

**GAA Oral History Project**  
**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
<b>Location</b>	West Grove Hotel, Clane, Co. Kildare
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat Dunney
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1945 <b>Home County:</b> Kildare
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Prosperous NS, Co. Kildare <b>Secondary:</b> Technical School, Prosperous, Co. Kildare
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Ellen with 3 daughters and 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Raheens FC; Éire Ógs Churra Choill Hurling Club
<b>Occupation</b>	Development Manager Roadstone Dublin
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Shop Assistant [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Table Tennis; Drama Group – Set making; Charity Collecting

<b>Date of Report</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1950s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Kildare, Dublin, Americas, USA
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Career, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with Association, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy, Education, Material Culture
<b>Interview Summary (LOG)</b>	<p>Pat talks about his GAA playing days in Kildare where he was on both the hurling and football county teams. He grew up in the parish of Caragh in Kildare and discusses the formation of the local underage football and hurling teams there. He recalls his involvement in the local GAA teams Raheens and Éire Óg. Pat discusses his success at underage level in both codes and goes on to describe the standard of the facilities in Kildare during the 1960s. He recalls the beginning of his involvement at county level and the varied levels of support that hurling and football received in Kildare. Pat describes his Railway Cup experiences and talks about its importance during the early years. He recalls his time in the administrative side of the GAA and discusses the various types of issues that faced the Kildare County Board. Pat highlights the role of the GAA in society and gives his opinion on its importance over the years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:21 Earliest GAA memory – Playing football in his school at lunch time. His teacher was the Kildare footballer Mick Brosnan. Also mentions Jack Higgins.</p> <p>01:00 Discusses the formation of the Caragh parish rural football team by Paddy Power. Success at Under 14 level.</p> <p>01:30 Earliest experience of underage hurling. Tom Johnson, Kilkenny born, married a woman from Robertstown and set up a local team with Bill Hayes from Caragh and Dan Doherty from Clare.</p> <p>01:55 Describes walking up to Holden’s field to play hurling. Played with sticks and planks for hurls, there was a lot of</p>

	<p>ground hurling. Won championships at Under 14 level.</p> <p>02:36 Discusses starting to play football and hurling at Under 14 level when he was ten.</p> <p>02:42 Discusses his local teams, Caragh and Éire Óg, a joint team between the parishes of Caragh and Raheens.</p> <p>03:01 Recalls cutting out hurls from planks of wood. Tom Johnson would travel to Kilkenny and bring back hurls for them.</p> <p>04:10 Describes the types of pitches he played on in school. Hurling finals, called Féile na mBlian or Féile na Curragh were played in the Curragh Camp.</p> <p>04:55 Discusses football finals, played in Naas or Newbridge. Describes the facilities at the time and the large amount of pitches in Kildare.</p> <p>05:15 Describes the origins of Caragh's and Raheens' grounds, the latter bought from the Land Commission.</p> <p>05:51 Describes travelling to the various matches, cycling to home games. Travelling to hurling matches in the back of a turf truck owned by Jim Ennis.</p> <p>07:05 Discusses the various characters involved in the club at the time. Mentions Tom Johnson, Paddy Power, Bill Hayes and Mick Martin, the local postman. Also, Jimmy Nevin from Prosperous, Paddy McCormack, Jack Sharp and Tom Lawlor.</p> <p>08:51 Recalls the economic conditions growing up during the late 1950s early 1960s and the sense of community at the time. Also discusses emigration in the area.</p> <p>10:17 Discusses family involvement in the GAA. Uncles played in the early years with Larry Stanley and Frank Malone.</p> <p>11:54 Recalls his own playing career, starting with underage county and football teams and eventually moving up to senior.</p> <p>12:33 Discusses playing both football and hurling at a high level and the strength of hurling in his area. The Army Apprentice School in Naas were the dominant underage team.</p> <p>15:01 Describes football training and the changes in modern times. Also discusses the differences between club and county training. Frank Murphy, an Olympic sprinter, was</p>
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	<p>brought in to improve fitness.</p> <p>17:50 Recalls the beginning of his senior county career in hurling and football in 1961/62.</p> <p>19:08 Family pride at getting selected for county team.</p> <p>20:00 Discusses experiences with county teams. Hurling final against Roscommon. Older players looking after the younger ones.</p> <p>21:30 Talks about his time as a hurling goalkeeper before any protection was introduced. Mentions Paddy Neill, Tom Johnson and 'Big' Jack Malone.</p> <p>22:36 Discusses the importance of the full back position.</p> <p>23:00 Recalls the training for county hurling and county football in Naas and Newbridge and the impact of army men in the Curragh Camp. Mentions Tadhg Lyne and Brendan Regan.</p> <p>24:23 Discusses travelling to county games. Mostly by Paddy McCormack's (Prosperous Secretary) hackney car. Moved to Dublin in mid-1960s, John Moran would pick up those working in Dublin, Paddy Mangan, Peter Archibold and Mick Coughlan.</p> <p>25:08 Describes the hurling travelling arrangements and discusses his own training commitments.</p> <p>25:38 Describes the difference in support levels between county hurling and county football. Low support for hurling.</p> <p>27:05 Recalls his Railway Cup experiences with football and hurling. Felt lucky to play. Enjoyed playing with players like Noel Skehan, Phil 'Fan' Larkin, Frank and Ray Cummins, Pat Hartigan, Éamonn Grimes, Liam Donohue, Loughnane (Francis), Tadhg O'Connor, the Jacobs, Doran, the Quigleys, Delaney and Henderson.</p> <p>30:24 Discusses similarities and differences playing football and hurling for Railway Cup teams. In hurling players only came from a limited number of counties like Offaly, Wexford, Kilkenny and Dublin. Mentions Mick Birmingham, Des and Lar Foley, Pdraig Horan, Damien Martin. For the football team players came from every county.</p> <p>31:52 Discusses his 'unique' record in the Railway Cup and gives his opinion on the competition. Mentions Micheál O'Hehir, Christy Ring and John Doyle.</p>
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	<p>36:36 Recalls his reasons for getting involved in the administrative side of the GAA. Discusses which role he preferred the most and what they achieved over the years, as well as his regrets. Mentions Jack Wall, Pat Fitzgerald from Offaly, Bobby Byrnes from Longford, John Courtney and Dermot Earley.</p> <p>39:54. Describes the types of issues that faced the County Board during his time including the development of Croke Park and the ban on foreign games. Gives credit to Waterford Man Pat Fanning in relation to the ban.</p> <p>41:04 Discusses the opening of Croke Park to soccer and rugby. Talks about the building of Lansdowne Road and the role of rugby. Describes the age groups in favour of each issue.</p> <p>42:34 Recalls Seamus Aldridge's work as county secretary.</p> <p>43:00 Discusses the development of Hawkfield, Kildare's GAA Centre of Excellence and the issue of Newbridge's grounds.</p> <p>44:04 Discusses the ban on foreign games in Kildare. He and his team mates played soccer in Dublin while some others played rugby. Mentions Tommy Crowe. Implications if you were caught going to an English dance.</p> <p>45:40 Discusses his involvement in the local club. Chairman of Raheens GAA for a number of years.</p> <p>46:48 Recalls his best memories of his time in the GAA, from his playing career to his overall involvement.</p> <p>48:37 Describes the celebrations after winning a Club Leinster Championship. Playing Nemo Rangers in the following match.</p> <p>50:28 Discusses his biggest disappointment during his time in the GAA. Kildare losing the All-Ireland final against Galway in 1998. Mentions Glenn Ryan, Brian Lacey, Ronan Quinn and Michael Donnellan.</p> <p>52:22 Talks about playing football in Los Angeles and going away with the All-Stars. Recalls the generosity of Irish people in America. Staying with JJ Whelan (originally from Kilcullen) and Laura Bath in San Francisco and going to Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe. Also mentions Tom Stanley in New York, Seamie Nugent and Noel Moran.</p> <p>54:54 Discusses what his involvement in the GAA has meant</p>
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<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>to him. Believes that the GAA is vital in the community and provides an outlet for children.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer   <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee   <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____         </p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from 1955 to 1985.</p> <p>Club: Won 7 senior football, 8-10 leagues, 10 senior hurling, 7/8 leagues titles. Did the double in 1964.</p> <p>County: Won junior hurling All-Irelands in 1962 and 1966, and an intermediate in 1968. Won football Leinster titles in 1965 and 1966 and an All-Ireland Under 21 in 1965, a number of O'Byrne Cup and a National League Division 2.</p> <p>Provincial: Won 4 hurling Railway Cups and 1 football Railway Cup.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since the mid-1970s.</p> <p>Club: Chairman</p> <p>County: Vice-chairman hurling board, Vice-chairman of County Board, Chairman of County Board, Central Council Delegate (1980 – 2007)</p> <p>Central: Chairman of Hurling Review Committee that brought in Nicky Rackard and Christy Ring Cups. Also recommended the appointment of Paddy Butler during Sean Kelly's term.</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio   <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:57:30</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_08/08/12\_\_\_\_\_