

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	16 th Dec 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, Shannon, Co. Clare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gus Lohan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1941 Home County: Galway
Education	Primary: Aughrim NS, Co. Galway Secondary: Ballinasloe Vocational School, Co. Galway Third Level: Garda Training in Phoenix Park
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers Current Family if Different: Married to Bríd with 2 sons and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Cappataggle [Galway]; Aughrim [Galway]; St. Gabriel's, Kilconnell [Galway]; Inniskeen Grattans [Monaghan]; Kilrush Shamrocks [Clare]; Lissycasey [Clare]; Newmarket-on-Fergus [Clare]; Mooghaun [Clare]; Wolfe Tones, Shannon [Clare]
Occupation	Garda
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Drama Club, Aughrim; Parish Hall, Aughrim

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Date of Report	17 th July 2012
Period Covered	1923 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Galway, Clare, Dublin, Monaghan, Tipperary, Waterford, Great Britain, England
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	<p>Gus reflects on his lifelong involvement with the GAA in Galway, Dublin, Monaghan, and Clare. He explains how his career as a garda resulted in him relocating and changing clubs. He outlines the successes of those clubs, including Aughrim and Newmarket-on-Fergus GAA Clubs. Gus also discusses his inter-county career playing for both Galway and Clare and the training involved at this level. He considers how membership of a GAA club benefited him as a garda and ponders the significance of GAA clubs in rural communities. In addition, Gus reflects on the lifting of the ban on foreign games. Finally, he discusses his sons' playing careers and describes the social advantages of his GAA involvement.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:27 Gus recalls his earliest GAA memories. Mentions a neighbour in Galway, Vincent Kenny, brother of Mick Kenny, captain of 1923 Galway team. Using field in front of Kennys' house, children and adults playing. Mentions Johnny Kenny.</p> <p>01:33 Describes facilities in area. Kilconnell, Aughrim. Cappataggle GAA Club drawing from three parishes, playing with them years ago. Mentions Tony Miller's field. Mentions hurling teams in Aughrim and Kilconnell, called St. Gabriel's. Move to London.</p> <p>03:56 Reflects on school hurling team. Strength of Ballinasloe school team. Organised school leagues in the 1950s when he was in school. Beating Portumna in 1961 after a replay. Mentions Tony Donoghue who played for Portumna. Also mentions Portumna's Paddy Quentin. Recounts story of Tipperary forestry workers playing illegally for the 1961 Portumna team. Mentions county secretary Jack Whelan.</p>

	<p>Outlines successes in the mid-60s. Moving to Clare in 1965.</p> <p>06:57 Describes training sessions in Galway. Tournaments for bicycles, gold watches, suit lengths. Mentions mentor Ned Farrell of Cappataggle. Notification by telegram about matches, or calling to houses by motorbike.</p> <p>09:04 Cappataggle colours: black and red. Jerseys sponsored. Same colours as Whitegate in Clare. Mentions Fr Jackie Solan's involvement in Galway county board. Discusses bishop of Galway's strict attitude. Fr Jackie starting hurling team in Kiltormer. Fr Jackie transferred to Portumna, boosting that team, his contribution to club and parish. Also Fr Jackie's contribution to Killimer. Mentions Mrs Campbell in Kiltormer, Dan Fahy of the Aughrim Slopes, Paddy Kelly, and Tommy Kelly.</p> <p>13:19 Discusses the history of the GAA in the area. Mentions Jerry Miller and his brother Tony Miller, their uncle Paddy Began. Jerry's pitch. Mentions hurler Patsy Lynch. Mentions his own brother Joe Lohan.</p> <p>14:56 Some football in the area. Winning junior football in 1962 with St. Gabriel's, intermediate hurling. His preference for hurling, playing both. Reasons for his love of hurling. Mentions Vincent Kenny. Recalls cycling to matches, later cars and horses and traps. Move from pony and trap to Morris Minor in the mid-60s. Mentions his older brothers Brendan and Joe.</p> <p>18:56 Recalls cycling to Duggan Park in Ballinasloe for matches. Later by car or bus in the 60s.</p> <p>19:26 Mentions rivals in the 60s: Portumna, Ardrahan, New Inn. Mentions Staff Garvey and Leonard McGrath from Cappataggle on 1923 Galway hurling team.</p> <p>20:14 Considers the role of the GAA club in the community. Recalls being secretary of athletic club, GAA club, and social club in Aughrim. Joining Garda Síochána in 1961. Describes different distances in athletics, training 3 nights a week. Training for gardaí in Phoenix Park in Dublin, playing with Guinnesses on Sundays. Moving to Inniskeen, strong football team. Mentions Paddy O'Rourke. Recalls meeting 1995 president. Discusses footballing achievements of Paddy and Ollie O'Rourke. Also mentions Joey Byrne, his son David playing for Monaghan.</p> <p>23:55 Compares style of GAA played in Dublin, Monaghan, Clare, and Galway. Illegal players. Mentions Mooghaun.</p>
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	<p>Mentions Ned O'Connor.</p> <p>25:59 Reflects on his entry into Clare GAA. Playing with Newmarket-on-Fergus GAA Club from 1965, involved with that club into the 80s. Mentions Paddy Mac, Jimmy Cullinan. Recounts story involving Jimmy Cullinan and Glen Rovers and Patsy Harte. Also mentions Jackie Solan, Joe Salmon, Jimmy Duggan. Mentions Mike Sheehy and Ned O'Connor. Football team in Newmarket called Mooghaun.</p> <p>30:09 Discusses the proposal to lift the ban on foreign games, Ned's opposition to lifting the ban. Conflict. Recalls suspension of Tom Cheasty for attending soccer match. Gus's lack of interest in soccer or rugby. His views on removing the ban. His grandchildren playing football, hurling, rugby, soccer.</p> <p>32:44 Reflects on changing clubs. Only getting two days off work per month, difficulty of getting time off. Mentions Sergeant Mattie Watters. Benefits of being involved in GAA club to his job.</p> <p>34:30 Recalls playing at inter-county level from 1962 until 1978, for both Galway and Clare. Describes getting the call-up to play his first match. Challenge match between Galway and Dublin.</p> <p>35:54 Discusses local support when he was selected.</p> <p>36:35 Compares training with county team and training with club. Mentions Kiltormer and Sarsfields. Galway's lack of strength in hurling in early 1960s, little effort put into team. Mentions handballer Pat Kirby. Also Tom McGarry, Bobby Rackard. Skill of handballers at catching. Explains training: taking shots. Mentions striking skill of Joe Cooney and Pat Cronin. Also mentions Jimmy Smyth.</p> <p>40:58 Recalls taxis to county team training. Describes highlight of watching Glen Rovers of Cork, with Denis O'Riordan, Patsy Harte, Denis Coughlan.</p> <p>41:59 Reflects on difficulty of beating Wexford during his playing days. Describes playing on Clare county team from 1968. Similar to playing with Galway. Mentions Michael Arthurs, sprinter, soccer, and rugby player, also hurler and footballer. Emphasis on fitness in Clare. Mentions Colm Flynn coaching team and emphasising fitness.</p> <p>44:00 Recalls being selected for Clare. Mentions Michael Considine, Joe Hannon. Also mentions Mick Roche and Tom Ryan.</p>
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	<p>46:20 Mentions county chairman John Hanly. Considers reasons for divide in Clare between east and west, hurling and football. His views on the promotion of soccer and hurling at the expense of football. Discusses anti-football bias.</p> <p>47:39 Mentions individuals involved in Newmarket club when he arrived: Miko McMahon. Mentions Ned O'Connor involved in football. Also mentions the Halpins, Pat Halpin.</p> <p>49:19 Describes milestones of Newmarket in his time. Winning 2 Munster club finals in 1968 and 1969. Strength of team in 60s. Publishing book about this era called <i>A Proud Past</i>. Mentions Jimmy Smyth's books of poems.</p> <p>50:48 Discusses moving to Shannon, playing football with Wolfe Tones na Sionna GAA Club, winning intermediate in 1975. Mentions Pat Leary, Christy Ryan playing alongside him. Mentions Martin Donnelly.</p> <p>51:50 Ponders state of Gaelic games in Shannon. Success in underage hurling and football. Mentions contribution of chairman Fr Michael McNamara. Decline of club, current success. Difficulty of recruiting players in town clubs compared to rural clubs. Other distractions in towns. Mentions Martin Russell.</p> <p>54:41 Recalls moving to Shannon, still playing with Newmarket. Describes his involvement with camogie team, chairman. His interest in camogie. Fundraising to build dressing rooms, writing to politicians for lotto donations. Also mentions Mary Elliot and Carmel Butler involved with camogie.</p> <p>56:26 Discusses the involvement of his sons Brian and Frank Lohan. At club and county level. Playing in 3 Munster finals in 90s, winning one.</p> <p>58:00 Reflects on the excitement of Clare winning the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final. Mentions article in the <i>New York Times</i> about that Clare team. Mentions Billy Early.</p> <p>58:42 Considers his best GAA memories. Lifelong enjoyment from childhood. Mentions Matt Nugent.</p> <p>01:01:25 Mentions his GAA heroes: Fr Nicholas Murray, Paddy Molloy.</p> <p>01:02:01 Considers benefits of his GAA involvement: friends made all over Ireland.</p>
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<p>Involvement in GAA</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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" 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>Played from 1951 to 1986. Won Minor and 4/5 Intermediate or Junior with Cappataggle; Junior with Mooghaun (1968); 11/12 Senior championships with Newmarket-on-Fergus and an Intermediate with Wolfe Tones (1975). Won All-Irelands with Garda team and played at county level for both Clare and Galway. He won a National League with Clare in 1976.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since the late 1950s. He has been secretary of Aughrim; treasurer of Newmarket; and chairman of camogie with Wolfe Tones.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual </p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:02:14</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____ Arlene Crampsie _____

Date: _____ 17/07/12 _____