

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2011
<b>Location</b>	Russell Court Hotel, Harcourt Street, Dublin
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Derry Murphy
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1944 <b>Home County:</b> Cork
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Urhan NS, Co. Cork <b>Secondary:</b> Castletownbere Community School, Agricultural College, Mountbellew, Co. Galway <b>Third Level:</b> Forestry Training College, Kennedy College; Shelton Abbey, Co. Wicklow
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Ann with 3 sons and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Dingle [Kerry]; Urhan [Cork]
<b>Occupation</b>	Civil Servant, Board Member Foras Na Gaeilge
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Dingle Chamber of Commerce, Schools Board of Management, West Kerry Agriculture Show, Glór na Gael

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/21

<b>Date of Report</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1953 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Cork, Kerry, Americas, USA
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Northern Ireland, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Purchase of Grounds, Economy/Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Derry discusses his GAA involvement both in his native West Cork, and also in West Kerry, where he relocated to work for the Department of Agriculture. He describes his participation on football teams in various clubs in both counties, including Urhan, Waterville, and Dingle. Derry also reflects on his administrative roles within the GAA and in the wider rural community, serving on such committees as Dingle GAA Club, the Kerry County Board, Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta, the West Kerry Agricultural Show, and Coiste na Gaeltachta. He considers the significant advances made by the GAA in opening Croke Park to rugby and repealing the bans on security forces and foreign games and sports. Finally, Derry discusses the impact of the GAA on his personal life.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:22 Derry recalls listening to matches on the radio when he was growing up in West Cork. Football dominated by Kerry, Cork, Cavan, and Armagh then. Playing football in national school. Listening to matches in neighbour's house until his family got a radio in 1953. Mentions Sean Flanagan.</p> <p>01:30 Reflects on the significant role GAA played in the rural parish. No other sports. Seeing a soccer game for the first time when he went to Dublin aged 19. Being driven occasionally to hurling matches. A priest in school interested in the GAA. A description of his club involvement. Training with Cahirciveen team in Kerry where he worked for the Department of Agriculture. Mentions training with Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer.</p>

	<p>03:48 Explains that Urhan in West Cork was his own home club. Also played with the divisional team of Beara. Outlines the local structure of clubs. A comparison of the Kerry and Cork club structures.</p> <p>04:34 Discusses the inadequate club facilities in Cork and in Dingle, where he got involved in 1972 in administration. Decision by Jim Brosnan, chairman of county board, to build pavilion. Derry's involvement with its construction. Also mentions John Bambury. Discussion about his various roles on the West Kerry GAA Board and on the county board.</p> <p>06:42 Outlines the significant progress made in that time in their division. Kerry winning a number of All-Ireland Senior Football Finals. Strong division, featuring such players as Páidí Ó Sé, Tommy Doyle, and Dara Ó Cinnéide. Explanation of the positive impact joining the EU had on club facilities. Mentions the contributions to development of facilities of Johnny Barrett, Johnny O'Sullivan, and Con Brosnan in Lispole. Also mentions Tommy McCarthy's contribution in Annascaul and those of Paddy Healy, Joe Wrenn and Mossy Spillane in Castlegregory. Financial support from Roinn na Gaeltachta and Lotto funding.</p> <p>09:52 Outlines the aims of Bord na nÓg: encouraging young people, improving skills. Established by Jim Brosnan in Kerry in the late 1960s, reaching West Kerry in 1973.</p> <p>11:27 Reflects on the role of schools in promoting football. Dingle CBS, the Christian Brothers' tradition of football. Contributions of lay principal Pádraig Ferriter and teacher Liam Higgins to football teams.</p> <p>13:06 Discussion of the arrival of Scór in 1969. Developed by Derry Gowen in Cork. Explanation of elements of Scór: dancing, singing, Irish language. Strength of Scór in the early 70s in West Kerry, its decline during Celtic Tiger, and current revival.</p> <p>14:35 Considers the reasons for the changing popularity of Scór in different parts of Kerry. Crowds attending the West Kerry Scór final in the Hillgrove Ballroom. Outlines the history of rise and fall of Scór in the county. Mentions Maura Graham's involvement in Scór for Croke Park. Huge attendance at Scór final in Killarney.</p> <p>16:59 Discusses the role of the GAA in promoting Irish culture. His role of secretary of Coiste Chultúrtha na Mumhan ensuring each club has an Irish cultural officer. Mentions Liam O Laochdha, the Irish officer in Cork. Munster Council</p>
--	--

	<p>awarding scholarships to attend Gaeltacht schools.</p> <p>18:44 Recalls travelling to play matches in minibus, later cars. Travelling to watch matches in neighbour's car before his father had car. County championships in Skibbereen. Seeing leading Kerry players who played with UCC.</p> <p>20:11 Describes his first trip to Croke Park. The 1962 All-Ireland Senior Football Final, Kerry vs. Roscommon, when he was steward. Mentions Mick O'Connell scoring 8 points. Compares Mick O'Connell to various sporting legends. Mentions hurler Eddie Keher. Also Roscommon's Bernie Coyne. Explains his stewarding duties, e.g. escorting people to their seats.</p> <p>24:12 Explains the similarity of the GAA structure in Kerry and Cork. Beara a stronghold for football in Cork. Mentions Beara players Weeshie Murphy, Nealie Duggan. Cahirciveen a stronghold for football in Kerry. GAA's role in helping him to foster relationships with farmers in Cahirciveen.</p> <p>25:44 Recalls going to Munster finals in Killarney from the 1950s. Friendship with Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer. Describes the support state agencies gave rural communities in the harsh economic climate of the 1960s. Waterville GAA Club's failure in county finals. Gaeltacht GAA Club's success in county finals. Castlehaven in West Cork winning county finals.</p> <p>29:20 Describes how players played illegally for different clubs. Discusses the ban on foreign games and sports. Questionable legality of his playing for Waterville in Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta. Mentions Tony Barrett, Comórtas founding member. Community structure beneficial to subsequent development of Gaeltacht areas.</p> <p>33:28 Discusses the changes in playing he's witnessed: improvement in skill and fitness levels.</p> <p>34:34 Changes at club level: enhanced facilities, increased levels of training, more frequent games, introduction of All-Ireland club competition in 1967.</p> <p>35:53 Beara winning county final in 1967. Banning of Cork and Kerry's divisional teams in favour of club teams.</p> <p>36:53 GAA president Sean Kelly introducing junior and intermediate club finals. Outlines All-Ireland junior and intermediate performances of several clubs: Castlegregory, St. Mary's in Cahirciveen, and Spa, Killarney. Also Finuge in North Kerry and Ardfert. Discussion of the benefits for a</p>
--	---

	<p>parish to be involved at national level: pride and identity.</p> <p>38:13 Reflects on the role of the GAA in his identity. Scholarship to Ballingearry Gaeltacht, which fostered his love of Irish language and culture. Board member of Foras na Gaeilge.</p> <p>39:20 Description of changing club from Waterville to Dingle. Transferred to the Dingle peninsula because of his love of the Irish language. Speaking Irish with Mick O'Connell in Waterville.</p> <p>41:05 Outlines the history of the Dingle club: Jim Brosnan's amalgamation of The Pearses and John Street. Reasons for amalgamation.</p> <p>41:48 His roles in the club. Chairman's involvement in upkeep of the pitch. Involvement of FÁS in local communities in the late 1990s, which benefited the GAA. Employment in Dingle peninsula.</p> <p>44:58 Considers the role of the club in community. Mentions the involvement of Paddy Browne and himself in the West Kerry Agricultural Show. Further roles in the community. Central role of the GAA in the community.</p> <p>46:33 Describes election process for club administration positions. Páidí Ó Sé training Dingle team, its success. Páidí Ó Sé captaining Kerry in 1985, first West Kerry captain to win the All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Tommy Doyle captaining winning Kerry team in 1986. Boost to the community.</p> <p>48:34 Discussion of West Kerry Board meetings, chaired by John Bambury. Major issues: fixtures. Rivalry between Castlegregory, Lispole, and Dingle. Attempts to unite them.</p> <p>50:21 Explanation of sources of funding for the club. Further development of the pitch and facilities in Minister Mary Coughlan's time. Describes how his role in a state department helped to secure funding.</p> <p>52:44 Discusses local fundraising in Dingle. Acquiring land from the Christian Brothers at a discounted rate. Fundraising committee included treasurer Fergus O'Flaherty, Sean O'Sullivan, John Diony O'Connor. Draw for an apartment, big profits. Outlines other sources of funding.</p> <p>55:20 Describes his involvement in marketing committee of GAA when Sean Kelly was President. The multi sponsorship strategy implemented. Mentions committee members Jerry Buttimer, Paul O'Sullivan, and Liam Power. Mentions DJ</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/21

	<p>Carey and Sean Óg Ó hAilpín.</p> <p>58:28 Serving on Coiste na Gaeilge in Croke Park, developing strategies to install Irish culture officers in each club. National seminar at Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta for cultural officers. Mentions former speakers at this seminar: Jarlath Burns, Dara Ó Cinnéide, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Joe McDonagh.</p> <p>59:54 His views on professionalism: certain administrators in the GAA should be paid. Club Welfare Program. The need to look after county players financially. Discussion of the main problem facing players in recession: lack of employment, cutbacks in bank and public sector employment. Potential emigration of players.</p> <p>01:05:23 Discusses his positive attitude to the lifting of the bans on foreign games and security forces, Rule 21. The efforts of Joe McDonagh and Sean McCague to repeal Rule 21. The positive impact of the lifting of this ban on Irish society. His joy at the opening of Croke Park. Mentions John Hayes at the Ireland vs. England rugby match in Croke Park. The importance of inclusivity.</p> <p>01:09:10 Reflects on his highlight of the GAA: West Kerry visiting America as county champions in 1985. Mentions John Kerry O'Donnell and the New York final. Also visiting San Francisco and Hawaii, and later China with Kerry team.</p> <p>01:10:50 Mentions his GAA heroes: footballer Mick O'Connell, hurler Christy Ring, Kilkenny hurler Eddie Keher. Also mentions administrators who contributed to the development of Croke Park: Sean Ó Síocháin, Liam Mulvihill, Peter Quinn. GAA president Con Murphy for his interest in Irish culture and language.</p> <p>01:13:49 Ponders his friendship with GAA members nationwide.</p> <p>01:14:29 Considers the significance of his involvement in the organisation in terms of personal development: decision-making, public speaking, making friends.</p> <p>01:15:50 His satisfaction at the progress of ladies football. Mentions Helen O'Rourke's role in promoting the sport. The rise of camogie. The benefits of involvement in the GAA and in sport in general: fitness, health.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach ✓ Steward</p>

**REFERENCE NO. CK/1/21**

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played from the age of 15 to 29. Won an intermediate and senior championship and Cork County league.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1972.</p> <p>Club: Vice-chairman, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Irish Officer, Delegate to West Kerry Board, Delegate to County Board.</p> <p>West Kerry: Secretary (1977 – 1986), Chairman (1986 – 2011)</p> <p>County: Irish Officer (1982 – 2000)</p> <p>Munster: Games Development Committee, Secretary of Culture Committee</p> <p>Central: Marketing Committee, Coiste na Gaeilge, Cultural Committee.</p>
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:17:32
<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

**REFERENCE NO. CK/1/21**

the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_18/08/12\_\_\_\_\_

The GAA logo is located in the bottom right corner of the page. It consists of the letters 'GAA' in a white, stylized font, set against a black background that is shaped like a trapezoid with a diagonal cut on the left side.