

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Seamus Donnelly
<b>Date of Interview</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2010
<b>Location</b>	Ardboe, Tyrone
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kevin Teague
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> St Patrick's Mullinahoe <b>Home County:</b> Tyrone
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> N/A <b>Secondary:</b> St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon. <b>Third Level:</b> Queen's University, Belfast
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> Martin, Patrick, Peter, Ann
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa [Tyrone]; St Patrick's Academy Dungannon [Tyrone]; Queen University, Belfast [Antrim] Combined Universities [National] Tyrone Senior Team
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Engineer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Fisherman and Housewife
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1950s - 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Tyrone, Down, Armagh
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Violence, Outsider's Perspectives, Alcohol, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Kevin Teague played Gaelic football at many levels: school, college, university, club and county minor, junior and senior. The interview begins with his earliest GAA memories, which includes references to his family background in Gaelic games and recollections of his primary schooldays. He attended St. Patrick's Armagh, where Gaelic games helped keep his 'spirit alive' in an environment that could be regarded as harsh. As in St. Pat's, so too in Queen's University: Teague, who shared digs with amongst others Down footballer Seán O'Neill, argues that the GAA – and the 'sense of family' it created - eased his life in Queen's University.</p> <p>Teague discusses the highs and lows of his club and inter-county career. He sheds light on the selection process for underage and adult county teams in the late 1960s and the absence of any 'real training'. Included also are reflections on winning three in a row with his club Ardoe in the early 1970s and an Ulster title with Tyrone in 1973. Furthermore, he charts his transition from player to administrator and the reasons for it.</p> <p>Politics and religion feature throughout the interview, with Teague touching on these themes as part of his discussions on his experiences at Queen's University and as a member, temporarily, of Dungannon Council. He reflects on Protestant attitudes to the GAA, police harassment of GAA members and, most alarmingly, being shot by the 'B' Specials.</p> <p>In addition, Teague talks about his current relationship with the GAA and the people he admires within it. His views on recent success enjoyed by Tyrone and the current direction of</p>

	<p>the GAA are considered. Finally, he remarks on what the GAA means to him and what it has brought to his life.</p> <p>00:00:10 Identifies the location for the interview as Ardboe, Co. Tyrone.</p> <p>00:00:25 Earliest GAA memory: recalls the sports day by the primary school, c. 1959.</p> <p>00:00:50 Remarks that the club was always a part of growing up in the community – describing as a ‘sole key factor in everything that happened in this area.’ Says community were fully behind GAA in the form of the club, O’Donovan Rossa.</p> <p>00:01:16 Family background in the GAA: talks about Uncle Kevin who played for Cavan in New York and possibly for Tyrone prior to his emigration. Mentions that he had a pub in New York and got to know a lot of people through the GAA.</p> <p>00:02:00 Schooldays: mentions the number of young fellas in primary school who went on to do well with either the club or county: Joe McElroy, Paddy Wylie, Mickey John Forbes. Says seven club people played on Tyrone minor team against Derry team that won All-Ireland in 1965.</p> <p>00:02:45 Reference to playing minor football in Tyrone.</p> <p>00:02:55 Recalls a college match for St. Pat’s Armagh against St. Michael’s Enniskillen. Mentions the lack of food available before matches in boarding school – recalls stealing a dinner and being caught and his exchange with the dean.</p> <p>00:04:30 Discusses life at St. Pat’s – says that without Gaelic football, he wasn’t sure if he would have survived. Refers to the games keeping his ‘spirit alive’. Mentions success in the McLarnan cup and being beaten by St. Colman’s in the final of the MacRory Cup.</p> <p>00:05:20 Refers to Armagh players on St. Pat’s team. Names also a number of Tyrone players on the team: Peter Coyne from Moy; Paddy Parke from Stewartstown; Paddy McRory from Ballygawley. Also Hugh Niblock who played with Derry; Paddy McGarvey who played with Tyrone minors.</p> <p>00:06:14 Discusses playing with Tyrone minors for two years: beaten by Derry in Casement Park in semi-final in his first year in 1966, the same year his father ‘took ill’. Mentions having to take his father’s place fishing on the lough and not having much time for training. Remarks that ‘someone had to be responsible for income in the house...’</p>
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	<p>00:07:25 Talks about making up for this experience with the Tyrone juniors, aged 19, when they won the All-Ireland.</p> <p>00:07:44 Process for selection for county minors: comments on reading about it in the <i>Irish News</i> and the absence of any 'real training'.</p> <p>00:08:00 Mentions Paddy O'Neill, then secretary of county board, being involved in the picking of the team.</p> <p>00:08:20 No such thing as a team talk and going to play with fellow Minors you didn't know.</p> <p>00:08:40 Debut for Ardboe, aged 16, in semi-final of championship, coming on as a sub and scoring two points.</p> <p>00:09:10 Reflection on involvement with All-Ireland junior championship success in 1968. Playing London in final in Croke Park. Remarks on not playing earlier rounds and being picked after a run in club championship. Mentions other players: Art McRory, Iggy Donnelly.</p> <p>00:10:10 Recalls being brought on as a sub in game against Leitrim.</p> <p>00:10:30 Playing London in Croke Park, alongside Brendan Dolan. Recalls scoring two points and the size of the occasion given Tyrone's lack of success. Says that victory helped breed more success and he remarks on Tyrone's Ulster title of 1973.</p> <p>00:11:30 Schooldays: describes training as 'primitive'. Talks about the routine of the school day, the time of rising in the morning, morning mass etc. Says senior team would train before 9am. Refers also to half days on Wednesday and Saturday when Gaelic football was the 'main source of entertainment'. Mentions his dislike of going training at 8:20 am 'especially when there was snow on the ground and a big heavy leather ball'.</p> <p>00:12:55 Says there is no comparison in terms of diet and training with what young players are currently doing.</p> <p>00:13:10 Talks about going to Queen's university and describes the Gaelic football team as a 'family unit' – a group of individuals who ran themselves. Refers to the respect they had for manager, Jimmy Beggs from Galbally. Refers also to the contribution of Paddy O'Hara and Seán O'Neill.</p> <p>00:14:20 Mentions players Seamus Killough, Gerry McHugh, Babs Armstrong, Paddy Moriarty, Paddy Turley, Anthony</p>
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	<p>McGurk, Paddy Parke.</p> <p>00:15:01 Questions whether he would have stayed in Belfast without Gaelic football.</p> <p>00:15:10 Tells of his friendship with a fella from Derry called Murphy with whom he would pick team in the library and present it to Jimmy Beggs.</p> <p>00:15:40 Mentions not drinking but going to the pub to talk about matches - 'sense of comraderie and friendship'.</p> <p>00:16:10 Discusses the Troubles and getting caught up in them. Refers to the number of bombs in Belfast and, in 1969, mentions being shot in Coalisland. Says he had to 'stay out' of Queen's for a year and says he used the opportunity to work for Dungannon council. Comments that the council was '95% Protestant'.</p> <p>00:17:15 Mentions newspaper coverage of his case because he played with Tyrone and the difficulty this caused with his colleagues. Remarks that 'they did not have very much time for the GAA', but acknowledges that there were a number of employees who 'stood up' for him.</p> <p>00:18:20 Mentions that it was the 'B Specials' who shot him.</p> <p>00:18:30 Comments that it was 'a difficult time to be involved with the GAA' and remarks on both the attitudes of the Protestant community towards the GAA and his relationship within others on the Dungannon Council.</p> <p>00:19:04 'It's completely different now.' Mentions that employees on the council are now evenly split.</p> <p>00:19:20 Winning a Railway Cup in 1972. Remarks on the absence of training, just turning up for match and playing. Recalls playing against Galway full-back line for Connacht, including Enda Colleran and one of the Donnellans. Refers also to Brendan Lynch.</p> <p>00:20:20 Feeling out of his depth, with little preparation and not knowing players around him.</p> <p>00:20:40 Getting selected for Combined Universities: talks about Ryan Cup and Sigerson Cup and the shortage of teams in the latter. Says there would have only been 5 teams to pick from. Mentions Queen's having players of note.</p> <p>00:22:05 Recalls playing Clan na Gael in Ulster club championship in first round 1968. Mentiosn Ardboe winning by a point, a 'fracas' at the end and getting suspended.</p>
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	<p>Queen's argued that he was being penalised for 3 teams (Ardboe, Queen's and Tyrone) and threatened to play him, despite suspension – talks about this incident and the GAA response. Refers to Seamus Woods 'leading the attack' on his behalf and now serving on Croke Park's disciplinary committee.</p> <p>00:24:40 Talks about sport and the organisation around it as a 'learning experience' for life. Mentions enduring friendship with people he met in Queen's.</p> <p>00:25:15 Memories of Sigerson cup final. Marking Moss Keane, later Irish rugby international, and going 'through his legs' at one point. Mentions scoring winning point and the newspaper report afterwards.</p> <p>00:27:20 Refers to Martin McAleese being on the Queen's team.</p> <p>00:27:30 Talks about lack of recognition from Queen's and, many years later, when Mary McAleese was Vice-Chancellor of the university and organised a 'special night' for that team. Mentions that the team was brought to Aras an Uachtarán as well.</p> <p>00:28:50 Mentions the lack of Catholics in Queen's at the time and the taking support from wherever they could.</p> <p>00:29:10 Recalls the reserve team from Queen's and how football enabled players to enjoy university.</p> <p>00:29:40 Tells story about the reserve team from Queen's playing in Maynooth, with Tomás O Fiaich as President. Mentions Queen's having a lot of county players and the interest in the southern media. Says the Queen's reserve team took easy approach to football as opposed to those in Maynooth, which was then a seminary. Tells of Queen's not scoring into second half and throwing on subs without taking players off. Ended up with 20 on the field.</p> <p>00:32:18 Recalls senior team coming out after the reserve match and an RTE commentator talking to Colm McKeever, who gave false information on team.</p> <p>00:33:20 Mentions the quality of the match and the final scoreline. Says Queen's got 'pipped by a point'. Recalls meeting with O'Fiaich afterwards and his interest in what was happening with the Troubles. Describes O'Fiaich as a 'great GAA man'.</p> <p>00:35:02 Mentions winning 4 senior championships with</p>
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	<p>Ardboe. Recalls the 1968 championship as the 'sweetest' because it was the club's first; recalls the youth of the team and the quality of the performance.</p> <p>00:36:17 Talks about bringing the cup back to Ardboe and the amount of drink that was consumed. 'There was no problem filling the cup with drink'. Mentions that the win helped bring the parish closer together. Mentions the final being played in Dungannon, marking Jodie O'Neill, scoring a goal in first half and other incidents in the game.</p> <p>00:38:35 Remarks that it was a 'different class' of football than that played today.</p> <p>00:38:45 Discusses playing Carrickmore three years later in Dungannon in county final. Remarks again on the quality of the game.</p> <p>00:39:07 Playing Coalisland in semi-final of championship the following year and Jodie O'Neill getting the better of him.</p> <p>00:39:25 Reference to winning three in a row: 1971, '72 and '73. Mentions being captain in 1973. Mentions final in Pomeroy and the final score of 2-5 to 0-7. Says he scored 2-3 of his side's total, a game played near Christmas because Tyrone won Ulster title that year.</p> <p>00:40:50 Describes 1971 and '72 as his best years in football – he was twice nominated for an All-Star award.</p> <p>00:41:13 Winning Ulster title with Tyrone in 1973. Talks about the improved organisation of the team and knowing the team after training on the Wednesday before a game. Describes that team as 'unfortunate' not to win an All-Ireland.</p> <p>00:42:12 Suggests that were the present regime in terms of diet and psychology, they could have won the All-Ireland. Mentions the quality of footballers on Tyrone team and beating a good Down side in Ulster final. Says Derry also had great players.</p> <p>00:43:15 Refers to the particular quality of a game in Ballybofey versus Donegal in 1973. Discusses the game and the scale of the achievement. Recall marking Brian McEniff from Donegal in the 1972 Ulster final and what happened when he was taken off. Mentions the 'lift' given to a team by a defender coming up the field and scoring.</p> <p>00:46:15 Recalls the lack of preparations for Ulster final – 'it was much the same as a club match...there was no tactics...'</p>
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	<p>00:47:12 Discusses All-Ireland semi-final versus Cork in 1973, including the rain and Tyrone's bad start. Says Tyrone were not 'mentally prepared'. Again, mentions the absence of tactics, contrasting the approach – in particular the use of possession - with future Tyrone teams. Believes that Tyrone were 'in over their heads' in 1973 and explains why.</p> <p>00:50:10 Says he played with his club from 16 years of age until 36. Tells a story about Patsy Breen's remarks to him post-retirement. Comments also about Brian Dooher.</p> <p>00:51:45 Talks about playing reserve football and winning league and championship in 1975.</p> <p>00:52:30 Remarks on retirement from senior football in 1983 and playing reserve football until 1986. He came back to play over 40s in 1989, being beaten by Kildare in final.</p> <p>00:53:50 Playing for Tyrone in New York, being brought over with others for a final in early 1970s. Refers to other Tyrone players who had been there since 1969. Mentions that final was played in Gaelic Park and a lad called Nolan who worked for his Uncle in a bar.</p> <p>00:55:28 Comments on seeing his name in the <i>Irish Echo</i>. Mentions staying on after final to play Cavan in the first round of the following year's championship.</p> <p>00:56:00 Remarks that he didn't like New York. Mentions being out the following year and playing a Noraid selection. Says he could have stayed for year but came home to play Ulster club championship with Ardboe.</p> <p>00:56:50 Theory about New York: 'If you worked as hard here as you would have in New York....you would have been as well off...' Mentions lads working 2 or 3 jobs.</p> <p>00:57:15 Remarks that the GAA in New York were 'good to their people'. Remarks on getting trips to America in the 1970s, with everything laid on. Refers to John Kerry O'Donnell who had 'time for everybody' and says he 'kept the GAA going'. Mentions how the GAA made life easier for Irish people in New York.</p> <p>00:58:50 Involvement in administration and management. Refers to being chairperson of club in 1983 and the 'phase' the club was going through. Mentions the number being brought before county committee on disciplinary matters and to a manager from Magherafelt in the club falling out with a number of players. Mentions being a 'dubious' position in league in 1983 and ending in a play-off with Clonoe, being</p>
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	<p>lucky to beat them by a point.</p> <p>01:00:00 Talks about 'disgruntlement' in the club over the county board's treatment of them. Deciding to run for – and getting elected to – Vice-Chairmanship of county league. Talks about dealing with disciplinary issues when his brother's name surfaced.</p> <p>01:01:40 Explaining to club that the problem was with Ardboe, not all-county league or county board.</p> <p>01:02:00 Talks about Ardboe's reputation as 'vicious...and volatile' and cleaning their act up.</p> <p>01:02:20 Refers to chairing conventions in Ardboe and representing them before disciplinary board. Tells story of incident at a game in Moy and supporters throwing referee Patsy Gallagher's clothes into river. Refers to holding EGM in club and presenting names to County board to avoid club suffering more. Mentions reluctance of some to produce names. Stresses that he was 'always at hand' to help out with problems in the club.</p> <p>01:05:00 Talks about supporting Ardboe in championship matches and local home matches. Says he wouldn't travel to Aghyaran which was 70 miles away.</p> <p>01:05:45 Describes himself as an 'armchair' supporter of Tyrone. Mentions getting rows over accessing tickets for people.</p> <p>01:06:20 Comments that once All-Ireland had been won by Tyrone, it wouldn't be surpassed again.</p> <p>01:06:30 Belief that the current Tyrone team need a rest. Refers to Brian Dooher and Conor Gormley, describing them as 'brilliant' and owing the county nothing.</p> <p>01:07:15 Remarks that he might go to matches again if there was a new breed of footballer. Describes current style as 'predictable'.</p> <p>01:07:40 Reflecting on his age and the travel involved in getting to games.</p> <p>01:08:00 Individuals he admires in the GAA: talks about his youth and admiring 'great footballers' – refers to Mick O'Connell and seeing him in Croke Park. Refers also to Dermot Early and Seán O'Neill (describes O'Neill as 'so humble'). Refers also to Frank McGuigan, Patsy Forbes and the qualities they both possessed and their respective</p>
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	<p>contributions to the Ardboe club.</p> <p>01:10:25 Remarks that there's more to a football club than what happens on the field. 'What goes on off the field is nearly more important.' Mentions again Patsy Forbes and what he has given the club.</p> <p>01:10:50 Reflects on those not directly involved in the GAA. Talks about Paddy Duffy and what he did for the GAA in Ardboe and says he 'never saw him kick a ball'. Mentions also Pat Campbell, who has occupied roles of secretary and treasurer and says they go unnoticed and unthanked. Refers also to Fr. Smyth. Mentions that they are the people he looks up to.</p> <p>01:12:30 Refers to facilities in Ardboe, changing rooms, pitches, floodlight. Says they all started with Paddy Duffy.</p> <p>01:12:50 Reason why the GAA is strong: 'it is part of the community'.</p> <p>01:13:05 GAA during the Troubles: talks about going to a Donegal/Tyrone game in Breffni Park and encountering a checkpoint near Newtownbutler. Recalls being pulled in and not getting to game until it was nearly over. Says such things were just accepted; they were 'part and parcel' of life.</p> <p>01:15:00 Talks about local interference by army, being stopped and kept at the side of the road once they knew you were from Ardboe.</p> <p>01:15:25 Discusses the impact of emigration on club: mentions trips to America and the players who didn't return: Joe McElroy, Frank McGuigan, Gallagher, Seamie Graham, Seamus Donaghy. Refers to the fact that players were 'treated like royalty in America' and suggests that lifestyle may have been a factor in their decision to stay there.</p> <p>01:16:40 Mentions that he had work to come back to. 'I didn't think emigration was the answer'.</p> <p>01:17:05 Comments on the role of religious in the GAA. Remarks that Fr. Smyth, an Armagh man, was the only cleric he had contact with and tells story of Smyth and his attitude to Ardboe and Armagh. Says he was first an Armagh man, second an Ardboe man.</p> <p>01:18:50 Discusses priests who came from south and that some were hurling or rugby. Comments that they weren't 'necessarily GAA oriented'.</p>
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	<p>01:19:40 Refers to his PE teacher in school, Noel McClure from Fermanagh and his role in bringing football into a 'different sphere'. Remarks, however, on the previous successes of St. Pat's, Armagh in MacRory and Hogan Cups.</p> <p>01:19:55 Mentions playing golf with Dr. Pat O'Neill, who had been centre back on Hogan Cup team in 1946. Refers to their conversation and to learning that he was sub on the Tyrone team in 1956. Mentions the ease of conversation when two people have the GAA in common.</p> <p>01:20:55 Considers what the GAA means to him and mentions that he is not always 'in tune' with the people at the top. Believes that not enough money makes its way to the clubs and argues that, at 50, there were too many clubs in Tyrone.</p> <p>01:22:20 'The GAA has meant everything to me'. Suggests that without the GAA he would have survived certain parts of his life, he wouldn't have travelled to America, he wouldn't have had as many friends. Describes the GAA as a 'family' he's proud to be part of.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Tyrone Senior Football Championship 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1984</p> <p>1973 Ulster Senior Football Championship</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:22:54</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

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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:        Seamus Donnelly

Date:            23/08/2012