

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	6 th July 2010
Location	McLaughlin's Pub, Dusseldorf, Germany
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Damien Byrne
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1972 Home County: Dublin
Education	Primary: Sacred Heart, Dublin Secondary: St. Kevin's, Dublin Third Level: CDVC
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister
Club(s)	Ballymun Kickhams
Occupation	Barman
Parents' Occupation	Steel Mill Manager [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Tolka Rovers Football Club

REFERENCE NO. DB/1/18

Date of Report	15 th June 2012
Period Covered	1980s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Europe, Germany, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Facilities, Playing, Training, Celebrations, Education, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Alcohol, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Damien talks about growing up in Dublin and being introduced to the GAA, which he played as well as soccer. He talks about the differences between the Ballymun Kickhams GAA club and the soccer club, and remembers Dublin enjoying All-Ireland football success. Later he moved to Dusseldorf and became part of the Irish community. He reflects on the role the GAA played in keeping the community together, before the Irish people dispersed and went back home due to the improved economic outlook in Ireland. He also talks about introducing non-Irish people to the GAA and their reaction to a sport they had never encountered before.</p> <p>00:20 Earliest GAA memory. Playing at primary school. Teacher was O'Hara from Wexford.</p> <p>00:35 Playing at secondary school at St Kevin's College.</p> <p>00:42 Playing with Barney Rock and Dermot Deasy.</p> <p>00:50 Playing with Ballymun Kickhams.</p> <p>00:55 Playing soccer and practicing martial arts.</p> <p>01:05 Dermot Deasy introducing him to the GAA in Johnstown Park, Finglas East.</p> <p>01:50 Difference between the GAA club and the Tolka Rovers soccer club.</p> <p>03:00 Being absent for a lot of games.</p> <p>03:45 Role of Tolka Rovers in the community. Training in Johnstown Park.</p> <p>04:00 GAA's pitch being waterlogged.</p>

	<p>04:15 Erin's Isle being better organised.</p> <p>04:50 Sam Maguire being paraded in the 1980s and what the celebrations were like.</p> <p>05:15 Popularity of GAA abroad. Explaining the GAA to European friends and their impressions of Gaelic games.</p> <p>06:35 Decline in numbers playing GAA abroad.</p> <p>07:00 Moving to Dusseldorf and the benefits of life there.</p> <p>08:25 Irish community in Dusseldorf when he arrived.</p> <p>09:35 Social side of the Irish community when he arrived. Irish pubs.</p> <p>09:50 Setting up a GAA club in the early 1990s.</p> <p>10:10 Soccer club appealing to people.</p> <p>10:25 Dusseldorf Dragons Rugby Club.</p> <p>10:50 What the GAA club was like.</p> <p>12:10 People from Enterprise Ireland setting up the club.</p> <p>12:15 Playing games and drinking afterwards. Casual approach.</p> <p>13:00 Playing in Rhine Park.</p> <p>13:45 Hurling in the area.</p> <p>14:05 People returning to Ireland to work in construction because of the economic boom.</p> <p>15:40 Australians trying to play GAA and trying to get the Irish to play Aussie Rules in Cologne.</p> <p>16:20 Attempts to revive the GAA club through O'Reilly's pub. Going to the Maastricht tournament.</p> <p>17:35 People only willing to play when the weather is good.</p> <p>18:40 Importance of Irish pubs abroad.</p>
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	<p>19:50 Changes in technology since he moved over. Being able to show sports in the bar. Other bars bowing to pressure and installing television screens.</p> <p>21:50 Weather influencing whether or not Germans go to the bar to watch soccer.</p> <p>23:30 Role of the GAA in helping the Irish community coming together.</p> <p>24:45 Training on Tuesdays.</p> <p>25:35 Chance of getting a job through the GAA abroad.</p> <p>26:50 Favourite GAA memory. Going to the Baggot Inn to meet the Dublin team with the Sam Maguire. Irish soccer team being there too.</p> <p>28:55 Looking up to Barney Rock - who lived near him - when he was young.</p> <p>29:30 What the GAA has meant to him.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</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 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>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>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:30:28</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: ___Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: ___15/06/12_____