

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	25 th Nov 2010
Location	Killoran's Bar, Ballyfarnon, Co. Roscommon
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tommy Lynam
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1939 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: Ballyfarnon NS, Co. Roscommon
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	St. Ronan's
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. RN/1/14

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Damian Killoran
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: Ballyfarnon NS, Co. Roscommon Secondary: Summerhill College, Co. Sligo
Family	N/A
Club(s)	St. Ronan's
Occupation	Sales Rep
Parents' Occupation	Shopkeepers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Carrick RFC

REFERENCE NO. RN/1/14

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gerry Emmett
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1957 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: Kilmactranny NS, Co. Roscommon Secondary: Summerhill College, Co. Sligo
Family	Siblings: 6 brothers Current Family if Different: Married with 1 son and 1 daughter
Club(s)	St. Ronan's
Occupation	Retired
Parents' Occupation	Businessman [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Golf; Soccer

REFERENCE NO. RN/1/14

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Andy Lavin
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: St. Patrick's NS, Ballyfarnon, Co. Roscommon
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: 1 sons and 3 daughters
Club(s)	St. Ronan's
Occupation	Retired
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Killoran
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1937 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: St. Patrick's NS, Ballyfarnon, Co. Roscommon
Family	Siblings: Current Family if Different: 4 daughters & 2 sons
Club(s)	St. Ronan's
Occupation	Retired Shopkeeper
Parents' Occupation	Shopkeepers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Vincent McDonagh
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1942 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: Ballyfarnon, Co. Roscommon
Family	N/A
Club(s)	St. Ronan's
Occupation	Motor Mechanic
Parents' Occupation	Bar
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Ronan Glynn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1928 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: St. Patrick's, Knockvicar, Co. Roscommon Secondary: St. Mel's, Longford Town, Co. Longford
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 3 sister Current Family if Different: Married with 1 son and 1 daughter
Club(s)	St. Ronan's
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Sean Martin
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1958 Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: St. Patrick's NS, Knockvicar, Co. Roscommon Secondary: St. Mary's College, Boyle, Co. Roscommon Third Level: Sligo Institute of Technology
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: 2 sons and 2 daughters
Club(s)	St. Michael's; St. Ronan's
Occupation	Eircom Employee
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	13 th July 2012
Period Covered	c. 1889 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, Dublin, Kerry
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Professionalism, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	<p>The group talk about their love for and loyalty to St. Ronan's GAA. They trace the history of football in the area back to the late 1880s and give an account of the ups and downs of the club since then. The influence of Dr Hugh Gibbons is apparent throughout. They discuss the rivalries St. Ronan's have with St. Michael's and Boyle GAA and the inter-county rivalries with Sligo and Leitrim. They each run through their involvement in the GAA over the years, referring to playing, coaching and administration. They put emphasis on the impact county success has on clubs in the county and talk through Roscommon's successes at inter-county level. Each of them also stresses the importance of the relationships they have formed with people through the GAA, and the central role the organisation plays in rural Ireland.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>01:22 Damian recalls going to matches with his parents. Gives an account of his involvement in St. Ronan's GAA. Mentions his brother Mícheál. Mentions Junior Championships. Mentions being secretary.</p> <p>02:33 Gerry talks about travelling to matches in a van. Refers to difficulties maintaining the club. Mentions Vincent McDonagh.</p> <p>03:35 Andy recalls seeing a game in Boyle. Mentions the Princess Hotel. Mentions Abbey Park. Refers to his involvement with St. Ronan's and the county.</p> <p>04:49 Mícheál recalls the formation of St. Ronan's in the 1960s and his involvement since. Mentions Gerry Connellan. Mentions travelling by car.</p> <p>06:03 Vincent talks about playing underage for St Ronans.</p>

	<p>Mentions Mícheál Killoran. Recalls being assistant secretary, secretary of the club and delegate to the Northern Board.</p> <p>07:38 Ronan recalls seeing Roscommon win the All-Ireland. Mentions Dr Gibbons. Refers to his involvement in administration. Mentions his brother.</p> <p>09:02 Sean outlines his ties to St. Michael's GAA. Recalls playing football while at national school. Talks about his involvement as trainer and chairman with St. Ronan's. Highlights the importance of the GAA in society.</p> <p>11:00 Tommy recalls walking to a match when he was a child. Also recalls his record as a player. Mentions Vincent, Mícheál and Andy.</p> <p>12:56 They talk about the location of the club in North Roscommon and its catchment. Mention Sligo, Leitrim, Ballyfarnon, Keadue, Arigna.</p> <p>14:15 Discuss the tradition of Gaelic games in the area. Andy refers to the involvement of the Army Construction Corps. Mention Dr Gibbons. Mention Mick Nelson, Paddy Kerrigan, Cha Flynn, Brian Conboy, Larry O'Boyle, Michael Houlihan.</p> <p>16:25 Andy refers to people playing for Ballyfarnon illegally in the 1940s. Mentions Crossna and players like Mick Sheerin, Paddy Kelly, Paddy Flanagan.</p> <p>17:10 Ronan talks about the football in Keadue in the 1950s. Recalls amalgamating with St Michaels, and forming the Paddy Moran's club – a man who was executed in Dublin. The group discuss various players. Mentions the Lenehans, St. Michael's and Mícheál Shevlin.</p> <p>19:28 Damian gives a background of football in the area, referencing the Roscommon Herald. Mentions Keadue Sarsfields, Arigna Goldsmiths. Mentions Dolan's Field in Greyfield. Refers to a match between Kilronan JJ O'Kellys and Ballyfarnon Red Hughs in Grogan's field in 1889. Mentions Dr Hugh Gibbons.</p> <p>21:28 Someone recalls an incident involving his mother at a match in Ballinagar. Mentions the Connolly brothers, Bernie Connolly.</p> <p>22:23 Sean talks about the rivalry between St. Ronan's and St. Michael's.</p> <p>23:55 Ronan tells of travelling to Dublin by train for the All-Ireland Final 1944. Mentions his brother Vincent.</p>
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	<p>24:50 Andy tells of listening to the All-Ireland on the radio in 1944 in Jimmy Conlon's and everyone having to stand for the National Anthem. Recalls travelling to Dublin for subsequent All-Ireland with Gerry.</p> <p>26:25 Andy and Ronan talks about the aftermath of the 1944 All-Ireland. Mention Eamon Boland, Donal Keenan, John Joe Nerney, Dr Gibbons. Sam Maguire not making it to the area.</p> <p>28:09 Tommy discusses his favourite things about the GAA. Mentions the Championship in 1962. Recalls the All-Ireland around 1946. Refers to the social aspect.</p> <p>30:05 Gerry recalls the All-Ireland Under 21 in 1978 and the Senior Final in 1980. Talks about the rivalry between St. Ronan's and Boyle GAA. Refers to the social aspect of the GAA and drinking culture. Mentions Canon Peadar Lavin. Mentions golf.</p> <p>32:45 Gerry tells of his involvement in Boyle GAA and his loyalty to St. Ronan's. Mentions soccer.</p> <p>34:58 Discuss club loyalty and club transfers. Mentions Dublin. Mention Johnny Lenehan, Mickey Lenehan, Tony Lenehan, Seamus Sharkey, Terry O'Brien, Father Peadar Lavin and Paddy Farrell. Mention travelling in a Volkswagen Beetle to Callan in Tipperary to collect players.</p> <p>38:13 Tell stories of travelling to matches by various means. Mention travelling by van and bicycle. Mentions Teasy Glynn, Vincent's van, Seamus Sheeran, Paddy McGovern, Stephen Sheeran and Dr Gibbons. Describe training on the sand dunes in Strandhill, stopping with Cyril O'Connor. Refer to drinking culture.</p> <p>41:53 Ronan tells stories about objections to matches he remembers. Mentions Danny Lannon.</p> <p>42:56 Andy tells of an incident travelling by car to Boyle. Mentions Paddy Gaffney and 'The Gunner' Brady.</p> <p>44:08 Mícheál recalls an incident the occurred before a game against Killina. Mentions John Connors, Seamus Sharkey. Mentions Gerry Connellan and Ronan Glynn. Mentions travelling by wagon and car.</p> <p>45:37 Mícheál talks about an incident from a tournament he remembers involving Nace O'Dowd and Johnny Lenehan.</p> <p>47:03 Vincent remembers bringing teams to games in Gerry Connellan's van.</p>
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	<p>48:00 Someone tells a story about his mother. Mentions Knock.</p> <p>48:26 Sean remembers cycling to Cootehall. Also talks about travelling by car. Remembers the team he played with. Mentions Leo Simon.</p> <p>49:55 Tell a story about Paddy Mulvey bringing an underage team to a match. Mentions Tom Collins.</p> <p>51:02 Ronan talks about the purchase of St. Ronan's grounds and the development of the facilities. The group describes where matches were played before that. Refers to fundraising. Mention the Grazing Field, part of the Alderford Estate. Mentions Dr Gibbons, JT Emmett, Hugh McMorrow. Fundraisers they held. Roscommon playing Sligo at the official opening. Mentions Sean Martin.</p> <p>55:25 The group talks about the club colours and how the jerseys have changed over the years. They recall the tournaments in the parish and describe how the name St. Ronan's was picked. Mentions Paddy Conlon and Cha Flynn. Mentions Boyle GAA. Mentions Kilronan Park.</p> <p>58:50 Talk about the Northern Board meetings at Croghan and Elphin and County Board meetings. Ronan tells of the objections he remembers. Mention Kilglass Gaels, Roosky, Newtownforbes, Killina. Mention Henry Feely, Tim Tansey and Paddy Mulvey.</p> <p>01:04:09 Recall club highlights. Mentions the Junior Championship 1962. They talk about how the competitions have changed.</p> <p>01:05:24 Tell a story about a match against St. Michael's GAA, highlighting the rivalry between the two clubs.</p> <p>01:06:49 Recall the celebrations after the 1962 Junior Championship. Describe the fundraisers. Talk about the importance of the GAA to the parish. Mentions Dr Gibbons.</p> <p>01:10:20 Gerry tells of his involvement in county teams at Minor, Under 21 and Senior levels. Describes the collective training and the nature of the bond between the players. Mentions Tom Heneghan, Dr Gibbons, Tony Mac, Pat Lindsay and Harry Keegan.</p> <p>01:13:18 Recall the training sessions during the 1940s and the 1980s. Talk about Gay Sheeran's involvement in Roscommon teams. Mention Dermot Earley.</p>
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	<p>01:14:59 Discuss what success at county level means to the clubs. Refer to the 1980 All-Ireland. Also talk about the 1978 Junior All-Ireland. Mentions Mick O'Dwyer, Seán Walsh and 'The Bomber' Liston.</p> <p>01:17:47 Talk about county expectations and achievements in Roscommon. Refer to their rivalry with Sligo and Leitrim. Emphasise the sense of identity the GAA gives them. Mention Seamus Sharkey and Sean Flanagan.</p> <p>01:19:58 Describe celebrations in the county. Mention Intermediate Championships 1976, 1986, 1996. Talk about the current feeling of pride in the club and highlight the effort of the players.</p> <p>01:22:30 Highlight the sense of community the GAA provides. Refers to recent tragedies that happened in the parish.</p> <p>01:23:32 Run through the sports played in the club – football, ladies' football and rounders. Explain why hurling never became popular in the area. Mentions Maureen Cooney, Sergeant Delaney, Donegan from Limerick, Brogan, and Bob Carr. Mention Boyle as a garrison town and soccer and St. Michaels GAA.</p> <p>01:26:10 Tell of an incident at a match between St. Ronan's and Killina. Mention Strokestown GAA. Mention Tom Guilfoyle and John Joe Fallon.</p> <p>01:27:47 Damian talks about the Intermediate Championship 1976.</p> <p>01:28:25 Gerry emphasises the importance of friendship in the GAA and how it has helped him in his life. Refers to loyalty.</p> <p>01:29:05 Andy and Mícheál talk about the Junior Championship 1962. Mention the local teacher and Mick Sheeran. Refer to drinking culture.</p> <p>01:30:31 Vincent recalls his years as club secretary. Describes the different roles he had. Refers to his wife. Remembers how Johnny Lenehan who would inform the Dublin players about the matches. Mentions the Sheerans, the Kerrigans, the Flynns, Gerry, the Connors, Hughie Gibbons and Tommy Flynn.</p> <p>01:33:21 Ronan talks about the importance of the GAA in his life. Recalls the meetings. Mentions Jimmy Murray.</p> <p>01:34:02 Sean emphasises the importance of the friendships</p>
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	<p>he has made through the GAA. Recalls his time as a selector. Mentions the County Division 2 Final 2002.</p> <p>01:35:38 Talk about their disappointments. Mention All-Ireland 1980, County Final 1981. Mention Boyle GAA.</p> <p>01:36:55 Damian talks about the Ban and the opening of Croke Park.</p> <p>01:37:49 Mícheál recalls his disappointment of not being able to see Sligo Rovers. Mentions soccer and rugby. Mentions Dr Gibbons.</p> <p>01:39:36 Vincent talks about the controversy surrounding the Under 16 Final 1972. Mentions Hughie Gibbons.</p> <p>01:40:38 Sean discusses the standard of refereeing. Talks about his attitude towards losing. Mentions Minor Final 2006.</p> <p>01:41:59 Damian talks about the change in the style of play in football.</p> <p>01:42:58 Mícheál talks about county managers. Refers to professionalism.</p> <p>01:43:27 Vincent and Ronan support Damian's point about the style of play. Ronan highlights the responsibility of the GAA to look after the players.</p> <p>01:44:52 Sean tells of his love for Croke Park and laments the fact that clubs aren't allowed play there enough.</p> <p>01:46:10 Highlight the importance of the GAA for rural Ireland.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input 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>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:46:26
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____13/07/12_____