

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
<b>Location</b>	Old Clondermot School, Derry
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paul Simpson
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1968 <b>Home County:</b> Derry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Chapel Road Boys, Co. Derry <b>Secondary:</b> St. Breacan's, Co. Derry
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Michelle with 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Na Piarsaigh, Doire Trasna
<b>Occupation</b>	GAA Games Promotion Officer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Lorry Driver [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Nationalist / Republican
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Rallying; Cycling

**REFERENCE NO. DY/1/17**

<b>Date of Report</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1970s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Derry, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Down
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Role of Teachers, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Impact on Life, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Paul Simpson starts by talking about his earliest memories of the GAA playing hurling in school and remembers fondly playing in Silvermines with the Under 14 team. He then talks about playing hurling in Derry City during the Troubles. Paul goes on to speak about his teacher helping in his choice of hurling over football and going on to coach. He discusses setting up Doire Trasna hurling club after Derry won the All-Ireland in 1994 and football coming into the club in 2000. He then tells of the difficulties faced by the club that had no playing grounds and had to share the local facilities. Paul then recalls the teams fielded by the club over the years. He speaks about the successes of the club over the years. He goes on to talk of the involvement of all sides of the community in the club. Paul then discusses the impact his involvement in the GAA has had on his life before going on to talk about the support of the Ulster Council and Derry County Board. He goes on to talk about his best memory and his GAA hero before speaking about his biggest disappointment. Finally, he talks about what the GAA has meant to him over the years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:21 Describes his earliest memory of the GAA, playing hurling for Saint Breacan's High School and Na Magha in Derry City.</p> <p>00:40 Talks of his fondest memory, travelling to Silvermines, Tipperary, with the Under 14 team. Mentions how the parish revolved around the club and the GAA.</p> <p>01:17 Discusses the lack of a hurling club on the Waterside of Derry City and the journey to and from the club across town, through a British Army checkpoint, during the Troubles. Mentions getting the bus there and a lift home this left him with fifty pence pocket money.</p>

	<p>02:06 Talks of training and playing in Templemore sports complex.</p> <p>02:30 Speaks about his choice of hurling over football and how it was influenced by his teachers. Mentions Hugh Grayson. And winning the league and city championships for four years in a row.</p> <p>03:08 Speaks about travelling to training from the Waterside across Craigavon Bridge.</p> <p>03:39 Talks about his parents and how they had no interest in the GAA. Mentions that he comes from a mixed marriage and talks about his grandfather's interest in soccer.</p> <p>04:01 Speaks of his love of hurling and tutoring GAA coaches.</p> <p>04:32 Talks of his parent's happiness that he choose to get involved in sport. Mentions the social side of the club as well as injuries that can happen.</p> <p>05:35 Talks of his hurling career up to Under 16 when due to injury and other reasons he stopped playing. Mentions meeting his wife when at school.</p> <p>06:33 Discusses forming Doire Trasna hurling club in 1994 with three others on the back of Derry winning the All-Ireland in 1993. Mentions fielding a senior team only.</p> <p>07:30 Talks of football coming on board in 2000. Mentions co-founders, Alan Nash (referee), Michael Quigley and Mark Duddy who had all played together in school.</p> <p>08:01 Speaks of not being fit enough or skilful enough to play senior hurling at the time. Mentions playing against Seamus Downey.</p> <p>08:49 Challenges of finding grounds in an urban area. Talks about the base for the club in the Waterside. Mentions using the school that they went to and the four years it took to get the grounds up and running. Need for a base.</p> <p>10:14 Speaks about the first two years and playing all their games away as they had no base. Templemore was the only Derry city council GAA ground available, competing for space with Na Magha. Mentions the county board arranging their matches on alternating weekends so they could play at home. Also mentions the multi-use pitch at Prehen.</p> <p>11:11 Talks of the political changes in the mid-nineties and how this made it possible to have a GAA pitch in the</p>
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	<p>Waterside.</p> <p>11:53 Tells of the positive reaction from the county board to the setting up of a new club.</p> <p>12:37 Speaks of the reaction from the local clubs. Mentions how the hurling at the club could not be sustained despite feeling that there was room for two clubs.</p> <p>13:18 Talks of the panel, which consisted of twenty one players, eighteen of whom had played on the school team. Mentions a former Kilkenny hurler who worked locally and joined.</p> <p>14:00 Talks of how difficult it is to take up hurling as an adult and that the players had all played as children.</p> <p>14:19 Speaks about hurling in Derry generally and how a new field should bring a resurgence.</p> <p>14:59 Talks about the move from hurling to football within the club as hurling was not proving successful. Mentions the name change to Na Piarsaigh, Doire Trasna.</p> <p>16:41 Talks of the Under 14 team and Senior team in 2001 and how this grew to eight teams from Under 6 to Senior. Mentions the good coaching structures that attract players.</p> <p>17:57 Speaks of setting up the youth side in 2001 as there was more interest in football than hurling at the time.</p> <p>18:51 Talks about the club success in 2002 winning the North Derry Minor Championship. Mentions winning the 2003 North Derry Minor League and how the Senior team progressed to intermediate after five years.</p> <p>20:55 Speaks of finding a home for the club in a disused community centre. Mentions using Templemore Sports Complex, Immaculate Conception College and Lisnagelvin playing fields and Celtic Park.</p> <p>21:53 Talks of securing a piece of land for use by the club. Mentions the support of the Ulster Council for this endeavour.</p> <p>23:03 Speaks about the areas covered by the club across the Waterside and trying to keep within the parish. Mentions drawing from three primary schools.</p> <p>24:23 Talks of fielding teams at all levels from Under 6 to Seniors and developing a GAA ethos in the city.</p> <p>25:17 Speaks of the involvement of all sections of the</p>
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	<p>community in the club. Mentions the protestant players being less vocal about their involvement.</p> <p>26:40 Talks about the impact of his involvement in the GAA on his life.</p> <p>27:50 Speaks of being one of the 'Clones 400' Derry supporters when the Derry Senior team was not doing so well.</p> <p>28:13 Speaks of the colours that the team play in which are similar to Mayo, green and red with black and white trim.</p> <p>28:38 Talks about the hopes for the future of the club in securing their own base.</p> <p>29:31 Talks of the rivalries with other clubs such as Ardmore.</p> <p>30:25 Speaks of the assistance from the Ulster Council and Derry County Board. Mentions being one of only two clubs that have no playing field of their own, the other being Doire Colmcille.</p> <p>31:50 Talks of the increase in player numbers due to the coaching programme.</p> <p>32:29 Speaks of his best memory of all associated with the GAA, going to Silvermines to play hurling, when the Sam Maguire came to Derry and when the club was promoted to intermediate level.</p> <p>33:28 Talks of his GAA hero, Henry Downey. Mentions his involvement in the Derry County Over 40s team. Also mentions, Henry and Seamus Downey, Tony Scullion, Richard Ferris, Joe Brolly and Enda Gormley.</p> <p>35:21 Speaks of the disappointment of being beaten by Down in 1994 in Celtic Park. Tells of his biggest disappointment that his own team was not able to sustain their intermediate level status.</p> <p>36:29 Talks of what the GAA has meant to him, having a job that is also his favourite hobby. Mentions the joy of seeing young children learning the skills involved in football. Also mentions his daughter's role in coaching within the club.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played from Under 12 to Under 16, played senior from 25 to 41 and has played Over 40s All-Ireland.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Has been involved in administration since 1994.  Club: Chairman, Youth Officer, Coaching Officer, Child Protection Officer
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:37:53
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_02/08/12\_\_\_\_\_