

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
<b>Location</b>	Olive and Nicholas Weir's home, near Raharney, Co. Westmeath
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Olive Weir
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1945 <b>Home County:</b> Westmeath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St Mary's NS, Raharney, Co. Westmeath <b>Secondary:</b> Killucan Vocational School, Co. Westmeath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> N/A <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 5 daughters & 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Raharney Hurling Club [Westmeath]
<b>Occupation</b>	Housewife
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Housewife [Mother]; Carpenter [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

<b>Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)</b>	Nicholas Weir
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1939 <b>Home County:</b> Westmeath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St Mary's NS, Raharney, Co. Westmeath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> N/A <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 5 daughters & 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Raharney Hurling Club [Westmeath]
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

<b>Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)</b>	Seamus Brennan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1928 <b>Home County:</b> Meath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Mullingar CBS, Co. Westmeath. <b>Secondary:</b> Coláiste Enda, Co. Galway. <b>Third Level:</b> St Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 6 siblings
<b>Club(s)</b>	Raharney Hurling Club [Westmeath]
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Principal
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Housewife [Mother]; Garda [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	None

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<b>Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)</b>	Kevin Lynch
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1938 <b>Home County:</b> Westmeath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St Mary's NS, Raharney, Co. Westmeath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife, 1 son & 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Raharney Hurling Club [Westmeath]
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Housewife [Mother]; Labourer [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Irish Farmer Association; Pioneers Total Abstinence Association

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<b>Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)</b>	Tommy McKeogh
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1923 <b>Home County:</b> Westmeath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St Mary's NS, Raharney, Co. Westmeath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Nancy), 2 sons & 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Raharney Hurling Club [Westmeath]
<b>Occupation</b>	Bord na Móna
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Labourer [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Credit Union

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<b>Date of Report</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1930s - 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Westmeath
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, 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, Irish, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Five members of the Raharney club in Westmeath talk about their GAA experiences. They recall the founding of the club and their own playing days. There are difficulties in running a hurling club in Westmeath and they talk about their efforts to try and make the club thrive through fundraising and trying to improve their facilities. The members recall famous victories and defeats, competing against local clubs, participating in Féile na nGael and establishing links with clubs overseas. They stress the importance of the Raharney club to the local community and highlight the problems that they face on an ongoing basis, including increased medical costs and trying to motivate players to commit fully to hurling in a county where football is more likely to provide local players with a higher profile.</p> <p>01:45 (Tommy) Football in Raharney in the early 1950s. Playing Killucan.</p> <p>02:30 (Seamus) Policy of hurling and camogie only in the local school and reasons for that. Lack of hurleys in the 1950s.</p> <p>04:10 (Kevin) Role of hurling in the school.</p> <p>04:30 (Tommy) Team in Graffanstown in the 1930s.</p> <p>05:40 (Kevin) Hurling becoming more serious in Raharney in the 1950s. Reaching finals. Physical nature of games. Joe Foley, Tommy Reilly playing on the team.</p>

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	<p>07:55 (Kevin) Winning an intermediate championship with players from Turin. Winning a junior championship and beating Delvin in a county final. Making the senior grade in 1961.</p> <p>09:20 (Seamus) Schoolchildren playing hurling in the afternoons.</p> <p>10:10 (Seamus) Rivalry between local teams.</p> <p>10:40 (Kevin) Playing Castlepollard in the senior championship in 1961. Tommy Ring scoring three penalties. Reaching the county final in 1962 and playing Pearse's. Reaching the 1964 final. Winning the 1967 final. Celebrations afterwards.</p> <p>13:05 (Olive) Travelling to games.</p> <p>13:15 (Tommy) Underage success in the 1980s.</p> <p>14:25 (Kevin) Young players at school improving all the time and coming through in the 1950s.</p> <p>15:05 (Tommy) Raharney club founded in 1904. Type of place Raharney was in the 1930s. Importance of hurling success.</p> <p>17:35 (Kevin) 1960 team playing until the 1980s.</p> <p>20:25 (Kevin) Need for skill to play hurling.</p> <p>20:35 (Nicholas) Ways in which the game has changed. Training they used to do. Mick Maher training them.</p> <p>21:20 (Kevin) Success attracting more players.</p> <p>21:55 (Kevin) Going on a trip to London to play the Thomas McCurtain's club. Kieran Purcell from Kilkenny playing with McCurtain's. Building a relationship with the club.</p> <p>24:15 (Kevin) Players no longer as committed as they once were.</p> <p>25:30 (Nicholas) Less injuries in the past. People involved in manual labour more. Injuring his ankle and telling the surgeon he would cure it himself.</p> <p>27:55 (Nicholas) Scoring a lot in a game in 1964. Jimmy</p>
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	<p>Fitzsimons in goals.</p> <p>28:45 (Kevin) Rivals included Castlepollard, Castletown Geoghegan, Brownstone, Clonkill.</p> <p>29:05 (Seamus) Games against Castletown Geoghegan were the cleanest. Beating them in 1984.</p> <p>30:30 (Nicholas) Winning an Under-21 final in Kinnegad and confusing the referee.</p> <p>31:35 (Nicholas) Bringing dry balls to games to give the team an edge.</p> <p>32:40 (Seamus) Arriving in Raharney in 1952 and encouraging hurling in the school. Competing in Féile na nGael in the late 1970s and winning it. Costs involved. Going to Ballygunner in Waterford.</p> <p>36:00 Emigration in the area. Castletown and Collinstown losing players to emigration.</p> <p>37:10 (Seamus) Importance of the GAA in Raharney.</p> <p>37:25 (Nicholas) Fundraising. Putting on dances.</p> <p>38:15 (Olive) Hosting American tea parties.</p> <p>40:05 (Seamus) Getting the Wolfe Tones to come and play.</p> <p>40:40 (Nicholas) Changes in ways of fundraising.</p> <p>41:05 (Olive) Having a 400 draw and what that was.</p> <p>42:20 (Tommy) Using hairspray to treat injured players.</p> <p>43:20 (Seamus) Medical costs of running a club.</p> <p>43:50 (Seamus) Costs as reflected in club accounts.</p> <p>44:55 (Nicholas) Where they get trainers from. Eamon Gallagher a good trainer.</p> <p>45:20 (Tommy) Sponsorship.</p> <p>45:55 (Olive) Changes in costs of running a club.</p> <p>46:55 (Tommy) Making their own hurleys. Johnny Gibson</p>
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	<p>cutting out the hurleys at Price's shed.</p> <p>48:15 (Seamus) Players turning up without their own hurleys.</p> <p>49:05 (Seamus) Applying for a field from the Land Commission. Asking parish priest Fr Farrelly for a loan. Neighbouring club Killucan wanting to use the land they had got. Seamus and Mick Flanagan retiring as trustees. Different teams making use of the land. Trying to buy more land and the farmer asking a high price.</p> <p>54:20 (Tommy) Developing their facilities.</p> <p>54:50 Getting the use of prefabs from a local college. GAA making use of old tennis club grounds. Putting in a hurling wall and fencing.</p> <p>57:45 (Seamus) Hurling/football split in Westmeath and reasons for that. Bolger and Tracy men from Kilkenny starting hurling in Castletown Geoghegan. Raharney colours.</p> <p>01:00:00 (Nicholas) Camogie in Raharney.</p> <p>01:01:05 (Nicholas) Johnny Graville and Stephen Morley training camogie teams.</p> <p>01:02:00 (Seamus) Trying to improve camogie standards.</p> <p>01:05:00 (Olive) Role of women in the club. Working as treasurer. Nancy McKeogh and Margaret Farrelly involved. Change in level of women's involvement. Hurling and camogie clubs working together. Geraldine Gilles' work with the Ladies Football Association.</p> <p>01:06:55 (Kevin) Different levels of attention given to football and hurling.</p> <p>01:07:50 (Kevin) Playing for Westmeath and what that was like. Kilcoyne brothers on the team.</p> <p>01:08:45 (Seamus) Raharney beating the Kilkenny and Wexford intermediate champions. Reaching the Christy Ring final. Trying to motivate hurlers.</p> <p>01:11:45 (Tommy) Changes in the GAA. Hand-passing in football.</p> <p>01:12:45 (Seamus) Not being able to drink out of trophies.</p>
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	<p>01:13:10 (Kevin) Interest of ladies in hurling in the stronger counties.</p> <p>01:14:20 (Seamus) Ruling that all hurlers have to wear helmets.</p> <p>01:15:45 (Kevin) Different hurleys being used in Cork.</p> <p>01:16:20 (Nicholas) Level of interest in hurling in the area.</p> <p>01:16:35 (Seamus) Increase in number of people involved in training teams.</p> <p>01:17:25 (Tommy) Travelling by car with a lot of passengers.</p> <p>01:18:10 (Seamus) Seamus O'Mahony lying in the back window travelling to a game</p> <p>01:18:50 (Seamus) Brendan Lilly playing in a county final in Mullingar.</p> <p>01:19:40 (Seamus) People in Raharney becoming more prosperous over the years.</p> <p>01:20:10 (Tommy) A Brennan man trying to introduce football.</p> <p>01:20:50 (Kevin) Having a lot of non-drinkers on the team and the benefits of that.</p> <p>01:22:15 (Kevin) Tony Donoghue and Dinny McCormack coming in from outside to play hurling and the effects that would have.</p> <p>01:22:45 (Seamus) Lack of influx of people into Raharney because of sewage issues.</p> <p>01:24:20 (Seamus) A Fr Brennan starting a soccer club in Raharney.</p> <p>01:26:10 Different administrative positions they held. Nicholas being secretary for 50 years.</p> <p>01:27:35 (Olive) Writing players' names in Irish. Competing in Scór.</p> <p>01:30:35 (Tommy) Change in approach to Scór. Clubs putting more and more work into it.</p>
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	<p>01:31:40 (Olive) Tradition of Irish music in the area.</p> <p>01:32:30 (Seamus) Céilí houses in the area. Card games being held.</p> <p>01:34:50 (Olive) Children's GAA involvement.</p> <p>01:36:20 (Nicholas) Kevin having an accident whilst working and continuing to play hurling.</p> <p>01:37:50 (Kevin) Playing Castlebarrett after his accident and being targeted by an opponent. Later retiring from playing.</p> <p>01:39:15 (Nicholas) Best GAA memory. Playing against Clonkill. Marking Mattie Mullin. Playing with Jimmy Nugent.</p> <p>01:40:25 (Nicholas) Playing against Castlepollard and talking to Mick Flanagan about giving their opponents a false sense of security.</p> <p>01:41:20 (Seamus) Need for more help from GAA at clubs.</p> <p>01:41:55 (Kevin) Trying to get money for the county hurlers. Giving the money to Mattie Connor. Trying to get All-Ireland tickets for a person who had donated money.</p> <p>01:43:05 Not getting tickets to county finals.</p> <p>01:44:25 (Nicholas) Cloncill Raharney, Castletown and Collinstown the remaining successful hurling clubs in the county and reasons for that.</p> <p>01:46:15 (Seamus) What the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:47:10 (Kevin) Motivation for playing hurling. Playing against the top counties.</p> <p>01:48:40 (Tommy) Enjoying training young players and going to games.</p> <p>01:49:55 (Nicholas) Trying to play as much hurling as he could. Going to Tommy Glennon to get re-graded. Strategising with John Shaw during a game.</p> <p>01:51:15 (Olive) Hurling as a pastime in Raharney. Seamus writing a song for the 1984 celebrations.</p>
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	<p>01:52:40 (Seamus) Song that Seamus wrote.</p> <p>01:53:35 (Tommy) Moving back to Raharney in 1947 after being away.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Olive:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Nicholas:</b></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 type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input 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>Seamus:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input 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><b>Kevin:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" 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 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>

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	<p><b>Tommy:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter   <input 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 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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Olive:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Nicholas:</b> Played from underage to senior level; medals at all levels; also played hurling for Westmeath.</p> <p><b>Seamus:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Kevin:</b> Played hurling for Raharney, 1954 – 1990s; Won 1 Westmeath Junior Hurling Championship and 1 Westmeath Intermediate Championship; Won Feis Cups; Played Division 2 Hurling with Westmeath, also played Keogh Cup and Walsh Cup hurling.</p> <p><b>Tommy:</b> N/A</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Olive:</b> Treasurer of Raharney GAA (30 years)</p> <p><b>Nicholas:</b> Secretary of Raharney GAA (50 years)</p> <p><b>Seamus:</b> Vice-President of Raharney GAA (15 years)</p> <p><b>Kevin:</b> Chairman of Raharney GAA in the 1960s.</p> <p><b>Tommy:</b> N/A</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio   <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:54:15</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

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**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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012