

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	17 th Feb 2010
Location	Bernie's home, near Leitrim Village, Co. Leitrim
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Bernie Whitney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1936 Home County: Leitrim
Education	Primary: Leitrim NS Secondary: Rosary High School, Cortober, Co. Leitrim
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters & 5 brothers Current Family if Different: 5 sons and 3 daughters
Club(s)	St. Joseph's; Leitrim Gaels
Occupation	Farmer, Cadburys in England
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Leitrim Village Drama Group, Boxing Club Treasurer, FCA, Leitrim Chancy Brothers

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tom Padden
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1941 Home County: Leitrim
Education (Optional)	Primary: Leitrim NS Secondary: Kesh Vocational School Third Level: Drumshanbo School – Community Practice Galway University
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Thomasina with 4 sons and 3 daughters
Club(s)	Leitrim Gaels
Occupation	Retired Telecom Eireann
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Boxing Club, Leitrim Action Group, FCA

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Flynn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Leitrim
Education (Optional)	Primary: Rossan NS, Co. Leitrim Secondary: St. Mary's, Moyne Latin School, Co. Longford Third Level: NUI, St. Pat's
Family	Siblings: 6 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married
Club(s)	Gortletteragh; Leitrim Gaels
Occupation	Farmer, Garda Reserve
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Shopkeeper [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	St. Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, Leader Partnership Programme, Honorary Secretary of Irish Cattle and Sheepfarmer's Association

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Date of Report	15 th August 2012
Period Covered	1950 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Leitrim, Dublin, Donegal, Tyrone
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, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	<p>The men talk about their earliest memories of being involved in the GAA. They discuss the St Joseph's team of the 1950s in the area and the reasoning behind the disbandment of the club. They discuss the formation of the Leitrim Gaels club, the issues that faced the club and the success of the formation. The men discuss the development of facilities in the community and fundraising efforts to bring this development about. They talk about the importance of the GAA in their lives and their hopes for Leitrim Gaels into the future.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:20 Bernie talks about the earliest club in the community, St. Joseph's Leitrim in the 1950s. He recalls attending an anniversary match between Cork and Leitrim.</p> <p>01:43 Bernie discusses the establishment of the St. Joseph's club. Mentions Packie Brady and Paddy Reilly.</p> <p>02:38 Bernie talks about his earliest memories of being involved in the GAA – playing football in the Brothers Sports field after mass on Sunday.</p> <p>04:02 Bernie recalls beating Jamestown in a match in September 1954 in Carrick-on-Shannon. He talks about the celebrations that ensued.</p> <p>05:30 Bernie mentions the other clubs in the area at the time – Sarsfields and Jamestown.</p> <p>07:50 Recalls the club disbanding in 1962 due to emigration. Mentions Michael O'Brien.</p> <p>09:00 Tom recalls his earliest memories of being involved in the GAA – talks about the match between Leitrim and Cork in the 1950s.</p>

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	<p>10:42 Tom talks about the initial forming of Leitrim Gaels.</p> <p>12:00 Recalls the first match in Kiltubrid in 1997. He notes that Kiltubrid allowed Leitrim Gaels the use of their facilities to play matches in the initial years.</p> <p>13:07 Tom talks about the club winning their first cup in 2001. He talks about fundraising efforts within the club to develop facilities. Mentions race nights, dances, annual sports days.</p> <p>15:05 The men recall that the club house and grounds were opened in 2004.</p> <p>15:55 John talks about his earliest GAA memories – playing football in Gortletteragh, marking the field on a Sunday morning. Mentions Mike Ward.</p> <p>18:03 John talks about the development of facilities in Gortletteragh.</p> <p>18:26 John discusses his role in the forming of Leitrim Gaels in 1996. He recalls negativity in the community towards the forming of a new club.</p> <p>20:46 The men note that the Chairman on the Leitrim county board was against the idea of the club being formed.</p> <p>21:56 John talks about deaths in the community at the time of the formation of the club.</p> <p>22:52 Bernie discusses the reasoning behind forming a new club. Recalls his son playing football in Carrick-on-Shannon, not getting a place on the team.</p> <p>25:01 Bernie talks about the issues surrounding the acquisition of playing grounds. He discusses the quality of the current playing field.</p> <p>27:47 The men discuss the choice of name for the new club – Leitrim Gaels.</p> <p>29:03 The men recall the initial team within Leitrim Gaels. They note that they had a lot of people transferring to the club from other clubs.</p> <p>30:04 Discuss the development of underage football in the club. Talk about the prominence of Scór and the successes in Scór competitions.</p> <p>32:19 The men talk about the development of facilities at Leitrim Gaels – dressing rooms, hall, kitchen, computer room.</p> <p>33:00 Fundraising – 3 monthly draws, lotto, dances, grant</p>
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	<p>from council.</p> <p>34:47 The men talk about the issue of bringing a sense of spirit into the community.</p> <p>36:48 The men discuss other sports within the community. They note that rugby and soccer are played, but that football is dominant.</p> <p>37:20 Bernie talks about the development of the club over the next few years. He notes that new people are at the helm of the club.</p> <p>38:55 The men talk about a fundraising effort in New York to raise funds for the club.</p> <p>41:41 Tom discusses Fr Pat Whitney and his charity work abroad.</p> <p>44:40 Bernie notes that the clergy did not play a large role in the past or present in the GAA in the community.</p> <p>45:35 The men discuss the importance of the role of teachers in the community. Mention the Scór competitions.</p> <p>46:00 Bernie talks about travelling to matches in the 1950s – hackney cars.</p> <p>48:46 The men talk about the reasons behind the disbandment of St. Joseph’s club – emigration, no numbers to field a team.</p> <p>50:15 Bernie recalls working in Birmingham for 15 months and playing with Sean McDermotts.</p> <p>52:39 Tom talks about his involvement in boxing before the formation of the Leitrim Gaels.</p> <p>55:35 Bernie discusses the challenges that face the club in the future – creating a sense of spirit in the community.</p> <p>56:55 The men discuss their GAA heroes. They mention Jack O’Shea, Michael O’Brien and Packie McGarty.</p> <p>58:32 The men talk about their best memories of being involved in the GAA.</p> <p>01:00:55 The men discuss their biggest disappointments in the GAA.</p> <p>01:04:50 Relationship with Leitrim Gaels and the Leitrim County Board.</p>
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	<p>01:05:59 Bernie talks about the Scór competition. He discusses the rule changes on the playing field in football and how the game is suffering due to this.</p> <p>01:06:54 Bernie talks about his hopes for the club into the future. He mentions mounting debt within the club and his belief that the present structure within the club is not working.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Bernie: Played for 5 years with St. Joseph's.</p> <p>Tom: N/A</p> <p>John: Played for 20 years.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Bernie: Was involved in administration with St. Joseph's as Vice-chairman in 1954. With Leitrim Gaels he was Vice-chairman in 1997, Chairman from 1998 to 2001 and Treasurer from 2001 to 2004.</p> <p>Tom: Treasurer of Leitrim Gaels from 1997 to 2001.</p> <p>John: 1st Chairman of Leitrim Gaels.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 01:12:17</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

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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: _____15/08/12_____