

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	27 th Jan 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, Derry City
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Máire McKeever
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1960 Home County: Antrim
Education	Primary: St. Anne's PS, Belfast Secondary: Rathmore Third Level: Queens
Family	Siblings: 1 sister & 3 brothers Current Family if Different: Married to Brian with 3 sons (Brian Óg, RIP)
Club(s)	Steelstown Brian Ógs GAC
Occupation	Housing Officer, Housing Executive
Parents' Occupation	Driving Instructor [Father]; School Secretary [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Republican
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Conradh na Gaeilge; Parish Committee; Board of Governor St. Paul's High School

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Brian McKeever
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1959 Home County: Derry
Education	Primary: St. Eugene's PS Secondary: CBS Brow of the Hill, St. Columb's, Derry Third Level: Jordanstown
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters & 5 brothers Current Family if Different: Married to Máire with 3 sons (Brian Óg RIP)
Club(s)	Steelstown Brian Ógs GAC
Occupation	MD Manufacturing Company (High Volt Capacitors)
Parents' Occupation	Shopkeeper [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Republican
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Tri-Star Soccer Club

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Date of Report	2 nd August 2012
Period Covered	1960 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Derry, Tyrone, Dublin, Antrim
Key Themes Covered	Playing, Managing, Coaching, Travel, Supporting, Administration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Scór, Culture, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Refereeing, Education, Media, Religion, Facilities
Interview Summary	<p>Máire and Brian discuss their involvement in GAA growing up. They describe becoming more involved through their son Brian Óg's participation. Máire talks about her role in administration for the ladies football team. Brian and Máire discuss their son Brian Óg's successes in football, his battle with cancer, his love of the GAA and the support of the GAA community throughout his illness and death.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:31 Máire discusses her earliest memories of the GAA. Mentions involvement in camogie at school in Belfast. Her Irish teacher played for Rossa and getting involved with St. Teresa's. Recalls her sister being involved in Scór. Recalls visiting social clubs like St. Paul's, Sarsfields and the Mitchels.</p> <p>01:25 Máire recalls moving to Derry. Mentions Sean Dolan's. Discusses her son Brian Og's involvement with Steelstown club football in Derry. Mentions Martin Brown.</p> <p>02:34 Brian discusses his earliest memories of the GAA. Recalls playing football with the Christian Brothers primary school and St. Columb's College. Mentions Sean Dolans and Doire Colmcille. Discusses becoming re-involved with the GAA when his son Brian started to play.</p> <p>03:55 Máire discusses family involvement in the GAA. She describes her family's interest in the cultural side of the GAA, the Irish language, the Scór. Mentions St. Teresa's playing in Casement Park and recalls her father playing with a team called the Martins from the Short Strand (Co. Down).</p> <p>05:00 Discusses the strength of camogie in Belfast nowadays compared to her early days playing camogie.</p> <p>05:30 Discusses playing camogie in St Paul's and in</p>

	<p>Casement Park in Belfast. Mentions the facilities. Recalls playing camogie with the school and the lack of facilities.</p> <p>07:04 Describes the training that was involved in her early days playing camogie.</p> <p>07:19 Brian discusses family involvement in the GAA. Recalls that his family weren't involved in playing – he became interested when he joined the Christian Brothers School. Music was big in his family.</p> <p>08:18 Recalls playing a match in Celtic Park with the Christian Brothers school. Mentions the school jerseys. Discusses the development of pitches and facilities in clubs around the country over the years.</p> <p>10:06 Brian talks about playing football with the Christian Brother's school and in college. He recalls playing matches and training a few times a week.</p> <p>10:34 Brian mentions that playing soccer was prohibited at St Columb's College if you played on the Gaelic football team.</p> <p>10:55 Discusses the perks of playing football in St. Coumb's. Mentions his PE teacher, Malachy McAfee, a former Derry footballer.</p> <p>11:42 Describes his short involvement with Sean Dolans in Derry in the mid 1990s. Discusses his sons' involvement with the club.</p> <p>12:56 Máire and Brian recall that they both stopped playing camogie and football once they finished school.</p> <p>13:55 Máire discusses becoming involved with Steelstown. Mentions Damien McMahon who was also from Belfast.</p> <p>14:36 Brian recalls the founding of Steelstown. Discusses his sons' involvement in Sean Dolan's Club in Creggan. Mentions Noel McCrystal and Martin Brown.</p> <p>15:55 Brian and Máire discuss becoming involved with Steelstown. Mentions that his Steelstown team trained in a local rugby training ground. Máire mentions the strength of soccer in Derry at the time.</p> <p>16:55 Brian discusses the development of the pitch and club at Steelstown shortly after his sons became involved.</p> <p>17:09 Máire and Brian discuss their sons' attending the local school, Bunscoil Cholmcille. Recall the interest in hurling in the school. Mention Tony Scullion. Discusses the connection</p>
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	<p>with Bunscoil Cholmcille and Steelstown Club.</p> <p>18:05 Discuss the dominance of football in Steelstown Club. Mentions Na Magha. Recall their son, Brian Óg's early playing days with the club. Máire describes the social aspects of having a son playing with the local GAA club.</p> <p>20:39 Brian discusses the importance of parents getting involved in sport.</p> <p>21:27 Máire recalls driving her son and his team mates to matches. She recalls her son's enthusiasm encouraging other local boys to play.</p> <p>22:50 Máire discusses attending her son's matches at Under 14 level. Recalls heavy defeats in their early matches. Discusses their improvement over the years.</p> <p>23:22 Máire talks about her son Brian attending the Meanscoil in Derry. Recalls that the Meanscoil took PE classes at a neighbouring school, St Brigids. Mentions Martin McGuinness and Michael McLaughlin.</p> <p>25:13 Máire discusses becoming involved as the Cultural Officer for Steelstown and later becoming involved with Ladies Football in the club.</p> <p>26:40 Brian discusses becoming involved with the club through attending matches. Recalls being approached to run the 12th anniversary dinner dance for the club.</p> <p>27:20 Brian discusses becoming involved at coaching the underage teams. Mentions that he found it difficult being involved after his son's death.</p> <p>28:15 Máire discusses her role as the Cultural Officer and becoming more involved in administration within the club. Discusses the advantages of being involved in GAA.</p> <p>29:49 Máire talks about the strength of the current underage teams in Steelstown club.</p> <p>30:27 Brian mentions that the "core" of the club is made up of people from outside Derry, who moved for work. Mentions that the club chairman Michael Heffernan is from Kilkenny.</p> <p>31:30 Máire discusses the success of the Féile in Derry in 2010. Recalls preparations for the Féile and the sense of community spirit.</p> <p>32:26 Máire discusses the involvement of women on the committee in Steelstown Club. Mentions Ann Lindsay,</p>
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	<p>Kathleen, Bernie McMonagle, Teresa Timmons and Margaret Crabtree.</p> <p>33:41 Máire and Brian recall their son Brian's football career. Discuss his dedication and competitiveness at an early age.</p> <p>36:03 Brian discusses his son Brian's development in football from his early days playing at school. He recalls his success at Under 14 and Under 16.</p> <p>37:11 Brian recalls his son playing in the Derry minor final at 15.</p> <p>37:30 Brian talks about his son becoming ill with glandular fever. Mentions that he moved from Carnhill High School in Derry to St. Columb's. Playing in the MacLarnon Cup.</p> <p>38:50 Brian recalls stories of his son's football abilities.</p> <p>39:26 Máire recalls her son's selection onto the minor Derry panel. Recalls club members who played on the minor team that reached the All-Ireland in 2007. Mentions Stephen Cleary, Neil Forrester, Mickie McKinny.</p> <p>40:27 Brian and Máire recall their son Brian captaining the Derry Under 16 team in Casement Park. Discuss his short but successful football career.</p> <p>41:18 Brian and Máire recall their son's love of GAA. They discuss his influence on his team mates and talk about their involvement in the club today.</p> <p>42:47 Brian mentions an article that Joe Brolly wrote about their son. He notes that the Number 5 jersey is no longer played in the club as a mark of respect to Brian.</p> <p>44:04 Máire discusses the role of the GAA during Brian's illness. Recalls people travelling from around the country to visit him in hospital.</p> <p>45:34 Brian and Máire recall Joe Brolly visiting Brian Óg in hospital.</p> <p>47:14 Discuss the steady stream of visitors throughout Brian's illness. Recall Declan Toner coming from Owenbeg with the League cup and then Brian Dooher and Cuthbert Donnelly calling to the house with the Sam Maguire and the Tom Markham Cup.</p> <p>48:38 Brian recalls attending the 2008 All-Ireland final with his son.</p>
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	<p>49:30 Brian discusses his son's battle with cancer and the support from the GAA. Discusses Mickey Harte coming to visit him and the positive effect this had on him in the later stages of his illness.</p> <p>53:00 Brian and Máire describe the support of the GAA after Brian Óg's death. Talks about the support from the Steelstown club.</p> <p>54:28 Máire discusses Brian Óg's passion for Gaelic football and the commitment he gave to it. Mentions his friend Lee who plays hurling for Na Magha and Derry.</p> <p>56:30 Máire recalls Brian Óg being selected to train with the Ulster Elite in Jordanstown.</p> <p>57:07 Discusses how Brian Óg forged friendships throughout the country through his involvement with GAA.</p> <p>58:13 Máire talks about renaming the club Brian Óg's GAC.</p> <p>01:00:17 Brian and Máire discuss Brian Óg's focus and dedication in playing football as opposed to soccer.</p> <p>01:01:52 Brian discusses how hard he found going back to the club after his son's death. Máire talks about Brian Óg's fighting spirit and how it has helped her.</p> <p>01:03:44 Máire talks about the sense of comfort she felt from being involved with the club after Brian Óg's death.</p> <p>01:04:30 Brian discusses the impact of Brian Óg's death on the family's lives.</p> <p>01:06:42 Discuss their 2 other son's interest in soccer. Talks about their disinterest in Gaelic football.</p> <p>01:07:30 Máire discusses being involved on the County Board committee for ladies football.</p> <p>01:07:55 Máire discusses ladies football in Brian Óg's GAC. She discusses their amalgamation with Sean Dolans and Doire Colmcille to form the current team for Brian Óg's ladies.</p> <p>01:09:45 Discuss the positive atmosphere and expansion of the club.</p> <p>01:10:45 Máire describes being involved on the County Board for ladies football. Discusses fundraising efforts. Mentions the positive attitude of the County Board towards the amalgamation of 3 clubs to form the Brian Óg's team this year.</p>
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	<p>01:12:10 Discusses the positive impact of the Féile in 2010 on ladies football at an underage level.</p> <p>01:12:55 Máire and Brian discuss future involvement in GAA within the club.</p> <p>01:14:50 Brian recalls Nickey Brennan officiating the opening of the Steelstown Club. He mentions that Nicky came to visit Brian Óg's grave before his tenure as GAA President was finished.</p> <p>01:16:13 Brian talks about the strength of the GAA community in times of tragedy.</p> <p>01:17:43 Máire recalls Richard Ferris, the manager for the Derry Minor team in 2009, wearing Brian Óg's jersey for a match and putting a Derry flag on Brian Óg's grave. Mention that his grave overlooks Celtic Park.</p> <p>01:18:45 Brian recalls his best memories of being involved in GAA. He talks about a match Brian Óg played against Kilrea.</p> <p>01:19:58 Máire talks about her best memories of being involved in GAA. She recalls early experiences of Brian Óg playing football.</p> <p>01:20:32 Brian recalls travelling to Navan to watch a Derry match. Mentions travelling to Slaughtneil.</p> <p>01:22:35 Máire discusses what her involvement in the GAA has meant to her. Mentions the cultural aspects.</p> <p>01:24:45 Brian talks about the pride and identity in being involved with the GAA.</p> <p>01:25:38 Máire talks about Mickey Harte and the loss of his daughter.</p> <p>01:28:30 Máire talks about Brian Óg's desire for people to donate blood. She recalls a blood drive being organised at the club.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Máire:</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 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>

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	<p>Brian: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Máire: Played for 5 years. Brian: Played for 11 years.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Máire: Has been involved in administration since 2005. Club: Cultural Officer, Fundraising Committee, Club Brian Óg, Delegate to Ladies County Board. Brian: Has been on the Corporate dinner dance committee for a number of years.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:30:43</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____02/08/12_____

