

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	19 th Aug 2010
Location	Castleblayney Enterprise Centre
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paul Swift
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1965 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: CBS Monaghan Secondary: Beech Hill College, Co. Monaghan Third Level: DIT, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married with 1 daughter, 2 stepdaughters and 1 stepson
Club(s)	Monaghan Harps
Occupation	Environmental Health Officer
Parents' Occupation	Electrician [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Monaghan United; Monaghan Special Olympics Club Coach

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mary Grimes
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1958 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Brosna NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: Ballaghaderreen Technical School
Family	Siblings: 5 brothers & 5 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 1 son and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Donaghmoyne Fontenoys
Occupation	Secretary
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Monaghan Sports Partnership; School Club

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Date of Report	4 th July 2012
Period Covered	1970s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Monaghan
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Media, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Paul and Mary talk about their continuing efforts to improve ladies football in Monaghan. Both have occupied various administrative roles at club and county level, while Paul has also coached teams and acted as a referee. Together they track the development of ladies football in Monaghan, as they tried to attract players and clubs and then fought for parity with other GAA teams and raised funds in order to ensure the sustainability of teams. As the game expanded across Monaghan, success at club and county level quickly followed, as did All Star awards and trips abroad for winning teams. Paul and Mary discuss these developments in detail, recounting the battles that they fought along the way and shedding insight into what the success of ladies football has meant to GAA people within the county.</p> <p>00:20 (Paul) Earliest GAA memories. Playing with Monaghan Harps at underage level.</p> <p>01:10 (Paul) First attempts at playing football and hurling.</p> <p>01:30 (Paul) Rivals were Scotstown and Castleblayney.</p> <p>01:40 (Paul) Playing Under-16 and minor hurling.</p> <p>02:00 (Paul) Playing at Gavan Duffy Park when he was young. Pitch later sold and club moving to Rooskey. Facilities there.</p> <p>02:55 (Paul) GAA involvement in England.</p> <p>03:20 (Paul) GAA in his family.</p>

	<p>04:10 (Mary) Earliest GAA memory. Listening to Micheál O'Hehir.</p> <p>04:30 (Mary) Family involvement.</p> <p>04:55 (Paul) Attending GAA games.</p> <p>05:20 (Paul) Ladies football in Monaghan. Philip Kelly from Magheraclaone starting it up.</p> <p>05:55 (Paul) Girls joining team and Philip becoming county chairman. Success they have had.</p> <p>06:25 (Paul) First involvement in ladies football in 1992. Roles he has occupied as an administrator and coach.</p> <p>07:15 (Mary) First involvement in ladies football. Local club is Donaghmoyne.</p> <p>08:05 (Mary) Roles she has occupied in her time.</p> <p>08:25 (Paul) Setting up ladies football in the county. Problems they encountered.</p> <p>08:55(Paul) No Ulster Council at the time. Christy Byrne in Westmeath the national secretary and Peter Rice from Wexford the president.</p> <p>09:35 (Paul) Maurice Kindlon a selector, Oliver Gavan the Ulster Council honorary president.</p> <p>10:20 (Paul) County team set up before club teams. First game against Longford.</p> <p>10:35 (Paul) Donaghmoyne, Carrickmacross, Magheraclaone, Inniskeen, Corduff, Aghabog, Monaghan Harps, Doohamlet, Aughnamullen, Tyholland affiliated to the county board in the first year.</p> <p>11:00 (Paul) 20 clubs in all in Monaghan. More men's team some parishes have two men teams – Cremartin and Clontibret, but the girls play as O'Neill Shamrocks.</p> <p>11:30 (Paul) Spread of ladies football and reasons for that.</p> <p>11:45 (Paul) County team success in 1992 and benefits of that.</p>
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	<p>12:05 (Paul) Winning an All-Ireland and celebrations.</p> <p>12:40 (Paul) Reaction of GAA clubs to ladies football.</p> <p>12:55 (Paul) Some ladies teams not getting use of best pitches.</p> <p>13:15 (Paul) Monaghan Supporters Club and others supporting the ladies.</p> <p>13:55 (Paul) His family's reaction to his involvement.</p> <p>14:25 (Mary) Reaction of others when she got involved.</p> <p>15:00 (Mary) Husband's GAA involvement.</p> <p>15:40 (Paul) Girls buying their own socks, togs and boots. Lakeland Dairies sponsoring them.</p> <p>16:20 (Paul) Not being fed by the county board before games.</p> <p>16:55 (Paul) Things improving and players supplied with more food and drinks. Des Patton, team manager, raising money in the 1990s.</p> <p>17:55 (Paul) Fundraising.</p> <p>19:00 (Mary) Fundraising efforts.</p> <p>19:40 (Mary) Fee clubs pay each year.</p> <p>20:25 (Paul) Fundraising events they hold.</p> <p>20:35 (Paul) County captain Angela Larkin married off to Cavan footballer Dermot McCabe in a mock wedding.</p> <p>20:55 (Paul) Mickey Morgan managing the team to an All-Ireland.</p> <p>21:10 (Paul) Taking the county team on a holiday. Raising money for that.</p> <p>22:45 (Paul) Reasons for Monaghan's success.</p> <p>24:10 (Mary) Where the ladies teams play.</p> <p>25:10 (Paul) County training ground at Cloghan.</p>
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	<p>25:30 (Paul) Manager deciding on where games are played.</p> <p>26:00 (Paul) Trying to play games in a location that suits the opposition.</p> <p>26:40 (Paul) Ulster finals in Clones. Other venues they play at.</p> <p>27:15 (Paul) Playing at the opening of the Magheracloone pitch against Westmeath.</p> <p>27:50 (Paul) Not having a delegate on the men's county board.</p> <p>28:50 (Mary) Relationship with camogie in the county. Fixture clashes.</p> <p>29:10 (Paul) Croke Park ladies and camogie fixing games for the same day. Finding a solution.</p> <p>30:00 (Paul) 'Old school' element involved with camogie.</p> <p>30:55 (Paul) Differences between managing men and women. Dealing with women who are not pulling their weight. Injury scheme in ladies football.</p> <p>33:55 (Paul) Having trained medical professionals at games.</p> <p>34:15 (Mary) Having a doctor at games.</p> <p>34:35 (Paul) Eileen McIlvanny, Edel Byrne getting injured on the pitch.</p> <p>35:15 (Paul) Reason for getting involved in refereeing. Enjoying being a referee. Experiences he has had in the role.</p> <p>36:25 (Paul) Trips to England. Tommy Donoghue of Galway managing London team.</p> <p>37:55 (Paul) Trip to Spain for Iberian Championships.</p> <p>39:00 (Mary) Changes in ladies football in the county and benefits of that.</p> <p>40:20 (Paul) Development of ladies football in Ulster.</p> <p>42:05 (Paul) Relationship with Ulster Council and Croke Park.</p>
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	<p>Paula Prunty, Ladies Development Officer at Croke Park, from Monaghan.</p> <p>42:55 (Paul) Difference between men's and ladies' committee meetings.</p> <p>44:00 (Mary) Help she gets from the Ulster and Central Councils.</p> <p>44:30 (Paul) Communication levels from Croke Park in the past and problems that caused.</p> <p>45:55 (Paul) Becoming involved in administration and roles he occupied.</p> <p>47:05 (Paul) Work on disciplinary and All Star committees.</p> <p>48:25 (Paul) All Star function and what that is like.</p> <p>49:05 (Paul) Ciara McAnespie and Edel Byrne getting All Stars.</p> <p>49:15 (Paul) What All Star teams do together. Sponsorship. Trips abroad.</p> <p>50:45 (Paul) Role of media in development of ladies football.</p> <p>52:35 (Paul) Ladies football websites they have.</p> <p>53:05 (Paul) TG4 coverage of ladies football.</p> <p>53:55 (Paul) Monaghan's progression at inter-county level.</p> <p>55:30 (Paul) Success at underage level.</p> <p>55:40 (Paul) Success of club sides. All-Ireland titles.</p> <p>56:50 (Paul) McNally family involvement in Tyholland success.</p> <p>57:05 (Paul) Brenda McAnespie's family involvement in Emyvale success.</p> <p>57:20 (Paul) Courtney sisters playing for Mary's club.</p> <p>57:30 (Paul) Success at schools level. Pauline Devlin involved with St Louis Convent in Monaghan.</p>
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	<p>58:30 (Paul) Tyrone their biggest rivals. Reasons for that.</p> <p>59:40 (Paul) Story of the McAnespies, who live in Tyrone but play in Monaghan.</p> <p>01:00:40 (Paul) Ladies footballers retiring from the inter-county scene early.</p> <p>01:01:20 (Mary) Some players getting married and having children.</p> <p>01:01:55 (Mary) Involvement of men in ladies football.</p> <p>01:02:35 (Mary) Women coaches pushing players hard.</p> <p>01:03:00 (Paul) Men having more time on their hands.</p> <p>01:03:10 (Paul) Problems in finding female referees. Advantages in becoming a female referee.</p> <p>01:04:45 (Mary) Future of ladies football in Monaghan. Development squads.</p> <p>01:06:40 (Paul) Urban development officer based in Ulster and other initiatives.</p> <p>01:08:00 (Paul) Best GAA memories.</p> <p>01:09:05 (Paul) Watching the Monaghan convent side play a schools' game and being asked to referee.</p> <p>01:10:15 (Mary) Best GAA memories. Celebrations after Donaghmoynes All-Ireland success in Longford.</p> <p>01:14:10 (Paul) Winning a club title and what that is like.</p> <p>01:14:35 (Paul) Francie Coleman's achievements as a manger.</p> <p>01:15:15 (Mary) Rivalry with Magheracloone. Visiting schools in the parish.</p> <p>01:18:40 (Paul) Disappointments. Problems over a player, Irene Doyle.</p> <p>01:19:35 (Mary) Disappointments at club level.</p> <p>01:20:55 (Paul) What the GAA has meant to him.</p>
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	<p>01:21:35 (Mary) What the GAA has meant to her.</p> <p>01:22:30 (Paul) Friendships in the GAA.</p> <p>01:23:55 (Paul) Widespread support for the GAA in Ireland.</p> <p>01:24:40 (Mary) Playing in the semi-finals of a sevens tournament and what happened.</p> <p>01:26:40 (Paul) Kerry ladies team that won nine-in-a-row. Mary Joe Curran's sister Phil on the team. Kerry playing Monaghan.</p> <p>01:27:30 Monaghan Harps playing Aghabog in the first Monaghan county final. Problems with jerseys.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Paul:</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>Mary:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" 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>Paul:</p> <p>Played for 9 years. Won County Under 12, 14, 16, 21 and a Hurling Under 16 and Minor.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Paul:</p> <p>Has been involved in administration since 1991.</p> <p>Ladies Club: Committee Member</p> <p>Ladies County Board: County Secretary; Youth Officer; Chairman</p> <p>Ladies Ulster Council: PRO</p>

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	Ladies Central Council: Disciplinary; All-Star and PR Committees Mary: Has been involved in administration since 1999. Ladies Club: Assistant Secretary; Treasurer; Development Officer; PRO; Youth Officer Ladies County Board (2003 +): Assistant Secretary; PRO; Secretary
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:28:50
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: ___04/07/12_____