

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	8 th Feb 2011
Location	Michael's home, near Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Farrell
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1926 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: St. Patrick's, Derrygonnelly and Coranerk PS Secondary: St. Michael's, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh Third Level: St. Mary's & St. Joseph's, Belfast, Co. Antrim
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 daughters
Club(s)	Derrygonnelly Harps GFC
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Police Sergeant [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Parish Committee, Chairman of Credit Union, Knights of Columbanus, Pioneer Association

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Francie Rasdale
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1944 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: Tullyholvin, Boho, Co. Fermanagh
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters & 1 brother Current Family if Different: Married with 3 daughters and 2 sons
Club(s)	Derrygonnelly Harps GFC; Boho St. Faber's
Occupation	Farmer and School Caretaker
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Heritage Club; Community Association; Ceoltas

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Date of Report	5 th August 2012
Period Covered	1930 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Fermanagh, Derry, Tyrone, Monaghan, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Playing, Training, Coaching, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Club History, County History, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Women, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Culture, Volunteers, Emigration, Rivalries, The Troubles, Northern Ireland, Media, Religion, Scór
Interview Summary	<p>Michael and Francie discuss their early days of playing football. Francie recalls playing with Boho in Fermanagh before their disbandment and his subsequent move to Derrygonnelly. Michael discusses his role in the reformation of the Derrygonnelly Harps club in 1948. The men discuss the facilities in their early playing days and the development of the facilities over the years. They talk about fundraising efforts and the role of volunteers in the community. Francie discusses the impact of women's football on the club. Both men talk about administrative roles they have held and the enjoyment the GAA has given to them in their lifetime.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:38 Michael discusses memories of the GAA – recalls the reformation of Derrygonnelly Harps in 1948.</p> <p>01:58 Recalls playing football in Belfast while completing his teacher training and subsequently playing with the Harps Club in Derrygonnelly.</p> <p>02:26 Michael recalls attending his first football match – a local inter-parish competition.</p> <p>03:17 Francie discusses the inter-parish competition. Mentions that his father told stories of the competition.</p> <p>03:40 Michael recalls a memory of watching one of the inter-county matches. Talks about fierce rivalry. Mentions the Sandhill pitch.</p> <p>04:34 The men discuss the history of Derrygonnelly Harps GAA.</p> <p>05:48 Michael talks about the fall of Derrygonnelly Harps due to emigration and the reformation of the club in 1948.</p>

	<p>Mentions starting a schools competition between the local schools.</p> <p>06:25 Michael discusses the successes of the club in the early days after the reformation. Mentions winning a junior championship in 1952.</p> <p>06:40 Francie describes his earliest GAA memory – watching his father playing matches with Derrygonnelly in the Sandhill. Cycling to matches. Recalls attending his first Ulster Final in Clones in 1956, travelling in a car, Tyrone won.</p> <p>08:48 The men discuss Michael’s administrative roles within Derrygonnelly Harps and the County Board.</p> <p>09:25 Michael discusses past development of facilities in the club. Talks about the issues surrounding funding. Mentions the present development of the club.</p> <p>10:36 Michael describes the old “Sandhills pitch” where Derrygonnelly played their earlier matches. Recalls a story about the man doing the Gate.</p> <p>12:07 Francie discusses his involvement with Boho Club in Fermanagh. Mentions that a junior club was formed in 1962. Talks about the success of the team. Recalls the poor facilities. Mentions Martin Stewart making an iron shed.</p> <p>13:51 Recalls playing minor football with Boho in the late 1950s. Discusses his subsequent involvement with Boho club at an administrative level. Mentions his role as Treasurer.</p> <p>14:50 Describes “problems” with referees – not showing up to officiate the match.</p> <p>15:29 Talks about the decline of the Boho’s Club due to a lack of numbers. Discusses his move to Derrygonnelly Harps. Mentions administrative roles he held over the years.</p> <p>16:39 Francie discusses his role as a Scór coordinator. Recalls Derrygonnelly and Boho meeting in Scór competitions.</p> <p>17:18 Francie describes the differences in the running of a Scór competition nowadays compared to his involvement in earlier days. Talks about the decline in numbers participating.</p> <p>18:08 Notes that Derrygonnelly won an All-Ireland in the Scór in instrumental music in 2010.</p> <p>18:46 Francie talks about family involvement in Derrygonnelly Harps. Mentions that his son and daughter hold</p>
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	<p>administrative roles within the club.</p> <p>19:03 Francie talks about the disbandment of the Boho club. Mentions that the majority of the club moved to Derrygonnelly Harps, some went to Belcoo. Discusses the initial set up of Boho. Mentions the Curran's. Discusses high quality players in the area – talks about John Quinn and Eamon Maguire and his commitment and dedication to football.</p> <p>22:45 Francie mentions prominent club officials in Derrygonnelly over the years – mentions Master Fee, Michael Farrell.</p> <p>23:05 Michael talks about the steps involved in reforming Derrygonnelly Harps in 1948. Mentions Tom Fee, Gene Cassidy, the Flanagan family.</p> <p>24:58 Michael notes that Derrygonnelly won their first senior league in 1959.</p> <p>25:10 Michael describes fundraising efforts in the early days in Derrygonnelly Harps. Mentions holding draws and concerts.</p> <p>26:08 Talks about recent funding from the Ulster Sports Council. Recalls receiving a government grant from the Department of Education to develop the football field.</p> <p>29:05 Michael talks about the process of acquiring a new field for Derrygonnelly in the late 1950s.</p> <p>30:38 Francie mentions the purchase of a second field in the late 1990s. He discusses the range of teams playing with Derrygonnelly Harps. Notes that there are 3 adult male teams in the club.</p> <p>32:00 Francie talks about “Sunday morning football”. Mentions that they have voluntary drivers who collect the children after mass to play football.</p> <p>33:08 Talks about the success of the lotto within Derrygonnelly Harps.</p> <p>33:37 Francie talks about his role as Treasurer in Boho. Discusses the differences in running a club nowadays compared to his days with Boho.</p> <p>34:40 Francie talks about transportation to matches in his early playing days. Recalls overcrowding in cars.</p> <p>35:08 Michael recalls walking to watch local matches in Derrygonnelly. Discusses the benefits of purchasing a car</p>
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	<p>and travelling to matches in later years.</p> <p>36:17 Francie talks about Parker's lorry, Maguire's lorry and car, that transported people to matches.</p> <p>37:00 Francie discusses Boho's rival clubs in the early days. Francie mentions Boho's fierce rivalry with Belcoo. Recalls experiences of matches against Belcoo. Mentions Fr Havlin and Mickie McGranaghan. Talk about women at matches carrying umbrellas.</p> <p>40:14 Michael talks about Derrygonnelly's rival clubs. Mentions Belleek and Garrison.</p> <p>41:01 Francie talks about the camaraderie among players on rival teams once the match was over. Discusses the social benefits of being involved in playing GAA.</p> <p>42:47 Michael talks about his family's lack of involvement in GAA. Mentions becoming more involved while studying in Belfast.</p> <p>44:30 Francie talks about his father's interest in GAA. Recalls his family having a radio in the house to listen to the match. Talks about the Irish Press paper.</p> <p>46:23 Francie discusses the interest amongst the community in the GAA in earlier days. Recalls his first trip to Croke Park in 1961.</p> <p>47:16 Michael talks about listening to Michael O'Hehir commentating on matches on the radio. The men discuss the wet battery radios. Michael recalls a local shop (Donaldsons) having a generator to charge the batteries – it was the first electricity in the town too.</p> <p>51:05 Michael discusses the absence of hurling in Derrygonnelly. The men talk about attempts within the local schools to bring hurling into the community.</p> <p>52:43 Francie talks about his wife's involvement in camogie in Boho after the disbandment of the football club. Talks about the successes of the club.</p> <p>53:44 The men talk about ladies football within Derrygonnelly and the affiliation of the ladies club into the Derrygonnelly Harps club.</p> <p>54:53 Michael mentions Hugh Kelly, the current Chairman in Derrygonnelly Harps, and his contribution to ladies football.</p> <p>55:31 The men discuss the role of women within</p>
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	<p>Derrygonnelly Harps club. Michael talks about the voluntary work carried out by the women in the club.</p> <p>57:05 Michael notes an issue with facilities in Derrygonnelly Harps for the ladies team. Mentions an extension that is being carried out at present.</p> <p>58:08 Francie talks about the small impact of The Troubles on Derrygonnelly Harps. He recalls a policeman stationed locally who played with Derrygonnelly. Talks about the intimidation he was subjected to from other clubs.</p> <p>01:01:30 Michael talks about the open policy in Derrygonnelly to all religions and sectors of the community. Mentions William Barton.</p> <p>01:02:02 The men talk about celebrations in Derrygonnelly after victories. Francie recalls winning the first championship victory for the team.</p> <p>01:03:20 Michael discusses his best memory of being involved in the GAA – his involvement in the reformation of the club in the late 1940s.</p> <p>01:03:50 Francie talks about his best memories of being involved in the GAA – captaining Boho's to their only junior championship, his role as vice-Chairman when Derrygonnelly won their senior championship and the Scór victory in 2010.</p> <p>01:05:02 Francie gives his opinion that the GAA does not support the Irish language and culture as much as they should.</p> <p>01:06:11 Francie talks about his GAA hero – Sean O'Neill of Down.</p> <p>01:07:08 Francie compares the differences in team training nowadays compared to his early playing days.</p> <p>01:08:39 Michael recalls training the Derrygonnelly team in early years and holding structured training sessions. Mentions that Jim McKeever, the Derry footballer, gave him notes and advice on how to train a team.</p> <p>01:10:00 Michael talks about his GAA hero – John Quinn and Eamon Maguire, local Derrygonnelly men.</p> <p>01:11:01 Michael talks about his enjoyment in his role as delegate to the Ulster Council. Recalls that the meetings were held in Portadown entirely in Irish (as Gaeilge). Mentions Malachy Mahon from Irvinestown.</p>
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	<p>01:13:00 Discusses the tradition of Fermanagh always being given the first round of the Ulster championship. A walk out by the Fermanagh delegates. Mentions Poppy Fearon.</p> <p>01:14:21 Michael discusses his biggest disappointment with the GAA – Fermanagh County Board’s refusal to accept a policeman playing with Derrygonnelly Harps.</p> <p>01:15:00 Francie talks about his biggest disappointment with the GAA – the demise of the Irish language.</p> <p>01:16:51 The men discuss their approval of the big rule changes within the GAA – Rule 21, the lifting of the ban on foreign games.</p> <p>01:17:39 Francie talks about his concern with “pay for play”.</p> <p>01:19:29 The men talk about what their involvement in the GAA has meant to them in their lifetime.</p> <p>01:20:41 Francie talks about his hopes for younger people to become more involved in Derrygonnelly Harps at an administrative level.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Michael:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Francie:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Michael: Played from 1946 – 1954. Won a junior title in 1952.</p> <p>Francie: Played for 20 years. Won a junior championship with Boho and junior leagues with Derrygonnelly.</p>
<p>Record as an</p>	<p>Michael:</p>

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Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Has been involved in administration since 1948. He was a re-founder member. Club: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Fundraiser and Delegate to the County Board County: Assistant Secretary, Delegate to Ulster Council Francie: Has been involved in administration since 1961. Boho: Treasurer Derrygonnelly: Chairman, Vice-chairman, Grounds Committee and Delegate to the County Board.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:22:50
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: _____05/08/12_____