

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie	
Date of Interview	17 th Dec 2010	✓ Photograph of Interviewee
Location	First section in Enda's home, second section in Tom's home, both near Crusheen, Co. Clare	
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Enda Mulkere	
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>		
Gender	Male	
Born	Year Born: 1948 Home County: Clare	
Education	Primary: Moyrhee NS, Ruan, Co. Clare Secondary: St. Flannan's, Co. Clare; Rockwell College, Co. Tipperary Third Level: Manchester University	
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Anne with 3 sons and 1 daughter	
Club(s)	Crusheen	
Occupation	Civil Servant and Farmer	
Parents' Occupation	Farmer and Music Teacher [Father]; Farmer [Mother]	
Religion	Roman Catholic	
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Fianna Fáil County Councillor, Ceoltas	

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Thomas McNamara [Tom Mac]
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1929 Home County: Clare
Education	Primary: Crusheen NS, Co. Clare Secondary: Vocational School Ennis, Co. Clare
Family	Siblings: 1 sister & 7 brothers
Club(s)	Crusheen
Occupation	Builder
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Sinn Féin
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Gun Club

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Date of Report	17 th July 2012
Period Covered	1690 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Clare, Galway, Tipperary, Dublin, Limerick
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Culture, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Career, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Politics, Professionalism, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Enda begins by talking about his father’s passion for Irish language, culture, music and the GAA. He gives an overview of his father’s political leanings and tells of his role in the War of Independence, name some high profile figures of the time with whom his father would have associated. He then goes on to discuss his own role in GAA administration at club level and on Central Council. He outlines what he sees a being the role of the GAA president and explains the way in which club administration can lead to disillusionment among normal club members. Tom begins by describing his playing career at club and county level. He tells of victories and disappointments and outlines the difference between the hurleys and sliotars he used, those used by his father’s generation, and those used today. He talks about Clare in the 1920s and his family’s involvement in republicanism and in the GAA at the time. Both men talk about their highlights and disappointments with the association, highlighting the growth of soccer and golf in Clare, stressing the importance of a club having its own grounds.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:20 Enda gives a brief background of his surname. Talks about his father’s (Jack Mulkere) interest in hurling and music. Also talks about his grandfather. Mentions Pat Mulkere, Lady Gregory, Douglas Hyde, Seán O’Casey and William Butler Yeats. Mentions Kiltartan. Mentions Aughrim Slopes Céilí Band and the Gaelic League.</p> <p>02:15 Tells of his father’s role in the War of Independence and what he did afterwards. Mentions Gerry Kearney, John Maloney and Liam Mellows.</p> <p>04:15 Talks about his parents meeting and settling in Co Clare. Describes the overlap between Gaelic games and</p>

	<p>traditional music. Mentions travelling by bicycle. Mentions Fleadh Ceoil. Mentions Angela Fogarty, Frank Custy, Sharon Shannon, Tim Flood, Joe Cooley, Dermot O'Brien and Gerry O'Connor,</p> <p>06:30 Recalls life in Crusheen when he was young and his father's influence on him. Also discusses the cultural responsibility of the GAA. Mentions beagling, gambling and drag hunts.</p> <p>07:35 Tells of his father cycling to Limerick in 1932. Refers to musicians his father knew. McPeakes, the Clancy brothers, Joe Cooley, Joe Burke, John Kelly, Seán Ó Riada and Des his brother.</p> <p>08:50 Describes his memories of the Crusheen teams of the 1950s. Tells of emigration. Mentions Fr Minogue, Justy Gleeson, Cecil Gleeson, Niall Gleeson, Tom McNamara, Donal McNamara, Paddy Moran, Tom Moran and Matty Moran.</p> <p>11:05 Discusses the facilities at the time. Stresses the importance of tradition within the club. Also refers to the club's youth policy. Mentions Willie O'Halloran, Michael McGrath.</p> <p>14:00 Recalls club success in the 1960s and 1970s. Mentions Éire Óg, Clarecastle and Newmarket.</p> <p>15:05 Tells of conflict with the Land Commission over the field they were trying to buy. Refers to the difficulty of being secretary at the time. Mentions Tom McNamara, Gerry Kennedy, Ger Loughnane.</p> <p>17:40 Talks about going to County Board meetings. Recalls being elected to the Central Council. Mentions the Fleadh Ceoil. Mentions Sharon Shannon, Gary Shannon, Liam Mulvihill, John Doyle, Con Murphy, John Dowling, Tull Dunne, Seán Ó Síocháin and Donal Keenan.</p> <p>19:44 Stresses the importance of rotation in administrative positions. Talks about what he learned in Central Council. Mentions TP O'Reilly.</p> <p>21:22 Discusses the role of the president within the GAA. Mentions Con Murphy, Donal Keenan, Joe McDonagh, Seán Mac Donncha, Jimmy Barry Murphy and Mary McAleese.</p> <p>24:14 Talks about the administrative structure of clubs and how this can lead to disillusion of members. Mentions Páraic</p>
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	<p>Duffy.</p> <p>27:55 Tells of the pride in Crusheen. Tells of travelling to matches. Mentions the Connollys and John Flanagan.</p> <p>28:45 Tells of a hurling match played between Crusheen and Kilfenora. Mentions Jimmy Smyth. Mentions the Cloch Onóra.</p> <p>30:00 Discusses about the Crusheen team of the 1920s and subsequent decline and successes. Mentions Newmarket-on-Fergus. Mentions the Strands.</p> <p>31:10 Talks about the decline of the GAA in towns and cities. Mentions Ennis.</p> <p>33:01 Highlights the involvement of Michael Griffin in Crusheen in the development of facilities. Mentions Fr Minogue, Fr Vaughan, Gerry Kearney and Joe Bentley.</p> <p>***Interview moves to the house of Tom Mac where Tom Mac joins in the interview***</p> <p>34:36 Tom recalls winning a juvenile championship in the early 1940s. Remembers travelling in a lorry. Refers to emigration. Mentions Paddy Hanrahan and Tommy Donoghue.</p> <p>35:28 Tom remembers the fields he played on in the parish and around the county. Mentions the war.</p> <p>36:50 Tom talks about various people who were involved with the club over the years. Mentions Willie Halloran, Mr Brody and Fr Minogue.</p> <p>38:00 Tom discusses Crusheen's rivalries with Tubber, Ruan and Clooney. Recalls incidents at games. Mentions Jimmy Smyth.</p> <p>39:00 Tom remembers the hurleys and sliotars people used to use. Mentions Jimmy Conway.</p> <p>42:12 Tom talks about the tradition of football in the area. Mentions Paddy Mac and Michael Clune.</p> <p>43:06 Tom recalls the way hurling used to be played. Tells of his father playing for Clare and for Corofin in the early 1900s. Mentions Gleeson, Parnell. Mentions a player using a holly hurley.</p> <p>45:35 Tom talks about his uncle, Seán McNamara, and his activities during the Civil War. Tells of division in the GAA in the 1920s. Mentions Canon Hamilton, John Joe Sheehy.</p>
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	<p>Mentions the IRA and the IRB.</p> <p>48:21 Enda remembers his father talking about this period. Tells a story about Castlegar. Talks about people moving into the parish of Crusheen.</p> <p>50:33 Tom talks about Clare people. Mentions Daniel O'Connell, Eamon DeValera.</p> <p>51:35 Enda and Tom explain how 'The Jig' Flanagan, from the 1914 team, got his nickname. Refer to other nicknames. Mention Darby McNamara, Fagan McNamara, Fireball McNamara and Sheedy McNamara.</p> <p>53:19 Enda explains the part Crusheen played in the Battle of Aughrim, according to the Annals of the Four Masters. Tom tells of emigration from the area at that time. Mention the Siege of Limerick. Mention Inchicronan.</p> <p>54:40 Tom recalls being involved in Crusheen GAA as chairman and trainer. Also tells of his playing days for club and county in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Remembers a Munster Final against Tipperary. Mentions Michael Considine, John Doyle, Theo English and Tony Wall.</p> <p>56:49 Tom describes the selection process during that time. Refers to training.</p> <p>57:50 Tom talks about the state of club football in Clare during his playing days. Tells of people travelling from Dublin to play matches. Mentions Newmarket-on-Fergus, Éire Óg, Clarecastle. Mentions Shannon Airport. Pat O'Donnell and Tom Moran.</p> <p>58:20 Tom talks about the popularity of golf and soccer. Remembers playing rugby and football. Mentions Tom Murray and Gerry O'Connor.</p> <p>01:01:30 Tom explains the east-west divide in Clare between hurling and football. Mentions Tipperary and Galway. Mentions John Jones, Mick Howley. Refers to the Normans.</p> <p>01:03:27 Both men talk about the influence of the Church on the GAA. Tom discusses the relationship between politics and the GAA.</p> <p>01:04:30 Enda stresses the importance of a club having grounds. Also talks about success at club and county level.</p> <p>01:05:20 Tom highlights the benefit of the GAA for young people. Mentions cycling and walking. Refers to drinking culture. Mentions Jimmy Smyth, Donncha Ó Dulaing, Donal</p>
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	<p>McNamara and Dan O'Doyle.</p> <p>01:08:03 Tom remembers winning the Senior Cup (the League) against Éire Óg in 1966.</p> <p>01:08:53 Tom and Enda talk about their GAA heroes. Mention Matt Nugent, Jimmy Smyth, Michael Cusack, Br McNamara, Fr Doherty, Joe Flanagan, Lord Gough, JC Byrne, Sean Burke and Dr Croke. Mention hockey.</p> <p>01:11:48 Enda outlines his opposition to the administrative structure to the GAA. Tom talks about the process for changing a rule. Enda laments the decline of the Oireachtas competition and the Railway Cup. Mentions Mick O'Connell. Mentions Aussie Rules and Rugby.</p> <p>01:15:21 Tom talks about the pressure on players. Mentions Packie Burke.</p> <p>01:17:30 Tom tells of the time he has spent engaged in GAA activities. Refers to sacrifice and enjoyment. Enda discusses the social aspect of the GAA.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Enda:</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Tom:</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): ____Club President_____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Enda:</p> <p>Played from 1957 – 1989. Won Minor, Under 21, Senior B county championship, 2 county Senior Leagues and has 2 loser's medals from 2 county finals. Also played in a tournament Clare v Galway in 1971.</p> <p>Tom:</p> <p>Played from the age of 9 to 42. Won 2 Juveniles, Minor,</p>

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	Junior B, Junior A, Intermediate and 2 Senior championships.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Enda: Got involved in administration in 1974. Club: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Delegate (for the last 25 years). County: Vice-chairman of the Hurling Board, Chairman of Discipline Committee, Chairman of Committee to get Irish recognised as official language of the European Union, Central Council Representative. Tom: Has been involved in administration since 1957. Club: Chairman, Delegate to County Board, President.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:20:20
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: _____ 17/07/12 _____