

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Glenarm, Co. Antrim
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paul McCaughan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1954 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Patrick's, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim <b>Secondary:</b> St. Congall's, Larne, Co. Antrim
	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with one son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Latharna Óg GAC
<b>Occupation</b>	Driving Instructor
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Joiner [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1940s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Antrim
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Career, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Paul talks about his involvement in the GAA with the Latharna Óg (Larne) club over the years. He discusses the history of the club since its formation in 1965 and talks about hurling in North Antrim. Paul recalls the resistance by many unionists to the development of the GAA in the area and the relationship between the GAA and the community. He talks about the building of the club's pitch and facilities over the past decade and the different grounds the club used to play on before they purchased their own. Paul discusses his role in the administrative side of the club and how he took over as club chairman from his father who had held the post for over 30 years. He discusses the impact of the Troubles on the club and how the experience of the GAA differs in the north than it does in the south.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:20 Earliest memory of the GAA – Playing in a field in Larne.</p> <p>00:41 Discusses the formation of the Latharna Óg club in 1965 and his various roles in the club. Describes how people from the outside, like his father from Armoy, Ballycastle, came into Larne to build the power station in Ballylumford.</p> <p>02:15 Talks about how there was no underage GAA in his area before he moved to Larne. Entered the Belfast District Street League with Larne. Discusses how the teams called themselves after southern counties like Kilkenny, Cork,</p>

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	<p>Wexford and Clare.</p> <p>03:25 Discusses the perception of the GAA in a predominately unionist area.</p> <p>03:48 Describes the type of resistance from the unionists to the playing of GAA in the area.</p> <p>04:30 Discusses the interest from some unionists in the GAA and the problems they faced. Talks about the nationalist reaction to unionists playing.</p> <p>06:36 Talks about sport in the community during the 1960s – 1980s.</p> <p>07:52 Recalls how his parents had a big interest in the GAA. His father, James McCaughan, was one of the founding members of the club and was chairman for 30 years.</p> <p>08:40 Discusses the various clubs in the area since the early 1930s and explains why hurling was the chosen sport over any other of his club. Mentions John Brown from Ballycastle and Alex McGarry from Loughgiel.</p> <p>10:00 Discusses the history of the club and how they only started with youth teams.</p> <p>10:54 Recalls his father's playing days in Armoy Ballycastle and how his uncles' played for Ulster in the Railway Cup.</p> <p>11:43 Describes the make up of the club and where its members come from. Draws players from the town of Larne and from schools like St Killian's College.</p> <p>12:38 Talks about the club's initial facilities and their development. Initially played in 'Gerry's Field' which was owned by the Housing Executive. Discusses the club's various attempts to buy grounds in the early years and sharing with Glenarm.</p> <p>14:38 Talks about the club buying its own ground in 1999 and the development of the facilities in 2002. Changing rooms were developed in 2006.</p> <p>16:08 Discusses the problems many clubs in the North faced with break-ins and vandalism. Recalls how 24 indoor hurls were stolen from the club during one incident.</p> <p>16:53 Talks about receiving a grant from the Sports Council for the development of the pitch and describes the club's new facilities.</p>
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	<p>17:49 Describes the club's celebrations for the opening of the new facilities. Mentions the Ulster Council president Tom Daly and chairman John McSparran. Final of the McCaughan Cup held on the day.</p> <p>20:33 Describes the relationship between the club and the county board.</p> <p>21:45 Talks about the make up of the McCaughan Cup. Recalls the club's successes in the past.</p> <p>23:20 Recalls the travelling to matches in his father's car. About ten in the car at the time. Club eventually bought a minibus for the club.</p> <p>24:40 Recalls his father buying hurls for the club from Doyle's in Wexford. Discusses the impact on the club after Antrim got to the All-Ireland final.</p> <p>26:40 Discusses the various hurley makers in Antrim like Scullion Hurles and McNaughton Hurleys in Cushendall. Gives his opinion on plastic hurles.</p> <p>27:43 Discusses the history of the club's colours.</p> <p>28:25 Talks about his various administrative roles in the club.</p> <p>30:10 Recalls the first meeting he attended. Sitting in a smoky room taking minutes.</p> <p>31:05 Discusses becoming a secretary at a young age, his experience of the job and the changes over the years.</p> <p>33:15 Recalls his first experiences of playing hurling as a child and the changes in the game.</p> <p>34:52 Talks about the type of training that took place in the club.</p> <p>35:45 Describes the club's rivalries with other teams.</p> <p>37:35 Discusses the relationship between his identity with community and the GAA and the GAA tradition in his area.</p> <p>38:47 Talks about the importance of volunteers for the survival of the club.</p> <p>39:55 Gives his opinion on the growing professionalism in the GAA and the concept of 'pay for play'.</p> <p>40:38 Discusses his refereeing career and his experiences of being a referee. Recalls having to abandon a game. Gives his</p>
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	<p>opinion on video refereeing.</p> <p>44:53 Talks about the important role played by schools for the club. Lack of teachers involved in GAA. Recalls playing hurling in secondary school but there was no team.</p> <p>46:24 Talks about the role of the Irish language and culture in the club and in the community in general.</p> <p>48:18 Discusses the club involvement in the Scór competition.</p> <p>49:21 Describes the role played by the clergy and the church in the club in the past and in the present. Gives his opinion on the relationship between the church and the GAA. Mentions Father Moley.</p> <p>51:55 Discusses the role of women in the club and in the GAA in general.</p> <p>53:49 Talks about the lack of Camogie in the club.</p> <p>54:44 Discusses the effect on the club of the increase in bureaucracy within the GAA.</p> <p>56:06 Discusses the impact of the Troubles on his experiences in the GAA. Recalls having to stop going to Belfast for matches.</p> <p>57:39 Talks about the IRA in the local area and the impact of the Troubles on the club.</p> <p>58:40 Discusses the differences between the GAA experience in the north and the south. Talks about the hostility among some councils in the North towards the GAA.</p> <p>59:46 Recalls the club sharing facilities with Glenarm. Discusses the problems of selling grounds.</p> <p>01:01:36 Talks about the type of fundraising for the club.</p> <p>01:02:19 Describes the biggest changes in the GAA during his time involved in the club. The improvements in facilities and in Croke Park.</p> <p>01:03:25 Talks about travelling to Croke Park on a regular basis and the traditions they had. Stopping in Castlebellingham and Dundalk.</p> <p>01:04:47 Recalls his best memory of his time in the GAA. The opening of the club's grounds.</p>
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	<p>01:05:10 Chooses Christy Ring as his GAA hero.</p> <p>01:05:41 Talks about his biggest disappointment in the GAA. The fact that the club is not as successful as it could have been.</p> <p>01:06:06 Discusses the changes within the GAA the club. Voting against the lifting of the ban and voting against the opening up of Croke Park. How that was held against them.</p> <p>01:09:01 Describes how important the GAA has been to him during his lifetime. Gave him the opportunity to meet people and keep fit.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><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</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" 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>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for 25 years. Won a Schools All-Ireland Medal in 1971, 2 Junior Feis Cups (1988, 1989), a Division 3 (1983).</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1974. He has been club secretary and chairman (1981 – 1983, 1999 – 2010).</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:09:43</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

**REFERENCE NO.** (OFFICE USE ONLY): **AN/1/5**

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed:            Arlene Crampsie    

Date:             17/07/12