

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2011
<b>Location</b>	Ryan's Bar, Navan, Co. Meath
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Geraldine Sheridan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1960 <b>Home County:</b> Great Britain
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Joseph's and St. Helen's, Birmingham <b>Secondary:</b> Archbishop Masterson's, Birmingham <b>Third Level:</b> Nursing Training
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Damian with 3 sons and 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	John Mitchel's [Birmingham]; Navan O'Mahony's [Meath]; Seneschalstown [Meath]
<b>Occupation</b>	Assurance, Nurse
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Gear Box Factory, Hospital Porter [Father]; Nurse [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MH/1/14

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Maria Kealy
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1984 <b>Home County:</b> Meath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Seachnaill's NS, Co. Meath <b>Secondary:</b> Dunshaughlin Community College, Co. Meath <b>Third Level:</b> Inchicore College, Waterford Institute of Technology, Athlone Institute of Technology, Chester University
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 7 brothers & 2 sisters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Royal Gaels
<b>Occupation</b>	Games Development Administrator
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Soccer; Basketball; Badminton; Swimming; Running

REFERENCE NO. MH/1/14

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Anne Dungan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1958 <b>Home County:</b> Meath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Navan, Co. Meath <b>Secondary:</b> St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Navan, Co. Meath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 1 son and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Simonstown Ladies; Navan O'Mahony's
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Printer, Typesetter
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Navan Camera Club

**REFERENCE NO. MH/1/14**

<b>Date of Report</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1970s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Meath, Great Britain, England, Australasia, Australia, Kerry, Laois
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Relationship with the Association, Relationships
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Geraldine, Maria and Anne recall their earliest memories of the GAA. They each recall their own careers in the GAA, from playing to coaching, as well as administration. The highs and lows of their involvement in ladies football are recalled, specifically underage All-Ireland successes and defeats with Meath. All three discuss and debate the difficulties that ladies football faces, detailing instances where they have felt they have been treated differently to their male counterparts. They also talk about the nature of the relationship between ladies football and camogie in Meath. They talk about their best memories from their involvement in the GAA, and discuss their heroes in the GAA. All three conclude by examining what motivates them to remain involved in ladies football and the GAA.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:42 Geraldine discusses her earliest memory of Gaelic games. Mentions England, Navan O'Mahonys and the Meath team. Mentions her son Joe being on the Meath panel. Also mentions her son Brian.</p> <p>01:41 Geraldine recalls playing ladies football in England. Mentions John Mitchels GAA club in Birmingham. Also mentions Ann Lyster and Tommy Donohue of Parnells. Recalls taking Under 14 team to Féile.</p> <p>03:26 Geraldine discusses her involvement with the Navan O'Mahonys club. Mentions her children Joe, Damien, Mary and Mena.</p> <p>04:11 Geraldine discusses her family background in the GAA. Recalls her father listening to matches on the radio in</p>

	<p>England.</p> <p>05:03 Geraldine talks about her coaching career. Mentions her teams' successes.</p> <p>05:38 Maria recalls her earliest memory of the GAA. Mentions 1988 All-Ireland finals between Meath and Cork. Recalls start of her playing career. Mentions Dunshaughlin. Recalls being brought on to the Meath panel.</p> <p>09:01 Anne recalls her earliest memories of the GAA. Mentions watching All-Ireland finals on television. Recalls beginning of ladies football team in Navan O'Mahonys. Mentions defeat in final to Cormeen. Recalls attitude to ladies football when she began playing. Mentions playing games in Páirc Tailteann.</p> <p>11:55 Anne discusses playing equipment and gear in her playing days.</p> <p>13:23 Anne recalls figures in ladies GAA in Meath. Mentions Ultan Fitzpatrick and Kitty Carroll.</p> <p>14:22 Anne talks about teams she played against. Mentions Cormeen, Fyanstown, Kells Post Office, Simonstown and Drumbaragh.</p> <p>14:59 Anne recalls the reaction of men to the establishment of ladies football in the area.</p> <p>15:33 Anne recalls travelling to matches. Mentions Fyanstown. Also mentions the Jolly Old Horse in Cormeen.</p> <p>16:17 Maria discusses her playing career. Mentions Dunshaughlin and Royal Gaels. Recalls county final against Moylough when club was thrown out of championship due to "parish rule". Mentions Aileen Byrne and Seirse Dwyer. Recalls being a founder member of Royal Gaels. Mentions Dearbhla O'Carroll and Christine O'Brien. Recalls Leinster Final against Dublin in Dunboyne. Mentions Fiona Mahon. Mentions All-Ireland semi-final defeat to Kerry.</p> <p>19:40 Also recalls match against Seneschalstown, recalls being sent-off along with her best friend, forcing her to miss All-Ireland semi-final. Recalls captaining Meath to All-Ireland Under 16 success. Mentions Geraldine Sheridan, Mickey and Ann Collins and Marie Doyle. Also mentions Sean Walsh and his role in the club. Recalls match against Seneschalstown before team broke up.</p> <p>25:00 Maria discusses her coaching career. Mentions Ollie</p>
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	<p>Bowe, Eamon Murray, Ollie Callaghan, Mary O'Shaughnessy, Mary Coyle, Maeve Murray, Eimear Murray and Jenny Rispin.</p> <p>26:33 Maria discusses her role as a development officer with the GAA. Mentions Christine O'Brien, Gillian Bennett and Dudley Farrell.</p> <p>29:16 Maria recalls her ladies football career in college. Mentions Strawberry Hills and Inchicore. Recalls playing soccer in Inchicore, as well as running and swimming. Also mentions Waterford IT, Athlone IT, John Anderson and Chester University.</p> <p>33:13 Geraldine discusses her playing career. Mentions John Mitchels in Birmingham. Mentions St Barnabas GAA club in Nottingham. Also mentions Jimmy Walsh and his role in ladies GAA in Birmingham. She recalls the facilities that were available. Mentions her sisters Phil and Bernie, as well as Chrissie King from Roscommon. Recalls the formation of the ladies club. Mentions Ann Lyster. Recalls how she became chairman of the ladies GAA club. Mentions Angela and Teresa Baggot, as well as Helen O'Rourke and Mick Fitzgerald. Mentions her lack of proficiency in the Irish language.</p> <p>39:30 Geraldine discusses the progression of ladies GAA in the Birmingham area. Mentions playing for Warwickshire. Recalls matches against Parnells of London. Also mentions Round Towers.</p> <p>40:48 Geraldine discusses returning to live in Ireland. Mentions Navan O'Mahonys. Discusses her children's involvement in the GAA. Also mentions Seneschalstown. Mentions her involvement with the county team also. Mentions training at St Oliver's school. Recalls song that was sung on the pitch before every match - "We are the Meath girls".</p> <p>43:42 Maria recalls prayer that was recited before every match, and sings the pre-match song "We are the Meath girls". Mentions Ollie Bowe.</p> <p>44:32 Geraldine recalls the camaraderie of the teams she managed. Mentions All-Ireland final in Carlow against Waterford. Recalls penalty incident involving Geraldine Doherty. Also mentions Mick Fitz. Recalls All-Ireland semi-final defeat to Kerry. Anne recalls bus breaking down on way to Kerry game.</p> <p>48:06 Geraldine recalls playing her last game in ladies</p>
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	<p>football, for Seneschalstown, in Leinster semi-final against Timahoe. Mentions the late Lulu Carroll, as well as Sue Ramsbottom. Also mentions Mary, Mena and Patrick Sheridan.</p> <p>49:59 Geraldine recalls Under 16 game that Meath won. Mentions Mickey and Ann Collins, Mena Sheridan and Katie O'Brien. Recalls Maria Kealy parading around Páirc Tailteann with the cup.</p> <p>51:44 Maria describes the emotion of victory in the under 16 All-Ireland final. Geraldine recalls the Garda escort that accompanied the team in Navan, mentions John Moroney. They also recall defeats. Geraldine mentions Mickey Collins, Katie O'Brien and other players who made the senior panel – Maria Kealy, Mary and Mena Sheridan, Gráinne and Geraldine. She also mentions Paula Cunningham, Meath manager from Monaghan.</p> <p>54:52 Anne discusses her career in the GAA. Mentions moving to Australia and recalls meeting the Irish International Rules (then Compromise Rules) team in Perth. Mentions Jack O'Shea in Subiaco Oval. Describes returning to Ireland and becoming involved with Simonstown Gaels. Recalls the progression of her coaching career.</p> <p>57:30 Anne recalls her administrative roles with club and county. Mentions Geraldine Sheridan and Maria Kealy. Recalls compiling the history of ladies football in Meath.</p> <p>01:00:07 Anne discusses developments in Meath ladies football over the years.</p> <p>01:01:51 Geraldine discusses the administrative aspect of ladies football. Discusses relationship with mens' Gaelic football. Mentions Páirc Tailteann and Dunganny. She discusses the difficulty of fundraising.</p> <p>01:03:56 Anne compares funding for ladies' GAA to that of their male counterparts.</p> <p>01:04:55 Maria discusses the differences between ladies football and the main GAA body.</p> <p>01:06:42 Anne recalls incident at ladies football Under 16 match.</p> <p>01:08:09 Maria discusses the issue of Royal Gaels amalgamating with Dunshaughlin. She discusses the facilities that the ladies club has.</p>
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	<p>01:10:31 Geraldine talks about the issue of ladies football amalgamating with the main GAA body. Mentions her club Seneschalstown, as well as Kells and Blackhall Gaels.</p> <p>01:13:41 Anne compares the treatment of ladies football in her playing days with modern times.</p> <p>01:14:21 Maria discusses the positive aspects of involvement in the GAA. Debates the benefits of amalgamation between ladies football and the main GAA body. Also talks about the disparity in treatment between the ladies and their male counterparts.</p> <p>01:19:23 Geraldine discusses the difference in treatment that the mens' and ladies' teams receive.</p> <p>01:23:34 Anne, Geraldine and Maria provide examples of the costs involved in running a ladies team.</p> <p>01:25:05 Anne talks about fundraising.</p> <p>01:26:23 They discuss the relationship between ladies football and camogie in Meath. Anne discusses the challenges involved in accommodating all teams on her club's two pitches. Geraldine recalls attempting to reach an arrangement with camogie regarding fixtures.</p> <p>01:32:57 They discuss the challenges faced by dual players. They mention players such as Claire Coffey, Aoife Thompson and Fiona O'Neill. They also mention Jenny Rispin and Clare Coffey. Geraldine mentions Mary Sheridan and Jackie Shiels, while Maria mentions Sharon Byrne. They also discuss the commitments in general that are demanded of players.</p> <p>01:40:11 Maria recalls her best memories of the GAA. Recalls All-Ireland successes with Meath.</p> <p>01:41:30 Geraldine recalls Meath winning underage All-Irelands and mentions her dream of seeing her daughters play in Croke Park. She also mentions friendships made through the GAA.</p> <p>01:43:57 Anne recalls her best memories in the GAA. Mentions 2006 Ladies National League Final. Also mentions club winning intermediate championship.</p> <p>01:45:22 Maria recalls the successful period for Dunshaughlin ladies and mens' teams. They discuss the community element of the GAA.</p> <p>01:47:17 Geraldine recalls the year Meath received five</p>
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	<p>nominations for All Star awards.</p> <p>01:48:41 Maria discusses her GAA heroes. Mentions Richie Kealy, Ann Marie Dennehy and Louise McKeever. Also mentions Mick Lyons.</p> <p>01:50:10 Anne discusses her GAA hero, mentions Jack O'Shea. Also mentions Christine Fagan (nee O'Brien). Maria discusses Christine's role as a development officer.</p> <p>01:51:56 Geraldine discusses her GAA hero. Mentions her husband Damien and children Damien, Joe, Mary, Mena and Brian. Also mentions Christine O'Brien, Dearbhla O'Carroll, Ann Marie Dennehy, Gillian Bennett, Jane Burke and Maria Kealy.</p> <p>01:54:18 They discuss 1994 Meath junior team. Mention Christine O'Brien, Dearbhla O'Carroll, Gillian Bennett, Aimee Bennett and the roles they played in ladies football in Meath. Geraldine mentions the people behind the scenes who also contribute. She mentions Ann Collins, Joe Breen, Maura Keane, Aisling Cleary, David Dempsey, Monty Dempsey, Pat Ryan, Martin Mannering, Frank Healy and Anne Dungan. They recall the enjoyment they have received from their involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>*** Geraldine requested that a note be appended mentioning her admiration for Sean Boylan as an outstanding man in Meath GAA***</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Geraldine:</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>Maria:</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 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>Anne:</b></p>

**REFERENCE NO. MH/1/14**

	<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 checked="" 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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Geraldine:</b> Played from 1981 – 1999. Won 14 championships and a range of league medals with John Mitchel’s, league medals with O’Mahony’s and 2/3 championships with Senschalstown. Also won an Inter-provincial medal.</p> <p><b>Maria:</b> Has been playing for 19 years. Won junior B, junior A and intermediate championships. Won 6/7 Leinster titles and 1 Under 16 All-Ireland</p> <p><b>Anne:</b> Played for 6 years. Won 1 junior championship, 1 intermediate championship.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Geraldine:</b> Has been involved in administration since 1986.</p> <p>Ladies Club: John Mitchel’s Chairperson; Navan O’Mahony’s Secretary; Senschalstown Chairperson and Delegate to County Board</p> <p>Ladies County: Chairperson (2 terms), Secretary, Delegate to Leinster Council, Delegate to Central Council</p> <p>Provincial Chairperson in England for 1 year.</p> <p><b>Maria:</b> Describes her role in administration as general dogs body and committee member.</p> <p><b>Anne:</b> Has been involved in administration since 1997.</p> <p>Ladies: Injury Secretary (3 years), Chairperson (2 years), Registrar (1 year), Secretary (3 years), PRO (6 years)</p>

**REFERENCE NO. MH/1/14**

<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:59:48
<b>Language</b>	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:      \_\_\_\_\_06/08/12\_\_\_\_\_