

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	16 th Aug 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Annyalla, Co. Monaghan
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Emmett Flanagan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Annyalla NS, Co. Monaghan Secondary: St. Mary's, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 6 brothers & 5 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Kate with 2 sons and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Cremartin Shamrocks
Occupation	Manager Training Centre
Parents' Occupation	ESB Official & Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	15 th June 2012
Period Covered	1920s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Monaghan, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, 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, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Emmett talks about his wide-ranging experiences of the GAA in Monaghan and further afield. Born into a family steeped in the Association, he played for his local club Cremartin, which was based in a parish containing three GAA clubs. Emmett was also involved in administration at club and county level and he describes how the nature of that work has changed. There was a lot of effort to improve facilities in Monaghan and develop a centre of excellence, which he feels has been a tremendous success. Emmett also touches on subjects such as his time spent playing in Dublin, the mixed fortunes of Gaelic games and culture other than men's football in Monaghan, and his many years of experience as a steward at Croke Park on the biggest days in the national sporting calendar.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 Earliest GAA memory. Going to a game in Mullingar with his uncle Jack Boylan from Ballybay had a Morris Minor car or Cyril McCaul. How they travelled.</p> <p>01:20 Family involvement. Father captain of team in Cremartin that was started in 1934. Mother's and brothers' involvement.</p> <p>02:00 Juvenile football structures when he was young. Clontibret, Doohamlet and Cremartin clubs in the area.</p> <p>02:45 Playing junior football in the late 1960s.</p>

	<p>03:05 Lining out alongside his brothers.</p> <p>03:30 Cremartin club founded by Patsy Duffy in 1934. Success they had in league and Dr Ward Cup.</p> <p>04:15 GAA in the area in the 1920s. Non-affiliated clubs.</p> <p>04:50 Pitches that were used when the club was founded. When they eventually bought a ground.</p> <p>06:15 Towns like Castleblayney, Clones and Monaghan had better facilities. Playing on their pitches for championship matches.</p> <p>06:40 Travelling to matches locally. How his father and his friends used to travel to games.</p> <p>07:45 Fundraising in the locality to support the club. How that has changed over the years.</p> <p>08:25 Club's role in the community. Facilities they have. Functions they are used for. Tradition of holding dances slowly dying out.</p> <p>10:40 Dependence on sponsorship from local businesses. Lough Egish Dairy and Co-op first sponsors of the club. Lavelle Haulage firm a long-standing sponsor.</p> <p>12:40 Club grounds in 1971 by chairman Peter Duffy. Process that led up to that. Suitability issues. Lack of funds in coffers. Price the landowner wanted. Opened in 1977.</p> <p>14:35 Developments in infrastructure since ground was first purchased.</p> <p>14:55 How their teams are faring in 2010.</p> <p>15:25 His playing career. Doohamlet people on team in 1968. Reason for that. Losing those players in 1969. What they did to make up the numbers.</p> <p>16:55 Winning a junior final in 1976. Tony Loughman one of their best players. Advancing to intermediate and then senior football. Facing a strong Scotstown team at senior level and how that went.</p> <p>18:05 Historic victory over Doohamlet. Uncharacteristic actions of his father during the celebrations. Some people over-celebrating.</p> <p>19:10 League win over Castleblayney Faughs in Ballybay. Booked to play in a tournament later that day. Players wanting to go to the pub instead of playing Culaville. What</p>
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	<p>was decided.</p> <p>20:50 History of Doohamlet club and their relations with Cremartin. Strength of rivalry.</p> <p>22:25 Paddy McGuigan a talented footballer in the 1950s.</p> <p>23:25 Involvement in administration in the 1970s and 1980s. Managing teams. Work as a county board delegate.</p> <p>24:15 Changes at county board meetings over the years.</p> <p>25:10 Attending first county board meeting at Riverdale Hotel in Ballybay. Impressions of that.</p> <p>26:35 More subcommittees developing over the years. His opinion on that.</p> <p>26:55 Changes in administration at club level.</p> <p>27:35 Emergence of the concept of the team manager.</p> <p>27:50 Behind-the-scenes work at club level. Importance of volunteers like Jerry Gallagher and Séamus Brady. Work that volunteers do.</p> <p>30:05 Comparing the facilities at other clubs with those at his own.</p> <p>30:40 Peter Sherry's time as county chairman and development drive he spearheaded in 1984.</p> <p>31:35 Facilities at Inniskeen, Toome, Emyvale, Monaghan, Seán McDermott's, Ballybay, Clontibret.</p> <p>33:20 Disagreements at club meetings. Working through them.</p> <p>34:00 How he became club chairman. Five-year rule regarding administrative positions. Inevitability of making enemies within administrative circles.</p> <p>36:50 Big administrative decision on new centre for the millenium. Logistics involved. Economic climate at the time.</p> <p>39:00 Role of clergy. Parish priest wanting to amalgamate the three teams in the area. What his father thought of that idea and why. Power of clergy over the community.</p> <p>41:2:05 Local priest, Fr John Flanagan, playing on their team. Collecting him from Maynooth to play games. Difficulties in getting him released from his Maynooth duties.</p> <p>44:00 Role of teachers, like Patsy Duffy. Other teachers not</p>
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	<p>interested in GAA. Taking a ball a teacher purchased to cobbler Packie Connor, to be fixed. How they repaired damaged balls.</p> <p>45:15 Another teacher, Kevin Maloney, taking a keen interest in GAA.</p> <p>45:35 County board coaches going to all the schools in the area.</p> <p>46:05 Where they got balls from when they were young.</p> <p>46:50 What became of his brothers. Younger brother Declan's involvement with the club at administrative level.</p> <p>47:25 Emigration a problem in the area. RTÉ's Michael Dunne done a documentary about the area in the 1980s. Reason he went there.</p> <p>48:30 Return of economic problems and forced emigration.</p> <p>49:00 Status of hurling within the club and its future prospects.</p> <p>49:35 Camogie and ladies football in the area. Sister forming a camogie club in the 1970s. How that went.</p> <p>50:05 Ladies football team in the area, O'Neills Shamrocks, made up of players from different teams.</p> <p>50:30 Decline of camogie in the area. Castleblayney and Clontibret the strongest clubs in the county.</p> <p>50:45 Hurling in the county. Castleblayney, Carrickmacross, Clontibret, Monaghan, Inniskeen all active.</p> <p>52:00 Role of his sisters and his mother in the club. Award his mother received and why she was given it.</p> <p>53:25 Camogie team short a player and his mother standing in goals against Killanny.</p> <p>54:25 His sister Pauline Rooney starting a club in Inniskeen and later in the local area. Support she received.</p> <p>55:40 How the role of women within the club has changed. Majella Boyd the club secretary. Anne Branigan and Darina McBennett on the committee. Women involved with the county board.</p> <p>58:30 Involvement in Scór. Events they entered. Importance of Scór.</p>
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	<p>59:05 Role of the Irish language in the club. His sister encouraging use of Irish at meetings.</p> <p>01:00:10 Impact of technology changes on club business.</p> <p>01:01:15 Changes in how games are played and structured over the years. Friction between club and county demands. Leagues set-up in the county.</p> <p>01:02:35 County split up in divisions in the past – North Monahan and South Monaghan.</p> <p>01:02:55 Clontibret strongest team in the county. Latton O' Rahillys, Scotstown and Magheracloone also strong.</p> <p>01:03:55 Inter-county team. Seamus McEnaney / 'Banty' manager in 2010. Playing in Division 1 of the National Football League.</p> <p>01:05:15 Experiences as a Monaghan supporter. Monaghan people cheering for other Ulster teams as they enjoyed success.</p> <p>01:06:00 First All-Ireland he went to was in 1966 when Galway won. How he got the opportunity to go. Admission price. Atmosphere.</p> <p>01:07:25 Watching Down play Donegal in Ballybofey in 2010. Benny Coulter scoring a goal for Down.</p> <p>01:08:00 Setting up a centre of excellence / training and development centre. Looking at potential sites. Asking a man called Tadie Kelly from Carrickmacross to sell them some land in Cloghan. Inspecting the site with Joe Pat Prunty. Why the land was suitable. Emmett is a trustee of it and the club.</p> <p>01:12:25 Trend for centres of excellence across the country. People from other counties visiting their centre.</p> <p>01:13:10 Facilities they have at the centre. Who uses them.</p> <p>01:15:05 His role as manager of the centre. Challenges. What he would change about the centre.</p> <p>01:16:55 County grounds in Clones and Castleblayney.</p> <p>01:17:50 What an average match day is like in Clones. Working as a steward. Ulster final day. Former Irish President Mary McAleese in attendance. Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness at games.</p> <p>01:20:35 Need to use common sense as a steward.</p>
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	<p>01:22:05 Impact of Troubles on GAA in Monaghan.</p> <p>01:22:55 Stewarding at Croke Park on All-Ireland final day. What that is like.</p> <p>01:24:30 Training stewards would get. Separate courses required for Northern Ireland and the south. Stewarding with Cyril McCall in the 1980s.</p> <p>01:27:05 An average day stewarding at Croke Park. Certain stewards paid for their efforts.</p> <p>01:28:25 Crowd control over the years. Efforts to stop pitch invasions and what he thinks of that. Dangerous incident he witnessed.</p> <p>01:30:30 Playing for Parnell's when he lived in Dublin. How he found that experience.</p> <p>01:31:55 Former teammate in Dublin lining out against him back in Monaghan. Action he took.</p> <p>01:32:40 Playing a game in Dublin and another in Monaghan on the same day. Being held up travelling between venues. Peter Duffy making a remark to him at the end of the day.</p> <p>01:34:15 People playing illegally in the 1940s when his father was active.</p> <p>01:34:55 The Dr Ward Cup and what that is about.</p> <p>01:35:40 How they gathered people for training in the early days of the club.</p> <p>01:37:05 Best memory is winning the junior championship in 1976. Why that was special. Tony O'Loughlin a big presence on that team. Aftermath of that win. Other happy memories.</p> <p>01:38:15: His father, Denis Daly, Paddy McGuigan, former Kerry player Mick O'Connell all people he looked up to. Down's Paddy Doherty a household name.</p> <p>01:40:30 Playing a game in Ferbane, Offaly at a carnival. How he found that experience.</p> <p>01:41:20 Disappointments.</p> <p>01:42:20 What the GAA has meant to him.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p>

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	<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): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played from the age of 15 to date of interview (he has played for Monaghan Over 40s for 5 years). Emmett has won a junior championship, intermediate championship, Ward Cup and Hackett Cups.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Emmett has been involved in administration since the age of around 18. He has been a committee member, chairman and team manager with Cremartin Shamrocks.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:43:16
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____ Arlene Crampsie _____

Date: _____ 15/06/12 _____