

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	4 th July 2010
Location	Brussels, Belgium
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Laura Whiskerd
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1984 Home County: Great Britain
Education (Optional)	Primary: Vienna International School, Austria Secondary: International School of Brussels, Belgium Third Level: University of Bristol, England.
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister
Club(s)	Belgium GAA [Europe]
Occupation	Legal Adviser
Parents' Occupation	Teacher [Mother]; Finance Director [Father]
Religion	Anglican
Political Affiliation / Membership	Liberal Democrat
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	FC Irlande Soccer Club, Brussels; Oranje Hockey Club, Brussels

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Anay Rios Olmedo
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1983 Home County: Spain [Europe]
Education	Primary: Colegio Francisco Franco Secondary: Instituto Instra De Los Remedios Third Level: Universidad De Sevilla
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Belgium GAA [Europe]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	British United Football Club, Brussels

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jane Brennan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1979 Home County: Dublin
Education (Optional)	Primary: St Patrick's Cathedral Choir School, Dublin. Secondary: St Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School, Dublin Third Level: UCD
Family	Siblings: 2 siblings
Club(s)	Belgium GAA [Europe]
Occupation	Sports Administrator
Parents' Occupation	Fire Fighter [Father]; Teacher [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Sylvia McCarthy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1984 Home County: Cork
Education	Primary: Glenville NS, Cork. Secondary: Cloáiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear, Cork Third Level: UCC and University of Warwick
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers and 1 sister
Club(s)	Glenville GAA [Cork]; Watergrasshill GAA [Cork]; Belgium GAA [Brussels]
Occupation	Lobbyist
Parents' Occupation	Engineer [Father]; Teacher [Mother]
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tiernan Byne
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1991 Home County: Wicklow
Education	Primary: Moneystown NS, Wicklow Secondary: De la Salle, Wicklow Third Level: UCD
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 2 sisters
Club(s)	N/A
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Agnostic Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	14 th June 2012
Period Covered	1990s-2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Belgium, Europe
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, Club History, Family Involvement, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Members of Belgium GAA club talk about their experiences of playing Games in Europe. They recall how the club, which had been functioning for a time in the 1990s, was restarted again. There was a lot of interest in the club and they soon had football, hurling, ladies football and camogie teams with players from many different countries. With no support structures in place they had to adopt a 'do-it-yourself' mentality in order to secure sponsorship and playing facilities. They talks about the positive role the GAA plays in Belgium, bringing people together in pursuit of a common goal. Although they faces challenges unlike those faced by clubs in Ireland, they have proven that they can succeed and have a large pool of members to are determined to ensure that the future is bright for Belgium GAA.</p> <p>00:55 (Laura) Belgium GAA started in the 1990s.</p> <p>01:10 (Laura) Taking up hurling in 2006 and playing with the men.</p> <p>01:30 (Laura) Playing in Mayo with the European hurling team.</p> <p>01:40 (Laura) Starting a Gaelic football team in 2008 and enjoying success.</p> <p>02:00 (Laura) Number of teams they have in 2010.</p> <p>02:20 (Sylvia) They are one of the biggest cubs in Europe.</p> <p>02:35 (Jane) Lots of expats visiting the city.</p> <p>02:55 (Laura) Reason they get a lot of people.</p>

	<p>03:10 (Sylvia) Losing people to injury and coping with that.</p> <p>03:30 (Anay) How she heard about the GAA in the city.</p> <p>04:05 (Anay) Playing handblall.</p> <p>04:15 (Laura) Playing hockey. How she started playing GAA.</p> <p>04:55 (Jane) Trying to kick the ball for the first time before a game.</p> <p>05:30 (Laura) Barbara from Lucan in Dublin starting up the football team.</p> <p>06:05 (Laura) Team that was in the city in the 1990s. Chas Seedon and Áine Regan involved.</p> <p>06:45 (Laura) Not a lot of competition when they started.</p> <p>06:50 (Laura) Juvenile club at the time.</p> <p>07:15 (Laura) Difficulties for that club in the beginning.</p> <p>07:40 (Jane) Numbers they had when they started the club up again.</p> <p>08:15 (Sylvia) Having one team in the first year but two in 2009.</p> <p>08:40 (Laura) Coaching the team and having a lot of girls to choose from.</p> <p>08:55 (Laura) People taking interest when they see them training.</p> <p>08:55 (Jane) Getting emails from people before they move over. Social side of GAA there.</p> <p>10:15 (Laura) Online profile of the club.</p> <p>10:40 (Sylvia) Difficulties in getting people involved in camogie and recruitment efforts.</p> <p>11:15 (Jane) Limited pitch facilities and need to expand.</p> <p>11:40 (Laura) Lack of clubhouse. Facilities compared to other European clubs.</p>
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	<p>12:10 (Sylvia) When they train and where.</p> <p>12:25 (Jane) Work involved in keeping the club going.</p> <p>13:05 (Jane) Some players only in the area short-term.</p> <p>13:20 (Laura) How they cope with people being there short-term. Delegating tasks to people.</p> <p>14:05 (Jane) GAA involvement before she moved to Belgium. Reaction at home when they heard she was playing.</p> <p>15:35 (Sylvia) Some of her relations from Cork visiting and taking part in tournaments.</p> <p>15:55 (Sylvia) GAA involvement before she moved to Belgium.</p> <p>16:45 (Sylvia) How the European GAA experience in different.</p> <p>17:25 (Laura) Financial and time commitments.</p> <p>18:00 (Jane) Being able to drive to tournaments.</p> <p>18:40 (Sylvia) What tournaments are like.</p> <p>18:55 (Laura) Organising tournaments and how costs are covered.</p> <p>20:25 (Jane) Former President Seán Kelly visiting and pitching in with the work.</p> <p>22:15 (Laura) Men and women's leagues and how they work.</p> <p>23:30 (Anay) Setting up a team in Spain.</p> <p>24:55 (Laura) GAA in schools in France.</p> <p>25:15 (Laura) Supporters attending tournaments.</p> <p>25:45 (Sylvia) Seán Kelly as honorary president of the club. His involvement.</p> <p>26:35 (Jane) Proximity of European Parliament and benefits of that.</p> <p>28:35 (Sylvia) MEP sponsorship programme and how that</p>
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	<p>works.</p> <p>29:15 (Laura) Being sponsored by Irish bar De Valera's.</p> <p>29:50 (Jane) Fundraising, grants and sponsorship.</p> <p>31:40 (Jane) GAA as a barrier to integrating into Belgian society.</p> <p>33:25 (Laura) Nationalities they have within the club and their professions.</p> <p>34:40 (Jane) Reaction at work to GAA involvement.</p> <p>35:05 (Anay) Reaction at work to her involvement.</p> <p>38:30 (Sylvia) Trying to explain to people what Gaelic football is.</p> <p>38:45 (Anay) Why she likes football.</p> <p>39:30 (Anay) What her family in Spain think of her involvement.</p> <p>40:55 (Sylvia) European GAA a better way for people who have never played GAA to get involved.</p> <p>42:05 (Sylvia) Key to a successful club.</p> <p>43:30 (Sylvia) GAA and her sense of identity.</p> <p>45:10 (Anay) Social aspect of her GAA involvement.</p> <p>45:30 (Sylvia) Team from Clare Island visiting and going to play them in Clare Island.</p> <p>47:00 (Anay) Doing Irish dancing.</p> <p>47:35 (Sylvia) Playing in the All-Ireland Sevens in Dublin.</p> <p>48:15 (Anay) How she found playing in Ireland.</p> <p>49:30 (Sylvia) Having players who have represented their counties and talented sportspeople from abroad.</p> <p>50:35 (Sylvia) Seriousness of their approach to playing and competing. Rivals.</p>
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	<p>51:25 (Sylvia) Becoming camogie officer.</p> <p>51:40 (Sylvia) First tournament they won.</p> <p>52:10 (Sylvia) Prominence of camogie in Europe.</p> <p>52:50 (Sylvia) How non-Irish people take to camogie.</p> <p>53:40 (Sylvia) How they get their GAA gear.</p> <p>54:40 (Sylvia) Playing in hot weather.</p> <p>55:15 (Sylvia) Social dimension and how that helps.</p> <p>55:25 (Anay) Social events they organise. Facebook page.</p> <p>56:45 (Tiernan) How he got involved with the club. Involvement in Ireland with An Tobar in Wicklow.</p> <p>57:20 (Tiernan) Impressions of the club when he arrived.</p> <p>57:40 (Tiernan) Nature of the training.</p> <p>58:10 (Tiernan) How his involvement has enriched his Belgian experience.</p> <p>59:00 (Sylvia) People prolonging their stay due to involvement with the club.</p> <p>59:25 (Sylvia) Employment situation in the country.</p> <p>01:00:05 (Sylvia) Her work in Belgium.</p> <p>01:00:30 (Tiernan) Language he speaks at work.</p> <p>01:01:25 (Sylvia) Languages she uses at work.</p> <p>01:01:45 (Anay) Languages she uses at work.</p> <p>01:02:25 (Sylvia) International dimension to life in Brussels.</p> <p>01:03:40 (Sylvia) Getting to see more of Europe through the club.</p> <p>01:04:40 (Anay) How she finds Brussels.</p> <p>01:06:45 (Anay) Wanting her children to play GAA.</p>
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	<p>01:07:05 (Anay) GAA romances within the club.</p> <p>01:08:00 (Tiernan) What the GAA means to him.</p> <p>01:08:40 (Sylvia) What the GAA means to her.</p> <p>01:09:00 (Sylvia) Her local club is Glenville. Family's involvement in that.</p> <p>01:09:55 (Anay) What the GAA means to her.</p> <p>01:11:50 (Anay) Commitment of club members and work done by committee.</p> <p>01:12:55 (Sylvia) Future of the club.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Laura:</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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Anay:</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 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> <p>Jane:</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 type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Sylvia:</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 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>Tiernan:</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 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>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Laura: Belgium GAA Player of the Year, Ladies Football (2009); European Championships Ladies Football (2008, 2009); European Runners-up, Camogie (2008)</p> <p>Anay: European Championships Ladies Football (2008, 2009)</p> <p>Jane: Has played Gaelic games for 2 years; European Championships Ladies Football (2008, 2009); European Runners-up, Camogie (2008)</p> <p>Sylvia: European Championships Ladies Football (2008, 2009)</p> <p>Tiernan: Has played Gaelic football for 13 years.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Laura: European Camogie Officer (2007-08); Ladies Football Officer (2008-09); Vice-Chairperson of Belgium GAA (2009-2010)</p> <p>Anay: None specified</p> <p>Jane: Belgium GAA Ladies Football Officer for 1 years</p> <p>Sylvia: Belgium GAA Fundraising Officer (2009); Camogie Officer (2010)</p> <p>Tiernan: None specified</p>

Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:13:15
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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 14th June 2012