

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2010
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Killyclogher, Co. Tyrone
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Brendan Harkin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1948 <b>Home County:</b> Tyrone
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Castleroddy PS, Co. Tyrone <b>Secondary:</b> CBS, Omagh, Co. Tyrone <b>Third Level:</b> Queen's University Belfast
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Clare with 3 daughters and 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Mary's, Killyclogher
<b>Occupation</b>	Teacher
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Forestry Worker [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1904 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Tyrone
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Outsider's Perspectives, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Brendan speaks a lot about the history of the GAA in his club, Killyclogher, as well as in Tyrone in general. He offers an interesting perspective on the GAA in Tyrone, as his club is a successful hurling club in a county that is most focused on football. Brendan is also able to talk in depth about the administration aspect of the GAA as he has taken part in everything from the club board to the Central Council. He covers many different aspects of the Irish culture and history and their relation the GAA, including the Irish language and the Troubles among other themes.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:35 Earliest GAA memory being when he was 4 and hearing his brother talking about a final between Meath and Cavan.</p> <p>1:00 Remembering a little about the 1953 All-Ireland Football Final because Armagh was in it and gaining more and more knowledge each year.</p> <p>1:30 Talking about his club and living in the Cappagh Parish.</p> <p>1:50 A board being set up in West Tyrone in 1931 that sparked many clubs being formed, including Brendan's, which was a football club.</p> <p>2:20 In the 1940's a hurling club being developed in the Knockmoyle area of the Parish that became a dual club as</p>

	<p>football's popularity rose and the reasons the club folded.</p> <p>2:50 Having a limited memory of club football.</p> <p>3:05 The GAA being dormant in his Parish from the mid 1950's until 1965.</p> <p>3:25 The people who helped with the revival of the GAA in the parish in 1965 including Red Mick McCrory, Joe Connor, and Brendan, himself.</p> <p>3:55 Only fielding one team at the beginning of the club, a junior level team that played in the West Tyrone Junior league, and the club growing from that.</p> <p>4:40 The facilities of the club and the different things the club does there including Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. They have language, music and sport in one place.</p> <p>5:30 Hurling's popularity in all of Tyrone and in Brendan's club in particular, and his club being a dual club in 1904.</p> <p>6:00 Football being the only sport in the new club when it was formed but bringing hurling in ten years later.</p> <p>6:20 Brendan tells a story about the Wyndham Land Act in 1904 and two land surveyors who made a contribution to the club in Knockmoyle area.</p> <p>7:10 All Gaelic games being attributed to the presence of a teacher in the area, and his memories of being influenced by a teacher named Mr. Gallagher from Donegal.</p> <p>8:05 More about the two surveyors who were part of the Aughlim / Anghlim Family, played for Killyclogher and Tyrone.</p> <p>8:50 Reintroducing hurling to the Parish in the 1970's and memories of listening to both sports on the radio as a child.</p> <p>9:25 Going to school in Omagh and noticing that many of the boys from West Tyrone had no interest in hurling.</p> <p>9:55 The difference in costs for people to play hurling and Gaelic Football and the draw of the two different sports for young people.</p> <p>10:35 His uncle George being on the hurling team with Killyclogher in the 1930's and knowing every player on the team then because of his father and uncle.</p> <p>11:00 The Knockmoyle team being the local heroes when they were founded and listening to matches in his neighbour's house when the commentators would talk about older</p>
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	<p>generations of players.</p> <p>12:25 Remembering knowing half of the Mayo team from the early 1950's even though he would have been too young to listen to them play.</p> <p>12:55 Having three brothers and a sister who were all into football, and his sister playing football with the boys.</p> <p>13:20 The role a priest who had been in Knockmoyle, Fr. McLaughlin who did a lot for hurling and was interested in the Irish language.</p> <p>14:20 The involvement of families in the club throughout its history and specifically of the Quinn family.</p> <p>15:15 The different characters in the club, stereotypes of characters for clubs, and meetings for the club.</p> <p>16:25 Brendan tells a story about a team getting badly beaten and the strategy to avoid finishing the game.</p> <p>18:25 Talking about other stories about great matches and moments in matches and how they might have been exaggerated.</p> <p>19:25 The county being divided between east and west in 1931 and how that affected travelling.</p> <p>19:55 Travelling on his bike to the club as a kid and getting lifts to matches from other players.</p> <p>20:50 His opinions on how advances in transportation have affected the GAA.</p> <p>21:10 Talking about changes to facilities throughout his life and its affect on the GAA.</p> <p>22:15 Fields he played on growing up and particularly on the Forge Field on the main Omagh to Gortin Road. Named after Maguire's forge. Mentions Crossan's field, Killyclogher; McAleer's of Cloughfin; Forge Field in Knockmoyle.</p> <p>23:05 Playing in St. Patrick's Park in Omagh and using the Christian Brothers' Field.</p> <p>23:40 Getting the money for a new field with the help of Carnival's with people like Brian Coll, Philomena Begley, Ray Lynham and other fundraising methods.</p> <p>24:25 Developing based on their means and avoiding debt at first and new methods of development in recent times.</p>
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	<p>25:20 Naming the club's park and considering different names for it.</p> <p>25:45 The role of women in the GAA when Brendan was growing up and how it is developed until now.</p> <p>27:10 Men trying to survive at home without women.</p> <p>27:40 Women's involvement with the administration of the club in recent years.</p> <p>28:15 Relationship between the club and the women's football club, and fundraising together.</p> <p>29:30 The strength of handball in the club and having footballers and hurlers play handball over the winter.</p> <p>30:30 The history of the Scór Competition in the club and what the club has been best at.</p> <p>31:45 The support the club gives the people who participate in Scór.</p> <p>32:50 Brendan's opinions on the importance of the Irish language and what language means to other countries.</p> <p>33:50 Sportspeople from other countries such as Germany and Italy being able to express themselves in English better than some who speak English as their first language.</p> <p>34:40 The respect for the language in Tyrone and efforts made to incorporate it.</p> <p>35:05 The importance of keeping the language alive and the GAA's role in keeping it alive.</p> <p>35:40 The revival of traditional music in the country since the 1950's.</p> <p>36:30 Fundraising for the development of the Hogan Stand section of Croke Park in Tyrone through a competition called the Ceannaras Competition.</p> <p>37:45 A fundraising project for Croke Park called Ciste Gael and after the end of that project, organising a project called Ciste Nua.</p> <p>38:10 Involving the Irish language in the playing of games, particularly in training for school teams.</p> <p>39:25 Tyrone's efforts in promoting An Ghaeilge and Scór.</p> <p>39:50 Clubs coming together for meetings and classes about</p>
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	<p>the Irish language and rewards for people who learn the language.</p> <p>40:50 Emigration always being an issue for the club, especially during the 1970's and 1980's.</p> <p>41:20 People in the area emigrating to Philadelphia and their involvement with Gaelic sports in the United States.</p> <p>41:55 Players for the club working in Dublin and the difficulties that posed for attending training and matches during the week.</p> <p>42:55 The difference in sponsorships during the Celtic Tiger and during the recession, but still being able to rely on the people in the club to contribute weekly or monthly.</p> <p>44:00 Brendan's memories of his own playing career.</p> <p>44:35 The difficulties of going to Queens University in Belfast but being able to bond with people over involvement in the GAA and taking part in the first Freshers Competition there.</p> <p>45:35 Training and travelling for the Freshers Competition.</p> <p>46:05 Not having funding for the club because the funding went to the older teams and therefore having to pay for their own travel.</p> <p>46:40 Playing University College Dublin in the Freshers Final in Croke Park before a match between Cavan and Meath, and remembering that Red Collier was hurt in that game.</p> <p>47:40 Brendan's history of playing football for the club for around twenty years and a bit of hurling as well.</p> <p>48:00 Having great players for the club who were always reliable, unlike some temperamental players for other clubs who would not be dedicated to the club.</p> <p>48:40 Having men in the club who would have won All-Irelands for Tyrone but would stay dedicated to the club.</p> <p>49:25 Not having a good recollection of how he came to be part of the club administration.</p> <p>49:45 Working with Joe O'Connor, Paddy Quinn, and Brendan working as delegates the West Tyrone board and knowing his place as one of the younger delegates.</p> <p>50:35 Learning more in meetings in West Tyrone than in courses at Queens University.</p>
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	<p>51:30 Ending the West and East Tyrone Boards and becoming one county board.</p> <p>52:10 Becoming part of the Ulster Council in about 1976 and meeting people in the council, including Malachy Mahon and Micheál MacGiolla.</p> <p>53:00 Brendan's feelings about how people used the Irish language in his early years in the Ulster Council.</p> <p>53:25 Becoming chairman of the Tyrone County Board around the same time as the Hunger Strike in 1981 and the difficulties of being on the board at this time.</p> <p>54:25 Brendan's beliefs on how to best handle the situation without hurting the GAA but while supporting what the GAA believed in.</p> <p>55:20 Difficult times bringing people together and looking back on the time around the Hunger Strikes.</p> <p>56:20 Talking to as many as people and groups as possible while chairman to make sure that they knew they had support from the GAA, while maintaining the GAA's activities.</p> <p>56:40 Making sure to not have games going on at the same time as protest marches.</p> <p>57:40 Similarities between the GAA bringing people together after the Civil War in the 1920's and bringing people together after the Troubles.</p> <p>59:40 Experiencing threats during his time as chairman of the Tyrone Board.</p> <p>1:00:20 How the board dealt with incidents involving players during the Troubles.</p> <p>1:01:20 So many people being affected by the Troubles, through being put in jail and other aspects.</p> <p>1:01:50 Working on the board around the centenary year of the GAA and thoughts of Paddy Buggy.</p> <p>1:02:55 Becoming county secretary during the centenary year and Tyrone winning the Ulster Title that year in the Frank McGuigan Final.</p> <p>1:03:45 Working with many experienced men on the county board, such as Paddy O'Neill, Jimmy Casey, Donnach Begley, Frank O'Neill.</p> <p>1:05:05 Working on the Bord na nÓg while working on the</p>
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	<p>Ulster council, being chairman of the grounds committee, being involved with the football league board, and being hurling chairman.</p> <p>1:05:40 Living through one of the high points of Tyrone's GAA history with the hurling team's success in the 1990's and managing during that time.</p> <p>1:06:20 Thoughts about the GAA and what separates it from other sports organizations.</p> <p>1:07:05 Becoming involved in the Central Council in 1987-1990, going back to being county chairman, and then being back in the Central Council now.</p> <p>1:08:05 Being a believer in the democracy of the GAA and the democracy of the Killyclogher Club when it was first founded.</p> <p>1:08:45 There being no political voting democracy in Northern Ireland at the time Killyclogher was founded.</p> <p>1:09:25 The importance of the social equality in the GAA and what distinguishes people in the GAA.</p> <p>1:10:25 Only having a vote in the GAA at the time Killyclogher was formed, not even having one in the Parish.</p> <p>1:11:35 The importance of the Central Council offering opinions on issues and having debates in the council.</p> <p>1:12:35 There being few Protestant/Unionist people involved in Brendan's club but having some families who would be supportive of the GAA in Tyrone.</p> <p>1:13:35 Not being in favour of the bans but thinking they were rationally debated and being annoyed by outsiders' perspectives on rules in the GAA.</p> <p>1:14:55 Groups saying how much not allowing foreign games to play in Croke Park would cost Ireland but not adding how much money the big GAA games in Croke Park bring into Ireland.</p> <p>1:15:55 Feelings about the Football Association of Ireland and the Irish Rugby Football Union.</p> <p>1:16:55 Comparing the FAI to relationships with neighbours.</p> <p>1:18:00 How decisions about rule changes can filter down from country to county to club.</p> <p>1:18:20 Memories of being involved with the vote to repeal</p>
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	<p>the ban and Pat Fanning's role in the vote.</p> <p>1:19:40 The idea of all colleges in the Republic that promoted rugby taking part in GAA competitions after the ban was repealed.</p> <p>1:20:25 The GAA being a national organization and the importance of its identity.</p> <p>1:21:00 How the GAA is a part of communities and what community means to Brendan.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Brendan played from 1965 for 20 years. In football he won junior league and championship medals and an intermediate league. In hurling he won a senior county championship. In Scór he reached the Ulster Finals in Novelty Acts and Tráth na gCeist.</p>
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Brendan has been involved in administration since 1965.</p> <p>Club: Secretary 1965</p> <p>County: Delegate from Club; Assistant Secretary of League Board; Chairman of Youth Board; Chairman of Hurling Board; Hurling County Manager; County Chairman; County Secretary</p> <p>Ulster: Delegate from County Board; Delegate from Club; Committee Member</p> <p>Central: Delegate from Ulster and Tyrone to the Ard Comhairle</p>
<b>Format</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:22:06</p>

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<b>Language</b>	English
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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:     \_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date:             \_\_\_\_\_15/06/12\_\_\_\_\_