GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	19 th Aug 2010
Location	Inniskeen Grattans, Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Noel 'Butch' Brady
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1970
	Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Blackstaff NS, Co. Monaghan
	Secondary: Carrickmacross Vocational School, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 1 brother
Club(s)	Inniskeen Grattans
Occupation	Butcher
Parents' Occupation	Teachers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Boyle
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	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940
	Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Inniskeen NS, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 1 sister
	Current Family if Different: Married
Club(s)	Inniskeen Grattans
Occupation	Builder; Dundalk Town Council
Parents' Occupation	Railway Worker [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Church Committee

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	James Meegan
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1941
	Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Inniskeen NS, Co. Monaghan
	Secondary: Dundalk CBS, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 6 sisters
	Current Family if Different: Married with 4 sons
Club(s)	Inniskeen Grattans
Occupation	Retired Water Inspector
Parents' Occupation	Builder [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Patsy McKenna
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1939
	Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Gednamysha NS, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 7 brothers & 2 sisters
	Current Family if Different: Married with 3 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Inniskeen Grattans
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Inniskeen Development Committee, Monaghan Way Walks, Monaghan Farm Relief Service

Name of	Joe Carroll
Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1939
	Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Inniskeen NS, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 1 sister
	Current Family if Different: 2 sons and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Inniskeen Grattans [Monaghan]; Sons of Erin [Northampton]; St. Michael's [Donegal]; Sean O'Mahony's [Louth]
Occupation	Factory Worker
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of	Brendan Courtney
Interviewee (Maiden	
name / Nickname)	
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1945
	Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Inniskeen NS, Co. Monaghan
	Secondary: Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Inniskeen Grattans
Occupation	Plant Hire
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kevin Finnegan
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1922
	Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Blackstaff NS, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 6
Club(s)	Inniskeen Grattans
Occupation	Baker
Parents' Occupation	Shopkeeper
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	4 th July 2012
Period Covered	1930s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Monaghan, Cavan, Louth, Dublin, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Media, Emigration, Role of Women, Role of Club in Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Violence, Retirement, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, relationships, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	The group discuss their involvement with Inniskeen Grattans GAA Club from their childhood to the present. The group gives an account of the role the GAA has played on their lives and the role that Inniskeen Grattan GAA Club plays within the community. They discuss their best and worst memories of their time in the GAA and tell many stories of these experiences.
	00:00 Introduction
	01:18 (Joe) Describes his earliest memory as playing Gaelic football in a local field in the early 1950s. He discusses how four teams were picked within the parish to run a small league and mentions the Willie Quinn Cup. He talks about how Patsy McKenna was captain and mentions a man named Paddy O'Rourke.
	02:18 (Brendan) Describes how Willie Quinn was Chief Superintendant of the Garda Síochána and how he instigated juvenile football in Inniskeen.
	02:46 (John) Describes his earliest memory to be working in the club as a committee member in 1966. Describes his earliest memory as a player to be playing in the Juvenile leagues.
	03:24 (Joe) Talks about leaving Inniskeen to work in Dublin and moving to England and America. Describes his best memory as winning a Railway Cup medal in 1965 and retiring from GAA at 36 but going back to play for Sean O'Mahony's in Dundalk and winning a junior championship medal at 42.

04:33 (John) Describes his best memory as Inniskeen winning an Intermediate All-Ireland.
04:53 (John) Describes his biggest disappointment as Inniskeen not winning the county championship in 1990 against Castleblayney.
04:39 (Joe) Describes John as a club-man and administrator.
06:36 (John) Mentions how he has been fundraising since 1966. He mentions how they have a draw every week. The group discusses different methods of fundraising and how the prizes are organised – 1^{st} prize €250, 2^{nd} prize €100, 3^{rd} prize €50, 4^{th} prize €30 and 5^{th} prize €20.
07:35 (Brendan) Talks about the old pitch in Inniskeen. He discusses how the club started different tournaments to raise money for a new development. He mentions the first tournament, the Patrick Kavanagh Tournament. He talks about the level of support received at these tournaments and mentions Crossmaglen, Ballybay, Scotstown and Cooley as teams that took part.
09:20 (John) Discusses how in the 1950s they held raffles with a Bullock as the prize.
09:45 (Joe) Discusses his involvement with the GAA. Discusses how long he has played with his home club Inniskeen. He talks about the team he played for in England, called Sons of Erin, Northampton. He also talks about playing with the Monaghan County team in America; he refers to them. He mentions that his wife is from Donegal and that he has played with St Michael's there also. He talks about playing with Sean O'Mahony's in Dundalk and with the Monaghan county team over-40s. He talks about his last game, aged 48.
11:13 (Kevin) Describes his earliest memories of the GAA. He talks about how in 1939 he was playing on the Under-16 team. He mentions Father Kirk, who had several teams in the parish and he talks about how was part of one.
12:07 (Kevin) Mentions that he played for Monaghan in 1940 and played in Croke Park after winning the Ulster championship. He explains that this was during World War Two. He talks about playing against Louth in minor football in 1940.
13:35 (Kevin) Talks about how there were three matches played in Croke Park when he played there. He mentions how he was on the Monaghan minor team for five years. He talks

about how the club won the county championship in1947 and how he was chairman of the club at that time.
14:27 (Brendan) Describes his earliest GAA memory as playing football with Inniskeen School against Blackstaff and playing in the Willie Quinn Cup. He talks about how he then played junior, minor and senior football with Inniskeen. He mentions that he played minor with Monaghan and played an Ulster Final against Donegal in Donegal.
15:06 (Brendan) Discusses the level of enjoyment he has gotten out of the GAA.
15:44 (Brendan) Talks about the tournaments held in Inniskeen. He describes how they cut and raked the grass on the pitch every Saturday in preparation for the Sunday game. He talks about how he, Owen Meegan, Paddy O'Rourke and others used to line the pitch with a white-washed brush.
16:53 (Patsy) Describes his earliest memory as playing in the Inniskeen school league tournaments. He talks about how he and Joe Carroll were captain of two of the teams. He discusses playing an under-16 match in Aughnamullen and tells a story about a man named Brendan Hamilton.
17:57 (Patsy) Describes his most memorable game to be the World Cup final of 1958 when they played Ballybay in Carrickmacross. He tells a story about how he broke his leg in that match. He mentions how his team won the Hackett Cup.
18:43 (James) Talks about how he does not have any particular earliest memories and explains that his father and uncles were very involved with football so it was a constant feature in his in household since he was a very small child. He mentions that three of his uncles played on the senior Inniskeen team.
19:04 (James) Describes his fondest memory as going to the 1948 final at the age of seven with his father in Ballybay where Inniskeen were playing Castleblayney. He recalls the pipe-band and describes how this experience was as his father was a committee member. He names the captain of the team to be Paddy Fitzpatrick.
19:56 (James) Talks about fundraising for the club and mentions his father, Paddy O'Rourke and Tom Ruddy to be influential in this. He mentions that the pitch cost £1900 at the time and how much fundraising was needed. He tells a story about the prize Bullock in the club raffle.
21:22 (James) Talks about how he played under-14 for

Inniskeen and mentions how they played the Louth under-14 champions. He talks about how he played Junior and Senior football and how he played for Monaghan from 1963 to 1968.
22:07 (James) Tell a story about being blamed for losing a Dr. Lagan Cup game against Derry. He talks about winning the intermediate All-Ireland and the 1948 final.
22:42 (James) Talks about disappointments in the GAA. He talks about the 1975 county championship final Inniskeen played against Castleblayney. He talks about being chairman of the history committee of the club.
23:32 (James) Tells how his father won a senior championship medal in 1938 and how he lost it as a child and it was not found for sixteen years.
24:23 (James) Talks about the present committee of the club and mentions Noel, Patsy and Kevin.
24:58 (James) Tells a story about going to play a championship game in Ballybay against Castleblayney and travelling in Kevin's car to the match.
26:18 (Noel) Recalls his earliest memory as travelling to Croke Park as a child with his father who was a sports photographer. He describes these experiences. He talks about playing in a school league for Blackstaff. He talks about winning the Philomena Begley trophy.
27:25 (Noel) Talks about the first time he played for Inniskeen against a team from Dundalk called Glenmore Hill Street and tells how he scored six goals.
27:43 (Noel) Mentions that he played under- 12s, 13s, 14s, 16s, and minors. He talks about how he played for Monaghan against Cavan in a minor championship in Breffini Park. He tells how he played under-21, junior and senior football. He tells how he played his first senior game at the age of 15 at a championship quarter-final in Castleblayney against Clontibret.
28:15 (Noel) Tells how he began refereeing and talks about a junior championship final in Monaghan he refereed. He talks about refereeing at McKenna Cup games and officiating at Ulster championship finals.
29:00 Talks about being chairman of the club and tells how he managed the Inniskeen Ladies Football team and how they got to an All-Ireland final playing against a team from

Kerry.
29:55 (Kevin) Talks about his family involvement in the club. He tells how there were seven Finnegans involved in the club and he discusses their level of involvement. He mentions that two of his brothers, Tommy and Barney, received county championship medals in 1933.
30:28 (Kevin) Talks about how his father was on the committee and how committee meetings were held in a place he refers to as 'the old loft'. He tells a story about a man named Barney Keegan who used to carry a hurley stick.
31:18 (Kevin) Talks about how the club used to play in McCaffrey's Meadow as they had no grounds of their own until they bought McKenna's field. He tells how they used this field for twenty years, buying it for £800 and selling if for two and a quarter million.
32:29 (James) Tells how Inniskeen were the first Monaghan and Ulster county champions, beating the Cavan champions at the Ulster final in Drogheda. Talks about his grandfathers and uncles involvements in the GAA.
33:24 (James) Talks about Inniskeen's level of success in the past mentioning how they won 6 senior championships. He mentions families that were involved in the past, such as the Fitzpatricks, the O'Rourkes, the Meegans and the McKennas.
34:10 (Noel) Discusses the first game Inniskeen played in 1888. Tells how the first game was a draw and how the replay was played in Drogheda, in the area where the Pope visited around Monasterboice. He tells how violence occurred at the match. He tells a story about how this game was repeated in the 1988s when Inniskeen played Clones in Dunboyne and describes how the players wore similar attire to what was worn in the match in 1888.
36:01 The group discusses how when they were younger no- one wore a watch. Noel tells a story about a referee who lost his watch and called off a game as a result.
36:26 (Kevin) Tells a story about a game they played in Bracken, Donaghmoyne, when the referee called off the game. He also tells a story about Inniskeen playing in Martin's meadow. He tells how the referee, who was chairman of the county board, called the game off when people invaded the pitch and got nine Inniskeen players banned for life.
37:12 (James) Tells a story about Patrick Kavanagh playing for Inniskeen in the 1930s. He tells how he was goalkeeper at

a senior championship match and how he lost the match.
38:45 (Patsy) Talks about the role of the Inniskeen club in the community and parish.
39:50 (Patsy) Talks about how he persuaded members of the committee to buy the Inniskeen grounds. He mentions buying them off a man named Tommy Brennan.
40:53 (Noel) Talks about the range of different sports in the club. He names these as Camogie, Ladies Football, Hurling, and Men's Football. He tells how the hurling team won the county final and he discusses the different strengths and weaknesses of the other teams.
42:23 (Brendan) Talks about the importance to keep up the level of volunteers and discusses why they are so important. Mentions a national league game between Monaghan and Tyrone and describes how there were 114 members of the parish helping out.
44:10 (Noel) Talks about the level of Hurling in the club. He mentions that Inniskeen won the Féile Competition in Mosney. He talks about Paddy O'Rourke, Eddie Higgins, Brendan Meegan and Father McGuinness. He mentions that that team won a county championship recently.
46:20 (Noel) Tells that there are six senior teams and eight reserve hurling teams in Monaghan. He describes Castleblayney and Inniskeen as the two main hurling teams in Monaghan.
47:11 (Patsy) Discusses why hurling teams have been centred around towns, and talks about the levels of school children, teachers, and gardaí within the towns.
47:47 (Kevin) Describes his best memory as Inniskeen winning finals in 1947 and 1948.
48:17 (Brendan) Describes his best memory as playing for Monaghan in an Ulster final in Donegal. He also talks about selling programmes for the original pitch opening in Inniskeen. He describes how it was 1 shilling per programme and how a team from Toronto came to open it. He mentions a priest called Father Ward and tells a story about how he planted trees for Palm Sunday.
49:45 (Patsy) Describes his best memory as playing with Inniskeen in 1947/1948 and from 1958-1962 when Inniskeen won three senior leagues competitions, an Eoin Ward Cup

and two Hackett Cups.
50:30 (James) Describes his best memories as the final in 1948 between Inniskeen and Castleblayney, and playing for Monaghan for five years. He discusses the people responsible for the development of Grattan Park and mentions families such as the O'Rourkes, Ruddys, Meegans, McKennas, Finnegans and Fitzpatricks. He talks about the opposition many had towards the movement of the club grounds.
52:39 (Noel) Describes his personal best memory as refereeing a McKenna Cup game. He describes his best team memory as the taste of the diluted orange Paddy O'Rourke had at half time when they were children. He also mentions winning the intermediate All-Ireland and the opening of the new Inniskeen grounds and the official opening of the Paddy O'Rourke stand.
53:32 (Noel) Describes his biggest disappointment as losing the senior county championship final in 1990. He also talks about losing a minor championship semi-final in 1965 on the replay, after drawing originally.
54:02 (James) Describes his biggest disappointment as losing the 1965 semi-final and losing the senior county championship final in 1990, when he was chairman of the club.
54:36 (Patsy) Describes his biggest disappointment as losing the senior county championship final in 1990 and the effect he feels it had on the clubs success in future competitions.
55:25 (Brendan) Describes a disappointing memory as the 1965 final against Castleblayney in extra time in Ballybay. However he describes his biggest disappointment as losing the senior county championship final in 1990 and the effect he feels this has had on the club.
57:02 (Kevin) Describes his worst memory as a final they lost in 1985.
57:56 The group discuss a book written about the history of Inniskeen, called 'The Inniskeen Story' by Larry Meegan.
58:21 (Noel) Talks about collecting information for the writing of the history book and he talks about the difficulties he encountered. James talks about how he was chairman of the history book committee and he discusses the people he encountered.

Involvement in	Noel:
GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager □ Coach ✓ Steward
	\checkmark Chairperson \checkmark Committee Member \checkmark Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer 🗸 Referee □ None
	Other (please specify):
	John:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach ✓ Steward
	□ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✔ Grounds-person
	✓ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	Other (please specify):
	James:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	\Box Chairperson \checkmark Committee Member \checkmark Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	Other (please specify):
	Patsy:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach □ Steward
	✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer 🗸 Referee □ None
	Other (please specify):
	Joe:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward
	□ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None

	Other (please specify):
	Brendan:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach ✓ Steward
	Chairperson Committee Member Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	Other (please specify):
	Kevin:
	✓ Supporter ✓ Player □ Manager □ Coach ✓ Steward
	✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	□ Other (please specify):
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Noel: Played for 20 years and won Under 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21 leagues; 2 junior championships, 2 intermediate championships and 3 senior leagues.
	John: Played from juvenile for a few years and won a Brennan Cup.
	James: Played for 20 years. Won a junior league, senior league tournaments, senior league special.
	Patsy: Played from 1955 – 1968. Won Ward Cup Senior League and Hackett Cup.
	Joe: Played from the age of 12 for 36 years at club and county level. Won a Ward Cup, 2 Hackett Cups, 1 Louth Junior Championship, 1 Hertfordshire League (England) and 1 Railway Cup.
	Brendan: Played for 23 years at club and county level. Won a Brennan Cup and a Winter League.
	Kevin: Played for ten years and won an Owen Ward Cup and a

	Hackett Cup
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	 Noel: Assistant Secretary for 3 years and is in his 3rd year as chairman. John: Has been involved in administration since 1966. He has been vice-chairman and club fundraiser. James: Chairman for 5 years, Committee member for 15 years and is currently a club trustee (has been for the last 20 years). Patsy: Was involved in administration from 1958 – 2008, during which time he was club chairman for 5 years. Joe: Committee member for 30 years Brendan: Chairman for 7 years Kevin: Chairman for 3 years
Format	✓ Audio □ Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:01:01
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: ____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: ____04/07/12_____

