

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Denise Cuddy
Date of Interview	17 th Jan 2009
Location	Interviewer's home, near Castletown, Co Laois
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tina Cuddy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1978 Home County: Laois
Education	Primary: Shanahoe National School, Co. Laois. Secondary: Heywood Community School, Co. Laois. Third Level: Carlow IT
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters, 2 Brothers
Club(s)	Shanahoe Hurling Club [Laois]
Occupation	Employee of the HSE
Parents' Occupation	Lorry Driver [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil

REFERENCE NO. LS/1/1

Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1977 - 2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Laois
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Education, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Northern Ireland, Food and Drink, Economy
Interview Summary	<p>00:00.35- Tina mentions her earliest memory of the GAA and she became involved. Her local hurling teams victory in 1982/3 final that her father was the trainer of.</p> <p>00:00.56-Family tradition and involvement played a major role in Tina's life. Her Uncles and her siblings both play GAA.</p> <p>00:01.04-Tina can recall her family speaking about matches in what she called a "post-mortem" of a match. A rundown of the match would take place on the journey home.</p> <p>00:01.36. The social aspect of the GAA had an impact on Tina's family life. Her family would have all travelled together to cheer on her local team.</p> <p>00:01.59. Tina recalls going to matches when she was younger and speaks about the entry fee in to matches. She can also remember women been allowed into games free of charge. She can remember people bringing their own food to long journey matches.</p> <p>00:02.53- The game that Tina remembers from all of her experienced is Laois winning the Minor football in 1996. They had not won an all Ireland in a long time. It brought interest of GAA back into Laois.</p> <p>00:03.23. Tina mentions the impact of the GAA on a players life. Players tend to play all year around in all conditions. Some have to juggle between county and club.</p> <p>00:04.00- The club play a very important role in Tina's community. Majority of males in the community are involved in the GAA. No pub or shop in community so the club is very</p>

	<p>important.</p> <p>00:04.33- Football and hurling was always played in Tina's national school. Her principle entered them in Cumann na mbunscoil every year. The Ladies football team who are now a senior team started off in the national school in Shanahoe.</p> <p>00:05.00- Tina admires the players the most in the GAA along with the parents and supporters. She mentions how the club players come home from work and go straight to training in all conditions. She argues a point that the players do not get enough credit for their efforts.</p> <p>00:5.32- Lovely Laois is a song that Tina's recalls is sung when Laois plays. She also mentions a Shanahoe song that her father sings. Its about the hurlers years ago and matches they won.</p> <p>00:05.58-The entry fee into matches is one of the biggest changes in GAA along with the media coverage. Tina speaks about how small incidents are exaggerated in the media.</p> <p>00:06.39- Changes in Tina's community have not affected the club. Tina mentions a point about when people move away they always stay playing with their own club. People moving into the community tend to join the club.</p> <p>00:06.51- Tina thinks the role of women has not really changed over the years. Women have played GAA from a young age in their schools. She mentions again the media and how it gives the ladies sport more coverage. For example TG4.</p> <p>00:07.21- Tina now speaks about the role of the churches and clergy in the GAA. It has changed over the years. Matches were usually on after mass times; however Tina mentions that Training sessions and matches are now on at mass times.</p> <p>00:07.47- Tina believes that there is no connection between politics and the GAA.</p> <p>00:08.00 Tina encounters some disappointments in the GAA. She believes that the club players are not looked after well enough for sacrifices they make.</p> <p>00:08.48- If a player is ill- treated at a game it can affect some</p>
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	<p>people especially if that person is a family member according to Tina. Tina can recall her father breaking his leg many years ago playing hurling and he been a lorry driver was out of work. He was the main money earner in the family. He did not receive any money from the county board.</p> <p>00:09.46- Tina mentions that the GAA is a cultural sport. Entering in Scor competitions representing your club would be where the Irish language would come into the GAA. Irish language can also been seen when at matches the teams would be wrote in Irish and given to the referee. Tina does make a point about players who do not speak or know the Irish language. According to Tina it does not play a big role in the GAA.</p> <p>00:10.24- Tina thinks that “healthy” rivalries are good between two teams, but stresses that it should stay on the field and not continue on after matches.</p> <p>00:10.50- When asked about the role of volunteers Tina mentions the role of her father as a volunteer in the club- How he looks after the pitch, dressing rooms. Tina also mentions how her nana washed the Jersey for some years.</p> <p>00:11.30- Tina tells us that she was a player, a committee member and is a supporter. She was the first ever captain of the football team in Shanahoe which was the u16 team.</p> <p>00:12.04- Tina recalls going on holidays and going to an Irish pub to watch county games.</p> <p>00:12.43- When asked about changes in the media coverage Tina mentions about how matches were shown once on a Sunday in black and white. There was not much radio coverage either. Now however highlights of matches can be seen in the evenings. Tina mentions that the bigger counties get more coverage than the smaller counties.</p> <p>00:13.30- As we know we are now in a recession in Ireland. Tina mentions that young people are leaving Ireland to find work. These are people that are players for their club and counties. She thinks this is a big challenge facing the GAA.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. LS/1/1

Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" 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): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	U16 ladies football captain
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:13:50
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Denise Cuddy

Date: 17th Jan 2009