

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	14 th April 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Coalisland, Co Tyrone
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Brian McLernon
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1942 Home County: Tyrone
Education	Primary: Aghamullan PS Secondary: St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone Third Level: Queen's University Belfast
Family	Siblings: 1 sister & 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Married to Elizabeth with 3 daughters & 3 sons
Club(s)	Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys GFC
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Shopkeeper on Washing Bay [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	SDLP
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Gaelic League

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Date of Report	15 th June 2012
Period Covered	1920s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Tyrone, Armagh, Down, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Brian talks about a wide range of subjects dealing with the Gaelic Athletic Association, from his playing days, to his council days, to opinions about the GAA. He was born in Washing Bay, County Tyrone and believes the town gave him a great chance to become a good footballer. He talks about his childhood and some of the difficulties finding teams to play for as a child and different teams he played for growing up. He goes into great detail about working for the Tyrone Board and the Ulster County Council. Brian has a great knowledge about his club's, the Derryloughan Kevin Barrys, history and also knowledge about County Tyrone's history.</p> <p>0:30 Brian was born in Washing Bay Along the Lough Shore.</p> <p>1:05 The football team in Washing Bay, the Derryloughan Kevin Barrys, and the grounds they played on.</p> <p>1:35 How football in Washing Bay benefited from World War Two.</p> <p>2:25 Story about men, including his father, playing football after work.</p> <p>3:00 The differences in training and playing from Brian's childhood to now.</p> <p>3:50 How playing in the Washing Bay shore helped him to go as far as he did in the GAA.</p> <p>4:20 Why Washing Bay was the best place to play in the Parish of all of the clubs.</p>

	<p>5:05 Differences between the Lough then and now.</p> <p>5:55 The teams in the Parish and their successes: Derryloughan Kevin Barrys, Clonoe O’Rahilly’s, Mountjoy Emmets / Brocagh Emmets, and Derrytresk Fir An Chnoic.</p> <p>7:40 The meaning of the name of Derrytresk’s football team.</p> <p>8:35 Lack of football for young people when Brian was young, including a lack of players and teams.</p> <p>9:20 How World War II affected the number of people playing football.</p> <p>10:10 How moss was used in Washing Bay, what people did with it, and how it gave people work.</p> <p>11:25 Fishing in the Lough being a common job and a steady source of money.</p> <p>12:10 Emigration not having a large effect on the clubs in the Parish because of the job opportunities.</p> <p>13:45 The lack of youth teams to play for, especially a lack of school teams.</p> <p>14:15 A teacher and chairman of the Ulster Council, Frank O’Neill starting a school team for children in the Parish to play on.</p> <p>15:00 Lack of interest in the GAA among teachers during Brian’s childhood.</p> <p>15:30 Frank O’Neill’s role in helping children play in competitive matches that they otherwise would not have had the chance to.</p> <p>16:20 Brian describing the kits he played in as a child.</p> <p>16:55 The teams in Clonoe Parish during World War II and how some went out of existence during this time.</p> <p>17:35 Not having to travel very far for matches generally.</p> <p>18:40 Travelling by bus to matches, and to Pomeroy for championship matches.</p> <p>19:15 The improvement in and creation of pitches for towns during the 1940’s, and the differences between clubs owning and borrowing pitches.</p> <p>20:15 When the Derryloughan Kevin Barrys bought the land of the pitch they played on.</p>
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	<p>21:10 Reasons for the club to buy the land, and how the actions of other clubs were motivation to buy the land.</p> <p>21:55 How quickly it changed from most clubs renting the land for their pitch to owning it.</p> <p>22:25 The struggles of the clubs to get money to buy land for pitches and a lack of significant fundraising.</p> <p>23:30 Starting to play for the senior club team at the age of 18 after playing for his school team in Dungannon.</p> <p>24:25 The history of the MacLarnon Cup and the teams that would take part in it instead of the MacRory Cup.</p> <p>25:50 Being the captain of his team for the first MacLarnon Cup and winning that year.</p> <p>26:50 The meaning of being captain of the team that won the first MacLarnon Cup.</p> <p>27:50 Brian talks about being offered the position of chairman or vice-chairman of the Ulster Council by Peter Quinn.</p> <p>29:10 Talking about Peter Quinn's brother, Sean Quinn.</p> <p>29:45 Playing 3 matches for County Tyrone in 1964 after playing in the Tyrone Championship against Clonoe.</p> <p>30:20 How he became part of the Tyrone team and the difference of being part of the team then and now.</p> <p>31:30 Feelings about being chosen for the Tyrone team and playing in the National League.</p> <p>32:10 Losing his spot on the county team and playing club football afterwards until 1974.</p> <p>32:40 Becoming part of the county board after he stopped playing football.</p> <p>33:20 Being in charge of the Scór Competition for the board from 1977-1986.</p> <p>33:55 Brian talks about being in charge of hurling for the board, and his lack of background in the sport.</p> <p>34:40 Never missing a County Tyrone hurling match during his time in charge of the sport.</p> <p>35:25 Taking over the position from a man who was a Gaelic football referee who did not really want the position.</p> <p>36:10 Brian received help from a man named Peter Hughes.</p>
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	<p>When he was working with Scór on the board.</p> <p>36:50 Travelling throughout the county during the winter for Scór Competitions.</p> <p>37:30 The quiz being Brian's favourite part of the Scór competition.</p> <p>37:50 Brian tells a story about one of his experiences in the quiz section of the competition.</p> <p>39:40 Benefits of being a school teacher in the Scór Competition.</p> <p>41:25 Challenges to the Scór Competition in Tyrone for Brian.</p> <p>42:00 Travelling around to Scór Competitions with Peter Hughes and Jim Kavanagh of Edendork, a Scór adjudicator.</p> <p>42:45 Main roles in his job of handling hurling in Tyrone.</p> <p>43:15 Brian talks about there being more hassles between clubs in hurling than in football.</p> <p>43:50 Hurling being a ruthless sport and the addition of helmets to the sport.</p> <p>45:20 Becoming vice-chairman of the Ulster Council after his time working with Tyrone hurling.</p> <p>45:50 Meeting people and developing relationships through working for the GAA.</p> <p>46:35 Differences between working with the Ulster Council and the Tyrone Council.</p> <p>47:35 Brian talks about it being an honour and a privilege to be part of both councils.</p> <p>48:40 Being a part of the era of the Ulster Council leading up to the redevelopment of Croke Park.</p> <p>50:10 Regrets of not being a part of the Ulster Council during the time of the redevelopment of Croke Park.</p> <p>50:40 The time consumption of travelling for the Ulster Council.</p> <p>51:35 Most of Brian's work for the council was only attending meetings, while the secretary Mickie Feeney ran most of it, including doing things such as the paperwork.</p> <p>52:30 The impact of the Troubles on the Ulster Council during</p>
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	<p>Brian's time on the council.</p> <p>53:15 The affect of the Troubles on Crossmaglen and a march of some of the members of the GAA there.</p> <p>54:05 How pitches such as Crossmaglen and Casement were affected by the Troubles.</p> <p>54:45 How the Troubles changed where the Ulster Finals were played.</p> <p>55:20 People being held up going to matches by authorities during the Troubles.</p> <p>55:50 The troubles of the 1950's having more of an impact on Brian's town, people being stopped by the B Specials on the way to and from matches.</p> <p>57:10 Brian's club commemorating those who died during the Troubles.</p> <p>57:45 The Troubles not having a large impact locally around Washing Bay.</p> <p>58:10 Not knowing many Protestants or Unionists who would have become involved in the GAA.</p> <p>59:50 The role of volunteers in the GAA and the dispute over making the GAA more professional.</p> <p>1:00:30 Brian's opinion on keeping the GAA voluntary.</p> <p>1:01:15 The development of the GAA in the past 30 years.</p> <p>1:01:45 Brian's feelings about allowing other sports to be played in Croke Park.</p> <p>1:03:45 Brian's memories and opinions of the ban on foreign games.</p> <p>1:04:45 Reasons for changing the way he thought about the ban in more recent times.</p> <p>1:06:30 Brian's opinions of the challenges that face the GAA in the future.</p> <p>1:07:10 Maintaining the number of clubs in existence and avoiding exclusion. The successes of Tyrone in recent years.</p> <p>1:08:35 Story about celebrating a Tyrone All-Ireland championship in Cookstown.</p> <p>1:09:20 How the ban on foreign games could have affected</p>
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	<p>the GAA in recent years if it was still in existence.</p> <p>1:10:20 Paddy Collins chairman of the board in the 1950's, helping to keep Gaelic games alive in Cookstown.</p> <p>1:11:45 Having little involvement in the GAA outside of his club after leaving the Ulster Council.</p> <p>1:12:40 Leaving the Ulster Council coinciding with retiring from teaching. Brian's work in documenting the history of his club in a book after leaving the Ulster Council.</p> <p>1:14:05 Struggling to find time to do all of the research necessary for the book. The problem of having an excess of information but not wanting to exclude any of it.</p> <p>1:16:00 In addition to having a record of many of the matches played by the Derryloughan Kevin Barrys senior team, also having things about the community.</p> <p>1:17:20 Best memory of the GAA being his club winning the County Tyrone Championship for the first time in 1967.</p> <p>1:17:40 Brian tells a story about there not being enough medals for everyone on the team that won the championship.</p> <p>1:20:00 Not having any real disappointments during his involvement with the GAA.</p> <p>1:21:20 The Down team's successes in All-Irelands and his GAA hero being Paddy Doherty.</p> <p>1:22:40 There being few counties in Northern Ireland who had won the All-Ireland apart from Cavan by the 1960's.</p> <p>1:23:10 The meaning of the All-Ireland "Crossing the border."</p> <p>1:23:45 Always supporting Tyrone but also pulling for Down at the same time and other Ulster counties as well.</p> <p>1:24:35 The meaning of the GAA to the people of Ireland and what the GAA has given the people.</p> <p>1:26:05 GAA songs for counties such as Derry, Donegal and Tyrone.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played from the age of 14 to around 32. Won a county title, c. 1967.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Brian was involved in administration from the 1960s to 1995. Club: Secretary, Committee Member County: Scór, Hurling, Delegate from the County to the Club Ulster: Delegate from County to Ulster Council; Vice-chairman; Chairman
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:28:03
Language	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: _____ 15/06/12 _____