

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	28 th Jan 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Limavady, Co. Derry
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Charlie Crampsie
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1936 Home County: Derry
Education	Primary: Vallymaclary PS, Co. Derry
Family	Siblings: 4 sisters & 4 brothers Current Family if Different: Married to Elizabeth (RIP) with 1 daughter and 2 sons
Club(s)	St. Oliver Plunkett's GAC, Greenlough; St. Matthew's GAC, Drumsum; St. Aidan's GAC, Magilligan
Occupation	Joiner
Parents' Occupation	Fisherman [Father]; Hotel Worker / Servant [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Ageing Well

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Date of Report	2 nd August 2012
Period Covered	1950s - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Derry, Great Britain, England, Donegal
Key Themes Covered	Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries
Interview Summary	<p>Charlie talks about his early days playing football with St. Aidan's Club in Magilligan. He recalls meeting his wife, Elizabeth and becoming involved with camogie at an administrative level. He discusses Elizabeth's involvement in camogie as both a player and an administrator. Charlie discusses the effects The Troubles had on GAA in Northern Ireland. He discusses the importance of GAA within the community and the role GAA has played in his life.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 Earliest memory of the GAA – playing in goals with St. Aidan's club in Magilligan, Derry at the age of 16.</p> <p>00:50 Recalls being called in front of Fr. McNally, the Chairman of the County Board for playing soccer while he was in Coleraine.</p> <p>01:41 Discusses playing 7-a-side football in Derry. Staying for dances in South Derry.</p> <p>02:03 Discusses the lack of GAA facilities in Magilligan in his early playing days. Recalls chasing the cows off the fields in order to play a match. Mentions having to pay for the use of the fields.</p> <p>03:11 Recalls travelling around Derry for the 7-a-side league matches. Mentions Kilrea, Lavey, Drumsurn and Dungiven.</p> <p>03:31 Discusses a break from GAA when he moved to Birmingham for work. Recalls moving back to Derry and playing football with Coleraine. Talks about meeting his wife at this time.</p> <p>04:25 Talks about becoming involved in camogie as an umpire.</p> <p>05:20 Discusses the changes in camogie from his early</p>

	<p>involvement to now.</p> <p>05:50 Recalls travelling to Waterford and London with the camogie team for matches. Mentions having to sleep in a bog in Waterford.</p> <p>06:57 Recalls experiences of travelling around the country with the camogie team.</p> <p>08:19 Discusses playing with Magilligans and the lack of training involved. Recalls having to buy his own boots and jersey. Mentions that the team colours were red and black.</p> <p>09:01 Discusses the beginning of GAA in Magilligan. Recalls watching matches as a young boy in the late 1940s.</p> <p>09:20 Describes the type of ball they played with. Recalls good support at matches and the occasional fights.</p> <p>09:53 Discusses the style of play in football at the time. Talks about long ball kicks, very little hand-passing.</p> <p>10:13 Discusses the issues of travelling to matches. Recalls cycling to nearby matches and getting the bus to games that were further away.</p> <p>10:36 Talks about playing soccer “unofficially” with a team in Magilligan called Glenowen.</p> <p>10:58 Discusses rivalry among neighbouring clubs. The dominance of the South Derry club. Recalls key figures involved in promoting GAA in Magilligan. Mentions Willie “Nobby” McLaughlin, George McGee.</p> <p>12:04 Describes the importance of the GAA in Magilligan. Recalls playing a match on a Sunday and meeting up on a Monday night to dissect the game.</p> <p>12:26 Notes that the team had no trainer in his playing days. The team took it upon themselves to train. Talks about the rivalry with teams like Glack, Coleraine, Faughanvale and Inch Island.</p> <p>13:30 Recalls playing in goals for one or two matches while working in Birmingham. Mentions that the style of football was very rough and the goalkeeper had no protection.</p> <p>13:52 Discusses travelling to London with the camogie team around 1981. Mentions that the Derry Camogie team were the first team in Ireland to play in London.</p> <p>15:20 Discusses his short involvement in GAA in Birmingham.</p>
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	<p>15:49 Discusses the benefits of playing GAA for young people. Mentions his nephew who plays both hurling and football.</p> <p>16:15 Discusses moving to Birmingham in 1957. Recalls Magilligan having a good team at the time.</p> <p>17:02 Recalls travelling to the 7-a-side tournaments in a minibus with Magilligan upon his return from Birmingham. Talks about the decline of 7-a-side.</p> <p>18:37 Discusses playing soccer with Glenowen in Magilligan. Recalls it being very badly organised.</p> <p>19:12 Talks about family involvement in the GAA. Mentions that his brothers played. Recalls that his parents had no interest in GAA.</p> <p>19:28 Recalls his mother washing his kit in an old wash tub. Mentions that the jerseys were heavier in those days. Describes the ladies camogie jerseys.</p> <p>20:15 Discusses key changes in the GAA – sponsorship for camogie and football, introducing GAA into schools. Talks about the rise in success of camogie in Derry.</p> <p>21:28 Discusses the dominance of football in Magilligan. Notes that hurling and handball weren't played in the club at all.</p> <p>22:05 Discusses becoming involved with camogie after meeting his wife. Recalls the expenses involved.</p> <p>23:00 Recalls how he and his wife became involved in administrative roles in camogie.</p> <p>24:01 Talks about the clubs that were involved in camogie in Derry. Mentions Greenlough, Glen, Glenullin, Dungiven, Lavey and Ballymaguigan.</p> <p>24:51 Discusses his wife Elizabeth's role as Secretary in camogie. Talks about friendships forged. Recalls an experience travelling to Roscommon with the camogie team.</p> <p>26:50 Mentions that his wife played camogie with Drumsurn. Describes the facilities in Drumsurn today.</p> <p>27:21 Discusses his own family. Mentions that his sons had no interest in GAA, their interest lay in rugby and cars. Talks about his daughter and her interest in camogie at underage level.</p>
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	<p>28:10 Discusses the poor facilities in Drumsurn when he was involved in camogie. Recalls having 12 players on a team at that time.</p> <p>29:45 Discusses the changes at County Board level from his involvement to today.</p> <p>30:12 Recalls an experience of playing a team from the South and British Soldiers walking around the field.</p> <p>31:09 Discusses the impact of The Troubles on camogie in Derry. Recalls being stopped at checkpoints. Mentions the Hunger Strike.</p> <p>31:56 Describes initially travelling to different clubs while Elizabeth attended County Board meetings. Recalls the County Board eventually holding the meetings in Maghera / Swatragh.</p> <p>33:25 Recalls the issues that were discussed at the County Board meetings. Discusses people involved – mentions Dan McCrystal, Sarah McNicholl, Emily Maguire (now Emily Mullen).</p> <p>35:15 Describes experiences with British Soldiers while travelling to and from meetings.</p> <p>36:43 Describes his wife's role in administration. Recalls her writing letters and dealing with Croke Park and the Ulster Council.</p> <p>37:12 Discusses his involvement in numerous administrative roles within camogie.</p> <p>38:21 Discusses the issues facing Derry Camogie Board. Talks about the lack of money available.</p> <p>38:52 Talks about the dinner dances and conventions that were held within camogie.</p> <p>40:00 Discusses the highlights of his involvement in camogie. Talks about Derry's All-Ireland win in 1978 and the celebrations that ensued.</p> <p>41:35 Describes the second All-Ireland win in 2000. Recalls a better level of organisation for the journey home.</p> <p>42:14 Recalls his wife Elizabeth taking on a role as lineswoman for the 1978 All-Ireland final.</p> <p>42:40 Recalls the homecoming celebrations in 1978. Mentions that the team met up 25 years later for a meal.</p>
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	<p>43:06 Discusses Elizabeth's role as Secretary for Derry County Board in 1978. Recalls that she had to arrange travel and accommodation for the All-Ireland.</p> <p>43:51 Describes the differences in being involved with women in camogie as opposed to football in Magilligan. Recalls the women being more short-tempered.</p> <p>44:50 Discusses the changes in the style of camogie being played nowadays. Talks about the game being faster. Mentions the change in uniforms.</p> <p>45:47 Discusses the camogie sticks. Recalls a local man making them, but the girls saying that they were too heavy. Mentions getting sticks from Tipperary and Kilkenny.</p> <p>46:23 Describes fundraising efforts to raise money for the camogie team. Mentions sponsored walks, selling tickets, holding dances.</p> <p>47:29 Discusses the positive relationship between the Drumsurn camogie team and other GAA sports within the club at the time.</p> <p>49:30 Discusses the increase in popularity of Ladies football in Derry. Gives his opinion on Ladies football and co-operation between the two sports at County level.</p> <p>51:47 Talks about the time and effort Elizabeth put into camogie at an administrative level.</p> <p>52:54 Discusses the issue of finance in camogie at the time.</p> <p>53:39 Recalls the dominant camogie clubs in Derry. Mentions Swatragh, Castledawson, Lavey, Dungiven, Coleraine. Mostly South Derry, but discusses the recent rise of camogie in Coleraine.</p> <p>54:50 Discusses the impact of The Troubles on camogie. Talks about fear among the girls, trouble getting to meetings. Recalls Belfast being particularly affected by The Troubles.</p> <p>55:28 Discusses camogie in Ulster. Discusses the impact of smaller families on camogie clubs in the present day.</p> <p>56:57 Recalls the Carnival Cups in Magilligan. Mentions women making tea. Describes the dances, mentions a man playing an accordion or fiddle and the facilities.</p> <p>58:53 Discusses the lack of involvement by teachers and the clergy in camogie in Magilligan.</p>
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	<p>59:23 Recalls watching his first soccer match on television while he worked in England. Recalls watching his first All-Ireland match in a house in Magilligan.</p> <p>01:00:28 Recalls travelling to Dublin for the All-Ireland final in 1958 between Dublin and Derry.</p> <p>01:01:10 Discusses his interest in watching hurling matches. Recalls attending All-Ireland hurling finals.</p> <p>01:01:37 Describes the atmosphere at his first All-Ireland final.</p> <p>01:02:07 Recalls the celebrations after winning camogie championships. Mentions cars blowing horns.</p> <p>01:02:45 Discusses supporter attendance at matches. Notes poor attendance at club matches but good support at county matches.</p> <p>01:03:31 Recalls the highlights of his involvement with camogie. Mentions presenting his wife with a silver tray for 20 years service to camogie.</p> <p>01:04:17 Discusses the increase in professionalism in GAA. Talks about his belief that expenses should be covered for players. Gives his opinion that he doesn't believe payment should come into GAA.</p> <p>01:04:58 Discusses his current role as honorary President in camogie.</p> <p>01:05:30 Recalls the smaller pitch size used in camogie in earlier years. Mentions using flour to "mark the squares" for the match.</p> <p>01:06:49 Discusses people he admired within GAA. Mentions Mick O'Connell (Kerry) and Jim McKeever (Derry).</p> <p>01:08:00 Recalls travelling around the country to watch matches. Discusses the Féile competition.</p> <p>01:09:15 Discusses rule changes in GAA. Discusses the lifting of the ban on foreign games.</p> <p>01:11:21 Discusses the dominance of soccer over hurling and camogie in Derry City.</p> <p>01:13:10 Discusses his disappointment at payment to managers and referees today in football.</p> <p>01:13:59 Describes his experiences of refereeing camogie matches. Recalls refereeing a match between Drumsurn and</p>
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	<p>Kilrea.</p> <p>01:14:50 Discusses what involvement in the GAA has meant to him. Mentions making friends throughout the country.</p> <p>01:15:45 Describes GAA experiences.</p> <p>01:16:32 Recalls lengthy meetings within camogie – not finishing until 2am.</p> <p>01:17:22 Talks about the development of camogie into the future. Discusses the impact that the decline in population might bring to the sport.</p> <p>01:18:25 Discusses having Mass for camogie at special occasions. Mentions the “camogie priest” Fr Reilly.</p> <p>01:19:00 Recalls fundraising for Drumsurn. Recalls a pipe band playing.</p> <p>01:20:20 Recalls providing visiting camogie teams with sandwiches and soup.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for 8/9 years. Won an adult commemorative cup.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Got involved in administration in 1958.</p> <p>Club: Drumsurn Committee Member</p> <p>Camogie County Board: Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Delegate to Ulster Council, Delegate to Central Council</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:21:39</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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: _____02/08/12_____