

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	15 th April 2011
Location	Michael Murphy's home, near Lauragh, Co. Kerry
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Murphy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1936 Home County: Cork
Education	Primary: Kilmacowen Secondary: Scoil Íosagáin, Ballyvourney, Co. Cork Third Level: St. Pat's, Drumcondra, Co. Dublin
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married with 3 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Tuosist
Occupation	Primary School Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	INTO; Parish Groups

REFERENCE NO. KY/1/26

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Stephen O'Shea
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Kerry
Education	Primary: Lauragh NS, Co. Kerry Secondary: Technical School, Kenmare, Co. Kerry
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 daughters and 2 sons
Club(s)	Kenmare Shamrocks; Tuosist
Occupation	Carpenter, Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	IFA, Parish Groups

REFERENCE NO. KY/1/26

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael O'Sullivan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1957 Home County: Kerry
Education	Primary: Dawros NS Secondary: Holy Cross College, Kenmare, Co. Cork
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Tuosist
Occupation	Eircom Technician
Parents' Occupation	Caretaker of Island [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	CWU, Parish Groups

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Date of Report	18 th August 2012
Period Covered	1920s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Kerry, Cork, Dublin, Kildare
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Fundraising, Emigration, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Relationship with Association, Socialising, Economy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Identity, Religion, Administration
Interview Summary	<p>Stephen, Michael and Michael talk about their involvement in Tuosist GAA over the years. They recall their involvement in the association as children and discuss the history of Gaelic games in their part of Kerry. They describe how being on the Beara Peninsula, so close to the border of Cork, has affected their relationship with that county and Stephen recalls moving to Dublin and discusses playing football in both Dublin and Kildare at the same time during his time there. They discuss the development of Tuosist GAA, the underage set up and the opposition from Kenmare over the setting up of the club. Stephen describes the club's first success, winning the Murphy Cup in 1975 and how important this was for the club and later winning the Novice Football Championship in 2008. They discuss various aspects of the GAA in Kerry at an official level from geographical bias in county selection to the opening up of county board meetings for clubs in the county.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:43 Earliest memories of the GAA – (Stephen) Listening to the 1959 All-Ireland Final between Kerry and Galway on the radio.</p> <p>01:32 Earliest memories of the GAA – (Michael M) Listening to the 1951 All-Ireland Final between Mayo and Meath. Going to local matches when he lived in Beara. Discusses the violence at matches.</p> <p>02:58 Earliest memories of the GAA – (Michael O'S) Going to a Munster final in the early 1960s. Watching All-Ireland Finals on television. Discusses the introduction of television in the home. Going to the Munster final with his father in Killarney.</p> <p>04:50 (Stephen) Discusses his family's involvement in the GAA. Recalls local club games Lauragh playing in Beara and</p>

	<p>playing in Cork competitions rather than Kerry ones.</p> <p>05:35 (Michael M) Discusses football in Beara in the 1930s and 1940s. Describes how there was no football tradition in his area growing up, athletics was the main sport.</p> <p>06:33 (Michael O'S) Recalls how it was the same situation in his area and how rowing, athletics and hunting were the main sports. Football was played on Sunday nights during the summer months but dances interfered with football. Discusses the make up of the parish.</p> <p>07:30 (Stephen) Talks about how there were two teams in the parish Lauragh and Ardea but now there is just Tuosist. Recalls Lauragh's success in the Beara Championship in 1937 and how a Kerry team progressed in a Cork championship.</p> <p>08:08 Describes the make up of the parish. Discusses the Cork and Kerry relationship in the village. Being on the Beara Peninsula. Animosity among Cork people towards Kerry people in the Beara Association of Dublin.</p> <p>09:41 (Michael M) Recalls playing football during his boarding school days in Ballyvourney. No real involvement in the GAA until 1972. Discusses the early years of Tuosist and being from Cork and living in Kerry. Lauragh playing in the Beara Championship and the Southern Star and Cork Examiner newspapers not knowing where it was.</p> <p>12:28 (Michael O'S) Discusses his initial involvement in the club when he moved to Kenmare. Eventually became secretary.</p> <p>13:06 Recalls growing up on Deenish Island. GAA not big in the area. Only played a small amount in school but no games organised.</p> <p>13:55 (Stephen) Recalls that there were no organised games below Under 16 age level outside of the school in the area of Kenmare. Taught by fellow interviewee Michael Murphy. Played against other schools like Lauragh and a Legion of Mary school from Cork.</p> <p>15:14 (Michael O'S) Describes how his school only had a couple of female teachers who had no interest in the GAA.</p> <p>15:32 (Michael M) Discusses the importance of having a teacher interested in the GAA in school. Got very involved in late 1980s early 1990s. Recalls how the club in Tuosist had</p>
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	<p>little underage GAA in the 1970s.</p> <p>16:36 Discusses the setting up of a schools football competition by teachers in the 1990s.</p> <p>17:22 (Michael O'S) Highlights the importance of having a teacher interested in the GAA in school.</p> <p>18:00 (Michael M) Recalls how there was no organised GAA in the parish from the 1950s until the 1970s.</p> <p>18:22 (Stephen) Describes how emigration during the 1940s and 1950s badly effected GAA in the parish. Most went to Kenmare to play. Recalls his playing days with Kenmare and then St. Mary's during the late 1960s early 1970s. Moving to Dublin and playing for Ballymun Kickhams. Playing for St Kevin's in Kildare when working in Clane.</p> <p>21:01 (Michael M) Recalls his playing days in boarding school. Playing for Kenmare at a sports day in Ardea. Discusses the role of GAA in Coláiste Íosagáin in Baile Bhúirne. Mentions Kerry man Tom Long and Seamus Murphy.</p> <p>23:20 No real special treatment to those on the school team.</p> <p>24:03 Discusses travelling to games. 'Shank's Mare' (walking), travelled by lorry to games in boarding school, Macroom coaches during the early to mid 50s.</p> <p>24:38 (Stephen) Recalls travelling to matches by bicycle. Travelled by train from Heuston to Killarney when working in Dublin. Talks about DP stopping the train in Rathmore.</p> <p>25:57 (Michael O'S) Talks about Denis P. O'Sullivan, a postmaster from Kilgarvan, and his role in the local GAA. Recalls travelling to matches in the mid 1960s. Talks about going to the 1974 County Final. Not many games played.</p> <p>27:20 (Stephen) Discusses the setting up of Tuosist GAA Club. Mentions long standing chairman John Healy.</p> <p>28:16 (Michael M and Michael O'S) Recall the early days of the club. Very little administration. Mentions Danny Galvin.</p> <p>29:44 (Stephen) Players who couldn't make the Kenmare team came to Tuosist. Believes that is the main reason a team was set up.</p> <p>30:02 (Michael M) Discusses the opposition from Kenmare to the setting up of the club. The early development of the club.</p>
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	<p>Mentions Dan Green.</p> <p>32:24 (Michael O'S and Stephen) Talks about why the club choose red and green for the club's colours.</p> <p>34:11 (Stephen) Recalls the importance of coming home to play for the club team. Playing the first game against Fossa. Mentions Tom Long. Discusses the naivety among the players.</p> <p>35:50 (Michael M and Stephen) Discusses training and the various roles played by Seán Healy.</p> <p>36:58 (Stephen) Believes that there is not as much enjoyment in the game now because of over-training.</p> <p>37:58 (Michael O'S) Recalls the first cup won by the club, the Fitzgerald Cup in a tournament in Castlecove, and the celebrations after.</p> <p>38:35 (Stephen) Discusses the rivalries with Kenmare before the setting up of the club. Played in the Spillane and Murphy Cup. Mentions Waterford man Noel Power and Mike Moriarty.</p> <p>41:00 Talks about the first cup the club won, the Murphy Cup in 1975 and the celebrations after. Lost in the final the previous year.</p> <p>42:18 (Michael O'S) Recalls his first experiences with the GAA in Tuosist.</p> <p>43:56 Discusses the local community involvement in the club.</p> <p>45:04 (Michael M) Recalls his role as secretary in the early days of the club. Time constraints due to his family owning the local telephone exchange.</p> <p>48:12 (Stephen) Recalls his role as treasurer of the club and the differences between the early days and now.</p> <p>48:48 (Michael M) Discusses the various types of fundraisers the club held.</p> <p>50:07 (Michael O'S) Describes the change in the role of secretary when he took over. Financial issues were the dominant issue. Discusses the opening up of county board meetings for all clubs in the 1980s and how previous to this only the main clubs like Dr Crokes could attend.</p> <p>52:37 (All) Discuss the issue of the club pitch. Mention Phil Sullivan, the 1924 All-Ireland Kerry captain and a teacher in Ballymacelligott.</p>
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	<p>53:42 (Michael O'S) Talks about local players who have made the county team. Mentions Teddy Harrington and Alan O'Sullivan.</p> <p>54:20 (All) Discuss geographical bias in county selection.</p> <p>58:11 (Stephen) Recalls the significant developments in the club since the early days. Families coming back to the area from Dublin and London.</p> <p>59:14 (Michael O'S) Describes how the development of GAA in the school system brought success at club level. Underage and senior teams improved, regularly beating Kenmare.</p> <p>01:01:38 (Michael M) Discusses the involvement of Dutch and English families living in the area in the GAA.</p> <p>01:03:06 (All) Discuss the roles of religion in the club.</p> <p>01:03:42 (Stephen and Michael O'S) Talks about the lack of hurling in the area. Phil Sullivan played hurling for Tipperary and for Faugh's in Dublin.</p> <p>01:04:41 (Michael M and Stephen) Recalls the 1937 schools folklore competition telling a story about a hurling match between Ardea and Kenmare in the 19th Century. No real tradition of hurling. Played in some schools.</p> <p>01:06:35 (Michael O'S) No Ladies' Football in the area. Kenmare amalgamated with Sneem. Girls play with boys at Under 12 level in Tuosist.</p> <p>01:07:31 (Michael O'S and Michael M) Discuss the role of women in the club.</p> <p>01:08:33 Discuss the role of the Irish language and culture in the club and Scór. Mentions Mike McCarthy.</p> <p>01:09:50 (Stephen and Michael M) Recalls a song about the 1937 team. Song describes the match and the method of travelling. Match played against Bear Island in Castletownbere.</p> <p>01:12:00 (Michael M) Discusses the effect of emigration on the club down through the years. Many families returned.</p> <p>01:13:01 (Stephen) Talks about the differences in football in the various counties he has played in; Kildare, Dublin, Cork and Kerry.</p> <p>01:14:02 (Michael O'S) Talks about why Kerry has been so successful over the years. Mentions Dick Fitzgerald and Dr.</p>
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	<p>Eamonn O'Sullivan.</p> <p>01:15:32 (Michael M) Gives his opinion on why Kerry have been so successful.</p> <p>01:16:38 (Stephen) Describes his best memory of his time within the GAA. Winning the county championship (Kerry Novice Football Championship) in Killarney in 2008.</p> <p>01:17:06 (Michael M) Discusses his best memory of the GAA, his involvement in his local club.</p> <p>01:17:58 (Michael O'S) Talks about his best memories from his time involved in the GAA. The pride he got from watching the underage teams winning.</p> <p>01:18:31 (Michael O'S) Chooses John Healy as his local GAA hero. Also mentions Jack O'Shea.</p> <p>01:19:10 (Michael M) Also chooses John Healy as his GAA hero. Describes how there is too much of a gap between those at the head of the GAA and those at grass-root level.</p> <p>01:20:41 (Stephen) Chooses John Healy as his GAA hero. Agrees with Michael about the gap in the GAA. Mentions Jack O'Shea and Mick O'Connell. Going to watch Jacko in Croke Park.</p> <p>01:21:38 (Stephen) Describes his biggest disappointments in the GAA. The tendency for GAA officials to 'close the book' on teams and the treatment of Louth last year.</p> <p>01:22:22 (Michael M) Also criticises the Leinster Council over the Louth situation. Has no real disappointments in the GAA.</p> <p>01:23:28 (Michael O'S) Has no major disappointments during his time in the GAA.</p> <p>01:23:51 Discusses the impact of the GAA on his sense of identity and being so close to the Cork border.</p> <p>01:24:57 (Stephen) Discusses the impact of the GAA on his sense of home and describes the problems within the game of football.</p> <p>01:27:05 (Michael M) Describes how the GAA gives people the opportunity to get involved in the parish.</p> <p>01:28:02 (Stephen) Talks about what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him and how if he could go back to the beginning he probably wouldn't get involved.</p> <p>01:28:30 (Michael M) Describes how his involvement in the</p>
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	<p>GAA makes watching club games more enjoyable.</p> <p>01:29:02 (Michael O'S) Describes the friends he has made and good memories he has had throughout his involvement in the GAA.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Michael M: <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 type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Stephen: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" 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): _____</p> <p>Michael O: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" 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): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Michael M: Played from the age of 14 to 18.</p> <p>Stephen: Played from the age of 12 to 28 and then from 35 to 40. Won a junior title with St. Kevin's in Kildare (1972), a Murphy Cup (1975) with Kenmare and a Division 3 in Kildare.</p> <p>Michael O: Played from the age of 18 to 31/32. Won a Novice B County title in 1986.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how</p>	<p>Michael M: Has been involved in administration since 1972.</p>

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long for)	Club: Secretary, PRO, Delegate to Kenmare District Board District Board: President. Stephen: Has been involved in administration since 1990. Club: Treasurer, Delegate to Kenmare District Board. Michael O: Has been involved in administration since 1982. Club: Secretary, Chairman, Delegate to Kenmare District Board and County Board Delegate. Kenmare District Board: Vice-chairman and Treasurer.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:30:26
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: _____ 18/08/12 _____