

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick	
Date of Interview	9 th July 2010	✓ Photograph of Interviewee
Location	Prague	
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Declan O'Brien	
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>		
Gender	Male	
Born	Year Born: 1974 Home County: Wexford	
Education	Primary: Kennedy Park NS, Co. Wexford Secondary: Wexford Vocational School	
Family	Siblings: 4 siblings	
Club(s)	Sarsfields GAA [Wexford]; Prague Hibernians GFC [Europe]	
Occupation	Bar Manager	
Parents' Occupation	N/A	
Religion	N/A	
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A	

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Shane Crean
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1984 Home County: Tipperary
Education	Primary: St Mary's NS, Co. Tipperary. Secondary: CBS High School. Third Level: University of Limerick
Family	Siblings: 1 sibling
Club(s)	Clonmel Commercials GAA [Tipperary]; Prague Hibernians [Europe]
Occupation	Conference Producer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Enda T O’Gorman
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1978 Home County: Kildare
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: 6 sisters
Club(s)	Cappagh GFC [Kildare]; Prague Hibernians [Europe]
Occupation	N/A
Parents’ Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	14 th June 2012
Period Covered	1970s - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Czech Republic, Europe, Kildare, Tipperary, Wexford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Club History, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Politics, Socialising, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Shane, Enda and Declan tell the story of Prague Hibernians, the club in the Czech Republic which they helped to start. They talk about the beginnings of the club and the search for players, training facilities, sponsors and competitive games. A young club in relation to some its European counterparts, there are many struggles in order to make it sustainable. Competitive games are essential if players are to maintain their commitment, and it is important to try and involve more Czech people as this would ensure that the club has a stable future. Shane, Enda and Declan are fiercely committed to making Prague Hibernians a success. There is no room for complacency but they are more than happy to give it their all, as their GAA experiences abroad in the short space of time that the club has been in existence have given them memories that they treasure dearly.</p> <p>00:45 (Enda) Formation of the club in Prague. Starting it up with his friend Ryan.</p> <p>01:05 (Enda) First training session.</p> <p>01:20 (Enda) Joining an Aussie Rules team.</p> <p>01:40 (Enda) Having a meeting to try starting a club again.</p> <p>02:20 (Shane) First competitive against Vienna Gaels.</p> <p>03:00 (Enda) Who the members of the club are.</p> <p>04:15 (Enda) Strength of Aussie Rules and what they can learn from them.</p>

	<p>05:10 (Declan) Tournament they are due to host.</p> <p>05:45 (Enda) Limited number of competitive games they have been able to arrange.</p> <p>06:10 (Declan) Tournament being cancelled and the impact of that.</p> <p>07:30 (Shane) How the tournament is going to work.</p> <p>07:55 (Enda) Plans for the future if the tournament goes well.</p> <p>08:35 (Enda) Importance of things going well on a social level.</p> <p>09:10 (Declan) Meeting regularly in a bar and developing friendships.</p> <p>09:35 (Enda) Social aspect of the GAA.</p> <p>10:50 (Declan) Need to get Czech people involved in the club.</p> <p>12:10 (Declan) Benefits of being involved with the club.</p> <p>12:25 (Enda) Going to London and GAA involvement helping him. People he played with.</p> <p>14:30 (Enda) Explaining the sport to non-Irish people.</p> <p>15:20 (Shane) Training they do. Facilities.</p> <p>16:30 (Declan) Training indoors and it paying off at a tournament.</p> <p>17:15 (Enda) Advantages of training indoors.</p> <p>18:05 (Enda) How they secured a place to train.</p> <p>19:05 (Declan) Problems in finding suitable places to train.</p> <p>20:10 (Declan) Intensity of training. Enda's sister training them.</p> <p>21:00 (Enda) Need for training to be challenging.</p> <p>22:20 (Enda) Policy of never cancelling training and reasons for that.</p>
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	<p>23:00 (Declan) Small pool of potential players to choose from.</p> <p>23:35 (Enda) Standard of players within the club.</p> <p>24:35 (Declan) Rivalry with Budapest and what sparked that.</p> <p>28:10 (Enda) How they get along with other European teams.</p> <p>29:05 (Enda) Playing the local Aussie Rules team.</p> <p>30:25 (Declan) How they developed the club in the beginning. Getting their first game.</p> <p>30:55 (Shane) Getting the club registered with the European GAA.</p> <p>31:40 (Declan) Irish ambassador at their first game against Vienna.</p> <p>32:20 (Enda) Memories of their first game.</p> <p>32:40 (Declan) Talking about the game in the weeks leading up to it.</p> <p>33:15 (Declan) Being in the dressing-room before the game.</p> <p>33:40 (Declan) Bond between the players on the team.</p> <p>34:30 (Shane) Being a first point of contact for ex-pats arriving in the area.</p> <p>34:50 (Declan) Man joining the club and paying up but not interested in playing.</p> <p>36:55 (Shane) Playing overseas even though he had given up at home.</p> <p>37:15 (Declan) Qualifying for a tournament in Masstricht and wanting to win it.</p> <p>38:35 (Enda) Czech player on their team and his development as a player.</p> <p>41:10 (Enda) His commitment to the club.</p> <p>41:35 (Declan) How he felt after their first competitive game.</p>
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	<p>43:25 (Declan) Motivation for joining the GAA club.</p> <p>44:15 (Shane) GAA and identity.</p> <p>45:00 (Enda) Being unique because they play GAA.</p> <p>46:00 (Shane) Being proud of his identity.</p> <p>47:55 (Enda) Choosing the club name, Prague Hibernians (Hybernska). Colours they wear.</p> <p>49:45 (Declan) Contact with Irish embassy in Prague.</p> <p>50:00 (Declan) Other Irish associations in Prague.</p> <p>50:25 (Enda) Impact of GAA club on Irish community in the area.</p> <p>52:00 (Enda) What the Czechs think of Gaelic games.</p> <p>52:50 (Declan) Following the games at home in Ireland.</p> <p>53:50 (Declan) Banter when they are watching the games in the pub.</p> <p>56:00 (Enda) Originally from Kildare. Cappagh his local club.</p> <p>56:25 (Enda) Family involvement with the club.</p> <p>57:20 (Enda) Following the club's results from overseas.</p> <p>58:10 (Enda) Mother from Meath and her family's involvement.</p> <p>58:20 (Enda) Sisters' camogie involvement.</p> <p>58:40 (Enda) All-Ireland day in their house. Anger at Larry Tompkins.</p> <p>01:00:10 (Enda) Plans to get involved with his local club again.</p> <p>01:00:55 (Shane) From Tipperary, Clonmel Commercial's his side. Teacher, Mick Forde, getting him involved.</p> <p>01:01:50 (Shane) GAA in his mother's family.</p> <p>01:02:00 (Shane) Enjoying his involvement.</p>
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	<p>01:02:35 (Shane) Former Tipperary players Ned Brophy, Franny Kelly, Tom McColl acting as mentors.</p> <p>01:02:55 (Shane) People forgetting about GAA in their late teens.</p> <p>01:03:25 (Shane) Keeping in touch with the club.</p> <p>01:04:00 (Shane) Missing the GAA when he stopped playing.</p> <p>01:04:25 (Shane) Not playing hurling much.</p> <p>01:04:50 (Shane) How he ended up in Prague.</p> <p>01:05:40 (Shane) Getting to know people in the area.</p> <p>01:07:15 (Declan) Playing for Sarsfields in Wexford.</p> <p>01:07:45 (Declan) Moving to Dublin and not playing.</p> <p>01:08:00 (Declan) Starting to play again in Prague and he found that.</p> <p>01:09:45 (Declan) People coming and going in Prague. Need for more players.</p> <p>01:10:50 (Declan) Ambitions for the club.</p> <p>01:11:10 (Enda) Students vowing to return for a tournament in Maastricht.</p> <p>01:12:50 (Enda) Brittany team containing a lot of non-Irish people.</p> <p>01:13:15 (Declan) His hopes for his children to play GAA and be aware of their Irish heritage.</p> <p>01:14:45 (Enda) Getting an email from a Czech man who wanted his children to play GAA.</p> <p>01:15:40 (Enda) New players glad to have joined the GAA club.</p> <p>01:16:55 (Shane) Difference between being involved with a club in Ireland and the club in Prague.</p> <p>01:17:45 (Declan) Change in numbers of Irish people in the</p>
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	<p>Czech Republic.</p> <p>01:18:45 (Declan) What his family thought of his GAA involvement in Prague.</p> <p>01:19:35 (Shane) Enjoying his involvement with the club.</p> <p>01:20:10 (Enda) What his family think of his involvement.</p> <p>01:21:10 (Enda) What his GAA involvement means to him.</p> <p>01:20:35 (Shane) Role of the GAA in his life.</p> <p>01:22:05 (Declan) What the GAA means to him.</p> <p>01:23:00 (Enda) Non-interest in political aspects of the GAA.</p> <p>01:24:15 (Declan) Inter-county players going on strike.</p> <p>01:26:15 (Enda) Kevin O'Brien refusing to leave Kildare to join Wicklow.</p> <p>01:26:45 (Shane) Young children not being allowed play for transferring clubs.</p> <p>01:28:20 (Shane) Plans to be involved with the GAA in the future.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Declan:</p> <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>_____</p> <p>Shane:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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>_____</p>

	<p>Enda:</p> <p><input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Declan: Czech National Cup 2009</p> <p>Shane: Played for 10 years. 2 underage Tipperary titles.</p> <p>Enda: Has been playing Gaelic football since U10s</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Declan: Prague Hibernians GAA committee member</p> <p>Shane: Committee member of Prague Hibernians GAA, PRO for 1 year; Secretary for 4 months</p> <p>Enda: Prague Hibernians team captain and trainer 2009 – present.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:29:36</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 14th June 2012