

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	26 th Jan 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Maghera, Co. Derry
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Joe Lagan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1950 Home County: Derry
Education	Primary: Fairhill PS, Maghera, Co. Derry Secondary: St. Columb's, Derry, Co. Derry Third Level: St. Joseph's Training College, Belfast
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Frances with 2 daughters and 1 son
Club(s)	Watty Grahams GAC, Glen
Occupation	Retired Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Café Proprietor [Father]; Hairdresser [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Nationalist
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Gymnastics Coach Level 3; Member Rainey Old Boys Rugby Club

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Date of Report	2 nd August 2012
Period Covered	1798 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Derry, Donegal, Antrim, Tyrone, Monaghan, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Culture, Volunteers, Rivalries, Media, Religion, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Club History, County History, Celebrations, Relationship with the Association, Career, Impact on Life, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances
Interview Summary	<p>Joe talks about his early playing days with Watty Grahams Glen in Maghera and at St Columb’s College in Derry. He discusses the history of the Glen club and his move to introduce ladies football into the club. He discusses issues facing ladies football due to negativity from other organisations within the GAA. Joe talks about the varying roles in administration he has held over the years and his current role as National Development Officer for Ladies Football. He talks about the success of the Glen ladies football team. He discusses his hopes for ladies football in Derry in the future and his own future ambitions within the GAA.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:22 Earliest GAA memory – watching Watty Grahams Glen (Glen) win a junior championship match as a child.</p> <p>00:53 Discusses facilities in Maghera in his early playing days.</p> <p>02:19 Recalls acquiring permanent playing facilities in 1978 on the Glenshane Road. Talks about the wealth of teams in the club.</p> <p>03:20 Discusses the homecoming for the Glen team after winning the championship in his early days.</p> <p>04:02 Recalls his playing days at Watty Grahams Glen Club.</p> <p>04:29 Describes his school days in St. Columb’s in Derry. Recalls involvement in athletics and in football.</p> <p>05:52 Recalls that they still played soccer despite the GAA</p>

	<p>rules.</p> <p>06:16 Talks about the importance of gaelic football on life in St Columb's College in Derry. Talks about the preferential treatment given to the football players.</p> <p>07:40 Notes that the teachers trained the football team. Mentions Fr Ignatius McQuillan, a former Fermanagh county player. Also mentions Raymond Gallagher and Sean Moynihan.</p> <p>09:18 Talks about the successes of St. Columb's – winning the Ranafast Cup, MacLarnon Cup and the Hogan Cup.</p> <p>10:10 Recalls travelling to matches with the school by bus. Notes that he sometimes had to travel alongside the priest.</p> <p>11:35 Recalls the celebrations after winning the Hogan Cup. Notes that the Hogan Cup was played on the same day as the Ulster Semi-Final match in Ballybay – Donegal against Down.</p> <p>13:50 Talks about his involvement with the Glen club in his early days – notes that playing was very different to nowadays. Recalls playing 3 or 4 matches a week in carnival competitions.</p> <p>14:42 Notes that he took the first organised training session in Glen club during his training as a PE teacher at college.</p> <p>16:19 Recalls that he stopped playing football at 29. Discusses his involvement in county football at that time.</p> <p>17:20 Talks about the sports played in Glen club – football, ladies football, camogie. Rounders was played for one year.</p> <p>17:56 Discusses the history of the Glen club. Talks about other clubs in the community.</p> <p>20:15 Discusses family involvement in the GAA – notes his father's keen interest in football. Mentions that his father attended the 1958 All Ireland.</p> <p>23:06 Talks about his involvement with ladies football in the Glen. Notes that ladies football was brought into Derry in 1995. Mentions Jimmy Convery – wins in 1996 and 1997 in the championship. Received a ban in 1998 for hitting a referee.</p> <p>27:30 Discusses his move into training the ladies football team and becoming involved as assistant manager.</p>
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	<p>30:17 Talks about the success of the Glen ladies.</p> <p>31:35 Recalls introducing drill sessions into ladies football in the Glen.</p> <p>35:15 Talks about the success of ladies football in Glen since 1999.</p> <p>36:20 Talks about the setting up of ladies football in Derry. Mentions Leona McEldowney and Gregory McGonagle.</p> <p>39:36 Notes that there are 19 ladies football clubs in Derry today.</p> <p>40:35 Mentions that Féile returns to Derry in 2013 – boost for underage football.</p> <p>41:29 Talks about the 5 teams that initially came into ladies football in Derry in 1995. Recalls a county team being produced from the 5 teams.</p> <p>42:42 Discusses his role as Development Officer on the Derry County Board in 2001. Recalls introducing minor and Under 14 football for ladies for the first time.</p> <p>45:00 Talks about difficulties in getting volunteers to work with the Under 14 team.</p> <p>46:48 Discusses the issues that faced ladies football in the early years – Jimmy refused to let the Glen girls play county football as they were being allowed to play matches while injured.</p> <p>49:32 Talks about ladies football in schools before the formation of the ladies football county board in Derry. Recalls a challenge match between Greenlough School and Lissan. Mentions Danny Quinn.</p> <p>55:34 Discusses the reaction in the Glen club to the formation of ladies football – recalls negativity from the men’s football and camogie. Talks about the integration of ladies football into the club in 2007.</p> <p>57:57 Discusses the successes of the Glen ladies.</p> <p>01:01:30 Recalls an argument with the Glen Club over holding presentation nights on the same weekend.</p> <p>01:06:57 Discusses the relationship between ladies football and the Derry County Board – no integration, notes a slight improvement in relations with regard to use of facilities.</p> <p>01:09:05 Recalls ladies football matches being played before</p>
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	<p>Ulster championship matches.</p> <p>01:10:31 Talks about the contentious relationship between ladies football and camogie in Glen club and in Derry.</p> <p>01:16:55 Talks about the decline of camogie due to ladies football in Ulster.</p> <p>01:19:40 Talks about his involvement in administration on the Derry County Board – Development Officer for 2 years, County Secretary for 3 years.</p> <p>01:20:50 Discusses issues with Ulster Council – fines for not fulfilling fixtures. Joined Ulster Council as Assistant Secretary. President of the Ulster Council for 3 years.</p> <p>01:23:25 Recalls an experience in his last year as President of the Ulster Council – a referee played extra time in a club match.</p> <p>01:27:24 Recalls putting a motion to congress for referees to be held accountable for poor decisions.</p> <p>01:28:35 Discusses running for President of Ladies Football – beaten by 5 votes. Talks about his role as National Development Officer.</p> <p>01:30:13 Discusses the decline of ladies football in Glen currently due to old players.</p> <p>01:30:46 Talks about big issues that came up in his time on the different boards. Discusses the sin bin rule that came into ladies football.</p> <p>01:33:40 Discusses initiatives to bring people back into ladies football after retirement – Gaelic for Mothers.</p> <p>01:37:53 Talks about referee assessment – recalls drawing up a plan, talking to referees.</p> <p>01:40:36 Talks about an ongoing programme to bring ladies football to people who have never played before – “Gaelic for Girls”.</p> <p>01:42:11 Talks about female referees in ladies football – notes that there are not enough female referees in the county. Discusses the advantages of having a female referee.</p> <p>01:44:58 Mentions Eileen Jones.</p> <p>01:47:16 Notes that there are no barriers to ladies becoming referees.</p>
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	<p>01:49:00 Talks about the rules of refereeing. Notes that he referees strictly by the rulebook.</p> <p>01:54:00 Recalls being on Croke Park field.</p> <p>01:55:17 Talks about his hopes for ladies football in Derry and nationally in the future.</p> <p>01:59:21 Discusses his best memory of being involved in the GAA.</p> <p>02:02:28 GAA hero – Mickey Moran.</p> <p>02:03:30 Biggest disappointment within the GAA.</p> <p>02:05:47 Talks about the trip to Toronto with the ladies football team.</p> <p>02:07:30 Discusses family sacrifices for the GAA.</p> <p>02:08:43 Talks about where his ambitions lie in the future and his hopes to take a step back from involvement in administration in the GAA in the next 5 years.</p> <p>02:10:22 Talks about where the name Watty Graham came from – 1798 Rebellion.</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 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 checked="" 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 19 years. Won 2 County Intermediate Championships, 2 Corn na nÓg Cups.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has been involved in ladies football administration since 1999.</p> <p>Club: Liaison Officer with Men's Club</p> <p>County: Development Officer, Secretary, Delegate to Ulster</p> <p>Ulster: Assistant Secretary, President, Vice-President</p> <p>Central: National Development Officer, Management Committee</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:11:25
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: _____02/08/12_____