

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	24 th Nov 2010
Location	Hyde Centre, Roscommon Town, Co. Roscommon
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mick Breheny
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: Runnamoate NS, Co. Roscommon
Family	Siblings: 5 Current Family if Different: 4 children
Club(s)	Oran; Roscommon Gaels
Occupation	Manager Agricultural Store
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Golf

REFERENCE NO. RN/1/11

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paul Hoare
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1967 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: CBS Roscommon Secondary: CBS Roscommon Third Level: Athlone Institute of Technology
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 5 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 children
Club(s)	Roscommon Gaels
Occupation	House Husband
Parents' Occupation	County Council [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Roscommon Golf Club

REFERENCE NO. RN/1/11

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimmy Menton
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1959 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: CBS Roscommon
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers
Club(s)	Roscommon Gaels; St. Coman's Handball Club
Occupation	Til Shop
Parents' Occupation	Hospital Attendant [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. RN/1/11

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Barry Molloy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: CBS Roscommon Secondary: CBS Roscommon
Family	Siblings: 7 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 5 sons
Club(s)	Roscommon Gaels
Occupation	Grocery Business
Parents' Occupation	Grocery Business
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Golf Club

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seamus Duke
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1958 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: CBS Roscommon Secondary: CBS Roscommon Third Level: NUIG / UCG
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 4 daughters
Club(s)	Roscommon Gaels
Occupation	Journalist / Broadcaster
Parents' Occupation	Development Officer [Father]; Teacher [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Golf Club

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Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1902 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Roscommon, Dublin, Tyrone, Europe, Greece
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Fundraising, Education, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on life, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>The group discuss their involvement with Roscommon Gaels GAA with particular emphasis on their roles as players, administrators and coaches. Mick, having transferred from Oran GAA, also gives interesting insights from an outsider's perspective. They focus initially on the difficulty surrounding their relationship with the Roscommon County Board and the Central Council regarding the rights to use Hyde Park, with both club and county claiming it. They go on to discuss the nature of GAA in the county, drawing comparisons between urban clubs and rural clubs and remember the support, both financial and other, they have gotten from people in Roscommon Town over the years. Finally, they recall the characters and matches that have stuck with them over the years and reflect on what their involvement has meant to them.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:58 Barry recalls his memories of football in CBS primary school in the town. Mentions the All-Ireland Minor Championships of 1939 and 1941. Mentions Brendan Lynch, Bill Carlos, Owensie Hoare, Phelim Murray.</p> <p>02:53 Jimmy describes watching Roscommon play hurling in St. Coman's Park around 1965. Recalls underage hurling and football in the CBS. Mentions Scór and Handball.</p> <p>03:45 Paul talks about his father's involvement in the GAA and recalls seeing him play as child. Mentions the 1980 Roscommon team. Mentions Dermot Earley and Pat Lindsay.</p> <p>04:30 Mick recalls his involvement with Oran GAA. Talks about his involvement in underage hurling and football.</p>

	<p>Mentions being chairman of Roscommon Gaels GAA.</p> <p>05:39 Mick mentions winning a minor title with Oran GAA. Recalls seeing Eoghan Ruadhs playing against United Stars (an Oran, Creggs combination). Tells of a game that he saw in Ballinaheglis between Oran and Rahara. Mentions Tony Regan and Gerry O'Malley.</p> <p>07:34 Barry gives a brief history of Roscommon Gaels GAA and the history of St. Coman's Club. Recalls the grounds at the Lough, St. Coman's Park which flooded in wet weather. Refers to the purchase of club grounds and the development of facilities at Hyde Park. Mentions the All-Ireland Minor Semi Final 1951. Mentions the Rafferty family.</p> <p>09:45 Barry tells of his own interest in the GAA. Mentions playing and refereeing. Refers to family tradition within the club and support from the community.</p> <p>**11:10 Seamus Duke Enters**</p> <p>11:25 Seamus recalls going to All-Ireland football final in 1962. Seamus tells of an incident while travelling to Dublin by car.</p> <p>12:08 Barry talks about the field at the Lough. Describes the facilities as they were in his youth. Mentions Loch na n-Éan. Mentions people travelling to matches by bicycle. Mentions Castlerea.</p> <p>14:53 Seamus, Mick and Paul discuss the club's involvement in the development of Hyde Park, highlighting the complication that arose from the fact that it is also the county ground. Mention fundraising. Mention Jimmy Menton.</p> <p>18:12 Jimmy outlines the dispute between the club and the County Board about the grounds. Refers to the building of the Douglas Hyde Centre. Mentions Na Fianna GAA, Dublin. Mentions fundraising.</p> <p>19:44 Seamus and Paul refer to the legal aspect of the situation. Draw a distinction between the on-field activities and the off-field activities.</p> <p>21:30 Seamus and Jimmy highlight further complications arising from the purchase of the land in 1962. Mention County Board and Central Council.</p> <p>22:53 Jimmy tells of scheduling conflicts in the 1980s between club and county.</p>
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	<p>23:44 Seamus and Mick talk of their hopes for a resolution.</p> <p>25:19 Paul compares the facilities from his youth to the current standards. Mentions some of the pitches the club has played on – new facilities at Lisnamult, the CBS, the Lough, St Comans Park and the VEC. Refers to the numbers in the club.</p> <p>26:48 The group talk about the Lough (St Comans Park) and games that have been played there. Mention Henry Shefflin's father, Gerry O'Malley and Tom Long. Mention Warwickshire GAA. Mention All-Ireland Final 1965, All-Ireland Semi Final 1936, Connacht Semi Finals.</p> <p>27:55 Seamus recalls the All-Ireland Club Football final in 1976. Also talks through club successes. Mentions St. Vincent's GAA. Mentions Bobby Doyle, Brian Mullins, Robbie Kelleher, Fran Ryder, Jimmy Keaveney, Mickey Whelan, Fergal O'Donnell.</p> <p>29:18 The group talks about characters that have been associated with the club over the years. Mention Toss Keavey, Seamus Comiskey, Jackie Brennan and Val McCrann.</p> <p>30:18 Jimmy talks about a song written about Jackie Brennan. Mentions Mick McNamara, Michael Cassidy.</p> <p>30:55 Séamus says that Jimmy Menton is also recognised as a character in the club.</p> <p>31:17 Jimmy recites the song about Jackie Brennan.</p> <p>32:00 The group talks about Mick McNamara and Mickey Menton. Mention Michael McNamara, the O'Garas, Mick McNevin, Pa Kelly. Mention the 1975 All-Ireland 7-a-side.</p> <p>33:10 Jimmy and Mick recall people moving to the town and joining the club. Mention travelling by train. Mention Kilkenny. Mick recalls playing against the town team. Refer to the loyalty the people have towards the club.</p> <p>35:13 Jimmy talks about the links between Roscommon Gaels and Na Fianna club in Dublin. Refers to travelling with underage teams around the country, to Leeds, England and to America. Mentions Raheny, Lacken, Bishopstown, Moycullen, Killarney and Beragh Red Knights. Mentions Scór.</p> <p>37:19 Jimmy talks about the Under 13 All-Ireland in Butlins. Recalls travelling home through Dublin. Mentions Bill Flanagan. Refers to where they stayed when they were</p>
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	<p>travelling.</p> <p>38:45 Jimmy discusses the importance of the GAA to Roscommon Town. Refers to a rivalry with Oran GAA.</p> <p>40:15 The group talks about other rivalries. Mentions Clann na nGael, Knockcroghery.</p> <p>41:05 Barry recalls the days of the Ban. Mentions rugby. Refers to the Vigilantes. Mentions Connacht Championship 1954.</p> <p>42:10 Barry discusses his schooldays in Castleknock in Dublin. Recalls playing and watching rugby. Mentions Lansdowne Road. Talks about listening to the 1947 All-Ireland Final on the radio.</p> <p>43:30 Barry talks about his attitude to other sports. Mentions soccer.</p> <p>44:15 Barry discusses underage games. Refers to his own family's involvement.</p> <p>45:25 Paul talks about the current underage structures at the club. Refers to the popularity of camogie. Mentions ladies' football.</p> <p>47:19 Jimmy recalls being treasurer. He and Paul talk about the difference between fundraising in the 1970s and in recent years. Refer to players' expectations and club finances. Mentions Hyde Park. Mentions Lisnamult. Mentions Cyril Hession and Maurice Mulcahy.</p> <p>52:00 Barry talks about fundraising for the Hyde Centre. Mentions Michael Mullery, Frank Lannon. Mentions Rockfords. Refers to the impact on his family life.</p> <p>53:15 Mick talks about the financial pressure on a lot of clubs in Roscommon. Mentions the County Board.</p> <p>54:15 Mick discusses the club's successes at underage levels in hurling, football, camogie and ladies' football. Explains why these successes don't always lead onto senior success. Compares town clubs and country clubs.</p> <p>56:00 Barry talks about the importance of the CBS to the GAA in the town. Mentions Brother O'Brien, Brother Coffey, Brother Kilkenny. Recalls the games during his own time there.</p> <p>57:29 Mick talks in more detail about the dynamic between rural clubs and town clubs. Refers to training. Recalls games</p>
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	<p>from his time with Oran GAA. Mentions Dessie Doolan, PJ Condron, Marty McDermott and Bill Hogan.</p> <p>01:00:05 Barry talks about the facilities in rural clubs. Mentions Oran GAA, Knockcroghery GAA. Refers to the changes in the game since his youth. Mentions handball.</p> <p>01:01:51 Paul talks about his father, Mick Hoare's, involvement in the GAA. Mentions All-Ireland Minor Final 1951, All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championships 1965. Mentions travelling by bicycle and walking.</p> <p>01:03:50 Paul gives a brief history of the clubs in the town. Mentions St Comans GAA and Eoghan Roes GAA. Mentions Henry Street, Owensie Hoare (Paul's uncle), the Doolins, the Pennys.</p> <p>01:05:10 Paul recalls his father's support and his love for hurling. Describes his father looking for tickets. Refers to the social aspect of the GAA. Mentions Gleesons.</p> <p>01:06:31 Jimmy discusses the tradition of hurling in the town. Mentions the All-Ireland Championships in the early 1900s. Refers to the problem of emigration. Gives an overview of the club's Roll of Honour. Mentions football, ladies' football, camogie and handball. Mentions Paddy Perry, Mickey Walsh, Dermot Doolin, Pat Clarke, Mike McHale and Laura Riordan.</p> <p>01:09:43 Paul talks about the commitment required by players. Mentions golf. Refer to other pastimes people have.</p> <p>01:11:00 Mick recalls hurlers that were at the club during the 1990s that were forced to leave. Refers to the current role of hurling in the club. Mentions Alan McDonald, Alan Nolan, John Nolan, Fergal O'Donnell, Philip Mullen. Mentions the Minor Board.</p> <p>01:12:51 Mick, Jimmy and Barry talk about the role of Philip Mullen and his father in the club. Mentions the Minor Board. Mention the Lough.</p> <p>01:13:47 Barry and Mick talk about the challenges of setting up a sports centre. Discuss the importance of volunteers.</p> <p>01:15:01 Jimmy tells of organising games in the Lough when he was in school between Henry Street and Racecourse Road. Mentions soccer. Mentions Paddy Smith, McManus, Healy and Owen Hoare. Draws parallels with the youth of today.</p>
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	<p>01:17:40 Jimmy tells of an incident while at the All-Ireland 7-a-side in 1975. Mentions Toss Keavey.</p> <p>01:18:12 Jimmy talks about his memories of players and games when he was younger. Mentions Christy Keavey, Jack Hogan, Dan Doolin, Jack Ward, Bernie Burke, Pete Dooley, Harry Jr, Jimmy Martin, Frank Lannon, Owensie Hoare and Eugene Gannon. Mentions St. Patrick's Knockcroghery GAA and Elphin.</p> <p>01:20:15 Jimmy recalls the process of compiling the club history. Mentions Dan Doolin, Pádraig Quinn, Barry, Bernie Hoare and Mick.</p> <p>01:21:05 Mick talks about Dan Doolin and recalls a story about Toss Keavey. Mentions Donal Keenan. Mentions Hyde Park.</p> <p>01:22:35 Jimmy recalls an Under 12s match in 1984. Mentions Fergal O'Donnell, Father Donnelly and Bernie Hoare. Mentions Boyle GAA.</p> <p>01:24:35 Barry talks about Mick Hoare's involvement in Roscommon Gaels GAA. Mentions St. Comans GAA and Eoghan Roes GAA. Also recalls the All-Ireland Minor Championship 1951. Refers to objections that were made around this time. Mentions Croke Park.</p> <p>01:28:31 Barry recalls other significant Roscommon games he has attended. Refers to the significance of Minor success in 2006.</p> <p>01:29:11 Jimmy talks about his favourite memories of club and county. Mentions the 1972 County Final. Mentions Castlerea GAA. Mentions Brian McEniff, Peter Dolan and Liam Martin. Mentions Portlaoise.</p> <p>01:31:00 Paul discusses the enjoyment he gets from training the youth teams. Refers to the facilities. Talks about his brother's involvement in the Minor team of 2006. Mentions Greece.</p> <p>01:33:42 Mick talks about his favourite memories of the GAA. Mentions Under 14 Hurling Championship 1992. Mentions Tom Fitz, Liam Casey, Seán Kelly, Tom Doolin and Pádraig McDonald. Mentions Tremane, Four Roads and St. Dominics GAA.</p> <p>01:36:20 Mick recalls what it was like being in charge of teams. Also discusses his time as chairman. Talks of the enjoyment he has gotten from the club and recent changes.</p>
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	<p>Mentions Connacht Council.</p> <p>01:38:43 Mick talks about his disappointment after the 1980 All-Ireland Final.</p> <p>01:39:14 Paul discusses his disappointment with the GAA's relationship with the grassroots members.</p> <p>01:40:04 Jimmy recalls the 1996 Scór na nÓg.</p> <p>01:41:00 Barry laments the changes in the game between when he was young and now.</p> <p>01:41:38 Mick talks of the enjoyment he has gotten from the GAA. Refers to driving around the town. Mentions Seán Kelly.</p> <p>01:42:45 Paul talks about the youth teams.</p> <p>01:43:22 Jimmy describes what the GAA means to him.</p> <p>01:43:37 Barry recalls the impact of Roscommon winning the Connacht title.</p> <p>01:44:27 Mick wishes good luck to Mick Fahey.</p> <p>01:45:15 Paul thanks the people that have gone before them.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Mick:</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>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 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>Jimmy:</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 type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p>

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	<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>Barry: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <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> <p>Seamus: <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <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>Mick: Played for 10 years. Won one minor football title.</p> <p>Paul: Played from 1975 – 2007. Won 2 Under 12's, 2 Under 14's, 3 Under 16's, 1 Under 18, 3 Under 21's, 1 Junior, 2 Seniors and 2 Junior Hurling.</p> <p>Jimmy: Played for 20 years. Won 2 Under 12's, 2 Under 14's, 2 Under 16's, 3 Under 18's, 5 Under 21's and 2 senior championships (all football).</p> <p>Barry: Won 3 county minor football titles, 2 county senior football titles, and a minor football All-Ireland in 1951.</p> <p>Seamus: Not provided</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Mick: Was vice-chairman in 1992 and club chairman from 2008.</p> <p>Paul: Has been club secretary since 2006.</p> <p>Jimmy:</p>

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	Got involved in administration in 1970. He was secretary of the minor board for 30 years and treasurer for 10 years. Barry: Has been involved in administration since 1951. He was involved with the St. Coman's Park Committee and was Chairman of the Hyde Park Committee for 20 years. He is Honorary Club President. Seamus: N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:45:33
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: _____ 12/07/12 _____