

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	29 th Sept 2010
Location	Bart's home, near Killorglin, Co. Kerry
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Bart Moriarty
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1930 Home County: Kerry
Education	Primary: Kemigo NS, Co. Kerry
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married with 1 daughter and 2 sons
Club(s)	Laune Rangers [Kerry]; St. Mary's Caherciveen [Kerry]; Peadar Mackens [Dublin]; An Ríocht [Down]
Occupation	Rep with Irish Life
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Kerry Association; Irish Foot Harriers Association (Beagle Dogs)

REFERENCE NO. KY/1/14

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	James Sheehan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1960 Home County: Kerry
Education	Primary: Glencuttane NS, Co. Kerry Secondary: Intermediate School, Killorglin, Co. Kerry
Family	Siblings: 5 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 3 sons
Club(s)	Laune Rangers
Occupation	Property Developer
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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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Noel O'Mahony
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1942 Home County: Kerry
Education	Primary: Killorglin Boys School, Co. Kerry Secondary: Intermediate Killorglin, Co. Kerry Third Level: St. Pat's, Drumcondra, Dublin
Family	Siblings: 5 sisters :
Club(s)	Laune Rangers [Kerry]; Erin's Hope [Dublin]; Sarsfields [Wexford]; St. Joseph's [Wexford]
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Postman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Labour
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	INTO

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Date of Report	5 th July 2012
Period Covered	1888 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Kerry, Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny, Wexford, Armagh, Cavan, Down, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary, Tyrone
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Fundraising, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>They talk of their experiences with the GAA listening, watching and playing. They speak of All-Ireland Sunday and how it has changed over the years. They each discuss the facilities and training regimes when they started playing as compared with today. They speak of the history of the club and its successes throughout the years. They talk of refereeing and the training they receive. They also discuss the pressure referees are under to make decisions. The use of two umpires is also mentioned. They explain the story behind the names of the club and the grounds. The role of women in the club is next examined and that of priests and teachers. Bart talks of working within the various bodies of the GAA. Best memories and disappointments are then discussed along with some personal anecdotes.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:45 Bart talks of his earliest GAA memory when a group of boys from his area in the field every evening kicking football until nightfall from April to September without injury or referee. Mentions gathering with a huge crowd at the local radio in Caherciveen and listening to Michael O’Hehir commentating on games. Also mentions the clubs being very strong in the area, St. Mary’s, Foilmore, Reenard Teams.</p> <p>03:44 James talks of his earliest memory being watching the All-Ireland in 1968 when Kerry were beaten by Down. Being brought from Glencuttane to play Under 10 and the many wins.</p> <p>05:22 Noel recalls his earliest memories Dingle playing Dick Fitzgerald’s in the county final in 1951 and a Munster final with Kerry playing Cork in Killarney the same year. Mentions</p>

	<p>playing in the school yard and there being very few organised games. Also mentions reading in the Kerryman about Kerry football as they had not won an All-Ireland in about six years and listening to Kerry beat Armagh.</p> <p>08:05 Talks of Laune Rangers purchasing a field in around 1950 and his mother encouraging him to return to football there.</p> <p>08:41 Tells of listening to Kerry playing Mayo in 1952 semi-final which was played Puck Fairs Day and they had a radio in the house and crowds coming to listen to it. Mentions going to Croke Park in 1959 to see Kerry winning and travelling on the Ghost train from Killorglin at 11 pm and arriving in Dublin at about 6 am then walking to Croke Park and standing all day to arrive home in the middle of Sunday night. Also mentions those travelling to Valentia having to get off the train in Reenard and get a boat across.</p> <p>11:18 Bart talks of his first All-Ireland in 1954 when Meath beat Kerry and travelling there by car with a friend. Mentions the atmosphere in O'Connell street on the Saturday night. Also mentions seeing his first All-Ireland hurling final in 1955 and never missing one since having seen 111 All-Ireland (56 football and 55 hurling).</p> <p>13:11 Talks of being fortunate enough to be in Dublin for about twenty years and being able to have his dinner in Drumcondra and walk up to Croke Park for the matches. Mentions his brother and girlfriend falling asleep on the train and ending up in Reenard point.</p> <p>14:38 Talks of being in a crowd under the Hogan stand and looking around and knowing everyone because they all went to the same place for every game. Mentions the wave of people moving back and forth during the game.</p> <p>15:26 They talk of spending time waiting for the game to start but of there being no entertainment. Mentions a Railway cup when Munster were playing in February and heading to Croke Park but the match being cancelled because of the snow. Also mentions Jerome O'Shea, Dwyer and Connell being on the team and wanting to meet them.</p> <p>18:04 (Bart) Tells of coming home from Dublin twice a year, summer holidays and Christmas. Mentions Dublin being a safe place then.</p> <p>18:56 They discuss the changes in All-Ireland Sunday throughout the years in particular trying to get tickets.</p>
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	<p>Mentions some people going to the games that have no interest in them, one woman was knitting during a game and a man was reading the Sunday Independent. Also mentions the limiting of numbers attending the games and the health and safety implications due to the nature of litigation today.</p> <p>21:42 (Bart) Talks of his respect for those in Croke Park and the problems at the Louth Meath game recently when Louth lost out due to unforeseen circumstances. Mentions there should be two referees and no linesmen. Also mentions the umpires should not be retrieving the ball when it goes out of play and there are too many mistakes made. Mentions assessing referees and the reaction he gets.</p> <p>25:34 Noel talks of one possible outcome to the Louth Meath problem being if the result had been put aside and both teams continued and when the All-Ireland was over play the Leinster final again.</p> <p>26:10 Talks of the All-Irelands in the 1950's when there were mainly men and a few women in attendance whereas today there are lots of children in attendance and adult fans are missing out. Mentions the two counties in the final should get more tickets and better tickets. Also mentions Kerry being given tickets in the corners of the stands and that they should have better ticket as they are in so many All-Ireland finals and have the longest journey to get there.</p> <p>29:31 James talks of the All-Ireland being a huge event, an occasion and a great day out. Mentions the venue being incredible and there being nothing like it in Europe.</p> <p>30:43 Noel complains that the music in Croke Park is just too loud.</p> <p>32:29 Bart talks of there being no facilities when he started playing football at home and in Dublin, with Peadar Mackens, again there were no facilities. Mentions playing a team in the Dublin mountains and asking to use the dressing rooms but that sheep had been in them the night before. Also mentions the Fletchers including Willie Fletcher who played for Dublin, Christy Keane and Leo Hickey.</p> <p>34:41 Talks of forming a Kingdom club, An Riocht, in 1959 that progressed to intermediate before he moved back to Kerry and got involved with Laune Rangers and the Kerry County Board. Mentions very few Dublin clubs having their own grounds except St. Vincent's, St. Finian's, St. Brigid's and a few others and everyone else having to play in Phoenix</p>
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	<p>Park or St. Anne's or other council pitches.</p> <p>37:13 James talks of the facilities when he started playing with dressing rooms and one shower.</p> <p>38:03 Noel tells of toggng out in the ditch but the field in Killorglin formally being a greyhound track and using one of the existing buildings as a dressing room. Mentions toggng out in a hay shed and some of the lads having a raw egg each that they found in the shed. Also mentions going to St. Pat's in Drumcondra and changing in your room then going out to play a game.</p> <p>40:47 Noel talks of another difference being the training and the organisation that is involved. Mentions the captain organising training for a few weeks of the year whereas there is so much organised training today at all levels and it can be too organised. Also mentions that they should be left free to play without the structures.</p> <p>44:00 Tells of the young people today learning about football from a young age seeing the best players on TV and learning from coaches but maybe a little bit of the old freedom would be good for them. Mentions everything being laid on for them today.</p> <p>45:49 James agrees that the training is more organised now as opposed to when he was training at Under 8 and Under 10 which was really a kick about.</p> <p>46:55 Noel talks of the history of Laune Rangers club which was formed in 1888, won its first Kerry championship in 1889 and was the leading club in Kerry for their first ten years. Mentions them having ten Senior Championship titles and Austin Stacks having eleven and John Mitchell's also having ten. Also mentions Laune Rangers winning the club championships on St. Patrick's Day 1996. They had also played when the club champions represented the county in the All-Ireland in 1892 when they lost to a Dublin club.</p> <p>48:58 Talks of them being a Senior club for most of the time. Tells of a new Mid-Kerry board being formed and playing in a divisional team for a few years.</p> <p>49:33 Tells of being one of the few clubs underage teams to win a minor county championship and have five of them 1977, '87, '88, '89 and 1995 also two Under 21 championships. Mentions other teams that have also won, Kilcummin, Gneeveguilla, John Mitchel's and O'Rahilly's. There is a doubt over the official list of winners.</p>
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	<p>55:27 Tells that there should be a roll of honour for underage and minor teams.</p> <p>55:41 Bart talks of his father and mother's interest in the games but his mother never attending. Mentions his brother and sister being involved and attending games even up to today.</p> <p>57:20 James tells of little or no interest in his family with regard to football.</p> <p>58:23 Noel tells of his grandfather playing for Laune Rangers up to the age of forty and being president and chairman of the club. Mentions his mother playing camogie and his father playing rugby and playing in a Munster junior rugby final and of it being a working class game. Also mentions winning a Kerry minor county championship medal 1960 and a Leinster junior medal from 1963 which was played in Croke Park when Westmeath played Wexford. Tells of being late coming out on to the field and kicking the first point.</p> <p>01:01:30 Recalls playing Kerry in the Home final when he was playing for Wexford. Kerry won and went on to play Lancashire.</p> <p>01:03:00 Tells of playing rugby for a few years instead of Gaelic football. Mentions training football teams from being a teacher and then training the minor team and winning the county championship.</p> <p>01:05:22 James talks of playing with the Kerry minors, Under 21 and once with the seniors. Mentions also playing soccer and basketball.</p> <p>01:05:54 Bart tells of playing in Dublin and the Kerry Association going on trips around the country and playing with Paudie Sheehy, Sean Óg Sheehy, Kevin Coffey, Tom Long and Sean Murphy. Mentions playing at the opening of the pitch in Clogherhead in 1962 or 1963 against a Cavan team. Also mentions marbles being the only other sport he played.</p> <p>01:07:31 Noel talks of playing pitch and toss in school as well as chasing games. Mentions this being a difference to today when so many other games are played. Also mentions they should play many sports then decide on one to stick with and hurling being the best game to watch.</p> <p>01:09:20 Tells of football being a bit like soccer with regard to tactics but in hurling the ball is travelling faster down the field</p>
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	<p>and there are less frees than in football.</p> <p>01:11:38 Speaks of football being different when they were young and that the player who got a ball would not be fouled. Mentions now there can be up to fifty fouls in a football match today. Also mentions rugby union becoming more like rugby league.</p> <p>01:15:53 Tells of a juvenile hurling club when he was young but that it did not last. Mentions a hurling league when they were twelve but the locals would not encourage them telling them to throw away the sticks. Also mentions 1974 being the last All-Ireland hurling final he saw.</p> <p>01:17:43 They discuss how good this year's final was and if Tipperary and Kilkenny meet next year it will be as good. Mention managers getting too much credit when the team wins and too much blame when they lose.</p> <p>01:20:13 Bart discusses what makes a good referee and what role he plays in a good match. Mentions him being the most important man in the GAA for without a referee there would be no games. Talks of the training they receive and the assessments they under take. Also mentions hurling being easier to referee as there is less pulling and dragging.</p> <p>01:22:27 Talks of some referees not being able to read a game and giving a free that interrupts the flow of the game. Mentions coaches asking who will referee a match and trying to find out his style of refereeing. Also mentions the types of tackles allowed and how the referee has to be up with play for his decisions to be accepted.</p> <p>01:25:10 Speaks of referees being well respected at national level but then making blunders and being accused of having their own rule book. Mentions a college game recently which he attended and the refereeing that took place. Also mentions some referees refereeing from a distance and depending on the umpires and again suggests there should be two referees.</p> <p>01:32:20 Tells of referees going out on the field and having the craic and they shouldn't as it is a serious game.</p> <p>01:33:10 James talks of the Australian rules final ending in a draw and one of the coaches calling for the game to end on the day of play with no rematches and wanting this to be the case in football and hurling.</p> <p>01:35:00 Suggests that two umpires should not make a decision without looking at each other first. Mentions the rules saying that the free has to be taken from the spot where</p>
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	<p>the foul took place and how this should not be the case. Also mentions tactical fouling in some case and rules being changed too often.</p> <p>01:40:30 James thinks the rules should be simplified and the powers that be should help the referee in all ways. Talks of there being no frees for an illegal hand pass.</p> <p>01:42:32 Bart talks of the role played by the community and vice a versa. Mentions there being players from Under 6 upwards.</p> <p>01:43:48 James tells that not all parents appreciate the effort put in by the GAA. Mentions the fantastic job of those involved at all levels and that they don't get the credit they deserve.</p> <p>01:45:01 They discuss the characters in the club including some of the players.</p> <p>01:45:50 Talk of only ladies football and football being played in the club. They speak of the name Laune Rangers coming from the River Laune and the Connaught Rangers in the Indian Mutiny of the 1850's. Mentions the good clubs going after good players before the parish rule came in to existence. Also mentions the ground being called the J.P. O'Sullivan field after the first captain of Laune Rangers who died in 1909 and was the captain of the Kerry team in the 1892 All-Ireland final against a Dublin club.</p> <p>01:49:42 Tells of J.P. O'Sullivan being an athlete also and being known as the Champion. Mentions rugby and cricket being played in the early days. Also mentions his son Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan who trained the Kerry football trainer who has as many All-Ireland wins with Kerry, eight, as Mick O'Dwyer. Tells of the field in Farranfore being named after Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan.</p> <p>01:52:01 Talks of the famous Kerry win over Dublin in 1955 as the Dublin team were so good.</p> <p>01:53:14 Speaks of county teams having trainers from the very beginning and meeting in training camps.</p> <p>01:54:00 Noel tells of his father playing some GAA as a youngster but not much afterwards and sticking to rugby. Mentions only affecting a few players. Also mentions his father watching the games and being happy he was playing Gaelic football.</p> <p>01:55:41 Tells of his mother's camogie career lasting a few</p>
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	<p>years. Mentions it not being too organised and seeing photos of old camogie teams.</p> <p>01:56:29 They talk of how the role of women has changed over the years. Mentions how they had too much work to do as there were no modern conveniences and that the social structure was different. Also mentions women's involvement in the church as a social outlet.</p> <p>01:58:53 They discuss the role of teachers and priests in the GAA now and the main difference being the level of organisation. Tells of there being class leagues in the bigger schools and inter school competitions. Mentions women being better teachers than men and the ratio of men to women changing so much. Also mentions the clubs in his day not having underage teams and underage trainers and so this task fell to teachers.</p> <p>02:04:47 Talks of training the Laune Rangers Under 12 team and the school team playing during the same time although this has been addressed since.</p> <p>02:05:42 James talks of the teachers in the early days being interested in football and not getting credit for the work they did.</p> <p>02:06:53 Bart talks of his best memory of the GAA being the club winning the county championships at Senior and Minor level and the county winning All-Irelands.</p> <p>02:07:26 Talks of the meeting of great people over the years and the lasting friendships. Mentions parish rivalry and being happy to be involved for over sixty years helping out.</p> <p>02:10:00 Tells of the move from County Board to Provincial Council and then Central Council being a simple one where you do the same work but for a different body.</p> <p>02:10:57 James talks of his best memory being winning a county championship and managing a team to a county championship win. Mentions meeting and playing against great players.</p> <p>02:12:24 Noel tells of having more satisfying wins as a coach rather than a player. Mentions being coach to the 1977 minor county final winners and the 1989 senior county final winners as his best memory. Also mentions the happiest day of his life being when cutting turf with friends and going to the match in the evening and the bus breaking down and good refreshments.</p>
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	<p>02:17:42 Tells of there being a particular satisfaction associated with winning as a coach. Mentions that most of the players in their days were physically fit from their jobs and not needing the gyms etc.</p> <p>02:20:04 Bart tells of his biggest disappointment being beaten by Offaly in the 1982 All-Ireland final when going for five in a row.</p> <p>02:21:37 James tells of being disappointed by Tyrone beating them for the second time over in the All-Ireland final. Mentions having no disappointments personally and just putting any losses behind himself.</p> <p>02:22:25 Noel tells of his disappointment at not getting on the Kerry minors for the championship in 1959 and '60. Mentions not feeling too disappointed with losing any other games he played or coached. Also mentions wanting to see the winning of titles being spread around rather than one club or county dominating the results.</p> <p>02:27:04 Talk of Kerry winning the most All-Ireland's but they have also lost the most finals as Kilkenny have in the hurling and it is from losing that you learn.</p> <p>02:27:30 Bart tells that his involvement in the GAA has meant everything to his life. Mentions the great personal satisfaction through his involvement.</p> <p>02:28:52 James talks of his feeling that each game was an opportunity to show you were better than the opposition. Mentions the love of the game and the confidence it instils and how it gives you a sense of identity.</p> <p>02:30:06 Noel agrees and tells how it kept him fit over the years and the friends he made at games. Mentions the school finals being another great memory with Caragh Lake National School. Also mentions the rules not allowing any soloing with the ball and only one hop being allowed, which made for a faster game.</p> <p>02:31:45 Tells of having three ex-pupils who in 1996 were captains of three Kerry teams, Michael Hassett, Senior, Liam Hassett, Under 21 and Johnny Lynch, Minor.</p> <p>02:34:05 Bart talks of being in the Grand hotel in Malahide in 1980 for the All-Ireland final against Roscommon. Mentions Con Murphy being there and a comment he made appearing in the paper the next day.</p> <p>02:36:13 Tells of being in the Hogan stand at a hurling game</p>
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	<p>between Wexford and Cork and Christy Ring was a selector. Mentions two Dublin lads doing the line the comments between them and Christy Ring.</p> <p>02:37:24 Talks of Cathal O'Leary going on a solo run. Mentions the Dublin wit and Thorny O'Shea who played with the Mitchels in Tralee taking a free.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Bart: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>James: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" 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>Noel: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" 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>Bart: Played for 20 years. Won junior and intermediate leagues and championships – a few with Peadar Mackens and 4/5 with An Ríocht and an All-Ireland 7-A-Side.</p> <p>James: Played for 21/22 years. Won Under 12, 14, 16, 18, Minor and Senior county championship, 1989; All-Ireland 7-A-Side, 1978. Also played for Kerry at minor, Under 21 and won Vocational Schools All-Irelands, 1977, 1978.</p> <p>Noel: Played from 1954 – 1976. Won a Kerry Minor championship,</p>

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	1960 and Leinster junior in 1963.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Bart: Got involved in administration in 1956.</p> <p>Club: Secretary (Peadar Mackens & An Ríocht); Committee Member (Killorglin)</p> <p>County: County Referee's Administrator; Referee's Administration Committee and Assessor</p> <p>Munster: Kerry Representative on Munster Council; Referee's Administration Committee and Assessor</p> <p>Croke Park: Referee's Assessor</p> <p>James: Got involved in club administration in 1983.</p> <p>Noel: Got involved in administration in 1976. He was club delegate to the county board between 1983 and 1985 and has been involved in school's competitions all the time.</p>
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:38:11
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: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____05/07/12_____