

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2011
<b>Location</b>	St. Columbans PS, Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tim Flaherty
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1955 <b>Home County:</b> Galway
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Scoil Rónain, Kilronan, Inishmore <b>Secondary:</b> Gairmscoil Eanna, Inishmore
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 3 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 3 sons and 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Belcoo O'Rahilly's; Naomh Eanna, Arainn
<b>Occupation</b>	Caretaker
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Fisherman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

**REFERENCE NO. GY/1/14**

<b>Date of Report</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1960s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Fermanagh, Galway, Dublin
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, 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, 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, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Tim discusses his involvement in the GAA from his time living on the Aran Islands to his time as chairman of Belcoo GAA club. He describes the role of the GAA on Inis Mór and competing with schools from the other islands. He recalls the Galway team of the 1960s bringing the Sam Maguire to the Aran Islands and the impact this had on him. Tim talks about getting involved in Belcoo GAA when he first moved to Fermanagh in the early 1980s and how he began to coach underage teams. He discusses the Troubles and the Hunger Strikes and the impact they had on the GAA in Fermanagh. He describes the changes in the club over the years and how facilities have improved. Tim talks about the various members of the club who have been vital to its progress since the early days. He describes the relationship with the local soccer club and how they share a lot of players. Towards the end of the interview Tim talks about the role of the GAA in his life and what the Association has meant to him over the years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:20 Tim recalls his earliest memories of the GAA, playing in national school on the Aran Islands. Talks about the different colours each school had. Kilonan was green, Kileany was yellow, Oatquarter school was blue. Scoil Náisiúnta Eoin was red.</p>

**REFERENCE NO. GY/1/14**

	<p>01:15 Describes how Oatquarter were the strongest footballing school. Rivalry with Kilronan.</p> <p>02:18 Talks about football on the Aran Islands. The clothes they wore playing.</p> <p>03:00 Having the distinction of having to travel to home games. Amalgamating with Inishmaan and Inisheer.</p> <p>03:46 Talks about Kevin Walsh on the island who became Sligo County Manager.</p> <p>04:10 Moving to Galway and lack of involvement with the GAA. Wasn't involved until he moved to Belcoo.</p> <p>04:50 Talks about getting involved in the local club. Being asked to help by Maurice Ferguson. Playing for the club. Becoming chairman of the club.</p> <p>06:05 Talks about how the club is doing at the moment.</p> <p>07:23 Discusses growing up in Inishmore on the Aran Islands and the facilities available for GAA on the island. Using Concannon's field in Onaght. Buying a field beside the airstrip. Their pitch was mainly sand.</p> <p>09:28 Talks about his family's involvement in the GAA. His uncle played with the Inishmaan team. Mentions his brother Arthur.</p> <p>10:35 Discusses the history of the GAA on the Aran Islands. Recalls Galway winning the three in a row. Father Griffins and the Dunmore McHales team bringing the Sam Maguire Cup to the island. Mentions Johnny Geraghty, Enda Colleran, the Donnellans, the Keenans. Leaving on the Naomh Eanna boat.</p> <p>13:28 Recalls how the club took trawlers to the main land to play matches, mostly on the Carraroe pitch. Working in Galway at the time. Getting to and from the island. Now travelling by Ferry, and the other teams have to come in. Players were mostly fisherman.</p> <p>15:40 Talks about other sports being played on the island. Handball and playing soccer on the beach. Badminton and basketball also played. Recalls the different games they played.</p> <p>17:35 Notes how no hurling was played on the island but they did have hurls. Road bowling played while the pier was being built by men from Cork.</p>
--	---

	<p>18:55 Talks about staying with the team when he was in the army in Galway. Describes how much there is to Gaelic football. Losing out on football skills in his teens.</p> <p>20:40 Discusses getting involved in Belcoo and playing his first game for them. Mentions Maurice Ferguson. Played his last game for the Fermanagh over 40s when he was 45.</p> <p>22:50 Describes how Maurice Ferguson was the main person involved in the GAA in Belcoo. Mentions Eamonn McPartland, John and Ken McPartland, Hughie Keaney, Pat and John McGowan, Joe McGinley and Tony McGourtey. Playing in Kinawley.</p> <p>25:50 Recalls beating Enniskillen Gaels in the early 1970s.</p> <p>27:00 Talks about characters of the club how Gerry Timony was a great footballer and the stories about him. Mentions Eoin Kerrigan, Jimmy McGillen, Peter Keaney, Frank Timony, a man named Maguire, Lal and Ted de Lacy, Eddie Scott, Philip Green, Joe McGovern and Mal O'Dolan.</p> <p>29:50 Recalls Maurice Ferguson bringing everyone to matches in his car. Mentions Paddy McTernan.</p> <p>30:36 Talks about how there used to be a club called Holy Well St Pat's before Belcoo formed. Discusses the make-up of the club. Mentions the Green family's involvement, coming from Blacklion.</p> <p>31:49 Discusses the rivalry between Shannon Gaels and Belcoo.</p> <p>32:33 Discusses getting involved in coaching underage football in Belcoo in 1980/81. Working in Carson's Quarry at the time. Talks about his sons' involvement. His teams going on to win different matches.</p> <p>34:59 Talks about changes in the style of training over the years. Using his army training in football. Recalls a player known as 'chicken' who was very good. Mentions Martin McDermott, Ciaran Stewart, Paul Ferguson, Terry Stewart, Dessie Nolan.</p> <p>37:55 Discusses the changes in dealing with players. Developing man management skills.</p> <p>39:25 Describes the type of qualities good players need to perform and what makes a good team.</p> <p>40:40 Describes the qualities that make a good manager. How this changed when his sons began to play and when</p>
--	--

	<p>management courses were introduced in the GAA.</p> <p>44:18 Talks about the changes in facilities in Belcoo since he first arrived in the area. Developing the ground in recent times.</p> <p>47:07 Discusses the role of the club in the local community. Bigger role in the past compared to now but still well supported. The need to keep past players involved.</p> <p>49:48 Recalls how the Troubles affected the area when he first moved to Belcoo. Dealing with checkpoints.</p> <p>53:06 Talks about the club and the Hunger Strikes. Taking time off to go to Mickey Devine's funeral.</p> <p>54:57 Discusses the role of non-Catholics in the GAA in Belcoo. Mentions a family from Lisbellaw the McFetridge's. Also mentions James McGrath.</p> <p>56:10 Highlights the relationship between Belcoo GAA and Lisbellaw United soccer club. Mentions an incident with a Protestant boy not wanting to be in a photo with the GAA team.</p> <p>59:16 Talks about his sons' interest in the GAA.</p> <p>01:01:20 Describes how players should be proud to represent the county regardless of the county's stature.</p> <p>01:02:20 Talks about his daughters' interest in the GAA and ladies' football in the club. Camogie no longer played in the club. Problem with sourcing coaches and managers. Mentions Tina Gallagher who looks after the Ladies, Edel and Sharon McGovern, Serena Bush, Steven Maguire's sisters.</p> <p>01:05:05 Discusses the problem of finding coaches and managers for underage teams.</p> <p>01:07:00 Describes the type of fundraising that's held for the club: lottos, golf classics, race nights, All-Ireland ticket draw, table quizzes. Problem with expenses to run clubs and being a small village.</p> <p>01:09:20 Talks about how emigration didn't have a big effect on the club in the past. Fears for the future players.</p> <p>01:10:35 Discusses the role of the Irish language in the club and the club's involvement in Scór. Efforts to revive it through Scór na nÓg in recent times. Mentions Tom Cullen.</p> <p>01:14:43 Describes how his experience of the GAA differs</p>
--	---

**REFERENCE NO. GY/1/14**

	<p>from natives of Belcoo. Gives his opinion on club/county loyalties and local rivalries. Mentions Garrison.</p> <p>01:17:52 Discusses the impact the GAA has had on his personal life.</p> <p>01:19:35 Talks about his best memories during his time involved in the GAA. Chooses winning the Under 16 final. Mentions Mickey Dolan and Shane Timoney. Winning the senior league in 2007.</p> <p>01:21:29 Chooses Galway player Johnny Geraghty as his GAA hero, but includes the entire three in a row team. Also mentions Sean Cavanagh, Marty McGrath, Declan Meehan and Michael Meehan.</p> <p>01:24:08 Discusses his future in the GAA and with Belcoo GAA and his hopes for the club.</p> <p>01:26:59 Talks about his biggest disappointments within the GAA and how he would have like to have played more when he was young. Disagrees with the way the Compromise Rules is being played. Gives his opinion on the Gaelic Players Association.</p> <p>01:30:05 Describes what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him. What the GAA has provided for young people. Talks about the need for the inclusion of people outside traditional GAA circles.</p> <p>01:34:01 Talks about the lack of numbers in Fermanagh available to play football and the need to include Protestants in the GAA.</p> <p>01:35:40 Highlights the need for a three tier stadium system around the country. Mentions Brewster Park.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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 checked="" 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>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from the age of 8 – 13 and 20 – 46. Won a winter league and a number of tournaments.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since the early 1990s.</p> <p>Club: Secretary (2 years), Chairman (5 years) and Delegate</p>

**REFERENCE NO. GY/1/14**

long for)	to County Board
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:36:28
<b>Language</b>	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:                  05/08/12