

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	4 th August 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Omeath, Co. Louth
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Garrett Mallon
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1968 Home County: Tyrone
Education	Primary: St. Patrick's, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone Secondary: St. Patrick's, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone Third Level: Sir John Cass, School of Arts
Family	Siblings: 6 brothers & 1 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Sarah with 2 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Cúchulainn Gaels [Louth]; Thomas Clarke GFC, Dungannon [Tyrone]
Occupation	Jewellery Designer
Parents' Occupation	Solicitor [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Lapsed Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	SDLP
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Craft Council of Ireland; Louth Craftmakers; Canoeing Union of Ireland

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Date of Report	27 th June 2012
Period Covered	1960s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth, Tyrone
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Club History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Outsider’s Perspectives, Northern Ireland, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Garrett talks about his GAA experiences over the years, which led to him being involved in founding a club in Louth. Originally from Tyrone, he came from a family with strong GAA traditions and played for Clarkes of Dungannon. He later moved south of the border to Omeath in Louth, and after taking a break from the GAA whilst studying and moving around, he returned to Omeath and worked with others to establish a club, Cuchulainn Gaels, in the local area. Garrett describes this process and the obstacles that had to be overcome in order to make their vision a reality. The early years of the club required a lot of work by everyone involved. They had to ensure that they had enough funds and establish solid links with the community, all the time navigating their way through turbulent economic times. Garrett reflects on the progress they have made so far and voices his hopes for the club for the future. He has already seen the positive impact of their work in the area and is looking forward to a very bright future for Cuchulainn Gaels.</p> <p>00:25 Earliest GAA memory - playing football at home in Dungannon. Tyrone player Iggy Jones there.</p> <p>01:15 Father's involvement. Telling him about Tyrone star Frank McGuigan.</p> <p>01:45 Clarkes of Dungannon the local club.</p> <p>02:00 Watching Tyrone playing in Clones. Memories of that.</p> <p>02:50 Moving to Omeath because of the Troubles.</p>

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	<p>03:30 Role in the club. Sense of community there.</p> <p>04:25 Facilities at the club.</p> <p>04:50 Brother training kids. Cross-border initiatives.</p> <p>05:10 Playing until his mid-teens.</p> <p>05:25 Going to London and then Dublin.</p> <p>05:35 Resuming his GAA involvement and enjoying it.</p> <p>06:10 Involvement in the GAA in Omeath. Roddy McQuaid, Paul Bruen, Ivan McQuaid and Garrett's brother were central figures in setting up the club in Omeath.</p> <p>07:00 Reason for setting up the club.</p> <p>07:25 How they started the club. Holding a general meeting.</p> <p>08:05 Applying to Croke Park.</p> <p>08:40 Organising themselves.</p> <p>09:30 Official launch in The Park Hotel. GAA President Seán Kelly there. Louth 1957 All-Ireland winning team there. Kevin Beahan and Tyrone star Peter Canavan there.</p> <p>10:50 Brother's name is Brendan Mallon. He played for Tyrone.</p> <p>11:05 Naming the club Cuchulainn Gaels. How they decided on that.</p> <p>11:50 Selecting the club colours, black and amber.</p> <p>12:40 Club crest designed by Eamon Hunt.</p> <p>13:35 Reaction of nearest club.</p> <p>15:25 Rivalry with that club.</p> <p>16:00 Age profile of their players.</p> <p>16:25 Playing the neighbouring club at underage level. The Pat's and Kilkierley are other nearby clubs.</p> <p>17:50 Pitch they use is community-owned and run by sports</p>
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	<p>field committee. Paying the loan together.</p> <p>20:00 Facilities they have at the pitch.</p> <p>20:40 Hugh Hardy donating the field.</p> <p>21:05 Number of members they had at the beginning.</p> <p>22:20 Number of children at the club.</p> <p>22:30 More people moving into the village.</p> <p>23:25 Story that first game of Gaelic football was played in Omeath.</p> <p>24:00 Fundraising and sponsorship. Ocean Fresh, the Morgan family sponsoring them. Mentions vice-chairman of the club Arthur Morgan.</p> <p>25:05 Trying to break a world record as they raise funds.</p> <p>26:40 Weekly raffle.</p> <p>27:15 People within the community against the idea of the club.</p> <p>28:10 Being PRO, on the finance committee and then chairman. Duties that involves. Balancing them with other commitments.</p> <p>32:00 Football and ladies football played at the club. Different grades. Older teens less interested.</p> <p>34:00 Trying to train older teenagers in the basic skills.</p> <p>34:45 Hurling and camogie in the area. Why they are not played at the club.</p> <p>36:10 Relationship between the club and ladies football.</p> <p>37:00 Relationship with the Louth County Board. Dealings with former county board chairman Paddy Oliver.</p> <p>38:10 Relationship with the GAA and Croke Park. John Kelly and President Christy Cooney visiting. Opinion on help received.</p> <p>40:00 Where they play games. Playing St Pat's, Cooley,</p>
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	<p>Dundalk sides. Younger teams travelling less.</p> <p>41:45 Future direction of the club. Prospects for the ladies.</p> <p>43:00 Hopes for the men.</p> <p>43:40 Playing a challenge game against a team that had not won in a long time. Benefits of that to the opposition.</p> <p>45:10 Hopes for grounds and facilities.</p> <p>46:30 Club bridging divides in the area.</p> <p>47:45 The club and the community's sense of identity.</p> <p>48:00 Group going to Croke Park to see Louth in the 2010 Leinster final.</p> <p>49:35 Celebrations when the ladies enjoyed success.</p> <p>50:15 Being in Kilcar in Donegal and seeing the celebrations for a victorious Under-16 team.</p> <p>51:35 Involvement of players from Carlingford in the club. Cooley having a lot of Carlingford players.</p> <p>53:00 Coaches they have at the club. Mairead McGahon guiding them.</p> <p>53:55 John Bruen training the seniors. Ivan McQuaid doing so in the past. Ivan worked with Antrim's Jody Gormley in the past. He's now coaching Clonduff, Co. Down. Former Armagh player Damien Lynch also involved in coaching.</p> <p>56:30 Importance of volunteers.</p> <p>57:20 Prospect of pay-for-play.</p> <p>58:05 His brother getting expenses to train with the Tyrone team.</p> <p>58:35 Coaches getting paid.</p> <p>59:00 Impact of economic difficulties on the club.</p> <p>59:50 Some people complaining about fundraising. His response to that.</p>
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	<p>01:01:00 Why fundraisers are so important to them.</p> <p>01:01:25 Role of local schools. Coaches visiting the schools.</p> <p>01:01:55 Coaching in Carlingford.</p> <p>01:03:35 Reason for non-involvement in the GAA in London.</p> <p>01:04:15 Time spent in Dublin. Playing soccer and outdoor sports.</p> <p>01:04:55 Mother's family originally from Omeath. Family background. Grandfather, Shane Cullen, playing for Meath in the 1930s. Adopting a false name as he was a priest in Tallanstown.</p> <p>01:07:00 Irish language in the family.</p> <p>01:08:05 Club involvement in Scór. Margaret Phillips' involvement.</p> <p>01:09:40 Father playing on a Queens University team that won the Sigerson Cup. Christy Mallon, Down's Seán O'Neill, Martin O'Neill's brothers playing.</p> <p>01:10:45 Father playing with Tyrone at minor levels.</p> <p>01:11:15 Former Tyrone star Iggy Jones and his admiration for him.</p> <p>01:11:55 Impact of the Troubles on his GAA experience. GAA people as 'legitimate targets'. Being stopped by the army regularly.</p> <p>01:15:55 People from Northern Ireland moving to Louth.</p> <p>01:17:20 Admiration for Tyrone star Peter Canavan.</p> <p>01:18:20 Watching games in Cricklewood, London.</p> <p>01:18:45 Best GAA memories.</p> <p>01:20:40 Disappointments.</p> <p>01:21:35 What the GAA has meant to him.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Garrett played from the age of 4 to 15 and then again from 37 to 42.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	He has been involved in administration since 2005. He has been a member of the Finance Committee since 2005, PRO of Cúchulainn Gaels from 2006 – 2008, and chairman from 2008 – 2010.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:22:02
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: 27/06/12