

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2010
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Cuthbert Donnelly
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1942 <b>Home County:</b> Tyrone
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St Mary's Primary School, Aughnacloy, Co. Tyrone <b>Secondary:</b> Austin Friars, Carlisle
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Mary with 2 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Aghaloo O'Neills.
<b>Occupation</b>	Insurance Agent
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	School Board of Governor's; Pastoral Parish Committee

<b>Date of Report</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1970 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Tyrone, Kerry, Waterford, Derry, Americas, Canada, USA, Great Britain, England, Wales
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsiders' Perspectives, Alcohol, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Cuthbert discusses his involvement in the GAA at club, county, and provincial level. He reflects on his various administration roles in Aghaloo O'Neills GAA Club and on the Tyrone County Board and the Ulster Council. Cuthbert outlines the history of the club and its various successes, and he recalls Tyrone's All-Ireland Senior Football wins in 2003 and 2008 when he was county chairman. He describes travelling around Ireland and abroad with the Sam Maguire and his sadness on giving it back. Furthermore, he reflects on the impact of The Troubles on the club and various rule changes in the GAA.</p> <p>00:23 Earliest GAA memory: sitting on doorstep listening to Michael O'Hehir commentating on football matches. No GAA club in local area.</p> <p>00:59 Discusses his involvement in GAA club: a member since its founding in 1970, chairman for 28 years. Challenges of that time. Starting with borrowed ground, now pitches in Benburb Road and Monaghan Road, Aughnacloy. Currently second pitch under development, funded by NI Sport.</p> <p>01:43 Describes his involvement in Tyrone county board and Ulster Council. ASAP officer for county. Live to Play initiative for road safety. Difficulties of ASAP involvement, lots of driving. Aiming to promote awareness of drink and drugs.</p> <p>04:20 No family involvement in the GAA. No money to go to Croke Park. Cycling to Ballygawley to watch matches. Playing</p>

	<p>informally. His sons' current involvement.</p> <p>05:30 Outlines history of club: Aghaloo O'Neills. Founded by Kerry teacher Oliver O'Connor, manager of Eglish St. Patrick's club, and Oliver Sherry. Hosting a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala dinner this year.</p> <p>06:26 Describes founding of club. Organising committee, buying footballs and jerseys. Winning junior championship in 1974, club milestone.</p> <p>07:19 Challenge of getting grounds at start. Mentions founding member Frank Quinn buying field. Subsequent development of pitch and facilities. Mentions Phil McKenna. Healthy state of club finances. Compares club, county, provincial levels.</p> <p>09:12 Outlines various fundraising efforts: collecting money from parishioners. Tight budget. Describes a major draw for hotel breaks and decent prizes. Annual card drives, weekly lotto.</p> <p>11:48 Mentions various club members: Shane "Bud" McGee, Mickey Muldoon, Rory McKenna, Tony McElroy, founder member John Mone, Martin Mone, Vincie McSorley.</p> <p>14:26 Describes getting involved in the administration side of the club. Currently president of the club.</p> <p>15:16 His preference for manual tasks in club, great experience of being chairman. Mentions fellow county board committee members Dominic McCaughey, Seamus McDonald.</p> <p>16:04 Discusses responsibilities of club chairman: for example, organising committee meetings, dinner dances, cutting field. Only football played in club. Previously camogie but shortage of players. Young girls in parish now, his hopes for camogie and ladies football. Few women running club, mentions assistant secretary Ann Henderson. Also Rita Russell, Mary O'Neill. Issue of women moving out of parish when they marry.</p> <p>18:30 Reflects on the changing role of women in the club. Men helping with making tea and supper now. More equality. More families watching matches.</p> <p>19:50 Ponders role of clergy in the club. Mentions Father Peter Paul Kerr of 1974 team. Also Father Kevin Cullen. Support of priests in parish. Announcements about matches</p>
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	<p>at mass.</p> <p>21:32 Reflects on role of teachers in GAA. Issue of all-female teaching staff. Describes a scheme in which county board coaches work in schools.</p> <p>22:23 Discusses successes of club: winning junior and intermediate championship last year, winning league for first time in 2009. Celebrations: returning to committee room in club, eating burgers, chicken nuggets, and chips.</p> <p>24:53 Considers challenges the club has faced. Discusses the deaths of members killed in The Troubles: Francie McCaughey, Owen Boyle, Aidan McAnespie. Also mentions late members Patsy Sherry, Jimmy Mullin, Liam Donnelly, Frank Quinn. Recalls Liam and Frank bringing Cuthbert's sons to matches.</p> <p>31:13 Describes how club dealt with various tragedies. Supportive. Club members involved in traffic diversions, signs on road for funerals.</p> <p>32:44 Reflects on club's dealing with The Troubles. Sensitivity. Mentions involvement of Unionist community in club. Mentions Leslie Stevenson getting abuse, county board dealing with it. Describes his involvement in the sport.</p> <p>34:36 Recalls various incidents he encountered as a referee. As county chairman, running first aid course for referees. Mentions Sean Slater and John Pat O'Donnell. Also mentions referee Donal O'Neill. Also mentions Jerry McCabe. Recounts various refereeing experiences. Importance of common sense in refereeing. Compares refereeing today with that of the past. Importance of thick skin.</p> <p>39:07 Explains how he got involved in refereeing. No skill at playing football, sub in 1974 final. Describes various games he refereed at. Winning the 1989 Referee of the Year.</p> <p>40:12 Discusses his views about rule changes. Current confusion about the hand pass, fisted pass. Referees getting blamed. Improvement of discipline now, good yellow card system.</p> <p>42:19 Referees amateurs, getting abuse. Frustration about different interpretation of the same rule about hand passes.</p> <p>43:27 Describes transition from club to county board. County convention. Mentions Dominic McCaughey. Lists various positions.</p>
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	<p>44:22 Same rules on club, county, provincial committees. Ulster Council: CCC committee. Side line official with Brian Armitage.</p> <p>45:33 Names county chairman as his most memorable role. Had hurling team but never succeeded.</p> <p>46:06 Describes his task of looking after the Sam Maguire Cup. Previously witnessing cups being damaged, alcohol poured into them. His new rules about Sam Maguire in 2005 and 2008, travelling around county with it. Taking it to visit weddings and schools.</p> <p>48:45 Speech about Sam Maguire Cup. Mentions cup maker Desmond Byrne from Kilkenny. Explains why he got involved in the ASAP initiative.</p> <p>50:30 Mentions Donnelly Brothers supplying him with car. Travelling to Sean Harte in Toronto, mentions Kieran Kennedy of O'Neill's and touring with the cup: travelling to Atlanta, Ottawa, Toronto, Halifax, Nova Scotia, New York, Boston.</p> <p>51:58 Describes the responsibility of looking after the cup. Anxious it would get damaged. Softness of silver. In 2005 getting presidential award from Sean Kelly for looking after it. Also present from Desmond Byrne. Meeting Bishop Daly to take Sam Maguire to the patients in the Foyle Hospice, Dr McGinley.</p> <p>54:36 Discusses the sadness of handing back the Sam Maguire.</p> <p>55:03 Recalls reaction in Tyrone when they won the first All-Ireland Senior Football Final in 2003. Stopping at Aughnacloy at Aghaloo club. Crowds on streets. Travelling around clubs for almost a week. Travelling to Waterford, Duxie Walshe's club. Mentions John Tiernan and Pat Hegney going to Clare Island. Also going to Cardiff. Making friends around Ireland. Travelling to colleges in England.</p> <p>57:54 Discusses significant events in his tenure. Foot and mouth disease affecting Tyrone, difficult decisions. Attempts to promote hurling. Few clubs. Strength of football.</p> <p>59:34 Mentions county grounds. Omagh St. Enda's, developed by county board. Also Dungannon, Coalisland and Pomeroy. New development of Garvaghey, seven pitches, cost of €7 million. No county pitch.</p> <p>01:00:41 Club Tyrone fundraising committee. Donations from</p>
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	<p>clubs around the county, golf classics.</p> <p>01:01:28 Discusses founding of ASAP committee. Mentions founder Brendan Murphy. Cuthbert coordinator for Tyrone. Aims to get clubs with ASAP officers, drugs and alcohol policy within clubs. Mentions provincial coordinator Aileen Tohill, player Stephen O'Neill. Also mentions Barbara Ward. Challenges of this committee.</p> <p>01:03:13 Outlines future challenges facing the GAA in the club and county: finance if club goes professional. Difficulty of maintaining amenities, over-ambitious development.</p> <p>01:04:12 Reflects on the major changes in the GAA. His initial opposition to the lifting of the ban, subsequent change of mind. His views that every association should be able to provide facilities.</p> <p>01:05:22 Describes his best memory: watching his son play in Croke Park, welcoming the Sam Maguire into the parish.</p> <p>01:05:58 Ponders the tragedies within the club and his opposition to pay-for-play.</p> <p>01:06:41 Mentions his GAA heroes: Mick O'Connell and The Gooch (Colm Cooper).</p> <p>01:08:11 Reflects on the significance of the GAA in his life. No drinking or smoking.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p>✓ Supporter   ✓ Player   <input type="checkbox"/> Manager   <input type="checkbox"/> Coach   ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson   ✓ Committee Member   ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p>✓ Caterer   ✓ Jersey Washer   ✓ Referee   <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Cuthbert played for 10 years and won a junior championship in 1974.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Cuthbert has been involved in administration since 1971.</p> <p>Club: Chairman, Committee Member, President</p> <p>County: Games Administration Committee, Disciplinary Board, Referee's Board, County Chairman, ASAP Officer</p> <p>Ulster: Competitions Control Committee, Provincial Officer</p>

**REFERENCE NO. TY/1/6**

<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:08:31
<b>Language</b>	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:                      \_\_\_\_\_15/06/12\_\_\_\_\_