyvary facilities.</p> <p>09:02 The Dublin hurling team used their facilities to train.</p> <p>09:34 Reactions from surrounding GAA clubs when the Ballyvary club was set up again, difficulties and obstacles in setting up the club, seen as a threat by the Parke team.</p> <p>10:00 Difficulties of local clubs working with each other, sharing facilities and visions for the future of club cooperation.</p> <p>11:05 The usual problems with setting up and running a club</p> <p>11:20 The importance of having a community club.</p> <p>11:30 Ballyvary chose to have a hurling club, lack of a</p>
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	<p>previous hurling tradition and how that is changing.</p> <p>12:23 Getting children who are interested in hurling into junior and minor clubs.</p> <p>12:46 Local population growth, how that will impact sporting clubs.</p> <p>13:00 Incentive to put something back into the community sporting clubs, and lack of volunteerism.</p> <p>13:25 Rivalry between the football people and the hurling people, and how a community facility can overcome certain obstacles.</p> <p>14:00 National and lottery funding since the club facilities appealed to a number of different sports/people.</p> <p>14:58 Tensions between sports, how it can be overcome.</p> <p>15:20 The beginnings of setting up the community sporting club in Ballyvary, lack of money, did not go to the county board, desire for facilities not necessarily clubs.</p> <p>16:20 Working with and negotiating with the county board.</p> <p>17:20 Recalls how he joined Breaffy, notes that he joined at a bad time.</p> <p>17:43 How management has developed through the years.</p> <p>18:28 Playing time based on age of players.</p> <p>19:40 Best memories are winning the Kelly Cup and watching the Ballyvary hurling team play their first match.</p> <p>20:17 GAA hero is Jimmy Nallen on a Mayo level, because of his sportsmanship.</p> <p>20:50 Watched an All-Ireland final in Paris, Mayo vs Kerry, how he felt wearing his Mayo jersey.</p> <p>22:25 Disappointment with the attitude of the GAA, poor administration, comparisons between the GAA and rugby.</p> <p>24:05 Transition from the old to the new in the GAA and clubs.</p> <p>25:30 Paddy Quinn presenting his national school with a football that was never used. His disappointment that more wasn't done.</p>
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Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____Pitch Engineer_____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played for 25 or 30 years. Won a Flanagan Cup Medal and a Kelly Cup with Breaffy.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Was Assistant Secretary with Breaffy, 1978 / 1979.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:26:52
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: ___Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: ___09/07/12_____