

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	14 th Dec 2010
Location	Griffin's Bar, Ballynacally, Co. Clare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Griffin
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1947 Home County: Clare
Education	Primary: Ballynacally NS, Co. Clare Secondary: Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 4 daughters and one son
Club(s)	Clondegad; Fergus Rovers
Occupation	Publican, Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Publican / Store Owners, Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Local Development Society, West Clare Horse Breeders Group, Clare Archaeological Society

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	James Conlan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1985 Home County: Clare
Education	Primary: Ballynacally NS, Co. Clare Secondary: Kildysart, Co. Clare Third Level: Sligo Institute of Technology; UCD
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters and 2 brothers
Club(s)	Clondegad
Occupation	Student, Reporter
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	13 th July 2012
Period Covered	Early 1940s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Clare, Dublin, Limerick
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Coaching, Celebrations, Fundraising, Role of the Club in the Community, Media, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Alcohol, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	<p>Michael talks about his affinity for the Clondegad GAA club. He remembers playing both hurling and football in his youth and describes the fields he used to play on, the purchase of club grounds, their development and the state of the current facilities. He is joined briefly by James Conlan who highlights the importance of the GAA to him and to the area. He also outlines how it has helped him in the area of journalism. Michael talks about his family; about his father's love of the GAA and how much it meant to him to see Clare win an All-Ireland. He remembers the islands and the games that used to take place between the islanders and the mainlanders. He notices the changing face of the country and how it is affecting his club, and identifies issues the GAA will need to address in order to reflect these changes.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:28 Michael recalls playing football and hurling in his youth. Mentions Clondegad and Lisheen. Refers to the East-West split in Co. Clare. Talks about his fitness. Mentions cycling and walking.</p> <p>02:00 Talks about the football matches they used to have on the village green in national school.</p> <p>02:46 Briefly describes the successes of the local club. Talks about the tradition of football in the parish. Remembers where the club used to play matches. Mentions the Junior B Championship 1966, and County Junior A title 1969. Mentions Mícheál O'Hehir Park.</p> <p>04:05 Describes Michael O'Hehir's links to the parish.</p> <p>05:07 Talks about his progression through school to the club. Mentions rural Ireland. Mentions athletics.</p>

	<p>06:10 James talks about his early memories of playing football. Refers to the bonds that have been formed around the club. Mentions coaching. Gives a brief overview of football in Clare and talks about his own club, Clondegad GAA. Mentions Páidí Ó Sé. Mentions Lissycasey GAA.</p> <p>09:08 James talks about the importance of the club to the area. Refers to the club's catchment area and outlines his hopes for the future. Mentions Australia. Mentions Gary Brennan, Mark Brennan.</p> <p>11:40 James discusses his involvement with the Clare People and his interest in journalism. Mentions Joe Ó Muircheartaigh and Seamus O'Reilly. Mentions UCD.</p> <p>14:30 Michael talks about the importance of the GAA in Irish society and to young people specifically. Mentions soccer and rugby.</p> <p>16:40 Tells of the popularity of soccer and rugby in Ennis.</p> <p>17:24 Explains the relationship between hurling and football in the area. Recalls where he used to get footballs and sliotars and hurleys.</p> <p>18:50 Talks about the fields on which he played and the facilities available. Recalls travelling to matches by bicycle and by car. Tells of travelling to Dublin by train for the All-Ireland.</p> <p>21:30 Remembers the house in which he used to listen to the radio. Mentions the <i>cuairt</i> house. Talks about people coming to the bar to watch games on the television.</p> <p>23:30 Recalls the importance of the Munster finals. Refers to difficulty in travelling. Mentions Killarney, Cork and Thurles.</p> <p>24:45 Describes his first trip to Croke Park. Mentions Cavan and Dublin.</p> <p>25:25 Talks about his father's and his uncle's involvement in the club. Discusses other players involved with his family. Refers to the County Intermediate Final 1943.</p> <p>27:07 Describes the difference between the game in the 1940s and the game today.</p> <p>27:39 Gives a brief background of Clondegad GAA. Tells of division within the parish. Talks about the standard of the teams.</p> <p>29:15 Talks about the County Championships campaign of</p>
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	<p>1969. Describes the training. Describes the celebrations. Refers to the pub as a focal point.</p> <p>32:02 Tells of his father's involvement in club administration and the importance of the GAA to him. Mentions the All-Ireland Hurling Final 1995. Mentions the Liam McCarthy Cup.</p> <p>33:10 Tells a story about his father's sister and her family. Recalls meeting his first cousin for the first time. Mentions Dublin and England. Mentions the Harden House in Crusheen.</p> <p>36:43 Recalls the purchase and development of the club grounds. Refers briefly to fundraising. Talks about the cost of running a club.</p> <p>39:20 Talks about his time in charge of underage teams. Refers to recent successes and disappointments with the club.</p> <p>41:13 Discusses the involvement of a Dublin man on the club. Remembers him swimming in from Deer Island for training. Mentions soccer.</p> <p>42:50 Remembers the football and hurling games between the mainlanders and islanders. Describes the facilities that were there at the time. Refers to house-dances. Mentions travelling by boat.</p> <p>45:03 Describes the islands in more detail. Talks about the schoolhouse on the islands. Tells of the islanders' involvement in the club.</p> <p>47:20 Talks about the diversity in the area. Refers to the influence of being close to Ennis.</p> <p>48:48 Explains his attitude towards the opening of Croke Park. Refers to the Ban. Mentions soccer and rugby.</p> <p>49:50 Discusses the commitment required by players. Refers to professionalism. Refers to fundraising. Highlights the difference between the hierarchy and the grassroots.</p> <p>52:25 Talks about his sense of satisfaction being involved managing underage teams.</p> <p>53:15 Describes Mick O'Connell as his hero.</p> <p>54:15 Describes the difference in playing for the club and for Pallaskenry Agricultural College. Describes the training and the matches. Mentions handball.</p>
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	<p>56:27 Explains why he thinks players don't get enough recognition for the effort they put in. Talks about the growing popularity of rugby.</p> <p>57:58 Talks about price of admission and attendance figures.</p> <p>58:46 Tells of the enjoyment he has gotten from the GAA.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Michael: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <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): _____</p> <p>James: <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input 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): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Michael: Played for 20 – 25 years. Won a Minor and Juniors in 1966 and 1969.</p> <p>James: N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Michael: Has been involved in administration since 1990. He is a club committee member.</p> <p>James: N/A</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:59:43
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____ Arlene Crampsie _____

Date: _____ 13/07/12 _____