

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	5 th August 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Tallanstown, Co. Louth
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tommy Burns
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Tallanstown NS, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 3 sisters
Club(s)	Glyde Rovers
Occupation	Coffin Manufacturer
Parents' Occupation	Farm Labourer; Porter Louth County Hospital; Buses in England [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Soccer Clubs: Dee Utd., Boro Utd.; Youth Clubs

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Date of Report	27 th June 2012
Period Covered	1926 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny, Mayo, Waterford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsiders' Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Tommy discusses his involvement with Glyde Rangers GFC in Tallanstown, Co. Louth. He outlines the history of the club and describes his administrative responsibilities within the club since 1971. Tommy reflects on the improvements to the club's relationship with the county board in recent years, and he presents his views on the issue of paying club and county managers. He also discusses his concerns about the decline in volunteering and the attitude of players towards participating in fundraising efforts. In addition, Tommy considers such topics as the role of the club in the community, violence in football, rule changes in the GAA, and his dream to see Louth win an All-Ireland Senior Football Final.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:19 Tommy recalls going to see his club play in the 1962 junior final. By bus with his parents. Playing St. Bride's GFC. State of pitch in those days. Purchased in 1961. ESB lines across the pitch. Development of pitch in 1978. Only one pitch now. Hopes of getting training pitch.</p> <p>02:33 Names his club: Glyde Rangers. Explains how club was named after river. Mentions Castlebellingham O'Connell's. Mentions Wilson Daly. Different club names: Dear Old Irish Boys in 1800s. Playing in different fields in 50s, carrying goalposts. Cost of pitch. Financed with donations.</p> <p>04:13 Discusses his lack of family involvement in the GAA.</p>

	<p>Family roots in Meath and Monaghan.</p> <p>05:09 Reflects on his involvement in the GAA. Mentions local man Jimmy Whelan getting him involved from the age of 12.</p> <p>06:19 Outlines history of club. Winning county senior championship in 1944. First team before 1900. First registered in 1926. Junior championship success. Club reputation. Mentions individuals responsible for setting up club: Fr. Donegan, Jimmy Kelly, Vincent Daly and Christy Wynne. Also mentions Taaffe family from Roseybrook: Brendan, Paddy, John. Also mentions Sheridan family: Tom and his sons and grandsons. Tommy's disappointment at players who contribute nothing to the club.</p> <p>10:32 Recalls his involvement in the club from Under-12 level. Mentions other local clubs Sean McDermott's and Westerns. Playing for two decades. Mentions Michael O'Hehir. His involvement in administration since 1971 as a teenager.</p> <p>13:19 Describes his duties. Training most nights. Challenge of arranging fixtures. Marking field.</p> <p>14:38 Only football played in club. Girls and boys at underage, up to senior level for men. Influx of Dublin players who have relocated to Louth. Shop selling club merchandise on premises. Issue of emigration: concerns about losing tradesmen, builders.</p> <p>16:59 Ponders relationship between club and county board. Amicable. Discusses problems in the past.</p> <p>19:05 Outlines developments in the club since his involvement. Mentions Richard Barry influencing 1970s refurbishment. Building new dressing rooms in 1992 and a stand. Games room. No bar.</p> <p>22:10 Describes relationship between pubs and the GAA. Mentions The Louth Arms. Decline of drinking in village pubs, rise of drinking at home.</p> <p>23:43 Reflects on the impact of the economy on the club. Challenge of raising money. Fundraisers: lotto, car draw, house draw, ten-week draw, guest teas, poker classics. Profits from gate receipts. Discusses the importance of running small fundraisers. Expense of running clubs nowadays: bills.</p> <p>27:45 Discusses the issue of managers getting paid. Unacknowledged by the GAA. Mentions Gerry Sheridan. Also mentions Stephen White. Tommy's disagreement with</p>
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	<p>bringing in outside managers. Mentions Sean O'Mahony's club. Difficulty of getting players involved in fundraising. Mentions Michael McCormack's contribution to the club.</p> <p>31:36 Considers the issue of discipline in the club. Suspensions of players. Violence and disrespect towards referees. Mentions Roy Keane's temper. Bad example for juvenile players.</p> <p>35:34 Describes membership of club. Small amount of players. Mostly local members. Impact on membership of having several clubs in close proximity. Compares quality of club facilities in Louth with county facilities. Describes locations of clubs across the county, dominance in rural areas. Glyde Rangers' small catchment area.</p> <p>40:35 Discusses abolition of sole minor clubs. Fees for underage teams. Establishment of nearby Westerns and Sean McDermott's clubs. Recalls Glyde Rangers beating Cooley Kickhams in minor championship in 1969.</p> <p>44:38 Discusses club rivals: Sean McDermott's, St. Mary's, St. Bride's, and St. Joseph's. Ponders tensions between Glyde, Westerns, and Sean McDermott's when they originally split. Compares skill levels of various teams.</p> <p>47:57 Reflects on the more serious, competitive attitude towards football nowadays. Mentions characters in club: Lar Cronin, Mark O'Brien, and Pete Curran. Considers why football has become more competitive. Pressure to stay in the senior grade. No relegation when he was playing. Few dual soccer/football players now due to intensity of training. Tommy's own involvement in soccer. Compares hurlers to footballers. Less violence in hurling.</p> <p>54:27 Recalls a teacher called Noel O'Brien involved in hurling. Mentions hurler David Devaney. Also mentions Billy Brennan, who played hurling and football with one hand. Tommy's lack of hand-eye coordination for hurling. Compares Louth hurling with that of Cork and Kilkenny. No club participation in the Poc Fada championship.</p> <p>57:27 Describes his soccer involvement after the ban had been lifted. His loyalty to football. No soccer pitch in locality. Different seasons for both sports. Mentions Louth manager's son playing soccer with Dundalk.</p> <p>59:10 Reflects on travelling to matches by car. Playing Under-14, local coalman bringing team in his lorry. Some players travelling by tractor. Nowadays buses and cars. Expense of</p>
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	<p>buses.</p> <p>01:02:03 Recalls his first trip to Croke Park in the early 70s as an adult. Compares stadium then with today. Expense of tickets to Croke Park.</p> <p>01:06:32 No Scór participation in the club. Mentions Tomás Ó hÉochaidh.</p> <p>01:07:18 Considers the issue of volunteerism in the GAA. The possible demise of volunteering. Challenge of trying to get people involved in administration nowadays. Mentions club chairman Brendan Woods. Also mentions Padraic O'Connor.</p> <p>01:09:57 Describes absence of factions in club, unity, no internal politics.</p> <p>01:10:51 Ponders the role of the club in the community. Hiring facilities for functions and events. Not allowed to allow other sports to use facilities.</p> <p>01:12:24 Lack of other sports clubs in the village. An athletics club in the past. A gun club.</p> <p>01:14:12 Discusses lack of other nationalities or backgrounds in the village and the club. Laments religious discrimination: mentions Jimmy Kelly losing Louth captaincy in the 30s over his Protestantism.</p> <p>01:16:22 Considers the impact of The Troubles on the GAA locally. Minute's silence for hunger strikers. People travelling to Derry to mark Bloody Sunday. Travelling to matches in The North by bus in the 90s, no checkpoints.</p> <p>01:19:12 Explains how he got involved with county minors. Mentions Paddy Oliver. Also mentions Mick O'Dwyer. No involvement at county board level. Considers relationship between club and county board: recent improvement following tension over unpaid fees.</p> <p>01:21:43 No dealings with Croke Park. His views on Croke Park's input to clubs. His views on rule changes. Mentions Jack O'Connor, Joe McQuillan. Discusses pressure on referee to police new rules on hand passing and shoulder charge, for example. Mentions the Australian mark. Prohibitive cost of All-Ireland tickets.</p> <p>01:24:55 Reflects on how technological advances have changed administrative roles in the GAA. Improved speed of communication.</p> <p>01:26:48 Ponders the use of the Irish language in the GAA.</p>
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	<p>Preserving the language.</p> <p>01:28:02 Mentions club song of the 60s. Mentions songwriter Mickie Hilliard. Song called Mickie's Tune.</p> <p>01:28:50 Mentions his GAA heroes Paul Galvin, Gerry Sheridan, Danny Nugent (nominated for an All-Star), Sean O'Neill, and Paddy Doherty.</p> <p>01:30:55 Recalls travelling to matches in Monaghan, Meath, Kildare, Mayo, Waterford. Glyde's lack of renown, little travelling. Discusses superior state of Northern Irish clubs, Ulster Council grants.</p> <p>01:34:42 Describes his best memory of the GAA. The club winning junior championship in 1990 in a replay after 21 years of losing. Celebrations. Drinking for a week. Truck with cup, parade, bonfire.</p> <p>01:37:03 Discusses his biggest disappointment with the GAA. Regrets not winning senior championship in recent years. His dislike of constant rule changes. Considers the challenges of refereeing.</p> <p>01:39:54 Reflects on what the GAA has meant to him. No regrets. Friendships nationwide from his involvement in the organisation. His ambition to see Louth win an All-Ireland Senior Football Final.</p>
<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 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 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>Played from the age of 12 to 37. Won a minor championship in 1969 and a Subsidiary League.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Tommy has been involved in administration since 1971. He has been club secretary for all of this period.</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:41:29
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____ Arlene Crampsie _____

Date: _____ 27/06/12 _____