

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Kilrea, Co. Derry
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Declan McAlary
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1972 <b>Home County:</b> Derry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Crossroads PS, Kilrea, Co. Derry <b>Secondary:</b> St. Pat's, Maghera, Co. Derry
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 2 daughters and 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Kilrea Pearses GAC
<b>Occupation</b>	Building Contractor
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Joiner [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Nationalist
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Golf Clubs

**REFERENCE NO. DY/1/14**

<b>Date of Report</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1943 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Derry
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Religion, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Declan talks about his many years of involvement with the Kilrea club in Derry, charting out their history to date. He represented the local team at all levels and also played while attending St Pat's of Maghera. Declan later turned to managing teams before eventually becoming chairman of Kilrea. He discusses the challenges that the role brings and outlines his plans for what he feels will be a bright future. The dark days of the Troubles in Northern Ireland are also discussed, as is life in an inclusive, post-conflict era. Although Declan is a dedicated member of the Association, he has little time for some of the workings of the GAA at national level.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 Earliest GAA memory. Mascot for Kilrea senior team against Ballinderry.</p> <p>00:55 Started playing at eight years old. Retired at 29.</p> <p>01:15 Facilities in the club as he was growing up. Club based in Kilrea.</p> <p>02:00 Family involvement. Stories they told him. Carnivals held in the past.</p> <p>03:20 Club formed in 1943. Originally called Ó Cathains / Ó Cahans. Later became Kevin Barry's, then Patrick Pearses. Colours they wore. Where original name came from. A lot of O'Kanes in the area. Why they changed name to Patrick Pearses. Mentions Fr Deery.</p>

	<p>04:55 GAA at school. Going to St Pat's Maghera. GAA tradition there. MacRory Cup football. Training they did.</p> <p>06:10 Football and camogie at their club. Hurling tradition in the past. His involvement. Reason why hurling never took off.</p> <p>07:10 Travelling to games when he was young. Later hiring buses.</p> <p>08:00 Playing career. Success he enjoyed. Club failing to hang on to players in later years. South Derry and county championships involvement.</p> <p>09:00 Type of training they did.</p> <p>09:35 Frank McWilliams a big character within the club. Why that was. His role at the club and unconventional nature.</p> <p>10:35 Breaking into the senior team. Minor players drifting away.</p> <p>12:00 Taking a break from the club. Returning to manage underage teams. Later chairman.</p> <p>12:35 First meeting he went to. Representing youth of the club. What the meeting was like. Profile of club committee at the time. What role of youth officer entailed.</p> <p>14:30 Experience of management. Training drills he favoured. Why he ceased managing.</p> <p>16:05 Role as chairman. Tougher aspects of the job.</p> <p>18:20 Facilities at the club in 2011. Former Irish President Mary McAleese opening some of their facilities. Length of time club has been using Pearse Park. Future hopes in terms of facilities.</p> <p>20:55 Club's successes over the years. Contesting Ulster finals. Chasing a senior championship. Underage talent available.</p> <p>22:10 Big rivals are Ballinderry, Bellaghy, Lavey, Glenullin and Swatragh. Impact of young people all going to school together.</p> <p>23:25 Fundraisers the club runs. What they did in the past. Trying to reach out to the wider community.</p> <p>24:10 Involvement in Scór. Ambitions for the future.</p> <p>24:35 Role of Irish language in 2011 and in the past.</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. DY/1/14**

	<p>24:55 Role of the club in the community. Different religions represented. Unionist population in the area.</p> <p>26:45 Migration into the area during Celtic Tiger era. Children of migrants in primary school. GAA potential.</p> <p>27:15 Role of women within the club.</p> <p>28:00 Camogie a separate club. How they manage a co-operative relationship. Success of camogie club.</p> <p>28:55 Relationship with the county board.</p> <p>29:55 Celebrations. Ulster minor victory and aftermath.</p> <p>30:20 Club song and words of that.</p> <p>31:10 Professionalism within the GAA. Expenses.</p> <p>32:25 Importance of volunteerism.</p> <p>33:05 How he was treated as a player by the club.</p> <p>33:40 Role of teachers. St Paul's vocational school, Kilrea winning an All-Ireland. Work done by Mr Kelly and Mr Cranny working at primary school level.</p> <p>34:40 Fr Charlie attending matches.</p> <p>35:00 Impact of the Troubles. Security issues. Explosion in the area. Impact of the end of Troubles.</p> <p>37:00 Going to Tyrone-Armagh All-Ireland football final in 2003. Why he doesn't go to other ones. Need to later ticket allocation.</p> <p>38:05 Changes in technology and need for increased use.</p> <p>39:00 Relationship with Croke Park and how that needs to be improved. Croke Park as a business.</p> <p>39:50 Changes he would like to see within the Association.</p> <p>40:40 Stand-out memory is 1993's All-Ireland football win for the Derry senior team. Memories of that day.</p> <p>41:45 Admiration for former Kerry player Pat Spillane and former Meath star Colm O'Rourke. Tyrone manager Mickey Harte and what he has done.</p> <p>43:00 Strangest place he has played a match. Taking on Crossmaglen of Armagh. Why it was strange.</p> <p>44:00 Disappointments.</p>
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	44:15 What his GAA involvement has meant to him.
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played for 20 years. Won 4 South Derry championships and 1 All County Under 16 championship.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Has been involved in administration since 1990.  Club: Youth Officer, Chairman and Delegate to County Board.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:44:58
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed:     \_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date:         \_\_\_02/08/12\_\_\_\_\_