

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

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2010
<b>Location</b>	Truagh Clubhouse, Co. Monaghan
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Maretta Sherry (neé McKenna)
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1951 <b>Home County:</b> Monaghan
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Killybrone NS, Co. Monaghan <b>Secondary:</b> St Louis Convent, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> None <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Seamus with 1 son and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Truagh Gaels
<b>Occupation</b>	County Council Clerk Typist; Full time Mother; Cook in Club
<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>	Clara Drama Group

**REFERENCE NO. MN/1/13**

<b>Date of Report</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1959 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Monaghan, Tyrone
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Media, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Outsider’s Perspectives, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Maretta discusses her involvement with the Truagh club over the years, detailing how she and two others revived the camogie scene in the late 1970s after having played themselves when they were growing up. Maretta enjoyed playing camogie and represented her county at B level, before getting involved in administration at both club and county level. Her task has never been easy, with funding scarce and interest difficult to drum up in a county where football takes precedence, yet she takes great pride in their achievements so far and is looking forward to a bright future for camogie in Monaghan</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:20 Not involved with GAA until she met her husband. Driving him to the doctors after he sustained an injury during a match. What happened then.</p> <p>01:15 Her husband getting involved in training underage and senior teams. How she contributed.</p> <p>01:55 Involved in football for over 30 years.</p> <p>02:05 She grew up in Truagh. Little GAA involvement in her family.</p> <p>02:55 Local club started in 1959.</p> <p>03:25 Husband’s involvement with the club.</p> <p>03:45 Her initial impressions of the GAA and her husband’s involvement. Games taking place in Shanco field, owned by</p>

	<p>Corrigan family.</p> <p>04:45 New pitch opened in 1981. Her son participating in the opening ceremony.</p> <p>05:20 Fr McGuinness from Belfast introducing her to camogie when she was in school. What they did for camogie sticks.</p> <p>06:45 Team starting up in the early 1960s when she was 11 or 12. Where she played.</p> <p>07:25 What they wore during games.</p> <p>08:05 Camogie fading out before Geraldine Treanor, Bridie Sherry and herself decided to start up a team again in 1979.</p> <p>08:50 Getting proper attire to be worn during games.</p> <p>09:20 Reaching a final against Killanny.</p> <p>09:35 Conducting camogie training at the local school in 1981. Success those young girls went on to have.</p> <p>10:45 Team winning minor, Under-21 and intermediate championships in the 1990s.</p> <p>11:20 Threat from ladies football at grassroots level.</p> <p>11:45 What they do to encourage interest in camogie.</p> <p>12:15 Involvement with the county board.</p> <p>12:25 Club members involved in an All-Ireland junior B final.</p> <p>12:45 Sharon McQuillan, Orla Sheeran and Mairéad McCarron taking part in shinty competitions.</p> <p>13:20 Enjoying playing camogie when she was in school.</p> <p>13:40 How they travelled to training.</p> <p>14:00 Fundraisers they held – sport's day. Getting the grounds ready.</p> <p>14:45 Inniskeen, Castleblayney, Clontibret and Truagh the only camogie clubs in the county.</p> <p>15:20 Driving kids to training and games.</p> <p>16:15 More camogie clubs in the county when she started playing.</p> <p>16:55 Possible reasons why camogie is not so popular.</p> <p>17:45 Pat McQuaid driving them to games when they were</p>
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	<p>teenagers. Problems that created.</p> <p>18:45 Facilities when she was playing.</p> <p>19:25 Steps they took when setting up the club again. Running and Easter Bizarre.</p> <p>20:25 Memories of county board meetings when she was younger.</p> <p>21:00 Issue with a referee she believed to be biased during the game. Having to appear in front of the county board.</p> <p>21:45 Senior the only camogie category in Monaghan</p> <p>21:55 Geraldine Clarke in Clontibret and Mary Murphy in Castleblayney doing a lot of work for underage level. Their teams having to go outside the county for games.</p> <p>22:35 Joining the Tyrone league. How that worked out. Standard in Tyrone. Eglis a formidable side.</p> <p>23:10 What her husband thought of her camogie involvement.</p> <p>24:05 Approaching a Kilkenny man, Jim Murphy, who worked in Emyvale in Steel's factory, to train the team when they started up the club again. Another Kilkenny man, Mick Kavanagh, helping out when he left.</p> <p>24:55 Administrative roles she filled.</p> <p>25:50 Technology limited when they started out.</p> <p>26:20 What they did in training.</p> <p>26:50 Starting a shop at the football field.</p> <p>27:20 Where they get their camogie sticks from.</p> <p>28:20 Relations between the camogie club and the GAA club. Sharing pitches. Scheduling clashes.</p> <p>29:40 Fr McManus starting a hurling team at the club.</p> <p>30:55 Administrative work at county board level.</p> <p>31:45 Taking over as chair of the county board and what that was like.</p> <p>33:20 Her duties as chair.</p> <p>33:55 Playing on the county B team. Taking on a strong Down team in Carrickmacross. How the game went for her.</p> <p>34:40 What it was like playing for the county team compared</p>
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	<p>with the club team. Style they played in and how that has changed.</p> <p>35:25 Match-day ritual for the county team.</p> <p>36:10 Winning the senior league in 2009. Celebrations afterwards.</p> <p>36:55 Level of community support for the county team.</p> <p>37:20 Support for ladies footballers in the counties.</p> <p>37:50 Perception of camogie as a 'rough' sport.</p> <p>38:45 Major challenges camogie in Monaghan faces. How they have tried to overcome them. Difficulties fundraising since Gardaí do not allow street collections anymore.</p> <p>40:00 Sponsorship from John McQuaid Quarries. Plans for future sponsorship.</p> <p>41:10 Camogie championship structure. Problems they have encountered.</p> <p>43:25 Furthest they have travelled for matches.</p> <p>43:45 Playing an Ulster final against Cavan.</p> <p>44:10 Support at county games.</p> <p>44:40 Local SuperValu sponsoring local clubs. Deal they made with Truagh.</p> <p>45:45 Her role as Truagh PRO. Relationship with Northern Standard and Monaghan Post newspapers.</p> <p>47:30 Importance of publicity for camogie.</p> <p>48:40 Relationship with Camogie Association in Croke Park and President Joan O'Flynn.</p> <p>51:10 Future prospects for camogie in the county.</p> <p>52:00 Camogie presence in local schools.</p> <p>53:00 Relationship between camogie board and ladies football in the county.</p> <p>55:15 Difference between male and female referees. Geraldine Clarke a local inter-county referee.</p> <p>56:10 Best GAA memory.</p> <p>57:05 Strangest place she has gone to play a match.</p>
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	<p>58:15 Admiration for Mary O'Connor and all the work she does.</p> <p>58:50 Going to Croke Park for games.</p> <p>59:30 Biggest disappointments over the years.</p> <p>01:00:10 Relationship with ladies football branch of the club.</p> <p>01:01:05 Work Joan O'Flynn does to ensure good relations.</p> <p>01:01:45 Thoughts on the GAA in 2010.</p> <p>01:04:10 What her GAA involvement means to her.</p> <p>01:05:45 Other sports played in the club. Páraic McKenna a world handball champion at the club.</p> <p>01:06:35 Gala for club's 50th anniversary.</p> <p>01:06:50 Michael McCarron in charge of handball at the club.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<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>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played from the age of 10/11 until she was 35. Won an intermediate camogie championship, c. 1983.</p>
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Maretta has been involved in administration from 1979.</p> <p>Camogie Club: Secretary, Chairperson</p> <p>Camogie County: Chairperson, Secretary, PRO</p>
<b>Format</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:08:09</p>
<b>Language</b>	<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:           \_\_\_\_\_02/07/12\_\_\_\_\_