

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Jimmy Smyth
Date of Interview	28 th Dec 2011
Interviewee	Colm McKinstrie
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1949 Home County: Armagh
Education	Primary: St. Peter's Primary School, Lurgan Secondary: St. Paul's Junior High School, Lurgan
Family	Siblings: 2 Brothers, 1 Sister
Club(s)	Clan na Gael GAA [Armagh]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	Sexton
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	29 th August 2012
Period Covered	1964-2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Armagh, Derry, Dublin, Cavan, Roscommon
Key Themes Covered	Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Refereeing, Celebrations, Education, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Childhood, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>In this interview Jimmy Smyth and Colm McKinstrie discuss Colm's time with Clan na Gael and playing for Armagh. Colm starts by talking about playing in school and the teachers who helped organise things. He goes on to talk about being chosen to play for Clan na Gael. He speaks about the way the team grew together as they knew each other so well. He then talks about the type of game favoured by Clan na Gael. He speaks of training and playing in Armagh during the Troubles. He next talks of the transition to the Armagh team under new management and speaks of several games they played. He goes on to tell of the team placing a bet on themselves and winning. He then talks of this being the taking off point for Armagh despite several defeats over the next few years. He speaks of many of the Armagh team at the time going on to manage the Armagh Senior team as well as many club teams. There follows a discussion about the 1980 win and Colm's All Star and his Achilles problems. He then speaks of the Armagh Ulster final win in 1982 and goes on to recall the good times over the year. He next discusses moving from playing into management and the various clubs he managed. He then discusses what the GAA has meant to him over the years and the friends he has made. Finally, he tells why his daughters are not playing football in the GAA.</p> <p>00:04 Talks of Clan na Gael and playing with Armagh and won an All-Star and captained the team which won an Ulster Championship in 1982.</p> <p>00:33 Speaks about starting to play football in Saint Peter's in Lurgan. Mentions the teacher Johnny Fagan an Armagh county player and Clan Eireann man who was also County Secretary for almost thirty years.</p> <p>01:05 Talks of sitting in class with Jimmy Smyth and sharing his lunch. Mentions Gerry Fay and Jabalah Cabrey.</p> <p>01:53 Discusses Saint Paul's school P.E. Teacher Harry Haughey who influenced Clan na Geal by guiding young</p>

	<p>players to the GAA. Mentions Brendan McStravick and Seamus Lavery.</p> <p>03:43 Talks about playing in Newcastle and the Teachers bringing them to the game in their cars. Mentions the motivation of Brendan McStravick.</p> <p>05:11 Speaks of Harry Haughey and Harry McGarry who looked after the Clan na Gael underage teams at the time. Mentions meeting Jim Burns. And being invited to Clan na Gael with the offer of a bottle of lemonade, a real treat.</p> <p>07:07 Describes his first night at Clan na Gael. Mentions the lack of facilities but really enjoying the bottle of lemonade.</p> <p>09:10 Talks of the various wins at minor level and the automatic move into senior level where they beat Clan Eireann in 1968. Mentions the team moving from strength to strength because they knew each other so well.</p> <p>10:14 Recalls his first senior match in Sarsfields when Brian Seeley asked him to play for Clan na Gael. Mentions playing full forward after being a goalkeeper. Also mentions Malachy Healey.</p> <p>13:04 Talks of Harry McGarry leading the team into the time of Brian Seeley (Captain). Mentions Joe McCalley, Jim B Seeley, Eddie Mathews and John Green. Also mentions 10 Championships over the next 16 years from 1968 along with three Ulster Championships.</p> <p>15:23 Talks of it being a typical family club. Mentions coming from obscurity and playing against Bryansford.</p> <p>16:37 Speaks of Clan na Gael playing a fielding game and the players having the skills within them while the training was not as good as they thought it was.</p> <p>17:40 Recalls playing and training during the Troubles and all the travelling they did during this time.</p> <p>18:34 Discusses the contrast between Clan na Gael and the county team with the former winning well while the latter were poor. Mentions a change in management with Gerry O'Neill coming into manage the county team and Peter Mackem. Which led to a win at division three national league and went on to win more.</p> <p>19:12 Talks of Peter Mackem. Asking could Colm have the evening off work to play in Silverwood Hotel. Also mentions winning the league in 1976.</p>
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	<p>21:13 Talks of playing Dublin in Parnell Park and losing. Mentions playing Cavan and Jimmy Donnelley and Gene Cusack.</p> <p>22:38 Speaks of backing themselves a pound a man at 16/1 to win the Ulster final and beating Derry in the final.</p> <p>24:06 Talks of Armagh taking off from this point despite being beaten in the All-Ireland by Dublin. Mentions many of the team going on to manage the Armagh Senior team including Jim McCorry, Paddy Moe, Brian McAlindin, Brian Canavan, Joe Kiernan and Peter Rafferty.</p> <p>24:50 Talks about the present day with the McGinny's and McNulty's throwing their weight behind the Armagh team and maintaining the family feel to the GAA in Armagh. Mentions many others of the Armagh team going into club management.</p> <p>25:19 Discusses the following years up to 1980 when Colm won an All Star. Mentions his Achilles tendon problems against Roscommon. Also mentions Martin McDermott.</p> <p>26:43 Talks of Dermot Early and himself shouldering each other going down and bouncing back without any intervention by the referee. Mentions being hit often in games, Eamon Tavey, Monaghan and Tom McGuinness.</p> <p>28:10 Talks of Down beating them in the 1981 Ulster Final but Armagh winning against Fermanagh in 1982 with Colm as captain. Speaks of being over the moon at the time. Mentions meeting Kerry going for five in a row and meeting Offaly.</p> <p>29:31 Tells of his wife being amazed that he would do it all again. Recalls the good times and how every player should make the most of it.</p> <p>30:12 Speaks about moving from a playing career into management of various teams. Clan na Gael. Mentions meeting Harry McGarry in Davitt park and him being unhappy that he wanted to transfer to play for Pierces.</p> <p>33:07 Talks of managing Clan na Gael and losing to Crossmaglen in Division 2. Mentions Barry O'Hagan and David Morrison.</p> <p>34:22 Tells what the GAA means to him and how it has always been there for him. Mentions the friends he has made over the years. Also mentions the Harps, the Oaks.</p> <p>35:41 Talks about his three girls not being involved in football</p>
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	with the GAA as they have lovely legs and they want them to stay that way.
Involvement in GAA	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" 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)	3 Ulster Club. 10 Senior Championships. 3 Minor Championships. Club-2 Senior Championships. All Star-County
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: 36:08
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____ Jimmy Smyth _____

Date: _____ 28/12/2011 _____