

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Shauna Maples
Date of Interview	17 th Jan 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Dublin
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Alana Prior
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1991 Home County: Dublin
Education	Primary: St. Marys Public School, Blakestown Road, Dublin. Secondary: Blakestown Community School, Dublin. Third Level: NUI Maynooth
Family	Siblings: 1 brother Current Family if Different: N/A
Club(s)	St. Peregrines GAA Club [Dublin]
Occupation	Sales Assistant, J.D Sports, Blanchardstown
Parents' Occupation	Nurse [Mother]; Works in National Art Gallery [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None

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Date of Report	11 th July 2012
Period Covered	1998 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Dublin, Donegal
Key Themes Covered	Playing, Training, Celebrations, Commiserations, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life
Interview Summary	<p>Alana Prior is 18 years old and from Dublin. She has been involved with G.A.A since a small child. She talks about the uniqueness off the G.A.A and how important it is to her family and herself. She speaks about her day to day involvement and about important matches. She recounts her earliest memories of the sport and going to see county matches.</p> <p>00:00.00 Introduction</p> <p>00:00.28 Alana tells of her Grandfather Gallagher from Donegal pushing all of his ten children to doing a sport within the GAA.</p> <p>00:00.55 Her Aunt Mairead Gallagher played Camogie for Killybegs, Ardara And Donegal.</p> <p>00:01.10 She has been a big influence on Alana, she remembers going to see Mairead play in a junior final against Dublin, Mairead was a young junior and came on at half time and played very well, she made her family very proud.</p> <p>00:01.51 Alana takes her grandfather's point of view in that being involved with the GAA represents a person's Irishness and gives us a sense of identity, it was important to her family that she became involved with the GAA.</p> <p>00:02.19 Alana was introduced to the games at 7 when she was put into a development squad with lots of other children.</p> <p>00:02.41 Alana began her training with Pat Duncan who was a manager from St. Peregrines GAA, he currently manages Dublin camogie team, she played with Pat until she was 13</p>

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	<p>and this is when she was chosen for the Dublin development squad</p> <p>00:03.05 There were approximately 150 girls chosen from clubs like Raheen, Skerries, Bridgets, Castleknock. They were all brought down to the Phoenix Park in September and they were put to extremes doing obstacle courses, shooting defending, positional locations on the pitch etc. it was narrowed down from 150 girls to 50 and then to a panel of 30. The people involved with this were Pat Duncan, Paul Beetcher and Ann Colgan, Alana was picked out as a midfielder for Dublin under 15s.</p> <p>00:03.30 Ann Colgan who was Cork Goalkeeper, was a big motivator for Alana she acted as a mentor. Alana scored the 1st goal of the season against Cork for Dublin. Alana and her family were extremely proud.</p> <p>00:04.10 When she walked onto the pitch in Cork she had mixed feelings of pride and nervousness, there was a small stand there and she said to her this felt like her Croke Park. She remembers the pride in her parents faces and she compares this to how her Aunt felt in Croke park playing for Donegal.</p> <p>00:05.20 Each game is as important as the next to Alana, but when her parents or her family are watching from the side lines she feels a certain degree of pressure and that she has to do them proud.</p> <p>00:06.00 Mairead would come to watch Alana play and has the same hopes for her as she did for herself.</p> <p>00:06.40 Alana and her father frequently go to see county matches together, the memory that sticks out in her mind the most is Dublin v Kerry to get into the all Ireland semi-final and Ray Cosgrove aimed to try for a replay but hit the post, She remembers thinking this was the end of the world when a replay wasn't granted.</p> <p>00:07.20 She talks about the feeling when the Dublin boys</p>
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walk onto the pitch, She says the hill is like a sea of blue, and the chants “come on you boys in blue”. We have renowned players like Alan Brogan and Paddy Christie and one of the all time best backs Jason Sherlock. She’s so proud to be a Dub.

00:07:55 She talks about the Dubs going up to the hill doing the fist clenches, and the opposition going crazy, she says although it’s great craic, the Dubs tend to get a bit cocky before a game and there’s nerves from the supporters.

00:08.20 She says the matches used to be a time for bonding between her and her father, they’d both be in their Dublin Jersey’s, singing along waving their hands in the air jumping when the Dubs score.

00:08.45 she speaks of the rivalry in her house with her Dad being a Dub and her Mam being from Donegal, she remembers Dublin playing Donegal and all her family from Donegal came up but it was all a bit of fun really.

00:09.22 The players who would inspire her would be D.J Carey a magnificent player, Henry Shefflin. She would watch them repeatedly to try and pick up on some of their skill.

00:09.50 She describes herself as a sore loser, and says it’s a sad day when the team loses. She says she is a great team motivator and likes to fire the team up before a match to get the best from them.

00:10.40 She says managers and trainers would make an example of her and point out her abilities to the rest of the team but she never thought much of this until she pulled on the Dublin shirt and realised there was something unique about her playing, she describe this as a special day.

00:11.11 She says when she’d do well or win a match her Mam would ring up to Donegal to tell the whole family. She says that the GAA seems to be of a lot more importance to the people from the country and that from her experience in Donegal it’s held a lot more sacred. She says the problem is

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	<p>that in Dublin there are less GAA clubs and more soccer teams this is different in the country.</p> <p>00:12.30 Alana talks about how in Donegal members of the GAA represent the community and they are well known and respected.</p> <p>00:12.44 She looks back at her first attempts to play camogie and being shown how to use a hurl, she remembers her Granddad telling her that you could cut the grass with it and she was confused about this but now that she experienced the power of a hurl she sees how this is possible.</p> <p>00:13.30 She remembers her Granddad telling her about the players from Killybegs and how they were really well known within the community and well respected. He said that when they walked onto the pitch they were almost warrior like.</p> <p>00:14.00 The GAA to her represents Ireland it's different and unique and gives us a sense of identity. She speaks of players like Thomas and Páidí Ó Sé and how the GAA and the Irish language represent their Irishness.</p> <p>00:14.30 Her basic playing philosophy would be to play a game with the aim to win it because anything else isn't good enough.</p> <p>00:15.15 She feels that women's position within the GAA is not as important as men's, when a men's all Ireland final is being played Croke park is filled to its capacity she says this is not the same for women. She thinks this is unfair and she says the GAA is dominated by men with all male chairmen etc. she feels women's role should become more important.</p> <p>00:16.41 She says that the GAA is a big commitment and work and study come second best always to it.</p> <p>00:17.10 She talks about the rivalry between Peregrines and its neighbouring club St.Bridgets, they all wear the one Dublin jersey but when the Bridgets and Peregrines jerseys come on its totally different. A bigger crowd develops for these matches and Peregrines feel they have to win, unfortunately</p>
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	<p>more often than not this is not the case.</p> <p>00:17.50 She talks about how the girls on the team have to pull together and become almost like a family and that this is necessary to win any game.</p> <p>00:18.15 She would feel responsible for losses although you can't win every ball she feels as though she let the girls down. When you lose a game it's a major disappointment and the manager's job is to deal with the mindset of the team afterwards and bring the spirits back up. She recalls St. Pats beating them by a point and they scored a point but the umpire said it was a wide, that was a major disappointment.</p> <p>00:19.20 Major victories were celebrated with the exchange of shirts and the team would go back to the locker room and discuss the events of the game later they would go back to one of the clubs and have a drink.</p> <p>00:20.00 She never had any major injuries but has broken her fingers four times and her big toe. When asked if she ever had any setbacks while playing the game she said no that her heart and soul was in the game and it would take a lot to stop her, it's a big part of her life and she hopes that it will always be. She thinks every Irish person should become involved with the GAA</p> <p>00:21.30 She would sum up her involvement with the GAA as a great experience and hopes that in 100 years time the GAA will still play a part in Irish culture and that more women will become involved.</p> <p>00:22.35 Alana is thanked and interview ends.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input 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 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>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Has played for 11 years. Played for Dublin Junior team.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:22:35
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Shauna Maples

Date: 20th Jan 2010