

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	19 th Aug 2010
Location	Inniskeen Grattans Clubhouse, Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Brendan Meegan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Kednaminsha NS, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 3 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Inniskeen Grattans
Occupation	Sales Rep
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/14

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pete Meegan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1957 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Kednaminsha NS, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 2 sons and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Inniskeen Grattans
Occupation	Welder
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/14

Date of Report	2 nd July 2012
Period Covered	1970s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Monaghan, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Managing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Role of Women, Role of Club in the Community, Volunteers, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Outsider's Perspectives, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Brendan and Peter Meegan discuss the GAA in Monaghan and the continuous development of Inniskeen Grattans GAA Club since the 1970s. They discuss in depth how they acquired the club land and how the club facilities have improved due to this new development of the club grounds. They comment on how they would like to see the club aspire to county status. Brendan and Peter talk about their high and low points throughout their involvement in the GAA and give many accounts of such experiences.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:33 (Brendan) Describes his earliest memories as playing national school football. Describes how there were six clubs in the parish and there was a competition held every year between the six clubs.</p> <p>00:55 (Peter) Describes his earliest memories as playing Under 8 and Under 10 football in Grattan Park.</p> <p>01:20 (Brendan) Talks about the GAA facilities in his national school. He mentions how the facilities changed as the club got bigger. He talks about the emergence of Ladies Football in the club and mentions being club chairman.</p> <p>02:55 (Peter) Discusses playing minor football. Describes how his team amalgamated with another team and won a Maguire cup in the division 1 minor league.</p> <p>03:45 (Peter) Discusses the success of the minor and junior teams in the 1970s. He mentions winning a junior championship in 1983. Discusses playing in the senior championship final in 1984 and how he was captain of that team. He talks about winning 2 Dr Ward Cups, an Eoin Ward Cup. For the senior league and being team manager for that team. Talks about winning the Hackett Cup. In intermediate league and playing Castleblayney in the senior final.</p> <p>05:01 (Peter) Describes the biggest success for the club as winning the All-Ireland intermediate championship final. He</p>

	<p>talks about how he was chairman of the club at that time.</p> <p>05:39 (Brendan) Talks about the role the GAA played in his family life growing up. He mentions how hurling was not very popular at that time in the area. He describes how his family watched the All-Ireland finals at a neighbour's house as they did not own a television. He talks about what the GAA means to him and how he is 45 years involved with the club.</p> <p>06:35 (Peter) Talks about how he has four brothers and three sisters and how they have all been involved in Gaelic football since childhood. He talks about his parents feelings on Gaelic football and the role it played in his household as a child.</p> <p>07:23 (Brendan) Talks about the role the club has played in the community and how it has evolved throughout the years.</p> <p>07:49 (Brendan) Talks about how Peter was chairman and how he became treasurer after the death of Paddy O'Rourke. Discusses how he, Peter and three others bought the 17.5 acre piece of land from a man named Joe Brennan from Ardee and talks about how 3.5 million was spent on the development of the club grounds.</p> <p>09:08 (Brendan) Discusses how they got the funding to buy the new grounds. Describes how they sold the old field for 2.2 million and talks about the fundraisers they held.</p> <p>09:23 (Brendan) Discusses how a big disappointment for the club has been not achieving county status with the facilities they have.</p> <p>09:48 (Peter) Discusses Paddy O'Rourke and being chairman. Talks about how people within the club felt originally about buying the new grounds compared to how they feel now. Talks about why the grounds have not achieved county status.</p> <p>11:03 (Peter) Talks about how Clones is the number one pitch and Castleblayney is the number two pitch in Monaghan. He talks about how he feels about this status. He discusses how Castleblayney are undergoing a big development and will get funding from Croke Park and the Ulster Council for this construction.</p> <p>11:42 (Brendan) Lists the facilities of the grounds to be two full sized pitches and one juvenile pitch, three fields fully lit, stands on the juvenile pitch and a season stand to hold 1,500 people, car-park on the grounds to hold 400 cars, running tracks, built in ice-bath, two refereeing rooms, four dressing rooms and public toilets on both ends of the field. He talks about Mickey Harte and the reaction of other counties to the grounds. He mentions Páraic Duffy in Croke Park and comments that he is from Castleblayney. Mentions that they have three Prunty pitches.</p> <p>13:04 (Peter) Talks about when and why people began to</p>
--	---

	<p>give their support to the new development of the club.</p> <p>14:01 (Brendan) Talks about the members of the club and mentions Kevin Finnegan who is 87.</p> <p>14:30 (Brendan) Talks about plans for future development of the club and how the population of the village is expanding.</p> <p>15:36 (Brendan) Describes his best memory of the GAA as winning the All-Ireland in 2006. Explains the atmosphere of going to Croke Park and the feeling when the team arrived home via a Garda escort. He also discusses the success of the development of the club grounds.</p> <p>16:30 (Peter) Describes his best memories of the GAA as winning the All-Ireland in 2006 and taking over as team manager in 1989. He discusses the success of the development of the pitch and how this felt as club chairman.</p> <p>17:14 (Brendan) Talks about how the club has just won their first senior hurling championship and how this is a milestone as hurling is not as popular as football in the club. He mentions that two of his sons were playing on the winning team.</p> <p>17:37 (Brendan) Describes his biggest disappointment as not receiving the recognition from top-level he feels the club deserves.</p> <p>18:15 (Peter) Describes his biggest disappointment as losing two county finals at senior level. He talks about how he was captain in 1983 when the club lost to Scotstown, and how he was manager in 1990 when the club lost to Castleblayney. He also describes a big disappointment to be not receiving the recognition he feels the club deserves at top-level.</p> <p>18:58 (Brendan) Talks about what the GAA means to him and what it has meant to him throughout his life.</p> <p>19:22 (Peter) Talks about what the GAA has meant to him throughout his life</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Brendan:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <u>_Treasurer of Pitch Development_</u></p> <p>Pete:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p>

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/14

	<input checked="" 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): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Brendan: Played for 20 years. Won a Maguire Cup, Brennan Cup and a Father Hackett Cup.</p> <p>Pete: Played for 30 years. Won a junior championship, 2 Dr Wards Cups, All-Ireland Over 40s medal, Hackett Cup, Junior B's, Eoin Ward Cup</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Brendan: Brendan has been involved in the club committee and has held roles as chairman and treasurer of the new development.</p> <p>Pete: Has been involved in administration from 1974 / 1975 and has held roles as club chairman and chairman of the field development committee.</p>
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 19:55
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

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/14

the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____02/07/12_____

The logo of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), featuring the letters 'GAA' in a stylized white font on a black background.