

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie (Eoghan Clear is also present for parts)
Date of Interview	9 th March 2010
Location	St. Conleth's College, Dublin
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kevin Kelleher
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1921 Home County: Dublin
Education	Primary: St. Pat's, Drumcondra, Dublin Secondary: O'Connell CBS, School Third Level: UCD
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Widowed, daughter Ann
Club(s)	Na Fianna
Occupation	Headmaster
Parents' Occupation	Civil Servant, GPO [Father]; Draper in Switzer's [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Lansdowne Rugby Club; Legion of Mary; Golf

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Date of Report	17 th August 2012
Period Covered	1900s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Dublin, Great Britain, England, Scotland, Wales, Europe, France, Romania, Australasia, New Zealand
Key Themes Covered	Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Refereeing, Education, Media, Role of Clergy, All-Ireland, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Career, Alcohol, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Professionalism
Interview Summary	<p>Kevin recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. He recalls attending Croke Park for matches, and remembers the 1931 All-Ireland hurling finals. He explains why he switched from the GAA to rugby, and reveals how he eventually became an international rugby referee. Kevin recalls his father's involvement with the GAA, discussing his playing career. Kevin describes playing facilities in the GAA when he was growing up, and compares the GAA to rugby. He recalls attending sports days at Croke Park, and describes how the stadium looked before it was redeveloped. Kevin discusses The Ban in the GAA, and how his father reacted when he switched to rugby. He describes his career as a rugby referee, including stories such as his decision to send-off New Zealand player Colin Meads in a match against Scotland. He recalls some of the biggest changes he has seen in the GAA, discussing what he sees as being the biggest challenge to the Association, and talks about the relationship between the GAA and rugby. He concludes by telling some stories regarding the GAA.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:32 Kevin recalls his earliest GAA memories. Recalls the 1928 Tailteann Games in Croke Park. He mentions the 1924 Tailteann Games when his father played for Wales in hurling as they were short a player.</p> <p>01:20 Mentions Monsignor Green on Haddington Row. Recalls attending the 1931 All-Ireland Hurling Final between Kilkenny and Cork. There were two replays in the final that year. Eudie Coughlan and Lory Meagher were the team captains and Kevin watched from Hill 16. Recalls playing in primary school with St. Pat's of Drumcondra. Mentions the schoolteacher Frank Sheehy who was a cousin of John Joe Sheehy. Played in Fairview Park. Recalls the Erin's Hope</p>

	<p>team in St Pat's teacher training college.</p> <p>03:14 Recalls attending O'Connells School and playing at Croke Park in inter-colleges games.</p> <p>03:30 Recalls living in Drumcondra and attending matches at Croke Park. Mentions Erin's Hope and attending Dublin club matches in Croke Park. Mentions Cusack Stand and Belvedere rugby ground. Recalls attire of players who played at the time, mentions soft hats being worn by players such as Paddy and Johnny McDonnell. Recalls matches being stopped for the Angelus.</p> <p>05:25 Recalls attending All-Ireland finals over the years. Recalls an incident when a Cavan player knocked out a referee, called Mythen. Recalls Kerry v Roscommon in an All-Ireland Final and a pitch invasion prior to the end of the game.</p> <p>07:19 Recalls how he became disenchanted with the issue of discipline in the GAA. Mentions rugby in O'Connells School. Explains how he began playing rugby with Lansdowne before becoming a rugby referee, reaching international level. Recalls refereeing abroad – Bucharest (beyond the Iron Curtain), Grenoble, Paris, Murrayfield, Twickenham and Cardiff.</p> <p>09:57 Recalls playing hurling with Na Fianna. Mentions Micheál O'Hehir asking him to join Crokes.</p> <p>10:44 Kevin discusses his father's playing career. He played with the Geraldines, and won three All-Ireland football titles with Dublin in 1906, 1907 and 1908. He played hurling with Thomas Davis club. Recalls his father playing for Dublin in an All-Ireland Hurling Final against Tom Semple's Tipperary, losing in a replay in Athy. His father also played golf and rowed with Commercials. Recalls an incident after one race he won. Mentions his father receiving a membership card for admittance to Croke Park when the first Cusack Stand was built. Mentions players such as Jack Grace and friendships that his father made.</p> <p>14:50 Discusses other family members' involvement in the GAA. Had brothers who rowed with Commercials and played rugby with Lansdowne. A sister played camogie.</p> <p>15:28 Recalls playing facilities when he was growing up. Mentions primary school matches in the Phoenix Park. Recalls O'Connells matches in Clontarf. Compares with facilities when playing rugby for Lansdowne.</p>
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	<p>17:00 Describes the 1931 All-Ireland Hurling Final. Recalls the crowd and stadium. Mentions Hill 16.</p> <p>17:57 Reveals that he thinks his father was in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday.</p> <p>18:26 Discusses the atmosphere in Dublin on All-Ireland Final day in his younger days. Makes a comparison to a rugby international. Mentions Barry's Hotel, The Shelbourne, The Russell and The Hibernian.</p> <p>20:24 Discusses the biggest differences between the GAA and rugby.</p> <p>21:18 Explains why he switched from GAA to rugby – indiscipline in the GAA, attracted to rugby. Mentions facilities and the modern Croke Park.</p> <p>22:48 Discusses the Erin's Hope club.</p> <p>23:19 Describes his father's reaction when he switched from GAA to rugby. Recalls his mother travelling to schools rugby matches in Donnybrook on the tram. Her family were Kavanaghs from Aughrim, Co Wicklow.</p> <p>24:21 Discusses The Ban in GAA. Recalls soccer in his area, mentions Bohemians, Drumcondra and Home Farm. Recalls attending his first soccer international between Ireland and Poland in Dalymount Park.</p> <p>25:26 Describes listening to matches on the radio. Mentions Micheal O'Hehir and his father Jack O'Hehir. Discusses GAA vigilantes.</p> <p>27:50 Discusses the biggest changes he has seen in the GAA.</p> <p>29:46 Recalls attending sports days in Croke park. Recalls the cycling track in the stadium. Remembers Bertie Donnelly and Micky Donnelly.</p> <p>31:44 Recalls dispute between NACI (National Athletics Council of Ireland) and the AAUE (Amateur Athletic Union of Éire). Mentions Ronnie Delaney.</p> <p>32:51 Discusses Gaelic games in his area. Mentions Cuala, Dun Laoghaire, Glasthule, Kilmacud Crokes and Ballyboden. Mentions Donncha Ó Dúlaing's son. Mentions difficulty of running soccer, rugby and Gaelic games together.</p> <p>34:00 Discusses The Ban in the GAA and the Christian Brothers' attitude in O'Connells School to it. Discusses rugby</p>
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	<p>internationals from O'Connells School – mentions Bobby Brophy.</p> <p>35:18 Talks about the GAA receiving different treatment from government bodies in Ireland. Mentions Croke Park being opened up. Mentions Bertie Ahern.</p> <p>36:18 Discusses Croke Park being opened up to soccer and rugby.</p> <p>37:20 Recalls attending an All-Ireland Hurling Final when he and his brother sought shelter in the toilets due to the rain. Mentions the Mackey brothers from Limerick.</p> <p>38:03 Recalls his career as an international rugby referee. Recalls refereeing in Twickenham, Murrayfield, Paris and Cardiff. Recalls sending off New Zealand's Colin Meads in Murrayfield against Scotland. Mentions reaction to the sending-off. Visited New Zealand with Willie John McBride for a "This Is Your Life" programme on Colin Meads. Tells a story from a match he refereed in Bucharest. Describes trip to Romania, behind the Iron Curtain. Mentions celebrating St Andrew's day in his hotel bedroom. Recalls refereeing in Grenoble and Paris.</p> <p>48:20 Compares hotel accommodation in rugby with that in GAA. Discusses a match in the West of Ireland, may have been in Westport or Ballaghaderreen, and the facilities that were available.</p> <p>49:02 Discusses the biggest challenges facing the GAA. Mentions professionalism and explains what it has done to club rugby in Ireland. Discusses club loyalty and parochialism. Discusses GAA player power in Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway.</p> <p>51:26 Discusses how he sees the relationship between the GAA and rugby progressing in the future. Mentions the GAA in the North of Ireland. Surmises re The Ban and the border. Recalls refereeing a rugby match between the RUC and the Gardaí in the early seventies. Recalls refereeing in Enniskillen and seeing part of Nelson's Pillar in the barracks there.</p> <p>53:57 Recalls some of the stories he has regarding the GAA over the years. Mentions matches being stopped to say the Angelus. Mentions hearing the Angelus bells on North William Street and the Convent on Alphonsus Road, as well as Gardiner Street. Recalls a row following a match between the Army and the Gardaí. Also recalls a match he saw in</p>
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	Croke Park being started from the air. Mentions a plane flying from Kilronan to drop the ball. Mentions a steward's badge that his father had from the Tailteann Games of 1924 or 1928. Also refers to clergy throwing in the ball to start matches and the improvement in facilities at GAA venues.
Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input 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)	Played school's for 6 years and played a few matches with Na Fianna.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:56:52
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 the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____17/08/12_____

