

**GAA Oral History Project**  
**Interview Report Form**

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| <b>Name of Interviewer</b>                          | Arlene Crampsie   |
| <b>Date of Interview</b>                            | 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2011   |
| <b>Location</b>                                     | Naas Clubhouse, Naas, Co. Kildare   |
| <b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname) | Pat O'Shea  |
| <b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>   |   |
| <b>Gender</b>                                       | Male  |
| <b>Born</b>   | <b>Year Born:</b> 1936<br><b>Home County:</b> Kerry   |
| <b>Education</b>                                    | <b>Primary:</b> Dingle CBS<br><b>Secondary:</b> Dingle CBS  |
| <b>Family</b>                                       | <b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 4 sisters<br><b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 2 daughters |
| <b>Club(s)</b>                                      | Naas [Kildare]; Round Towers [Kildare]; Liam Mellows [Galway]; Dingle [Kerry]                           |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                   | Retired Post Office Worker Retired  |
| <b>Parents' Occupation</b>                          | Farmer  |
| <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>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname) | Marie Kane   |
| <b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>   |  |
| <b>Gender</b>                                       | Female   |
| <b>Born</b>   | <b>Year Born:</b> 1961<br><b>Home County:</b> Kildare  |
| <b>Education</b>                                    | <b>Primary:</b> Convent Primary School<br><b>Secondary:</b> St. Patrick's Vocational School<br><b>Third Level:</b> Regional College Galway |
| <b>Family</b>                                       | <b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 2 sisters<br><b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 1 daughter and 1 son                           |
| <b>Club(s)</b>                                      | Naas   |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                   | Clerical Officer; Health Service Executive (HSE)   |
| <b>Parents' Occupation</b>                          | Labourer [Father]; Waitress [Mother]   |
| <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>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname) | Brendan Kenny  |
| <b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>   |  |
| <b>Gender</b>                                       | Male   |
| <b>Born</b>   | <b>Year Born:</b> 1964<br><b>Home County:</b> Kildare  |
| <b>Education</b>                                    | <b>Primary:</b> St. Corban's, Naas, Co. Kildare<br><b>Secondary:</b> Meanscoil Iognáid Rís, Naas, Co. Kildare<br><b>Third Level:</b> UCG and DCU |
| <b>Family</b>                                       | <b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers<br><b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 3 daughters  |
| <b>Club(s)</b>                                      | Naas   |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                   | Head of HR; Comreg   |
| <b>Parents' Occupation</b>                          | Naas Hospital [Father]; Housewife [Mother]   |
| <b>Religion</b>                                     | N/A  |
| <b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>           | N/A  |
| <b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>             | N/A  |

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| <b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname) | Michael Curtis  |
| <b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>   |   |
| <b>Gender</b>                                       | Male  |
| <b>Born</b>   | <b>Year Born:</b> 1963<br><b>Home County:</b> Kildare   |
| <b>Education</b>                                    | <b>Primary:</b> CBS Naas, Co. Kildare<br><b>Secondary:</b> CBS Naas, Co. Kildare                                  |
| <b>Family</b>                                       | <b>Siblings:</b> 5 brothers & 3 sisters<br><b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 2 sons and 1 daughter |
| <b>Club(s)</b>                                      | Naas  |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                   | Technical Rep   |
| <b>Parents' Occupation</b>                          | Meat Factory, Sallins [Father]; Housewife [Mother]  |
| <b>Religion</b>                                     | Roman Catholic  |
| <b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>           | N/A   |
| <b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>             | Golf Club   |

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| <b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname) | Jerome Higgins   |
| <b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>   |  |
| <b>Gender</b>                                       | Male   |
| <b>Born</b>   | <b>Year Born:</b> 1948<br><b>Home County:</b> Kildare  |
| <b>Education</b>                                    | <b>Primary:</b> CBS Naas, Co. Kildare<br><b>Secondary:</b> Naas Vocational School, Co. Kildare                     |
| <b>Family</b>                                       | <b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters & 3 brothers<br><b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 2 sons and 2 daughters |
| <b>Club(s)</b>                                      | Naas   |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                   | Maintenance Fitter / Plumber with the HSE  |
| <b>Parents' Occupation</b>                          | Army, Trucker Haulier [Father]; Ran Haulier Business after his Dad died [Mother]                                   |
| <b>Religion</b>                                     | Roman Catholic   |
| <b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>           | Fine Gael  |
| <b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>             | Woodlands Golf Club  |

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| <b>Date of Report</b>             | 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2012   |
| <b>Period Covered</b>             | 1887 – 2011   |
| <b>Counties/Countries Covered</b> | Kildare, Kerry, Galway, Great Britain, England  |
| <b>Key Themes Covered</b>         | Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics  |
| <b>Interview Summary</b>          | <p>Members of Naas GAA talk about their involvement in the Association over the years. They talk about their early memories of the GAA and how they became involved in the club. They discuss their families' involvement and Michael notes how his grandfather was part of the Kildare team of the 1920s that won two All-Irelands. Pat discusses growing up in Kerry before moving to Naas and joining the club. Jerome talks about his father Jack Higgins and his involvement in Kildare GAA. They talk about the history of the club and its original grounds at Father Brennan Park. The group discusses the club's move to its new grounds in 2004 and how this has impacted on the club. They note how the club has over 70 teams participating in different leagues and age levels. Brendan talks about his involvement in camogie in the club and how it has developed over the years. Michael discusses playing for Kildare and what that was like. Marie recalls her camogie career with Naas and Kildare and what the game was like when she was growing up. The group talks about the history of the GAA in Naas over the years and how the club has developed. They talk about their involvement in the club and describe what the Association has meant to them over the years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>01:00 (Pat) Talks about his earliest GAA memories, winning an Under-16 tournament in Dingle, Kerry. Discusses playing football in school in Dingle. Describes the types of facilities available.</p> |

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|  | <p>02:09 (Marie) Discusses her early memories of the GAA. Watching matches in Father Brennan Park in Naas. Playing camogie with Naas and Kildare.</p> <p>03:30 (Brendan) Talks about his earliest GAA memories, living in Eadestown and playing in Naas.</p> <p>04:14 (Michael) Recalls going to matches in Father Brennan Park when he was younger.</p> <p>04:40 (Jerome) Talks about going to matches with his father. Going to Kildare matches with his mother. Describes how tough camogie was. Talks about his father Jack Higgins and his involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>06:40 (Michael) Discusses his family's involvement in the GAA and how his grandfather won two All-Ireland medals with Kildare.</p> <p>07:20 (All) They talk about the Kildare team of the 1920s winning the first Sam Maguire.</p> <p>08:05 (Michael) Tells a story about his grandfather playing in the final despite injury.</p> <p>08:45 (Brendan) Talks about his father's involvement in the GAA and athletics. Playing with a club in Caragh. Mentions Larry Stanley. Describes how his mother played camogie in school in Cork and helped re-establish the game in Kildare.</p> <p>10:48 (Marie) Discusses her family's interest in the GAA and being groundskeeper in Father Brennan Park. Fixing hurls for local players. Writing reports for matches for her father.</p> <p>12:53 (Pat) Tells a story about Marie's father refereeing without a watch. Talks about refereeing in the past. Recalls how his mother and father had no interest in the GAA. Playing football in secondary school. Talks about moving to Galway and getting involved in the Liam Mellow's club. Moving to Kildare town before Naas. Talks about illegal players in the past. Mentions Liam McManus, Paul Russell.</p> <p>20:05 (Marie) Talks about her involvement in the GAA playing and in administration. Becoming secretary in the club.</p> <p>21:15 Discusses her playing career with Kildare. Talks about the differences in club and county camogie. Describes the uniform.</p> <p>23:07 (Brendan) Talks about playing football in school. Discusses the rivalry with Clane. Getting involved in Athletics. Recalls having to transfer to St Oliver Plunkett's due to the</p> |
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|  | <p>parish rule. Playing with army. Talks about his daughters' involvement in the GAA and getting involvement in administration. Discusses the GAA moving to a new ground.</p> <p>27:10 Describes how the St. Oliver Plunkett's club was an amalgamation of Eadestown, Two Mile House and Ballymore Eustace. Mentions Larry Tompkins.</p> <p>27:55 (Michael) Talks about his involvement in the GAA. Describes the factory league working with Donnelly Mirrors. Mentions Bernard Brogan.</p> <p>29:30 (Pat) Describes how objections had to be written in Irish.</p> <p>30:10 (Michael) Tells a story about playing a match with Kildare in Monaghan.</p> <p>31:20 Discusses training and playing with the county. Talks about the role of GAA in his family life.</p> <p>33:15 Recalls the club winning the senior championship in 1990. Talks about his biggest disappointment in the GAA, being injured when he was younger.</p> <p>34:45 *** Michael Curtis leaves the interview ***</p> <p>34:48 (All) They talk about the characters in the club. Describe the role of Paddy Hackett in the club. Pat tells a story about Paddy.</p> <p>36:55 They describe what Marie's father, Jim Sheridan, was like. They talk about the history of the club in Naas, formed in 1887. Discuss the history of the club's grounds and the people involved. They talk about the changes in the club over the years.</p> <p>44:40 (Jerome) Discusses playing Under-16 with Naas.</p> <p>45:45 (All) Describe the amount of teams the club has and working with juvenile teams. Trying to get parents to help out because of numbers.</p> <p>49:22 They talk about the growth in the club over the years. Discuss the role of hurling in the club. They describe the population growth in Naas.</p> <p>51:48 They discuss the development of their new grounds. They talk about the club's move to their new grounds. Describe how attendances are lower and people don't stay involved once they finished playing.</p> |
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|  | <p>57:55 (Brendan) Gives his opinion on the club's move and new facilities.</p> <p>01:00:50 (Jerome) Talks about the possibility of having two clubs in the area. Discusses the amount of teams playing in Father Brennan Park. Talks about the families involved in the club.</p> <p>01:03:30 Discusses his involvement in the club, playing, refereeing and in administration. Recalls the club going from senior to junior and the row over that. Becoming chairman of the club in 1990.</p> <p>01:06:05 Recalls running a dance in the club. Being county board delegate for the club.</p> <p>01:07:10 (Pat) Talks about moving to Naas and getting involved in the club. Describes what the club was like in the 1970s. Discusses the opening of Father Brennan Park in 1972.</p> <p>01:09:40 (Jerome) Describes the smallness of the pub and how the main members were non-drinkers. Talks about building squash and badminton courts. Running a lotto for the club.</p> <p>01:11:39 (Marie) Talks about running the lotto for the club.</p> <p>01:13:13 (All) They discuss the role of camogie in the club. Brendan talks about the improvements in recent years and organising camogie courses. Discusses competing with other sports in the schools like hockey, volleyball, rugby, soccer.</p> <p>01:19:05 (All) They talk about the relationship between camogie and ladies' football in the club.</p> <p>01:20:48 They discuss the club's role in the Scór competition in the past.</p> <p>01:22:15 They talk about the role of the GAA in the community. Describe how they have to compete with other sports in the area.</p> <p>01:25:14 (Brendan) Discusses the role of the GAA in the army. Mentions Kevin McStay and Dermot Earley. They talk about the presence of the army in the area and having army teams in the championship.</p> <p>01:27:25 (Jerome) Talks about his father playing with an all-army team.</p> <p>01:28:09 (Brendan) Talks about life in the army. Tells a story</p> |
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|  | <p>about Paddy Horan.</p> <p>01:29:10 (Jerome) Discusses his involvement in the Kildare Under-21 team and the role of army cadets in the team.</p> <p>01:30:23 (Marie) Recalls her best memory from her time in the GAA, Naas winning the senior championship in 1990.</p> <p>01:31:20 (Jerome) Describes how 1990 was a very successful year for Naas GAA.</p> <p>01:32:20 (All) They recall the celebrations after the win.</p> <p>01:34:03 (Brendan) Talks about his best memories from his time in the GAA. Recalls a camogie match against a Dublin team.</p> <p>01:35:40 (Jerome) Recalls being part of a team that won the Jack Higgins Cup, named after his father.</p> <p>01:36:04 (Pat) Talks about the club winning club of the year in 1990.</p> <p>01:36:50 (All) They talk about Dermot Earley. Discuss their GAA heroes.</p> <p>01:39:15 (Pat) Discusses his GAA heroes in Kerry.</p> <p>01:40:00 (Brendan) Talks about Mary O'Connor and her camogie achievements.</p> <p>01:40:40 (All) They describe how people were naturally fitter in the past.</p> <p>01:43:00 (Jerome) Recalls playing a match in Manchester.</p> <p>01:44:30 (Marie) Talks about playing a camogie match in Antrim.</p> <p>01:45:00 (Pat) Discusses going to his first All-Ireland in 1953. Talks about travelling on the train. Recalls a story about his uncle travelling to an All-Ireland final in 1946.</p> <p>01:48:00 (Brendan) Talks about playing in Athy with the school in Naas. Tells a story about a football final in Tipperary. Discusses playing football while stationed in the Lebanon with the UN.</p> <p>01:51:25 (All) They discuss Kildare losing the All-Ireland final in 1998.</p> <p>01:52:37 (Pat) Talks about Kerry losing the five-in-a-row in 1982.</p> |
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|                                  | <p>01:53:15 Describes the role of the GAA in his life.</p> <p>01:54:40 (Marie) Talks about what the GAA means to her.</p> <p>01:56:23 (Brendan) Discusses the important role of the GAA in his life. Getting back into it in later years.</p> <p>01:58:57 (Jerome) Tells a story about refereeing a match and how a father was shouting at his son.</p> <p>02:00:35 Talks about what the GAA means to him. Discusses the different roles he has held in the organisations. Notes how he was a referee for 35 years.</p> <p>02:02:10 (All) They talk about the passion people have for the GAA. Jerome recalls a story about Kildare playing Offaly in Nolan Park.</p> <p>02:04:40 (Jerome) Talks about the people who have done work for the club.</p>   |
| <p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p> | <p><b>Pat:</b><br/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward<br/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Marie:</b><br/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person<br/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Brendan:</b><br/> <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<br/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Michael:</b></p> |

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|   | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" 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><b>Jerome:</b></p> <p><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</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> |
| <p><b>Record as a Player</b><br/>(Titles won; Length of time played)</p>    | <p><b>Pat:</b><br/>Played from juvenile to minor.</p> <p><b>Marie:</b><br/>Played Camogie for 6 years.</p> <p><b>Brendan:</b><br/>Played from juvenile up to Under 16 football. Won a Division 2 Under 14 medal.</p> <p><b>Michael:</b><br/>Played for 20 years. Won Under 14, 16, 18, 21, junior B, intermediate and senior county football titles.</p> <p><b>Jerome:</b><br/>Played between 1962 and 1989. Won Under 14, junior, intermediate, 4/5 hurling medals and a Leinster Vocational Medal in 1966 with Kildare.</p>   |
| <p><b>Record as an Administrator</b><br/>(Positions held; how long for)</p> | <p><b>Pat:</b><br/>Has been involved in administration since 1969.</p> <p>Club: Assistant Secretary; Secretary; Treasurer; Chairman; Grounds Committee Secretary, Chairman and Treasurer; County Board Delegate.</p> <p><b>Marie:</b><br/>Has been juvenile hurling secretary, a member of the executive and a member of the football committee.</p> <p><b>Brendan:</b><br/>Has been involved in administration since 2005.</p>   |

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|                 | <p>Camogie Club: Vice-chairperson (2007 – 2008), Chairperson (2009 – 2011), Delegate to County Board (2005 – 2006), County Board Liaison Officer, Disciplinary and Transfers Committee.</p> <p><b>Michael:</b><br/>Was a committee member in the mid-80s.</p> <p><b>Jerome:</b><br/>Has been involved in administration since the 1970s.</p> <p>Club: Chairman, Treasurer, Delegate to County Board.</p> |
| <b>Format</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual  |
| <b>Duration</b> | Length of Interview: 02:05:10  |
| <b>Language</b> | 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: \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_08/08/12\_\_\_\_\_