

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	10 th Nov 2010
Location	Civic Centre, Belmullet, Co. Mayo
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seán Ó Coisdealbha
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1969 Home County: Galway
Education	Primary: Scoil Sailearna, Co. Galway Secondary: St. Enda's and Coláiste Croí Mhuire, Spideal, Co. Galway Third Level: University of Limerick
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers Current Family if Different:
Club(s)	Micheál Breathnach [Galway]; Belmullet Hurling [Mayo]
Occupation	Business Development Officer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Belmullet Handball; Erris Drama; Belmullet Arts; Belmullet Golf Club

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Martin Linnane
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1953 Home County: Galway
Education	Primary: Killmoran NS, Co. Galway
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: Married to Kathleen
Club(s)	N/A
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/25

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kathleen Linnane
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1953 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Glencastle NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: Belmullet Secondary School, Co. Mayo
Family	N/A
Club(s)	N/A
Occupation	Housewife
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/25

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Joe Earley
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Knocksaxon NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, Co. Galway Third Level: NUIG and UCD
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: Married with 1 child
Club(s)	Belmullet [Mayo]; Tara [Warwickshire]; Ballyvary [Mayo]
Occupation	Agricultural Consultant
Parents' Occupation	Building Foreman [Father]; Homemaker [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	AP Connell
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Yes
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Belmullet
Occupation	Carpenter
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Handball Club

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Noel Reilly
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1947 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Belmullet NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: Belmullet Vocational School, Co. Mayo
Family	Siblings: 4
Club(s)	Belmullet
Occupation	Bakery Man
Parents' Occupation	School Caretaker
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seamus Rutherford
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: N/A Home County: Donegal
Education	N/A
Family	N/A
Club(s)	N/A
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	11 th July 2012
Period Covered	1930s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Mayo, Galway, Donegal, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, 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, Alcohol, Politics, The Troubles, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Members of Belmullet GAA talk about their involvement in the club over the years. They recall their earliest memories of the Association and how they got involved with the club. Joe Earley discusses going to school in St Jarlath’s College, moving to Birmingham before returning and playing Sigerson Cup with UCG and UCD. They talk about the development of the club over the years and Noel Reilly discusses the Erris League, a league played between local villages. Sean O’Coisdealbha talks about moving to Belmullet and getting involved with the hurling club. Martin Linnane discusses the setting up of the hurling club in the late 1980s and the group describe the relationship between the football and hurling clubs. They discuss the impact of emigration on the club and talk about how many of them moved to England to find work during the 1970s. They talk about different stories from their time in the club and how the club’s grounds were developed over the years. Martin discusses the major issues of being a rural club and how expenses can be high. Towards the end of the interview they highlight the importance of the GAA in their community and the role the Association has had on their lives.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>01:11 (Sean) Talks about his earliest memories of the GAA. Originally member of the Micheal Breathnach club in Galway. Playing handball in Galway. Watching Galway play Clare.</p>

	<p>01:58 (Martin) Recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. Playing with his school Killimor in Galway.</p> <p>02:29 (Kathleen) Talks about her early memories of the GAA. Watching matches.</p> <p>03:14 (Martin) Discusses playing underage with Gort before moving to London in 1972 and joining St Gabriel's. Being picked for London and playing Galway and Limerick. Training in Wormwood Scrubs in London. Matches in New Eltham.</p> <p>05:00 Recalls how many Irish were in London during the 1970s.</p> <p>05:57 (Joe) Recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. Originally from Knocksaxon near Balla. Going to McHale Park to see Galway play Mayo in 1954. Being brought on to the pitch by his mother. Playing with Ballyvary. Playing in Irwin's field, Keellogues.</p> <p>08:00 Going to school in St. Jarlath's. Mentions Archbishop of Tuam Michael Neary, Father Williams, Father Concanon, Father Brendan Kavanagh. The training they did. Playing hurling. Having a Connacht minor hurling medal.</p> <p>09:40 Recalls meeting a man at a fair in Balla and being asked to play hurling. Moving to Birmingham due to emigration. Playing with Tara's in Glebe Farm in Warwickshire. Mentions John McAndrew and Pat McAndrew, Michael Murray, Johnny Byrnes from Clareisland, John Morley. Playing with Mayo in the 1960s.</p> <p>12:36 Talks about playing Galway in Pearse Stadium during the 1960s. Playing with UCG and then UCD. Playing in the Sigerson Cup. UCD getting thrown out. Mentions Enda Colleran, Joe Langan, Eugene McGee, Moss Keane.</p> <p>15:32 Recalls breaking his leg against Mayo in 1972. Going to hospital in Magherafelt. Mentions Sean Cleary.</p> <p>17:20 Moving to Belmullet in 1973. Mentions Mrs Togher's guesthouse, Beasie Reilly, Eamon Shevlin, Paddy Lavelle, Seamus Cafferkey, Martin Walsh and Noel Reilly. Playing with the club.</p> <p>20:00 Talks the development of the club. Building dressing rooms. Mentions Willie Joe Padden, Mick O'Toole, Liam Donoghue, Noel Reilly, Eddie Cuffe. Togging out in the CYMS Hall. Different tournaments they played in during the 1970s and 1980s. Playing in the Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta. Mentions Gweedore and Ardara, Ring in</p>
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	<p>Waterford and Dingle, Tom Reilly, John Sweeney from Glengad.</p> <p>24:32 Hosting the Comórtas in 1987 and then again in 2010. Suffering from emigration in the 1980s but revival in 1990s. Mentions Pat Doherty.</p> <p>26:40 Talks about buying the club's grounds.</p> <p>28:20 (Peter) Recalls his earliest GAA memories. Playing football in Belmullet. Getting an interest in hurling from Seamus Prendergast. Hurling team set up in the area in the 1950s with men from the ESB. Issues with the county board. Mentions Martin McIntyre.</p> <p>30:59 Playing football with the Mayo minor team in 1958. Going to the mobile TB unit. Moving to Birmingham and London. Playing with Parnell's and Guinness's.</p> <p>32:44 ***Noel Reilly and Seamus Rutherford join the interview.***</p> <p>33:20 (Noel) Recalls his earliest GAA memories. Playing in the Erris League. Mentions John B. Keane. Becoming treasurer and chairman of the club. Martin McIntyre breaking his leg in his first game.</p> <p>37:20 (Joe) Talks about his memories of the GAA. Training a junior team. Mentions Pat Gallagher.</p> <p>38:25 (Seamus) Recalls playing minor football for Donegal and for Falcarragh before playing for Dublin. The GAA in Donegal when he was there. Moving to Dublin and then to Belmullet with the Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>40:55 Talks about the differences in the GAA in the places he played. Most noticeable in hurling.</p> <p>41:28 (Sean) Discusses going to St. Enda's in Galway. Playing hurling, football and handball. Setting up a hurling team in Micheal Breathnach's. Mentions Joe McDonagh.</p> <p>42:55 Discusses winning 3 All-Ireland Handball titles with college in Limerick. Recalls a story about winning the All-Ireland and their car breaking down. Moving to Belmullet and getting involved in training with the club and with Mayo minors. Mentions Seamus Maughan.</p> <p>48:28 (Martin) Talks about his involvement in the setting up of the hurling club in Belmullet in the late 1980s. Mentions David Murphy, Seamus O'Mongain, Mary Carlin.</p>
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	<p>51:14 Recalls the club's success in the early years at underage level and then senior level. Efforts by members to keep the club going. Disadvantages of being a rural club. Expenses of the club. Mentions Kevin Ryan, Declan Sweeney.</p> <p>54:58 Gives his opinion on the expense of rural clubs and the money taken in by the GAA. Mentions TJ Tyrell and travelling to Tooreen and Ballyhaunis.</p> <p>56:25 (Kathleen) Talks about her involvement in the GAA. Going to matches in London. Returning to Belmullet in 1982. Becoming assistant treasurer. Mentions Mary Sweeney, Evelyn Barrett, Mary Carlin, Anne Gallagher.</p> <p>58:17 (Peter) Talks about the early history of the football club. His father and uncles playing in the 1930s.</p> <p>01:00:00 (Joe) Discusses the formation of the club 1936. People playing with other local areas. Role of the Gardaí in Mulranny.</p> <p>01:01:21 (Noel) Recalls how the club won two county championships with a pitch of their own. Talks about the impact of Father Killeen on football in Belmullet. Discusses the history of their current pitch. Mentions Father Moore.</p> <p>01:02:55 (Joe) Talks about the purchase of the grounds by the Development Society. The crowds that came to the match. The different places they played like the Covent, the air strip, the Crossbanks, Termoncarragh Banks, in Drumm, Maguire's field.</p> <p>01:05:40 (Noel) Playing in Austin Gaughan's field. First pitch in Belmullet. Having sheep on their current pitch and using them to cut the grass. Sheep being put in the handball alley.</p> <p>01:07:10 (Peter) Talks about Seamus Prendergast and how he taught him how to play hurling. The men from the ESB playing on the team.</p> <p>01:08:20 The impact of emigration on Belmullet and how the club survived. Holding dances and socials.</p> <p>01:08:50 (Noel) Discusses the issue of emigration and the role of football in the area.</p> <p>01:09:26 Recalls his brother playing and getting a set of jerseys that were wool and knitted by the local school.</p> <p>01:10:00 (All) Talk about washing the jerseys.</p>
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<p>01:11:29 *** Seamus Rutherford leaves the interview ***</p> <p>01:11:30 (Peter) Talks about Eamon and Michael Boland, Michael came to Belmullet to train as a blacksmith and Eamon brought a football with him. Tells a story about the football. Mentions Father Moore.</p> <p>01:12:55 (Noel) Describes how the people travelled to games. Mostly on lorries. Mentions John Doherty and John McManamon and Tom Shevlin. Playing football in the town square.</p> <p>01:14:25 (Peter) Talk about the club's rivals, Crossmolina, Ballina, Castlebar, Bonniconlon, Ardaree.</p> <p>01:15:18 (Joe) Discusses the changes in rivalries. St. Patrick's, an amalgamation of Ballycastle, Ballycroy and Bangor, who became Kiltane, Kilcummin.</p> <p>01:16:22 (Martin) Describes how they have no real rivalries in the hurling as they are a relatively new club.</p> <p>01:16:55 (Sean) Talks about hurling in the area. Tooreen would be their closest rivals.</p> <p>01:18:02 (Joe) Discusses the relationship between the hurling and football club. Changes since the 1990s. Hurling club play in Kenmore.</p> <p>01:21:00 (Sean) Talks about Rule 34b in the GAA relating to playing hurling and football for two clubs. Mentions Jason Swords from Eastern Gaels.</p> <p>01:23:20 (Peter) Recalls refereeing a camogie match in the club.</p> <p>01:24:05 (Noel) Talks about how there was only one football for matches and if it was kicked into Mrs Larry's garden she kept the ball. The type of ball they played with.</p> <p>01:25:43 (Peter) Discusses the type of football. Mentions Danny Maher.</p> <p>01:26:22 (Joe) Talks about ladies football and how there was a team in the late 1990s. Mentions Charlene Kilroy and Renagh Kane playing ladies football with Mayo. Kathleen Carney and Maureen Conroy played Camogie with Mayo.</p> <p>01:27:55 (Peter) Discusses why camogie ended in the area. Emigration and having an 'American Wake'.</p> <p>01:29:28 (Martin) Talks about the role of the GAA in London.</p>
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	<p>Sense of community.</p> <p>01:31:00 (Joe) Discusses how the GAA would look after people who came to England.</p> <p>01:32:25 Talks about how Kathleen and Martin met.</p> <p>01:33:20 (Noel) Discusses how students went to America during the 1960s and 1970s to play GAA.</p> <p>01:34:09 (Joe) Recalls how the club went over to Leeds in 1974 to play Young Irelands. Massive crowd at the match. People came to Lincoln to harvest potatoes.</p> <p>01:36:10 (Peter) Discusses how Scottish people would come over looking for children to go to Scotland.</p> <p>01:37:08 (Joe) Talks about the club's relationship with the county board.</p> <p>01:38:00 (Sean) Talks about the hurling club's relationship with the county board. Mentions Paddy Barrett, Derek McDonnell.</p> <p>01:39:36 (Joe) Discusses the impact of Shell on the area and the grants given to the club. Mentions Éamon Ó Cuiv.</p> <p>01:45:33 (Sean) Talks about Shell in the area.</p> <p>01:47:34 (Peter) Discusses the club's song.</p> <p>01:48:23 (Sean) Describes his best memory of his time in the GAA. Sitting on the bench in McHale Park.</p> <p>01:48:45 (Martin) Talks about his best memory in the GAA. Taking a team to McHale Park.</p> <p>01:49:00 (Kathleen) Describes taking a trip to Croke Park as her best memory. 13 out of the 30 players from the club.</p> <p>01:49:27 (Joe) Discusses his best memory of his time in the GAA. Managing a team that took part in the Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta in Dingle.</p> <p>01:50:09 (Peter) Winning two hurling county championships in the late 1950s and playing in Croke Park twice in 1958 against Dublin and Kerry.</p> <p>01:50:27 (Noel) Describes the club's first county title in 1972 as his best GAA memory.</p> <p>01:50:56 Talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions his brother Sean Reilly who played for Mayo and Donegal. Mentions</p>
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	<p>Willie Joe Padden.</p> <p>01:52:09 (Peter) Chooses Sean Purcell and Frankie Stockwell as his GAA heroes. Also Pádraig Carney. Talks about travelling to Croke Park in his Morris Oxford, others in Ford Prefects or trains.</p> <p>01:53:30 (Joe) Discusses his GAA heroes. Talks about Sean Purcell, Eamon Shevlin, Willie Joe Padden, Michael Joe Barrett, Kevin Barrett, Mick Devaney.</p> <p>01:55:00 (Noel) Talks about Eamon Shevlin. Mentions Sergeant Moriarty and Father Moore.</p> <p>01:56:43 (Kathleen) Chooses Sylvie Linnane as her GAA hero.</p> <p>01:57:00 (Martin) Talks about Sylvie Linnane and Galway winning the 1980 All-Ireland final. Chooses Joe Cooney as his GAA hero.</p> <p>01:58:08 Discusses the build-up to the All-Ireland final in 1980. Mentions Johnny Flaherty.</p> <p>01:59:57 (Sean) Talks about his GAA heroes. Ducksy Walsh in handball and Joe Connolly in hurling. Mentions Joe Connolly's speech in Irish.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:01:35
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.

Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____11/07/12_____