

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2009
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Listowel, Co. Kerry
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tom Walsh
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1967 <b>Home County:</b> Kerry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Drumclogh NS, Co. Kerry <b>Secondary:</b> Listowel Vocational School <b>Third Level:</b> Middlesex University; University of Limerick
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Breda with 2 daughters and 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Finuge GAA
<b>Occupation</b>	Broadband Consultant
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	FÁS Motor Constructor [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil

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<b>Date of Report</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1970s – 2009
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Kerry
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Professionalism, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Tom talks about the GAA scene in and around Finuge in Kerry. He recalls playing as a child and the excitement of winning medals and watching the Kerry football team achieve success. He later moved to London for some years and returned in 2005, after which he became involved with the club at an administrative level, helping out in a general capacity and working to improve the club's use of technological resources. He reflects on the many changes that he noticed in how the GAA was run after being away for so long, and gives his opinion on how the GAA can improve on its efficiency - especially through embracing technology more wholeheartedly than it has.</p> <p>00:30 Earliest memory. Construction of local football field and having an accident.</p> <p>00:55 Playing before they had their own pitch.</p> <p>01:10 Festivals and fundraising for the field. Carnivals.</p> <p>01:45 Watching the bigger players growing up.</p> <p>02:30 Buying the field from John Sheehan. How he remembers the field. Voluntary labour involved.</p> <p>03:30 Fine Gael TD Jimmy Deenihan is from Finuge. He was on the Kerry four-in-a-row team.</p> <p>03:55 Dublin playing Kerry in 1980 to mark the opening of the pitch.</p> <p>04:35 Pitch and grounds being completed gradually.</p>

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	<p>04:55 Five All-Ireland medal winners coming from the club - Paul Galvin, Éamonn Fitzmaurice, Éamonn Breen, Paul Sullivan and Jimmy Deenihan.</p> <p>06:00 Lixnaw village is nearby and hurling is prominent there.</p> <p>06:30 Lixnaw and Finuge sharing players and trying to arrange their fixtures accordingly.</p> <p>06:50 2009 Kerry footballer Paul Galvin's talent for hurling.</p> <p>07:20 Finuge winning the All-Ireland club championship in 2001.</p> <p>07:40 Family involvement in GAA. Playing with his brothers. His son playing for the club.</p> <p>08:50 Going to London in his late teens. His brothers moving away.</p> <p>09:20 Getting involved again through his children.</p> <p>10:15 Travelling to games on a bus or in a car.</p> <p>11:10 Trying to make sure he got a jersey that fit him.</p> <p>11:30 Excitement of being involved and winning medals.</p> <p>12:15 Christy Killeen, Dan Joy and John McAuliffe coaching them.</p> <p>12:30 Importance of focusing on young teams.</p> <p>13:40 Returning to Ireland in 2005 and setting up a business in Listowel. Being asked to get involved in the GAA club.</p> <p>14:40 Importance of bringing in new faces all the time.</p> <p>15:20 Starting to change things at the club. Improving and updating operational methods.</p> <p>15:50 His own professional background in technology and bringing his skills to the club.</p> <p>17:10 Devising a text platform for the club to contact members and keep them informed of events. Positive effects of that.</p>
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	<p>21:15 Developing the club website and putting old VHS tape material on the website.</p> <p>23:20 Effect of emigration on the club, especially in the 1980s. Club suffering at senior level.</p> <p>24:45 Improved situation when he returned from London.</p> <p>25:35 Ladies football developing at the club.</p> <p>26:10 Improvements in coaching methods.</p> <p>27:00 Pitches and facilities improving.</p> <p>27:40 Getting funding from the National Lottery.</p> <p>27:50 Lixnaw and St. Senan's club developing their facilities.</p> <p>29:10 Club hosting family days.</p> <p>30:00 Fundraising events that they hold and how they differ from what was done in the past.</p> <p>32:35 People expecting more from club events.</p> <p>34:55 Helping out with coaching and the general running of the club.</p> <p>35:20 Coaching standards improving.</p> <p>36:45 Toughening up the children.</p> <p>38:35 Daughters' interest in football.</p> <p>39:25 Things becoming more professional at senior level.</p> <p>42:20 Women's involvement in administration.</p> <p>44:35 Women more adept at using technology.</p> <p>45:15 Role of schools. Killocrim, Lixnaw, Drumclough schools nearby.</p> <p>47:25 Parents taking greater interest in the club by helping out and attending games.</p> <p>49:10 Rivalry between schoolchildren.</p>
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	<p>50:00 Role of teachers.</p> <p>51:35 Going to Croke Park for games.</p> <p>52:05 Attending games in west Kerry and Clare.</p> <p>53:50 People who have reached the pinnacle of their sport helping the next generation of players.</p> <p>55:45 How technology can improve the GAA.</p> <p>58:25 Need to embrace the mobile phone and to do it properly.</p> <p>01:01:15 Computer literacy issues within clubs.</p> <p>01:01:50 Online lottos to raise money.</p> <p>01:04:15 Mobile phone communication being under-utilised.</p> <p>01:06:10 GAA people he admires. Kerry four-in-a-row team. Tim Kennelly, Ogie Moran, Eoin Liston.</p> <p>01:07:20 The Sam Maguire cup being in his house when he was young.</p> <p>01:08:30 His son being able to meet well-decorated Kerry players.</p> <p>01:09:25 Enjoying the Kerry Dublin All-Ireland quarter-final in 2009 and the Kerry Cork All-Ireland final in 2007.</p> <p>01:10:35 Being in national school and watching Eoin Liston score three goals in a game.</p> <p>01:12:10 Playing as a goalkeeper against St. Senan's and being penalised for picking up the ball outside the square and being embarrassed.</p> <p>01:12:50 Playing for the community college in secondary school and playing well.</p> <p>01:14:25 Getting a half-day at school when Kerry were successful.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played up to the age of 18 from Under 8's.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Club: Finance Committee Member for 2 years
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:16:12
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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

Date:         \_\_\_12/06/12\_\_\_\_\_