

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	17 th Dec 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Crusheen, Co. Clare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gerry Kennedy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1948 Home County: Clare
Education	Primary: Crusheen NS, Co. Clare Secondary: Ennis CBS, Co. Clare Third Level: UCC, University of Limerick
Family	Current Family : Married to Marie with 2 sons
Club(s)	Crusheen
Occupation	Civil Servant
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Non-practicing Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Cuimhneamh an Chláir, Clare Roots Society, Member of Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland

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Date of Report	17 th July 2012
Period Covered	1887 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Clare, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Violence, Alcohol, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Gerry talks about his involvement in the GAA in Crusheen over the years. He discusses the history of the club since its formation in 1887 and recalls playing in many different local fields over the years. Gerry discusses his involvement in the relocation of the club's pitch and the sale of land to the Clare county board. He recalls his school days in Ennis CBS and playing on the Harty Cup team. He talks about the development of the club over the years at underage and senior level. Gerry discusses the impact of the Rural Housing Scheme on the area in the 1970s and highlights the sense of community in Crusheen. He describes the make up of the GAA in Clare and discusses his involvement in the county teams at an underage level. Gerry comments on the importance of the GAA on his life and what his involvement has meant to him over the years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:23 Earliest memory of the GAA – Lying in bed listening to a hurling match in the field nearby, known as 'Officer Grady's Hill' during the early 1950s.</p> <p>00:44 Describes how there was no local GAA facilities. The effect of emigration on the area. Club reformed in 1957.</p> <p>01:23 Discusses the origins of the club. Founded in 1887 by a local priest, Tipperary man Michael Gleeson in O'Grady's Public House, a building used by the Irish Republican Brotherhood.</p> <p>02:02 Discusses how the history of the club can be divided into three periods. The initial 40 year period was political in nature, the following 30 years saw success in the 1930s and</p>

	<p>then decline while the modern era was marked by the arrival of Father Minogue in 1957.</p> <p>02:35 Discusses the importance of the club's first senior championship title win and describes the celebrations after including the Tulla Pipers Band parading.</p> <p>03:48 Recalls playing hurling with his school at Officer Grady's Hill and how the team was moved from field to field on a yearly basis. Originally hurling was played in a field in Carrahil and in O'Keefe's field. Played in a field in Ballyline during the 1960s given to the club by Malachy Griffey. Also played in Mary Hannigan's field in Drumumna, Tony Brody's field in Lahardan and a field in the Heafey estate in Ballyline rented from the Land Commission.</p> <p>05:30 Describes the development of a field in Ballyline and becoming chairperson of the Development Committee. Mentions Tony O'Donnell.</p> <p>06:13 Discusses the disadvantages of the location of the field and how it was too far from the village. Talks about trying to sell the pitch to the county board. Mentions Sean Keane, Jim McGillycuddy, Owen O'Donnell, Michael Dillon and Tadhg Murphy.</p> <p>08:34 Recalls the reaction of the members to the pitch being sold and the club moving. The bonus of the school using the pitch.</p> <p>09:36 Recalls the type of fundraising for the building of the pitches.</p> <p>10:23 Discusses his role as chairman of the development committee and the role of GAA in his life. Going to college in UCD and getting a job in a government department.</p> <p>11:30 Discusses the role of his parents in the local GAA and his role as the de facto historian of the club.</p> <p>12:49 Recalls the type of gear the club had in the early days and getting sent a pair of football boots from an aunt in London. Club used to dye their jerseys red. Bought his hurls in Kenny's in Abbey Street in Ennis and they were made by Conway's in Larchill.</p> <p>15:15 Talks about the importance of hurling in his life. Going to matches in different parts of the parish. Playing in 'haggards' and in school.</p> <p>16:30 Discusses the importance of hurling in his school days</p>
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	<p>at Ennis CBS. Brother Lee from Wexford was in charge of the team. Getting preferential treatment for being on the team. The Harty Cup team. Mentions great Limerick team of Grimes and Cregan.</p> <p>17:45 Recalls the level of training in the school.</p> <p>18:56 Discusses the preferential treatment the players got in school.</p> <p>19:28 Talks about travelling to games with the school by bus. Recalls going to a game in first year between St. Flannan's College and the CBS on 25th March 1962.</p> <p>20:14 Recalls his first time in Croke Park at a schools game against St Peter's of Wexford. Travelled up in Bernie Browne's car. Mentions Dan Quigley of St. Peter's, Wexford.</p> <p>21:29 Talks about travelling to local matches on Bernie Reilly's lorry and cycling. Discusses the pitches they played on – Ruan, Tulla, Ennis and sometimes Corofin.</p> <p>23:00 Discusses the club's big rivalry with Tubber.</p> <p>23:32 Describes the local characters of the club. Highlights the influence of local postman Willie O'Halloran. Also mentions the impact of Father Minogue and how he reorganised the club and won various trophies over the years.</p> <p>25:24 Discusses the role of the clergy and teachers in the local GAA. Mentions former principal Gerry Kearney. Local school winning the A School's Title in 2001.</p> <p>26:34 Recalls the various celebrations over the years, mainly centred around the pub. Talks about the sense of community around the local GAA and the involvement of newcomers in the club.</p> <p>29:40 Discusses Father Harry Bohan's Rural Housing Scheme during the 1970s and the integration of new people into the community.</p> <p>32:03 Talks about how welcoming the GAA is to new people. Also discusses the role of religion in the GAA.</p> <p>33:11 Discusses his role in the GAA after he left school. The nature of his job kept him away from the club, worked in every county in Ireland apart from Donegal.</p> <p>33:55 Talks about how he got back involved with the club as secretary in 1970.</p>
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	<p>34:12 Recalls how he was asked to play under 21 hurling for Roscommon by Jimmy Murray. Mentions Gerry O'Malley.</p> <p>35:31 Talks about his role as secretary during the early years. Mentions Tom Mack (Tom McNamara).</p> <p>36:55 Discusses the types of issues that came up at county board meetings while he was the club's county delegate. Talks about the redevelopment of Cusack Park and the idea for a 5000 club.</p> <p>39:20 Recalls how many clubs had to amalgamate because of a declining population and emigration. Senior clubs would get 'assistance' from Junior clubs. Crusheen were assisted by Killanena, Clooney, Cratloe and Killaloe. Mentions Jackie O'Gorman and Martin McKeogh.</p> <p>40:06 Discusses the nature of Senior clubs getting assistance from Junior clubs.</p> <p>41:21 Talks about the playing of football in the club and how he feels hurling is treated as a second class sport in comparison to football by the GAA. Talks about amalgamating counties at senior level to make the hurling championship more competitive.</p> <p>43:42 Discusses how handball never really caught on in Crusheen but there was a handball alley in the area during the 1800s. Handball was popular in East Clare in Tuamgraney.</p> <p>44:15 Recalls not seeing a football match until he was 16 when he went to one in Cusack Park.</p> <p>44:50 Talks about the position of ladies football and Camogie in the club. Camogie club only set up recently and most had played with Kilnamona. Killanena were the strongest Camogie team in the area during the 1950s and 1960s.</p> <p>45:57 Discusses the role of women in the GAA and how this has changed over the years.</p> <p>47:35 Talks about the role of his children in the GAA and the role the GAA plays in his life. His son Fergus plays for the local team and at county level.</p> <p>48:18 Discusses his involvement with the Clare county teams at various levels. Mentions PJ Fitzpatrick, Michael Guilfoyle, Pat O'Leary and Michael McInerney.</p> <p>49:33 Describes the types of attributes that makes a good</p>
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	<p>manager or selector.</p> <p>51:30 Discusses the changes in training since his playing days. Mentions Paudie Butler.</p> <p>52:52 Talks about travelling with the underage county team. Played in nearly every county. Comments on the high standard of pitches in Kilkenny and compares them to his own club.</p> <p>53:48 Discusses the importance of the Féile competition and the success it has enjoyed. Talks about the club amalgamating at underage level and the impact of that for the future.</p> <p>56:08 Discusses the possible impact of emigration on the club in the near future. Benefit of a new train station opening up.</p> <p>57:13 Talks about the impact in the area following Clare's All-Ireland victories in 1995 and 1997. Potential not fully met at schools level. Mentions Gerry Kearney and Galway hurler Joe Gantley.</p> <p>58:39 Discusses travelling to over 50 All-Ireland Finals over the years, in both hurling and football. Recalls travelling to Croke Park, walking around the pitch in the morning before the match and the cost of the matches. Mentions Sean O'Leary.</p> <p>01:01:12 Discusses the lifting of the ban on foreign games.</p> <p>01:01:58 Talks about his earliest memories of the GAA and highlights the impact of Michael O'Hehir on the sport. Recalls listening to the 1959 All-Ireland Final on a wet battery radio with his friend Michael Dillon. Mentions Seamus Power.</p> <p>01:02:47 Discusses the role of the Irish language and culture in the club, the club's involvement in Scór and the success of its Comhaltas club. Mentions concertina player Francie Cunningham, chairman of the club Eoin O'Donnell and Pat O'Donnell.</p> <p>01:04:00 Discusses the divide in Clare between hurling and football. Mentions clubs like Kilrush and Kilkee. Gives his opinion on having football and hurling in the same club. Mentions Cratloe and Seanie Collins.</p> <p>01:05:04 Talks about his favourite GAA memory. Chooses Crusheen winning the 2010 Clare Senior Hurling Championship.</p> <p>01:05:23 Chooses Nicky Rackard as his GAA hero. Also</p>
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	<p>mentions Michael O’Hehir.</p> <p>01:05:42 Discusses the various parts of the country that he has played or watched a match.</p> <p>01:06:21 Describes Crusheen losing the 2007 Clare Senior Hurling Championship as his biggest disappointment within the GAA. Discusses the rule changes within hurling.</p> <p>01:07:56 Talks about how Croke Park has grown too far apart from the GAA at a grassroots level.</p> <p>01:08:26 Describes how important the GAA has been to him during his lifetime.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input 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 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 around 25 years. Won a club minor, Under 21, Junior League and Championship (1981).</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Got involved in administration in 1971. Has been club secretary, chairperson, chairperson of the development committee and county board representative.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:09:20</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: _____17/07/12_____