

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	22 nd Jan 2011
Location	O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	PJ Hoey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Donegal
Education	Primary: Rooskey NS, Convoy, Co. Donegal Secondary: St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Third Level: School of Electoral Engineering, Limerick; Regional College Dundalk
Family	Siblings: 1 brother Current Family if Different: Married to Mary with 3 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	St. Eunan's, Letterkenny; St. Mary's, Convoy
Occupation	Technical Officer, Eircom
Parents' Occupation	Tailor [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/18

Date of Report	1 st August 2012
Period Covered	1900s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Donegal, Down, Derry, Tyrone, Dublin, Great Britain, Scotland, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, 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, Outsider's Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Bribery, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>PJ talks about his involvement in the GAA over the years. He discusses his father's involvement in administration with the Convoy club and with the Donegal county board. He describes the type of facilities available to the club at the time. He talks about moving to Letterkenny and transferring to the St. Eunan's club. PJ recalls going to school in St. Eunan's College in Letterkenny and talks about the role of the GAA in the school. He discusses his county career with Donegal and what that was like. He talks about his involvement in the St. Eunan's club and discusses the developments of the club over the years. He describes the club's facilities and the changes in the club and his involvement in administration. PJ talks about the role of the GAA club in Letterkenny and how it has to compete against other sporting organisations. He discusses the club's relationship with the other GAA club in Letterkenny, Letterkenny Gaels. He describes the impact of the Troubles on the area and how it affected the club. He gives his opinion on the various rule changes in the GAA over the years and towards the end of the interview, PJ highlights the important role the GAA has had in his life.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:26 PJ talks about his earliest memories of the GAA, going to matches with his father. Notes that his father Paddy Hoey</p>

	<p>was chairman of the Donegal Eastern Board, the first chairman of the Donegal Minor Board and later chairman of the senior board.</p> <p>01:30 Describes the type of facilities for GAA in Convooy when he was growing up. Moving to Letterkenny and playing with St. Eunan's. Getting involved in administration. Mentions Dr James McDaid.</p> <p>04:20 Recalls his father's involvement in the GAA in Convooy. Talks about the characters involved in the club. Mentions Seamus Given (Shay's father) and Ambrose Given, Charlie Kavanagh. Talks about the meetings being held in his father's tailor shop.</p> <p>05:55 Describes how the GAA and the cricket club shared a pitch outside Convooy. Talks about his father's views on soccer. Gerry McCafferty owned the local field, out the Raphoe Road and was a Donegal referee.</p> <p>07:05 Talks about the role of the Convooy club in the community. Recalls getting to different finals. Talks about leaving the club when he started working for Eircom (the PnT).</p> <p>10:13 Describes the make-up of the Convooy club and parish. Moving to Letterkenny and paying with St. Eunan's and with different Donegal teams.</p> <p>11:42 Recalls an incident at a match between Convooy and St. Eunan's and why he transferred club.</p> <p>12:40 Describes the facilities at St. Eunan's when he first started playing with them.</p> <p>14:10 Talks about being selected for Donegal. Talks about training for Donegal players in Dublin being held in the Garda Headquarters in the Phoenix Park.</p> <p>15:55 Training with the county team in Ballybofey. Talks about the players he played with.</p> <p>17:20 Recalls the different games he played in. Playing in a semi-final against Tyrone and playing in the McKenna Cup.</p> <p>18:50 Describes St. Eunan's colours, black and amber jerseys. Talks about playing with leather footballs.</p> <p>20:12 Talks about the positions he played in over the years.</p> <p>21:00 Discusses playing in the Ulster Herald Cup in school in St. Eunan's College. Describes the role of the GAA in St. Eunan's College. Highlights the work of Michael Cullen in</p>
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	<p>promoting GAA in the school.</p> <p>24:25 Talks about the history of the St Eunan's club and how there were two other clubs in the area beforehand, the Rovers and the Lámh Deargs. Describes the facilities of the club today and the development of the club during his time.</p> <p>27:28 Discusses his first involvement in administration with St. Eunan's. Winning two senior league medals in 1974 and 1986.</p> <p>28:57 Describes the places where club meetings were held and what the meetings were like. Mentions Paddy McGeehan.</p> <p>30:18 Talks about the different types of fundraisers they held for the club. Highlights the expenses involved in the running of the club. Describes the lotto run by the club.</p> <p>35:44 Talks about the people involved in the club executive when he first joined the club. The rate of turnover in the club. Mentions James 'Gouldy' McGettigan, Danny McGlinchey, Joe 'Bid' Gallagher.</p> <p>38:00 Describes the size of the club and its membership.</p> <p>38:55 Talks about the role of the club in the community. Competing against other sports clubs in Letterkenny.</p> <p>40:34 Discusses the formation of the Letterkenny Gaels club and issues with two clubs in Letterkenny. The problem with boundaries. Talks about the relationship between the two clubs and the other sports organisations. Mentions Connie Maguire.</p> <p>45:35 Talks about the efforts of the club to attract young people.</p> <p>46:03 Discusses the role of women in the club and how this has changed over the years. Mentions Strictly Come Dancing. Mentions Anne McGeehan, wife of Peadar McGeehan.</p> <p>48:40 Talks about the different Gaelic games played in the club.</p> <p>51:15 Discusses the club's participation in the Scór competition. Talks about the role of Irish language and culture.</p> <p>53:05 Recalls listening to Michael O'Hehir commentating on the radio.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. DL/1/18

	<p>54:33 Talks about the role of the media in the GAA.</p> <p>55:47 Discusses the role of teachers and the clergy in the GAA in Letterkenny. Highlights the work of the Christian Brothers for the GAA.</p> <p>57:37 Describes his father's involvement in the setting up of the Donegal minor board and his work on the Donegal Eastern Board. Recalls a story about a player who was constantly being sent off.</p> <p>59:43 Talks about the importance of volunteerism in the GAA.</p> <p>01:01:09 Discusses the growth of professionalism in the GAA and gives his opinion on pay for play.</p> <p>01:03:03 Describes the club's relationship with the county board.</p> <p>01:03:30 Talks about his hopes for St Eunan's in the future.</p> <p>01:04:18 Discusses the impact of the Troubles on the club. Recalls playing in a tournament in Omagh and issues with travelling.</p> <p>01:05:53 Talks about the role of non-nationals and different religions in St. Eunan's club.</p> <p>01:07:07 Describes his best memories of his time in the GAA. Talks about Donegal winning the All-Ireland football final in 1992.</p> <p>01:08:00 Talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh.</p> <p>01:09:35 Discusses his biggest disappointments in the GAA. Issues at county conventions.</p> <p>01:10:37 Talks about playing football in Glasgow and watching a match in Gaelic Park in New York.</p> <p>01:12:13 Discusses what the GAA has meant to him over the years.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><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</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/18

Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played from the age of 12 to 34. Won Ulster Colleges Medals, 1 junior championship (St. Eunan's), 2 senior league medals (St. Eunan's), 1 McKenna Cup.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Has been involved in administration since 1980. Club: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Chairman Finance Committee, Executive Member.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:12:54
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: _____ 01/08/12 _____