

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	15 th Dec 2010
Location	Foley's Pub, Cross, Co. Clare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Marty Crotty
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933 Home County: Clare
Education	Primary: Killbaha NS, Co. Clare
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married (wife deceased) with 2 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Naomh Eoin; Killballyowen
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. CE/1/11

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Boland
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1960 Home County: Clare
Education	Primary: Cross NS, Co. Clare Secondary: Kilrush, Co. Clare Third Level: Agricultural College
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 1 son & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Naomh Eoin
Occupation	Plant Hire, Agricultural Contractor
Parents' Occupation	Farmers and Publicans
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Macra na Feirme

REFERENCE NO. CE/1/11

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Bonfil
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1962 Home County: Clare
Education	Primary: Kilbaha NS, Co. Clare Secondary: Kilkee, Co. Clare
Family	Siblings: 5 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 3 sons
Club(s)	Naomh Eoin
Occupation	Mechanical Supervisor
Parents' Occupation	Farmer, Shopkeeper
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. CE/1/11

Date of Report	15 th July 2012
Period Covered	Mid 1940s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Clare, Dublin, Cork, Kerry, Galway, Americas, USA, Australasia, Australia, Great Britain, England
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Playing, Fundraising, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Irish Language, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Socialising, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>The three men talk about their involvement in the GAA throughout their lives. They talk about the tradition of football in their area, about how their own club, Naomh Eoin, was formed and how it has fared since. They also refer to the success of the local ladies' football club, West Clare Gaels in recent years. They remember what it was like travelling around the county for club matches, and around the country supporting Clare. They discuss their memories of Clare hurling success in 1992 and especially 1995 and recall the impact it had on their club. They also discuss their thoughts on what the future might hold, highlighting their worries about a decline in population through emigration and the affect this might have on the club.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:51 Marty tells of his earliest memories of the GAA. Mentions Kilballyowen, Loop Head Rangers and Shannon Rangers and his own club, Naomh Eoin.</p> <p>02:30 Marty lists through some notable club successes. Mentions Senior Championship 1991, 1997 and 2005. Refers to League success in 1976, 1977 & 1979. Mentions Thomas Geaney, Patrick Foley and Michael Liddane.</p> <p>03:50 The group recalls some defeats suffered by the club.</p> <p>04:30 Marty remembers listening to games on the radio. Recalls the All-Ireland Football Finals of 1946, 1947 (in the Polo Grounds, New York), 1948 & 1952. Mentions Kerry, Roscommon, Cavan. Mentions Jimmy Murray, Martin O'Neill, John Joe Reilly. Recalls listening to matches with Henry Blake a local blind man.</p> <p>08:15 Michael talks about playing for the club and for his school. Recalls travelling in the back of a tractor. Remembers</p>

	<p>going to Munster Finals in Páirc Uí Chaoimh in the 1970s. Mentions Brendan Kane, John McGrath and Noel Roche.</p> <p>10:35 Michael recalls the club travelling to New York. Refers to fundraising.</p> <p>11:39 John discusses the foundation of Naomh Eoin. Remembers travelling by car to games. Mentions Gabriel Keating and Fr Séamus.</p> <p>12:25 John recalls people travelling from Dublin to play for the club. Mentions his brothers Patrick and Bernie, the Gibsons, Finbarr Lynch. Mentions becoming chairman in 2004.</p> <p>13:25 John describes the role of the club in the community. Mentions soccer and rugby. Refers to the social importance of the GAA.</p> <p>14:51 Marty remembers walking and cycling to club matches and travelling by car to inter-county football and hurling matches in his younger days. Mentions Kilkee, Kilbaha, Kilrush, Carrigaholt, Killarney, Limerick. Mentions Jackie O’Dea, Christy Ring, John Doyle and Mickey Byrne.</p> <p>17:30 Michael recalls thumbing (hitch-hiking) to matches in the 1970s. Also refers to cycling and driving a tractor.</p> <p>18:25 John and Michael talk about travelling by minibus. Mentions Thomas Hock, Mick Collins, Kevin Cuddy. Mention Kerry.</p> <p>19:30 John and Michael talk about the support in the town for the club since its foundation. Describe the social dynamic of the town. Mention soccer, rugby and hurling.</p> <p>20:40 Michael remembers people travelling from around the country for training. Mentions the Bonfils, the Gibsons & Tom Considine. Tells a story about Michael’s brother travelling for an AGM in the club. Refers to voluntary effort to keep clubs going and develop facilities. Mention St. Brigid’s GAA.</p> <p>23:30 Michael talks about people playing illegally in Dublin. Mentions John’s brother Patrick, David O’Connor. Mentions the Evening Herald.</p> <p>25:00 Michael and John discuss the underage teams at the club. Refer to girls playing on teams with the boys. Explain the reasons for amalgamating with O’Currys GAA. Mention Denise Geaney.</p> <p>26:55 Michael and John tell of journeys back from Dublin with John’s brother Patrick. Refer to travelling by train and car.</p>
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	<p>Mention Iarnród Éireann.</p> <p>28:27 Marty remembers the tradition of football in the area. Marty and Michael describe where they used to play and train. Mentions Kilballyowen. Mentions Ross Mountain and losing balls over the cliff.</p> <p>30:05 The group explains how Naomh Eoin came to buy their own grounds in the late 1970s. Land was originally owned by the landlords. Mentions Stephen Haier.</p> <p>31:00 Marty talks about the Kilballyowen teams. The group talks about the attitude to training in the early days and the difference between then and the modern game.</p> <p>32:41 Marty and Michael recall the state of the pitches. Mentions Paddy Foley. Marty remembers buying footballs in Kilrush.</p> <p>35:20 The group talks about fundraising that has gone on in the club over the years. Michael refers to an incident with the parish priest during the Novena. Mentions Gabriel.</p> <p>36:57 The group talks about the socials organised by Naomh Eoin and other clubs. Mentions Haier's Bar, Mick O'Connell, Maurice Fitzgerald's father Ned.</p> <p>39:10 The group refers to the relationship between Naomh Eoin and West Clare Gaels, the local ladies' football club. Mention Ruislip, London.</p> <p>40:45 Michael and John explain the general costs of running a club. Talk about players' expectations. Refer to the women who would wash the jerseys and the flags.</p> <p>42:55 The group talks about West Clare Gaels. Mentions Naomh Eoin, O'Currys and Kilkee. Discuss the success of the club. Mentions All-Ireland Junior Club Championships 2007 and the All-Ireland Senior Football Championships 2010. Mentions Leitrim and Katherine Lynch's club.</p> <p>45:15 Michael talks about the Kelly sisters and their involvement at club and county level. Mentions Australia and Dublin. Mentions Gerry Kelly, Jack O'Shea, Dara Kelly and Patrick.</p> <p>47:00 John discusses the underage structure in the ladies' club. Also explains the nature of the relationship between West Clare Gaels and Naomh Eoin. Refers to sponsorship by Michael Boland and Sportsfield Developments.</p> <p>48:35 The group tells the story of how the club was set up.</p>
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	<p>Mention Carrigaholt. Stress the importance of youth. Mentions Brendan Keane and his escort van and Gabriel Keating.</p> <p>49.50 Michael remembers the support in the early years of Naomh Eoin. Refers to the dedication of the players. The group recalls the difficulties of being a small club. Mentions Liscannor, Ennistymon, Lissycasey, Cooraclare, Kildysart. Mentions the Rural Resettlement Scheme. Mentions Jim Connolly, Fr Doody.</p> <p>53.45 The group discusses emigration from the area in recent years and the impact on the GAA. Mentions Paddy Keating. Mentions England, Limerick, Dublin, Cork and Australia.</p> <p>55.25 Michael tells a story about his nephew coming home from Australia for a Senior Quarter Final. Michael and John refer to their worry for the next generation.</p> <p>56.58 The group explains the club colours and the name. They believe Fr O'Dea was involved in the naming after St. John. He was also involved in handball and the local band. Describe the involvement of the clergy in the community and in the GAA. Mentions athletics. Mention Fr Michael, Fr Loughnane, Fr Dwyer, Fr O'Neill, Fr Neelin, Fr Doody.</p> <p>59.30 The group talks about the role of the local teachers. Mentions Paddy Murray, Sonny Hetherman and Tom Keating.</p> <p>1.00.18 Michael remembers being brought by Fr O'Dea to Clarecastle to play handball. He also remembers playing in school. John mentions An Droichead club in East Clare.</p> <p>1.01:52 Marty sings a song about a club success in 1976. Michael refers to a West Clare Gaels song.</p> <p>1:04:30 The group discusses the club's involvement in Scór. Marty remembers playing cards to raise money for Cusack Park in Ennis.</p> <p>1:06:56 The group talks about the role of the Irish language in the GAA. Refer to Connemara. Mention Denise Geaney.</p> <p>1:10:25 Marty remembers playing hurling when he was young at Loop Head Lighthouse. The group talks about hurley makers. Michael highlights the link between hurling success and popularity. Mentions Loop Head Rangers. Mention Dohertys Factory, Kilrush who were hurley makers in the 1970s and Fitzhenry from Wexford.</p> <p>1:12:14 John and Michael list clubs that have played hurling.</p>
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	<p>Highlight the difficulty of getting numbers to play the two codes. Mentions Wolfe Tones GAA.</p> <p>1:13:40 John and Michael recalls the impact of the Munster Final 1992 on the club. Talk about the club supporting the county teams in hurling and football. Mention soccer. Mention John's brother Tom, Jack O'Shea, Gabriel, John Houlihan.</p> <p>1:15:05 John talks about the Hurling All-Ireland Championship in 1995. Mentions Haulie Donnellan. Michael highlights the social aspect of supporting the Clare hurlers.</p> <p>1:16:20 Michael remembers looking for All-Ireland tickets in 1997. John talks about people travelling to support Clare and travelling to Kerry to watch games. Mentions Raymond Clancy.</p> <p>1:18:16 John stresses the difficulty getting enough numbers involved in the club. Refers to the sense of identity within the club. Mentions O'Curry's.</p> <p>1:19:10 Michael talks about his worries about the population in West Clare. Refers to the numbers attending the local school over the year. Discusses people's attitude to travelling.</p> <p>1:22:05 John and Michael talk about the possibility of men and women playing together at adult level. Michael refers to insurance.</p> <p>1:23:33 Marty recalls the Junior Championship in 1991.</p> <p>1:24:17 Michael refers to an Under 21 victory in 1970 and remembers going to Dublin to see an All-Ireland final in the 1980.s Mentions Jack O'Shea.</p> <p>1:25:35 John remembers the Junior Championship in 2005 against Éire Óg. Recalls his involvement as chairman at the time. Michael tells of an incident involving the club colours of both teams.</p> <p>1:28:14 Marty talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions Seamus Boland, Michael Liddane and Michael Moloney.</p> <p>1:29:15 Michael remembers playing with Michael Moloney. Talks about his memories of Seán Kelly.</p> <p>1:30:35 John describes Michael as his GAA hero. Refers to him being secretary. Mentions soccer and rugby.</p> <p>1:31:26 John remembers being in India when Clare were playing Dublin. Michael mentions Naomh Eoin playing in New York. Recalls the All-Ireland the year he got married.</p>
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	<p>Mentions the Gaelic Grounds. Mentions skype.</p> <p>1:33:13 Marty remembers going to Cork to see the Munster Club Semi-Final. Also was at the 2003 All-Ireland Final. Mentions Killarney and Croke Park.</p> <p>1:34:12 Michael talks about people from the area travelling for the All-Ireland in Dublin. Describes how he gets his hurling tickets and his football tickets. Tells of Paddy Bonfil's attitude towards getting tickets and going to matches.</p> <p>1:37:55 Michael questions how the GAA distribute tickets.</p> <p>1:39:04 Marty remembers all the finals Naomh Eoin lost. Talks about his disappointment with the 1955 Clare hurling team. Mentions Haulie Donnellan, John Bonfil, Jimmy Smyth, Matt Nugent. Mentions the Oireachtas against Wexford and players like the Rackards, the Keoghs and Flood.</p> <p>1:40:49 John regrets not being in Croke Park in 1992 to see Dublin vs Clare. Highlights what he thinks the GAA can do in the current economic climate.</p> <p>1:42:05 Marty tells what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him. Refers to the ladies' footballers' success. Remembers the game against Banner Ladies Football Club. Mentions Michael Boland.</p> <p>1:44:37 Michael remembers the enjoyment he has gotten from Gaelic games and with Naomh Eoin.</p> <p>1:45:33 John recalls all his involvement in the club and mentions his sons' interest in football.</p> <p>1:46:26 Michael talks about a trip to Dublin in 1992. Mentions the Royal Dublin. Mentions Brian Lohan.</p> <p>1:47:52 Marty sings a song about the 1947 All-Ireland Final in the Polo Grounds in New York.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Marty:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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>Michael:</p>

REFERENCE NO. CE/1/11

	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>John:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" 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>Marty: N/A</p> <p>Michael: Played for 25 years. Won U 8, U 14, Minor, U 21 and a junior championship in 1991. Also won 2/3 leagues; All-Ireland Agricultural College and county titles with the brothers.</p> <p>John: Played for ten years. Won an U 21 championship.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Marty: Committee member for 3 years.</p> <p>Michael: Secretary of the club c. 1985</p> <p>John: Chairman for 7 years.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:50:07</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

REFERENCE NO. CE/1/11

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: _____15/07/12_____