

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	17 th Feb 2010
Location	Maeve's home, near Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Maeve Quinn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1968 Home County: Leitrim
Education	Primary: Aughawillan NS, Co. Leitrim Secondary: Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim Third Level: DCU, Hibernian Teaching HDip
Family	Siblings: 5 sisters & 3 brothers Current Family if Different: 1 daughter and 1 son
Club(s)	Aughawillan
Occupation	Manager Masonite, Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Land Project Inspector, Department of Agriculture [Father]; Lecturer in Agricultural College (Poultry Instructress) [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LM/1/9

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mary Quinn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1958 Home County: Leitrim
Education	Primary: Aughawillan NS, Co. Leitrim Secondary: Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim Third Level: UCG
Family	Siblings: 5 sisters & 3 brothers Current Family if Different: 1 daughter and 1 son
Club(s)	Aughawillan
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Land Project Inspector, Department of Agriculture [Father]; Lecturer in Agricultural College (Poultry Instructress) [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LM/1/9

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Deirdre Quinn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1959 Home County: Leitrim
Education	Primary: Aughawillan NS, Co. Leitrim Secondary: Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim Third Level: TCD, Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Family	Siblings: 5 sisters & 3 brothers Current Family if Different: 2 daughters and 2 sons
Club(s)	Aughawillan [Leitrim]; Calry [Sligo]
Occupation	Forensic Scientist, Students Union Administrator
Parents' Occupation	Land Project Inspector, Department of Agriculture [Father]; Lecturer in Agricultural College (Poultry Instructress) [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LM/1/9

Date of Report	15 th August 2012
Period Covered	1960s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Leitrim, Sligo, Dublin, Roscommon, Cavan, Kerry, Galway, Asia, Singapore, Australasia, Australia
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Media, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>The three Quinn sisters each discuss their considerable involvement in Gaelic Games, particularly Ladies' Football, at local, county and national levels. They take turns talking through their careers in terms of playing, administration, coaching and other levels of involvement they have had over the years. They talk about the relationship with the Ladies' Football Association and the GAA and compare the men's game to the ladies' game. They also briefly refer to the relationship between ladies' football and camogie. They discuss their roles in the development of the ladies' game in general and the levels of commitment required to keep it going in Leitrim.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:33 The group remembers Fr Barney Doyle training the boys in the red field. Mention their brother Francis, Frank Holahan and Pat Flanagan.</p> <p>02:21 They tell of matches at Kelly's Angle. Deirdre remembers the boys getting picked up for games. Mentions Garadice Lake.</p> <p>03:38 The group talk about the different tournaments and festivals they played in. Remember how the games were played. Mary recalls the girls who used to play. Mention the McManus girls, Carmel, and Ellen and Mary Flanagan, and the Flanagan's from the back road, their cousin Janie. Playing in the "red field". Mentions the country singers and Philomena Begley.</p> <p>07:30 Deirdre recalls setting up the ladies' football club.</p>

	<p>Remembers speaking at the County Convention. Mentions Aughawillan GAA. Mentions Tommy Flynn, Ellen Flanagan, George O'Toole, Donal Fox and Eamonn O'Grady.</p> <p>11:37 Deirdre talks about the early ladies' competitions. A clash between a match and her sisters wedding. Tells of her role in the establishment of the Ladies' County Boards in Leitrim and Sligo. Mentions Vincent O'Rourke, Pauline McDonagh and Marty Duffy.</p> <p>14:25 The group discusses the state of ladies' football in the country at the time. Mentions Tom O'Dowd, Mick Talbot, Mick Fitzgerald, Mrs Naughton and Liam Forde. Mentions Tipperary.</p> <p>18:00 Describe the attitude towards ladies' football in the area. Refer to their Uncle Paddy. Deirdre remembers borrowing their father's car. Mention camogie.</p> <p>19:10 They talk about Hugh Meehan from Armagh and about the success of Cavan teams in the 1970s. Describe how ladies' football grew. Mentions Tom O'Dowd.</p> <p>20:50 Deirdre remembers being national PRO. Maeve tells of bringing underage teams to matches.</p> <p>22:20 They describe the jerseys they have had. Deirdre tells of scheduling conflicts. They discuss the relationship between the GAA and ladies' football in the country and in Aughawillan GAA. They also refer to the unseen contribution made by women to the GAA and to club finances. Mention Martin Seery.</p> <p>27:38 Deirdre talks about Nell McCafferty. Mary recalls the support from the older generation when they first started out. Mention Joe Mac, Abbie Crocker, their father and the Gilheaney aunts 'the Wasps'.</p> <p>29:50 Deirdre reads out an excerpt from a letter from Donal O'Kane to Mick Loftus illustrating his attitude towards girls playing. Mentions soccer.</p> <p>30:39 Mary reads correspondence between her and the Leitrim GAA County Board while she was chairperson of the Ladies' County Board. It refers to finances.</p> <p>32:35 Deirdre recalls the difficulty in finding pitches to play. Mentions Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada, St. Felims pitch, Markievicz Park. Mentions Peggy Guckian, Pauline Gilleen, Fr Keogan, George O'Toole and Pat Fanning.</p>
--	---

REFERENCE NO. LM/1/9

	<p>36:20 The group discusses the importance of the GAA promoting ladies' football. Mentions soccer, rugby, basketball.</p> <p>39:13 Mary explains how she became interested in football. Remembers being chairperson of the Leitrim County Board while she lived in Dublin. Mentions cross country running. Mentions Pádraig Griffin.</p> <p>41:34 They remember the help they got from the older women in the area. Mention their mother, Nora Plunkett and Josie Gilheaney.</p> <p>42:37 Mary talks about her time on the County Board. Refers to training and fundraising. Describes tracksuits they had. Tells of her first thought after Leitrim ladies won the All-Ireland in 1988. Mentions Mary Brennan and Josephine Doorigan.</p> <p>45:43 They discuss a lack of organisation in the county when their teams play in Croke Park. Mentions Cork. Mentions Declan Darcy.</p> <p>47:00 Mary remembers her involvement with Central Council and the Connacht Council. Mentions Ita Flatley and Deirdre.</p> <p>48:00 Mary recalls the build-up to the All-Ireland Final in Dublin. Mentions the Phoenix Park. Mentions Martina Flannery and the Donoghues.</p> <p>49:18 Maeve talks about her memories of that All-Ireland final. Mentions Tishy O'Brien.</p> <p>50:30 Mary explains the nature of her responsibilities as president of Connacht Council. The group discusses the factors in promoting ladies' football in schools.</p> <p>54:05 The group highlights a problem with organising ladies' football that isn't experienced in the men's game. Children at county board meetings. Mary refers to her daughter, Aoife. Mention Noeleen Geoghegan, Mary Glancy and Martina Finneran.</p> <p>56:10 They tell of the impact of the GAA on their family lives and the pressures of administration. Mentions Mary Sammon and Mickey Quinn.</p> <p>01:00:00 They talk about the support they got from their parents. Maeve refers to her mother's involvement in the ICA.</p> <p>01:02:15 They discuss the issue of Ballaghderreen, which is located in Roscommon, but plays in Mayo. Mentions John</p>
--	---

	<p>O'Mahony.</p> <p>01:04:30 The three talk about their mother. The influence she had on them and the support she gave. Mention Cork. Mention Francis Quill, Pádraig Griffin, Patricia Griffin and Mickey Quinn. Mention the Community Games.</p> <p>01:07:40 Mary recalls being on Central Council. Describes her responsibilities. Refers to her husband. Remembers her time training a team. Mentions Marian College, Mohill. Mentions Gael Linn.</p> <p>01:11:40 Deirdre explains why she thinks women don't stay involved in Gaelic games. Mentions Sligo Rovers. Mentions soccer and basketball.</p> <p>01:13:30 The group discuss their current involvement. They also talk about other people who are currently involved. Mention Karen McGovern, Sinéad Quinn, Vincent O'Rourke and Noeleen Geoghegan.</p> <p>01:17:00 They discuss the amount of fixtures and the organisation that is needed.</p> <p>01:18:15 They discuss what football has meant to them. Refer to the social aspect. Mention soccer and basketball. Mary tells of how she met her husband. Mention Dublin.</p> <p>01:23:24 Mary and Deirdre recall Central Council meetings in pub alcoves. Mentions Mick Fitzgerald, Michael Talbot. Discuss the idea of chicken and chips.</p> <p>***Mary leaves interview***</p> <p>01:24:28 Deirdre remembers some of her activities while she was on the Leitrim County Board. They talk about the standard of ladies' football over the years. Mentions Vincent O'Rourke.</p> <p>01:27:25 Discuss the Senior National League Final in 1983 against Kerry. Mentions Peggy Guckian, Tracy Monahan and Mairéad Stenson.</p> <p>01:30:40 Deirdre talks about her time as chairperson of the County Board while still playing on the county team. Stress the importance of team sports. Mentions Mary Murtagh, Ita Flatley, Mary Deane.</p> <p>01:32:39 Deirdre describes her transition from county to national administration and the difficulties she encountered. Discusses the relationship between ladies' football and the GAA. Deirdre and Maeve talk about insurance and the injury</p>
--	---

	<p>fund.</p> <p>01:37:30 They talk about Deirdre training underage teams in Aughawillan. Deirdre goes on to discuss football in schools. Refers to the different rules and finances. Mentions Pat Quill. Mentions Sligo.</p> <p>01:39:50 Deirdre remembers refereeing. Talks about her decreasing involvement after she got married and the differences she noticed when she went back. Refers to finances. Mentions Helen O'Rourke.</p> <p>01:46:15 The pair talks about different All-Stars trips. Focus on the one in Singapore. Mentions Australia. Mentions Geraldine Giles, Claire Connolly.</p> <p>01:52:50 Deirdre talks about inclusion in underage football. They discuss some of the things they like about football. Mentions basketball.</p> <p>01:55:50 Deirdre highlights a difference between boys and girls regarding football. Refers to Lord Byron. Mentions swimming, horse riding and tennis.</p> <p>01:57:35 Deirdre explains what parents stand to gain from their kids joining the local club. Talks about her own kids. Mentions soccer, ballet dancing, swimming and rugby. Mentions Dublin.</p> <p>01:59:00 Deirdre tells of her activity in St Angela's College.</p> <p>01:59:40 Maeve talks about how her interest in football developed. Remembers playing underage boys' football with Drumreilly GAA. Mentions her sister Deirdre and Mary Sammon.</p> <p>02:01:30 Maeve recalls her call-up to the senior club team and her inter-county career. Deirdre refers to her involvement around that time. Mentions Jenny Greenan, Eimear, Sarah McLoughlin, Sinead Brennan, Edel Byrne, Ciara, Marie McGovern, Geraldine Ring and Ita Flatley.</p> <p>02:05:55 Maeve describes the importance of underage games. Deirdre remembers playing soccer. Refers to the appeal of basketball. Mentions Calry, Co. Sligo. Mentions squash.</p> <p>02:10:05 Deirdre talks about her daughters' opinion of football. Refers to the social aspect of the GAA. Describes her attitude towards domestic activities.</p> <p>02:12:25 Deirdre discusses training boys' teams. Refers to</p>
--	--

	<p>her sons. Mentions being on Bord na nÓg and Coaching Officer in Calry St Josephs GAA. Mentions the Fun Do Programme.</p> <p>02:14:30 Deirdre tells of the experience of playing with Calry.</p> <p>02:15:30 Maeve remembers beginning to train underage club teams. Refers to getting her parents' car. Talks through her weekly routing.</p> <p>02:17:50 Maeve recalls becoming involved in administration while still playing and training. Mentions Noeleen Geoghegan.</p> <p>02:18:53 Both ladies discuss the pressures of training teams. They refer to certain people they trained. Mention Imelda Callaghan, Lucy Callaghan, Pauline Gilheaney, Mary, Karen McGovern, Sinead, Marie Quinn and Mary McKeown.</p> <p>02:23:30 Maeve tells of her role on television and how she got it. They refer to their interest in coaching. Mentions Daire Ó Cinnéide, Michael Lyster, Pat Spillane and Colm O'Rourke.</p> <p>02:26:40 Deirdre tells of their brother Jerome getting expenses. Discusses the importance of getting recognition for accomplishments in the ladies' game. Mentions Carysfort College. Mentions Mickey Quinn.</p> <p>02:29:00 Maeve recalls refereeing. Also discusses her time as Development Officer and tells of the work she did with schools. Mentions Cora Staunton. Mentions Manorhamilton.</p> <p>02:30:18 Discusses the attitude in the Ladies' Football Association towards people playing other games. Deirdre discusses the relationship between ladies' football and camogie. Mentions soccer. Mentions Mick Fitzgerald, Pat Quill, Katie Liston and Geraldine O'Shea.</p> <p>02:33:00 They talk about the appeal of soccer.</p> <p>02:34:28 Maeve tells a story about Tishy O'Brien during the All-Ireland in 1988. Remembers the Championships of 2005 when she broke her ankle and 2006 and the National Leagues of 2000 and 2006. Mentions Kerry and Galway. Mentions Jason Tremaine, the Brennans, Mary McKeown, Sinead Quinn, Sarah McLoughlin, Liam Forde and Eimear.</p> <p>02:43:00 Maeve tells of what they learned from previous experiences for the 2007 Championships. Mentions their niece Eimear, Sarah McLoughlin and Ann Marie Cox.</p> <p>02:46:58 Both ladies talk about the restructuring of the Championships in 2007 and explain why that made winning</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. LM/1/9

	<p>better. Mention the Junior B Championship. Mention Mary Quinn Cup. Mention Geraldine Ring, Fr Jerome, her niece Eimear and the Brennans.</p> <p>02:52:20 Maeve remembers visiting schools with the cup. Mentions Sineád Brennan and Louise O'Loughlin.</p> <p>02:54:15 Deirdre and Maeve discuss the homecoming in 1988. Mentions Eamonn McGowan.</p> <p>02:56:15 They also talk about the homecoming in 2007.</p> <p>02:57:15 Maeve tells of her current involvement. Deirdre talks about her love of the game. Describes the training she did on her own and talks about her fitness.</p> <p>03:00:13 Deirdre reveals a disappointment she experienced after an injury. Refers to ageism. Remembers playing matches with a broken arm. Mentions soccer.</p> <p>03:03:03 Maeve remembers an ankle injury she had in 2005.</p> <p>03:04.30 Both ladies discuss a difference between the men's game and the ladies' game.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 03:05:58</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

REFERENCE NO. LM/1/9

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: _____15/08/12_____