

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	6 th Aug 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, Dublin
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kevin Beahan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: De La Salle, Ardee, Co. Louth Secondary: St. Patrick's College, Armagh
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: 1 son
Club(s)	St. Mary's, Ardee [Louth]; Naomh Colmcille [Louth]; Sean McDermott's [Dublin]
Occupation	Accountant
Parents' Occupation	Garage Proprietor [Father]; Dress Maker [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Ardee Golf Society

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Date of Report	28 th June 2012
Period Covered	1920s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, 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, Sacrifices, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Kevin talks about his illustrious GAA career, which took him to the very pinnacle of his sport, Gaelic football. Fiercely enthusiastic about sports, he played for his local club, St Mary's Ardee, as a youngster. It was a particularly strong club at the time and provided many players for Louth inter-county teams. Kevin was later sent to St Pat's College in Armagh, where he played football and came into contact with players from other counties who he would meet on the field later in life. He was called up for the Louth minor team and eventually the seniors. A talented side, they reached the 1957 All-Ireland final and won it, a huge achievement for their county and its people. Kevin recalls the lead-up to the game and its aftermath, and has fond recollections of a trip to the United States that followed. He also lived in Dublin, where he played with the Sean McDermott's club and participated in 7-a-side leagues. There were also Railway Cup commitments to fulfil. Kevin talks about all aspects of his GAA experience down through the years and has no shortage of stories to tell. A keen competitor with a strong team ethic, he has made great friends through his involvement with the Association and together they have had plenty of fun along the way.</p> <p>00:30 Earliest GAA memory.</p> <p>00:40 St Mary's Ardee his club. Kellys, Mooneys. Bells, Byrnes playing for them.</p> <p>01:00 Going to the De La Salle Brothers school.</p>

	<p>01:20 Playing for St Mary's minors.</p> <p>01:25 Kicking a ragball around at school.</p> <p>01:40 Family involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:55 Sister marrying Paddy Smith from Cavan, an All-Ireland winner.</p> <p>02:20 How his interest in GAA developed.</p> <p>02:50 Playing football and hurling at school. Role of De La Salle Brothers.</p> <p>03:30 Playing after school in the caretaker's field.</p> <p>04:10 Soccer in the town at the time.</p> <p>04:15 Fr Robert starting up a local club.</p> <p>04:40 History of the club. Phil McKeever and Fr Robert raising money for a pitch.</p> <p>05:35 Fighting to get on the team.</p> <p>05:45 Facilities at the time.</p> <p>05:55 Moving to St Mary's Park and facilities there.</p> <p>06:30 Club starting in 1928.</p> <p>07:25 The Mochtas team in place before St Mary's.</p> <p>08:15 James Markey and Mr Mooney also involved in starting the club in the late 1920s.</p> <p>08:45 Success on the field. Winning a county championship against Young Irelands of Dundalk in the 1940s.</p> <p>09:25 Gear they had to play in.</p> <p>09:50 Importance of football boots to him. Paddy Smith having English rugby boots. Getting a pair.</p> <p>10:40 Playing in hobnail boots.</p> <p>10:55 Paddy Burke his cobbler. Burkes a well-known family in</p>
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	<p>the area.</p> <p>12:20 Winter green and what they used before that.</p> <p>12:40 Mr Heslin a baker who massaged their legs.</p> <p>14:05 Roes, Malones, McCoys, Markeys, Rosses, Burkes, McGuinnesses, Johnsons, Callans, Gaffneys, McCormacks, Fays, Colemans, O'Briens, McMullens, McKennas, O'Reillys, O'Rourkes all prominent families at the time. Jack Bell, Paddy Mooney, Christy Timmons, Jimmy Byrne and others involved.</p> <p>15:10 Football as a way of life.</p> <p>15:40 Travelling to games in pony and traps. Joe McKenna's sidecar breaking down.</p> <p>16:10 Peter Roe, the local undertaker, having a pony and trap.</p> <p>17:15 Cycling to games.</p> <p>17:30 Cars very rare at the time.</p> <p>18:10 Paul Mannings and Dinny Cummins having trucks, going on back of turf lorry to games.</p> <p>19:15 Getting home from Dublin whatever way he could.</p> <p>20:00 Playing at the Athletics Ground in Dundalk; Dowdallshill; the Grove field, Castlebellingham; Drogheda.</p> <p>20:40 Clubs developing pitches.</p> <p>21:05 Eoin Markey and his nephew Pat Markey famous players locally.</p> <p>21:40 Eoin Markey playing in Castlebellingham and catching a crow.</p> <p>22:40 Eoin Markey taking a crucial free in game. Markey's recollection of events.</p> <p>23:40 Eoin Markeys opinions on footballs that were used after his time playing.</p> <p>24:05 Eoin Markey playing a game and conducting a play.</p>
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	<p>24:45 Eoin Markey having an accident.</p> <p>25:05 Asking Eoin Markey for advice on kicking the ball.</p> <p>26:55 Pat Markey a talented footballer in the 1950s.</p> <p>28:00 Playing a junior game in Aclint. Trying to fool the referee.</p> <p>29:00 Fun they had playing football at the time. Less professional.</p> <p>30:15 His own playing days and looking to follow in the footsteps of players he admired.</p> <p>31:10 Training that was done at the time.</p> <p>31:30 Playing in the Brothers' field.</p> <p>31:50 Playing at underage level.</p> <p>32:10 Going to boarding school at St Pat's in Armagh and playing a lot of football.</p> <p>33:20 Enjoying playing colleges' football.</p> <p>34:05 Playing in the Ranafast Cup and Denis Faul playing.</p> <p>34:30 Disappointment in the MacRory Cup.</p> <p>34:55 Interprovincial football. Kevin Mussen, PJ McElroy, Brendan Maguire, Ben Gallagher, Patsy Breen of Derry all playing.</p> <p>36:05 Struggling to get on the local team due to high standards.</p> <p>36:35 Meath beating Louth in 1949. Many St Mary's players on the Louth team.</p> <p>37:00 St Mary's winning an All-Ireland 7-a-side tournament in Mullingar.</p> <p>37:40 Sweets rationed at the college. Playing games between themselves and confectionary as the prize.</p> <p>38:40 Getting a cyst removed and going to Croke Park to play against Kildare with Seán Boyle and Tommy McKenna.</p>
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	<p>Playing under a fake name. How the game went.</p> <p>40:15 Being lucky to be let out of the college.</p> <p>40:55 Winning a Leinster championship in the early 1950s and problems after that. Pat McKeivitt on the team with him.</p> <p>41:40 Playing on a bad field in Roscommon.</p> <p>42:00 Not allowed out of St Pat's at the weekends. Playing under an assumed name for the Louth minors as a result. Reason for cautious approach.</p> <p>43:05 Eating fried bread every second day. Gambling some of it on a game of handball.</p> <p>44:30 Working in the sweet shop and consuming some of the produce.</p> <p>45:30 How the sweets were rationed. Fr Hederman giving them chocolate.</p> <p>46:25 Gaelic footballers being treated better at the college.</p> <p>47:00 Fr Moran taking it easy on him when he got in trouble.</p> <p>47:50 Former Tyrone All-Ireland winning captain Cormac McAnallen and former Derry player Joe Brolly pupils at St Pat's.</p> <p>48:05 Devlins, Dargans, McGraths all talented players at the school. Kevin the first one there to win an All-Ireland.</p> <p>48:50 Training they did. Running around Abbey Park.</p> <p>50:10 Getting sausages twice a year. Getting bacon and egg on St Patrick's Day.</p> <p>50:45 Iggy Jones, Frank Higgins and the Devlins good players. Meeting them in the All-Ireland in 1957.</p> <p>51:20 Frank Higgins in the bed beside him at school. Facing him in the All-Ireland final in 1957.</p> <p>51:55 School's success in the MacRory Cup.</p> <p>52:10 Playing handball and winning titles.</p>
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	<p>52:35 Participating in other sports.</p> <p>53:20 Playing rounders.</p> <p>53:30 Not many footballs around when he was young.</p> <p>54:20 Hurling in the area. Many of the Brothers originally from the south.</p> <p>54:55 Winning the senior championship, Old Gaels Cup, Cardinal O'Donnell Cup.</p> <p>55:15 Taking up hurling and others that played, like Tom Tynan, Tom Irwin, Kevin McCourt. Winning junior championships. Reason for ending his involvement.</p> <p>57:40 Club facilities they built up over the years.</p> <p>58:20 Former Ireland soccer player Gary Kelly's uncle - Flutter Kelly - playing hurling against Kevin.</p> <p>59:10 Being selected for the county football team.</p> <p>59:25 Playing in the Ranafast Cup at 16 years of age. Bunny Cairns protecting him on the pitch. Playing well in the final and getting a lot of attention as a result.</p> <p>01:02:00 Being watched by county selectors. Getting called up to the Louth minors. Denis Fall on the team. Winning a Leinster final.</p> <p>01:02:45 Graduating to senior level.</p> <p>01:02:55 St Mary's providing players for Louth.</p> <p>01:04:50 Being wary of certain players on the pitch.</p> <p>01:05:30 Being informed by Tommy McKenna that he was wanted for the Louth team.</p> <p>01:06:15 Former player Paddy Kelly advising him when he was younger.</p> <p>01:07:20 Enjoying being a team player.</p> <p>01:07:35 His brother, Paddy, a good footballer.</p> <p>01:07:50 Leaving Armagh in 1952. Training in 1953 in</p>
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	<p>Omeath. Getting his brother's place on the Louth team.</p> <p>01:09:20 How he found the training they did. Dermot O'Brien on the team too.</p> <p>01:10:40 Winning the All-Ireland with Louth and what it meant.</p> <p>01:12:00 Lying about his height and weight.</p> <p>01:12:20 Sogger Quigley training them.</p> <p>01:14:00 Development of Louth team into an All-Ireland winning unit. Tom Connell and Jimmy McDonnell coming out of retirement to play.</p> <p>01:16:55 Playing a senior final in one of his last games.</p> <p>01:18:10 Loss of Sogger Quigley as Louth trainer.</p> <p>01:19:00 Lead-up to the 1957 All-Ireland. Beating Dublin.</p> <p>01:20:25 Former St Mary's minors Tom Conlon, Ollie Reilly, Patsie Coleman, Dermot O'Brien, Jim Roe, Jimmy McDonnell all on the Louth team.</p> <p>01:21:20 Playing Tyrone after Dublin. Jim Devlin, Eddie Devlin, Iggy Jones, Frank Higgins playing for Tyrone. Being afraid of them. Jackie Taggart a talented Tyrone player. Jody O'Neill of Tyrone getting injured early in the game.</p> <p>01:22:40 Importance of colleges football in Ulster.</p> <p>01:23:20 Trying to stay grounded ahead of the All-Ireland final.</p> <p>01:25:05 In digs in Dublin staying with Mrs McBride at the time of that final. Team based in the Hollybrook Hotel. Barry's Hotel also popular on All-Ireland weekend.</p> <p>01:26:10 Advantages of being based in Dublin. Training in Ardee and travelling back for that.</p> <p>01:27:30 Added pressure of playing in an All-Ireland final.</p> <p>01:29:00 Making friends in football and the value of that. Going to Killarney Golf Club and Tom Prendergast getting him a buggy for one of the group who had trouble walking.</p>
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	<p>01:30:30 The morning of the All-Ireland final. Feeling uptight. Going to Croke Park on the bus.</p> <p>01:31:45 His cobbler arriving in the dressing-room.</p> <p>01:33:15 Tension in the dressing-room. Argument over a jersey. His demeanour.</p> <p>01:34:20 Playing in midfield with 'Dano' in the final. Finding it difficult. Seamie O'Donnell playing. John Joe Henchin from Mayo playing.</p> <p>01:35:50 Celebrations afterwards.</p> <p>01:36:10 Sister arriving next day and warning about the crowds in Drogheda.</p> <p>01:36:35 Being in Collon.</p> <p>01:37:15 What the All-Ireland meant.</p> <p>01:37:55 Homecoming in Louth. Going to the White Horse Hotel. Visiting different towns.</p> <p>01:39:00 Returning to Ardee.</p> <p>01:39:20 Touring around. Parties.</p> <p>01:39:50 Club rivals coming together in the name of the county.</p> <p>01:40:20 Trip to the United States organised by Frank McArdle of Louth, who was friends with John Kerry O'Donnell. Travelling on an airplane.</p> <p>01:41:05 Impressions of the United States. Televisions.</p> <p>01:41:50 Being affected by the heat.</p> <p>01:42:15 Mike Hogan, Tom Keegan and Bridie Comiskey of Louth there. Speeches.</p> <p>01:43:10 Games they played in the Polo Grounds, New York. Pat McAndrew marking him. How he handled that.</p> <p>01:44:00 Disallowed goal from Frank Lynch. Asking the umpire about it and getting an unexpected answer.</p>
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	<p>01:45:20 Selector Brian Reynolds trying to use the showers.</p> <p>01:45:45 Shopping with the Red Meehan and Barry McCoy. Trying to buy a dress.</p> <p>01:46:35 Being taken out for breakfast. Feeling queasy.</p> <p>01:47:15 Staying in the Hotel Manhattan, opposite Kerry O'Donnell's pub.</p> <p>01:47:45 Manager, Timmy Quigley, not travelling because of an argument over money.</p> <p>01:49:20 Playing football when they returned. Dublin winning the All-Ireland the following year after beating Derry. Controversial refereeing decisions.</p> <p>01:50:35 Some players retiring. Jim Roe's eyesight bad. 'Dano' going to Mayo.</p> <p>01:51:10 Feeling he could have done more.</p> <p>01:51:50 Importance of being willing to learn.</p> <p>01:52:35 How they fared on the field after the All-Ireland final. Down emerging as a force.</p> <p>01:53:45 Bringing the Sam Maguire to college in Armagh.</p> <p>01:54:45 Practicing in a field with Patsy Coleman.</p> <p>01:55:25 Playing with Sean McDermott's in Dublin. Standard of football. What he learned from it.</p> <p>01:56:40 Longing to play with St Mary's and friends like Willie O'Brien.</p> <p>01:57:35 Where he played with Sean McDermott's.</p> <p>01:57:55 Sean McDermott's in previous years when Eddie Boyle and Johnny Garter were playing with them.</p> <p>01:58:10 Civil Service replacing Sean McDermott's.</p> <p>01:58:30 Brian Geraghty writing a book about the club and what he told him about his involvement.</p>
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	<p>01:55:50 Playing illegally on a 7-a-side team in Dublin. Crowds at the games. Playing for UCD.</p> <p>01:59:30 Playing on an All Stars team. Playing for Fr Seamus McManus, Termonfeekin.</p> <p>02:00:50 Playing illegally with Sean McDermott's. Playing with a man from Clare who didn't know he was an inter-county footballer.</p> <p>02:01:50 Man from Kerry inviting him to train with Blackrock rugby team ahead of the Railway Cup. Not being able to attend victory celebration for fear he would be banned. Eric Pembrey captain of Blackrock. Locky Butler vice-captain. Being made to feel welcome</p> <p>02:03:30 Benefits of sport in terms of self-confidence.</p> <p>02:04:10 The Ban and what fuelled it.</p> <p>02:06:00 Desire to play any sport. Playing soccer in Ardee with the O'Briens.</p> <p>02:06:50 GAA politics when he was playing. Knowing the Sheehy family from Kerry, where there was a lot of politics.</p> <p>02:07:30 Local politics.</p> <p>02:08:00 Transfer season. Paddy Farrelly collecting outside the church and a man approaching him about transfers that had occurred the previous year.</p> <p>02:09:35 Playing on Railway Cup teams and what that was like. Friend, Padraic Gearty from Longford, at a trial and Kevin trying to help him.</p> <p>02:10:35 Finding Railway Cup football difficult.</p> <p>02:10:50 Seán Foran from Offaly a team players.</p> <p>02:11:10 Railway Cup politics.</p> <p>02:12:15 Attitude to administration. Being asked to manage a team. Working with Aidan McGuinness. Difficulties.</p> <p>02:14:15 Joe Harman the local bagman. Asking him for laces before a big game.</p>
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	<p>02:15:05 Carnivals they had. What happened there.</p> <p>02:16:40 Difficulty in getting 15 people for a football game. 7-a-side making that easier.</p> <p>02:17:20 St Mary's B team winning a competition.</p> <p>02:17:40 Emigration in Louth. Loss of Jack Bell, Foscail Malone, 'The Squire' Johnson. Emigration worst in the west of Ireland.</p> <p>02:19:30 Less use of the foot in football. Less skills. Using egg cups for kick-outs.</p> <p>02:21:10 Refereeing a game when he was young. The Conlons playing against the McDonnells in a 7-a-side final.</p> <p>02:22:10 Being knocked out in a game and the referee thinking he was bluffing.</p> <p>02:22:40 Admiration for Sean Purcell, Mick Higgins, Jim McKeever, Jim Brosnan, Iggy Jones. What he liked about them.</p> <p>02:24:05 Professionalism in the GAA.</p> <p>02:25:20 Professionalism in rugby. Impact of satellite television.</p> <p>02:26:10 Mick Higgins going to the United States and mentioning expenses.</p> <p>02:27:00 GAA and his sense of identity.</p> <p>02:30:20 Ladies football and his admiration for it. Lack of camogie in the area.</p> <p>02:31:35 'The Turfman from Ardee', a song that Dermot O'Brien used to sing.</p> <p>02:32:30 Drunk céilí band playing one night. Mickey Neary commenting on them. Band going to play on Radio Éireann and drinking along the way.</p> <p>02:33:50 Sacrifices he has made for the GAA.</p> <p>02:34:35 Best memories - club and county. Playing a team from Dundalk who had been confident of victory. Billy</p>
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	<p>Johnson, Tony O'Rourke, Dermot O'Brien, Jim Roe on the team.</p> <p>02:36:50 Playing in New York. Gaelic Park and dangers it presented. Playing against men who had returned from war in Korea.</p> <p>02:38:00 Playing against Meath in Navan. Meath player trying to break an opponent's leg.</p> <p>02:38:50 GAA disappointments. Professionalism creeping in.</p> <p>02:39:50 Disappointments in his own career. Losing three MacRory Cup finals.</p> <p>02:41:00 What the GAA has meant to him. Knowing Páirc Duffy and Paddy McNally of Croke Park. Paddy O'Keefe and Seán Ó Síocháin. Páirc Duffy a school principal in Monaghan.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): __Vice-President of St Mary's, Ardee__</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Kevin was playing football informally from the age of 4, and on teams from the age of 12 until he was 35. He won: Ulster Colleges Junior Football Championship (1949, 1950); All-Ireland Colleges (1951, 1952); Louth Minor Championship (1950, 1951); Leinster Minor Championship (1951); Louth Hurling Championship (1955, 1958 – 1960); Dublin Senior League (1957); Louth Senior Championship (1951, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1968); Ranafast Cup (1949); Old Gaels Cup (1955, 1956, 1958); Cardinal O'Donnell Cup (1952 – 1956); O'Byrne Cup (1963); Leinster Championship (1957); All-Ireland Championship (1957); Railway Cup (1959, 1963)</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Vice-President of St. Mary's since the mid 1960s.</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:46:42
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____28/06/12_____