

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Celine Williams
Date of Interview	14 th Jan 2011
Location	N/A
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Carmel Gray
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1965 Home County: Dublin
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: 3 Siblings
Club(s)	Na Fianna GAA Club [Dublin]
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Transport Manager [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	13 th July 2012
Period Covered	1955 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Dublin, Longford, Meath
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>Carmel talks about her early days in the GAA from watching her parents playing to beginning to play herself at the early age of seven for Na Fianna GAA club in Glasnevin. She remembers how she passed the time at Croke Park when she was bored because she was too young to be as interested as she is now. Carmel talks about her father's big involvement with the GAA. Jimmy Gray was a founding member of Na Fianna GAA, Glasnevin he also played in goal for the All Ireland Dublin Hurling team in 1961. Carmel also talks about following her club and county, tells us about the way they travelled to matches and the types of food that was available to her and her family. She also tells us about the times the Dublin teams used to go to Na Fianna before the matches to get food. Talks about how the GAA is like a big extended family and that without volunteers the GAA would be nothing. That the person hanging up the nets at an under elevens match has the same importance of a player going out to play a final. She goes on to talk about how the role of women has changed throughout the years and how more changes should take place. Talks about how the equipment like hurls and helmets have changed and also talks about how the facilities have changed from clubs just having the bare essentials to most clubs having small gyms. Carmel also tells us how emigration has affected the GAA in the past and how it is more then likely going to effect the GAA in years to come. Thinks the challenges that face the GAA in the future are all economic challenges and thinks competition from other international sports is another problem.</p> <p>0:30 Speaks of her earliest GAA memories. Running around the sideline watching parents play in the Phoenix park.</p> <p>0:52 Tells of her first visit to Croke Park and how she passed</p>

	<p>the time reading due to boredom.</p> <p>1:19 Talks of her families early links to the GAA with her father being a founder member of Na Fianna GAA 1955.</p> <p>1:28 Talks about Jimmy Gray (father) being the goal keeper for the 1961 All Ireland Dublin Hurling team and his clean sheet.</p> <p>2:06 Talks about club games she travelled to by car with her parents, sharing a bottle of orange and crisps.</p> <p>2:24 Discusses how the All Ireland Dublin Team of the years 1974, 75, 76 78 went to Na Fianna to eat before the finals. Mentions getting the teams autographs.</p> <p>3:03 Speaks about making sandwiches for matches that were in the club, how they ran out of ham once and what they did to solve the problem.</p> <p>3:26 Explains how her father, Jimmy Gray, and mother, Gretta Gray, are her GAA heroes and how dedicated they were to the GAA.</p> <p>4:04 Talks about the best camogie player she ever saw Angela Downey. Mentions the importance of volunteers and how they make the GAA special.</p> <p>4:40 Talks of the GAA as a community, lack of the parish system in Dublin how the GAA gives a sense of bonding. Mentions how volunteerism and how the GAA pull together if there is a problem.</p> <p>5:15 Talks of how the support of the GAA is like an extended family, the bonds you get just from playing on a team with someone.</p> <p>5:44 Tells how the GAA for a long time where the ones keeping the Irish language and culture alive. Mentions the current use of Irish for signing documents and how the language should be used more.</p> <p>6:17 Talks of there being a lot more organisations that help the Irish culture today and how the GAA don't need to do Scór na nÓg competition but that clubs should emphasise Irish culture in there clubs</p> <p>6:55 Talks about how she played Senior A camogie in Dublin and won the league in 1991 against their great rivals Celtic.</p> <p>7:15 Talks about her first match ever played, with no score in</p>
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	<p>the freezing cold Phoenix Park and having soup afterwards.</p> <p>7:26 Discusses her role in the club and how it changed from being a player to coaching and to being on various committees and administration.</p> <p>8:30 Discusses how the club has had many rises and fallings with facilities and members from the 1970's to today.</p> <p>8:44 Tells how Na Fianna were the first club to have a clubhouse which is therefore the oldest.</p> <p>8:50 Explains that due to a lack of money there was always a fear for the club to be closed.</p> <p>9:08 Talks about the new facilities in the club from gyms to the bars. Mentions all-weather pitches and member numbers in the club which is now up to 2,000 members.</p> <p>9:50 Talks of the introduction of Camogie to Na Fianna in 1969 and ladies football introduced in the mid eighties.</p> <p>10:00 Talks about how women were always treated in Na Fianna as full members.</p> <p>10:16 Talks about women's role in the GAA, how the GAA don't provide games for women but there is a link between the GAA and Camogie Association.</p> <p>10:50 Talks about how the Ladies Camogie and Football will get promoted more in the future.</p> <p>11:14 Discusses how the GAA has moved to a more organised system and how the facilities have changed in clubs and the way players are treated are changed.</p> <p>11:40 Discusses how the money coming in from sponsorships have changed</p> <p>11:56 Remembers her very first training session on Mobhí Road with trainer Anne McNamara from Mountshannon Co Clare.</p> <p>12:15 Reminisces about hitting the ball in grass too long for her age group</p> <p>12:20 Put in goal for her first match because her parents were goal keepers playing with an Aran Sweater on her.</p> <p>12:55 Discusses how they celebrated major victories back in the club. Mentions winning the Ashbourne Cup with UCD and the celebrations thereafter.</p>
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	<p>13:25 Talks about winning the 1991 Senior A League and how the celebrations moved on from the club to Tamangoes.</p> <p>13:36 Talks about how the team almost lost the Ashbourne Cup when they slagged Steve Staunton and how he played a sissy's game.</p> <p>13:56 Thinks back to when they lost a Championship final in 1995 which was probably their best chance of winning and how the team over came the lost.</p> <p>14:32 Discusses the difference between rivalries at different age levels. Mentions argument at different levels.</p> <p>15:10 Talks about the different administrative skills she has learned from her involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>16:03 Talks about the changes in equipment. How protective gear was not used when she was younger.</p> <p>16:25 Thinks of how the death of a Dublin hurler in 1985 persuaded people to wear helmets. Mentions how the ash guards for people's hands are becoming more popular. Also mentions how the shapes of hurls have changed.</p> <p>17:13 Talks about how the changes in the local community have affected the club when in the late nineties, early two thousands there was a rise in members because all the new people moving into the community.</p> <p>17:40 Explains how the young families have had an impact on the club and how people from business backgrounds are helping the club</p> <p>18:13 Talks about how there was no camogie in the school she went to and how they tried to set one up when there was no proper facilities available.</p> <p>18:30 Discusses how camogie really enriched her college experience and how she improved as a player.</p> <p>19:00 Discusses the challenges that face the GAA, from lack of money and support issues.</p> <p>19:18 Talks about the effects of emigration on clubs.</p> <p>19:29 Thinks the GAA should be more welcoming towards other cultures.</p> <p>19:58 Talks about the competition from other sports with a global following.</p>
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	<p>20:12 Talks about what is unique about the GAA</p> <p>20:20 Talks about emigration in her club and discusses how the club lost very good club members from the minor hurling team that won the Dublin championship in 1981.</p> <p>21:09 Talks about the many injuries that she received while playing Camogie.</p> <p>21:40 Gives advice to younger people in the GAA to make the most of the opportunities with which they are presented and to enjoy the sport.</p> <p>22:15 Discusses her best memories of the GAA from winning 1991 championship and the Ashbourne cup to watching nephew play for Na Fianna.</p> <p>22:36 Talks about Na Fianna winning the Dublin championship in 1999. Mentions Navan and Longford and travelling to matches with people you see everyday and how it caused a sense of togetherness.</p> <p>23:17 Talks about when she watched a match from a scoreboard in O'Toole park. Mentions the strange sensations she got when playing matches up north with lots of Union Jacks being flown.</p> <p>24:03 Expresses disappointment at not winning a senior a championship with Na Fianna and her disappointment about the role of women in the GAA.</p> <p>24:21 Discusses how some male players probably don't give the women within their family the respect they deserve as players.</p> <p>24:43 Talks about the role the clergy had in Na Fianna, from the first president of the club to priests helping out with teams and a mass had every year.</p> <p>25:15 Talks of how worthwhile the Oral History project is as you can lose your way by not remembering where you come from.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward </p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input 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>

REFERENCE NO. DB/1/27

Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	U11 through to Senior Camogie Club player; Junior and Senior County Player; Ashbourne Cup (twice) with UCD
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Fixtures Committee Dublin Camogie Board; Club Assistant Treasurer; Camogie Association Disciplinary Committee; Chair Dublin Colleges Camogie
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview:00:25:27
Language	English

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: Celine Williams

Date: 14th Jan 2011