

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug 2010
<b>Location</b>	Westenra Hotel, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Darren Doyle
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1968 <b>Home County:</b> Monaghan
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> CBS Monaghan Town <b>Secondary:</b> St. Macartan's College, Monaghan Town
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Fiona with 4 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Fergal O'Hanlon's; Monaghan Harps; Killevan Sarsfields
<b>Occupation</b>	Carpenter; Joiner
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Merchant Navy [Father]; Waitress [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Sinn Féin
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Phoenix Athletics Club; SIPTU

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/20

<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Brendan McKenna
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1946 <b>Home County:</b> Derry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Treas, Ballymaguigan, Co. Derry <b>Secondary:</b> Magherafelt Technical College <b>Third Level:</b> UCD
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters & 2 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Bernie with 4 sons and 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Fergal O'Hanlon's [Monaghan]; Monaghan Harps [Monaghan]; Sean O'Leary's, Newbridge [Derry]
<b>Occupation</b>	Health and Safety Officer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Bus Driver [Father]; Farmer [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Sinn Féin
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

**REFERENCE NO. MN/1/20**

<b>Date of Report</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1950s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Monaghan, Derry
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Scór, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Brendan and Darren talk about their efforts to start up a new club in Monaghan, Fergal O'Hanlons. Originally from Derry, Brendan played for his local club, Newbridge, before later moving to Monaghan and joining Monaghan Harps. Also at the club was Darren, and he moved to England in the 1980s before returning some years later. Both were then involved in setting up the new club, which was formed due to the large number of players at Monaghan Harps who could not get on a team. They describe the setting up of the club and the reaction of Monaghan Harps, who were not best pleased. In time they began fielding underage as well as senior teams and developed their facilities, and relations with their neighbouring club improved. Brendan started training a ladies football team and also acted as a club delegate to the county board, where he also sat on a CCC committee. Darren started working on the development squads for young players. In time Fergal O'Hanlons became a stable club, and although there are many things that need to be improved in terms of facilities, Brendan and Darren are proud of what has been achieved so far and confident for the years ahead.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:30 (Brendan) Originally from Derry. Played for Newbridge. Playing against Sean Dolan's when he was young.</p> <p>01:05 (Brendan) Going to see Derry play in Croke Park in 1958, having gathered blackberries to pay his way.</p> <p>01:25 (Brendan) Moving to Monaghan and joining Monaghan Harps.</p>

**REFERENCE NO. MN/1/20**

	<p>01:50 (Brendan) Forming a new club.</p> <p>02:00 (Darren) Going to the Christian Brothers school in Monaghan.</p> <p>02:15 (Darren) Playing for Monaghan Harps at underage level.</p> <p>02:30 (Darren) Going to England and helping to start the Fergal O'Hanlon club with Brendan upon his return.</p> <p>03:05 (Brendan) Facilities in Derry when he was younger.</p> <p>03:20 (Brendan) Carnival games in Derry.</p> <p>03:50 (Brendan) Training they did. Watching the Derry team run on the roads.</p> <p>04:30 (Brendan) Managing a ladies team in Monaghan that won the All-Ireland.</p> <p>04:50 (Brendan) Taking the train from Belfast to Dublin for the game in 1958.</p> <p>05:10 (Brendan) Gribben brothers and McKeever's on the local team.</p> <p>05:40 (Brendan) First impressions of Croke Park.</p> <p>06:05 (Darren) Facilities when he was playing in the 1970s / 1980s.</p> <p>06:25 (Darren) Training they did.</p> <p>07:00 (Darren) Success of Monaghan Harps. Playing teams like Scotstown and Castleblayney.</p> <p>07:25 (Darren) Players dropping off after Under-21 level.</p> <p>07:35 (Darren) Emigration in the 1980s. People being flown home from England for games.</p> <p>08:45 (Darren) Camaraderie between players.</p> <p>09:10 (Darren) GAA only in Christian Brothers school. Facilities there.</p> <p>10:10 (Brendan) People wearing Eastwood boots.</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. MN/1/20**

	<p>10:45 (Darren) Many players available to Monaghan Harps. Some opting to play soccer. Reasons for that.</p> <p>11:50 (Brendan) Differences between GAA in Derry and Monaghan.</p> <p>12:15 (Brendan) Newbridge a rural club.</p> <p>12:25 (Brendan) Rivalries not as intense in urban areas.</p> <p>13:00 (Darren) Role of the club in the community when he was growing up (born in 1968). Brothers encouraged Gaelic games. Monaghan United / Monaghan Towns / Monaghan Hibs / Park Rovers all soccer teams in the area.</p> <p>14:40 (Darren) People from rural areas coming into the town. Becoming friends with them in time.</p> <p>15:55 (Darren) Life in London in the 1980s.</p> <p>16:15 (Darren) GAA in Birmingham in the 1990s.</p> <p>17:40 (Darren) Getting involved in the GAA again when he returned to Monaghan.</p> <p>17:50 (Darren) Police and customs men involved in the GAA. 'Noses put out of joint'.</p> <p>19:05 (Brendan) Being selector, manager and vice-chairman at Monaghan Harps. How he got involved.</p> <p>20:05 (Brendan) Managing a ladies football team. Success they had.</p> <p>20:40 (Brendan) Celebrating in Bellaghy.</p> <p>21:10 (Brendan) How he found working with the ladies team.</p> <p>21:35 (Brendan) Reaction within the club to ladies football. Trying to secure use of the pitch.</p> <p>21:55 (Darren) People from women's teams getting involved on committees.</p> <p>23:10 (Brendan) Laurence and Tommy Diamond's mother looking out for them when they played for Bellaghy in the 1960s.</p>
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	<p>23:40 (Brendan) Hurling in the club. Camogie team.</p> <p>24:25 (Brendan) Circumstances leading to the setting up of Fergal O'Hanlon's.</p> <p>24:45 (Brendan) Securing a pitch.</p> <p>25:25 (Brendan) His idea of success.</p> <p>25:40 (Brendan) Struggling in the early years.</p> <p>25:50 (Darren) Senior team getting their first win and how that felt.</p> <p>27:45 (Darren) Underage teams doing well.</p> <p>28:35 (Darren) Taking his sons to training on Saturdays and their enjoyment of that.</p> <p>29:25 (Brendan) Reaction of Monaghan Harps when they decided to start a new club.</p> <p>29:45 (Brendan) Trying to get Monaghan Harps to co-operate with them.</p> <p>30:15 (Brendan) Being on the CCC with the county board and encountering Monaghan Harps members.</p> <p>30:45 (Brendan) What they had to do to set up the club. Securing proper facilities.</p> <p>31:50 (Darren) Involvement in Community Games and Monaghan Harps people also involved. Thawing in relations.</p> <p>32:50 (Darren) Hype before a game against Monaghan Harps.</p> <p>33:25 (Darren) Cousin playing for Monaghan Harps.</p> <p>34:10 (Darren) Area they take players from overlapping with that of Monaghan Harps. Reason for that.</p> <p>34:55 (Brendan) Getting players for the senior team in the beginning.</p> <p>35:20 (Darren) Standard of first senior team.</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. MN/1/20**

	<p>36:05 (Brendan) First game against Monaghan Harps. Objection made over players.</p> <p>36:20 (Brendan) Travellers playing for Castleblayney when he first arrived in Monaghan.</p> <p>37:00 (Brendan) Cost of dressing-rooms.</p> <p>37:20 (Brendan) County secretary John Scully, Páraic Duffy and Sean McCague all helpful when they started the club.</p> <p>37:50 (Darren) People ringing them looking for their vote.</p> <p>38:55 (Darren) Ulster final played on their pitch in the 1930s.</p> <p>39:45 (Darren) Development squads in the county. Their players doing well.</p> <p>40:25 (Brendan) How they came up with a name for the club. Fergal O'Hanlon's background. Colours they picked.</p> <p>42:50 (Darren) Politics in the GAA in Monaghan.</p> <p>45:35 (Darren) People from different backgrounds playing for the club. Protestants playing for Killeevan.</p> <p>46:50 (Brendan) Club finances. Getting money from the county board. Fundraising initiatives.</p> <p>48:45 (Darren) Big draw they held in partnership with a Kildare club.</p> <p>50:55 (Brendan) Club sponsors and difficulties associated with that.</p> <p>52:15 (Darren) Parents wanting good facilities for their children.</p> <p>53:00 (Brendan) Future of the club.</p> <p>53:40 (Brendan) Scór in the club.</p> <p>54:35 (Darren) Reason for not having hurling at the club.</p> <p>55:55 (Darren) Question of new membership. Need for help from parents.</p> <p>57:20 (Darren) Need to get their own grounds. What they are</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. MN/1/20**

	<p>trying to do about that.</p> <p>59:40 (Darren) Assistance they have had from the GAA.</p> <p>01:01:00 (Brendan) Being club delegate to the county board and a CCC member. What that involves.</p> <p>01:02:25 (Darren) Involvement with development squads. Trips to Croke Park with the young players. Working on coaching methods.</p> <p>01:04:45 (Brendan) Benefits of work they are doing with young players through development squads.</p> <p>01:06:25 (Darren) Rivals outside of Monaghan Harps.</p> <p>01:07:55 (Brendan) Need for a club referee in order to get All-Ireland tickets.</p> <p>01:09:05 (Brendan) Best GAA memories. Going to school with Eamonn Coleman. Mentions Newbridge, Bellaghy, Slaughtneil, Dungiven, Lavey. Ladies team winning the All-Ireland in 2000. Setting up the new club.</p> <p>01:09:55 (Darren) Good and bad GAA memories.</p> <p>01:12:00 (Darren) Disappointments.</p> <p>01:13:00 (Darren) Young players crying when they lose finals.</p> <p>01:13:35 (Darren) Pay-for-play.</p> <p>01:14:15 (Brendan) Disappointments. Losing a game 'in the boardroom'.</p> <p>01:14:40 (Brendan) Family's involvement in the club.</p> <p>01:15:35 (Brendan) Strangest place he has played a game.</p> <p>01:15:50 (Brendan) Watching Derry play in Wembley. What he thought of the stadium.</p> <p>01:16:20 (Darren) Trying to teach Welsh people to play GAA in Spain.</p> <p>01:17:10 (Darren) Playing football in the park in England.</p> <p>01:17:50 (Darren) GAA heroes. Nudie Hughes. Dublin players</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. MN/1/20**

	<p>of the past. Bobby Doyle, Jimmy Keaveney, Paddy Moriarty of Armagh.</p> <p>01:19:30 (Brendan) GAA heroes. Gribben Brothers, Jim McKeever, Mick O'Connell, Sean McCague, Eamonn Coleman.</p> <p>01:20:10 (Brendan) What the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:20:30 (Darren) What the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:22:25 (Darren) Cuchulainn Gaels a new club in Louth.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Darren:</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 type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Brendan:</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): __Manager All-Ireland Ladies 2000__</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Darren:</b></p> <p>Played from the age of 7/8 to 21; 25 to 30; 35 – 38. Won an Under 16, Under 21 losers medals, junior cup.</p> <p><b>Brendan:</b></p> <p>Played from age 18 to 25. Won 2 Derry Senior Championships.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Darren:</b></p> <p>Has been involved in the administration of Fergal O'Hanlons Club from 2004. He has held the roles of Assistant Secretary, ASAP Representative; Secretary.</p> <p><b>Brendan:</b></p> <p>Has been involved in administration since 1966 in Derry and Monaghan.</p>

**REFERENCE NO. MN/1/20**

	Club: Sean O'Learys, Newbridge: Assistant Secretary; Assistant Treasurer Monaghan Harps: Vice-chairman Fergal O'Hanlons: Chairman  County: Delegate to Monaghan County Board from Monaghan Harps and Fergal O'Hanlon's; Competitions Controls Committee (last 3 years).
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:22:58
<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:              \_\_\_04/07/12\_\_\_\_\_