

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Brian Becker
Date of Interview	14 th July 2010
Location	Interviewee's office, near Dublin
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Ken McCue
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1954 Home County: Dublin
Education	Primary: Saint Paul's Christian Brother's School, Dublin. Secondary: Saint Paul's Christian Brother's School, Dublin. Third Level: International School, Moscow; Irish School of Economics; De Montfort University, Leicester
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters; 1 brother Current Family if Different: 2 daughters; 1 step-daughter; 1 step-son
Club(s)	St Michan's Handball Club [Dublin]
Occupation	Cultural Planner
Parents' Occupation	Housekeeper [Mother]; Engineer, Soccer player [Father]
Religion	Atheist
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Civil Service Cricket Club; Insaka Sports Association

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Date of Report	26 th July 2010
Period Covered	1940s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Dublin, Cork, Down, Carlow, Fermanagh, Barcelona, Spain, Antrim, Galway, Kilkenny, Americas
Key Themes Covered	Supporting, Playing, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Education, Religion, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Career, Challenges, Outsiders perspectives, Politics, Northern Ireland, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Ken McCue describes his experience with the GAA from his childhood growing in north Dublin to his current time as International Officer for Sports against Racism Ireland. His father's interest in soccer, boxing, and hurling is described as influencing his interest in global sport and global issues, while maintaining his connection with his local community. The future of the GAA is discussed his hope for inclusion of all ethnic, religious, and political groups both within and without the boundaries of Ireland.</p> <p>00:00:33 He discusses childhood in Dublin. Market Street, Smithfield, and Greek Street are all mentioned.</p> <p>00:02:00 He discusses religion in his neighborhood. Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Methodist, Unitarian, and Jewish faiths are mentioned.</p> <p>00:02:33 He discusses the 2006 Census. North Dublin, immigration, racism, and xenophobia are mentioned.</p> <p>00:03:29 He describes the role of Sports Against Racism Ireland. Immigrant groups from Poland, Russia, Ukraine, South Africa, Congo, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria are mentioned.</p> <p>00:04:35 His father's sports interest is discussed. St. Paul's Christian Brothers School on Brunswick Street, the foreign games ban, boxing and hurling are mentioned.</p> <p>00:05:08 His father's career in the signal corp of the Irish Army at the Curragh Camp during the Emergency is discussed. German Marines at the camp who played soccer</p>

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	<p>are mentioned.</p> <p>00:06:34 The differences between German style of football and the prevalent English style are discussed.</p> <p>00:06:55 His father's hurling experience helping in him to play soccer is mentioned.</p> <p>00:07:24 His father's continued interest in sports is discussed. Joining Bohemians Football Club which offered association football, cricket, athletics, and bowling is mentioned.</p> <p>00:07:45 His father's career as a part-time professional soccer for Bohemians is mentioned.</p> <p>00:08:00 He discusses a childhood trip to Croke Park to watch Dublin play Down. He recalls argument in the stands.</p> <p>00:08:33 An example is given with Offaly playing Louth or Laois with all fans rooting against Dublin in the succeeding match against Down. Arguments on the terraces and Hill 16 were recalled.</p> <p>00:09:00 He remembers his father's support of Dublin, mentioning John Timmons, Des Foley, Lara Foley, and Stitchie Ferguson as childhood heroes.</p> <p>00:09:25 He remembers speaking about association football, not hurling at dinner.</p> <p>00:09:30 He recalls attending the Brunswick Street School. The foreign games ban, hurling, and Gaelic football are mentioned. He and his brother were given a choice between choir practice and gaelic football.</p> <p>00:09:52 He discusses handball in his community. A handball alley on Green Street and St. Michans Handball Club are mentioned.</p> <p>00:10:30 The benefits of handball are discussed including the affordability of equipment. Discounts were even given by Mr. Kelly to local children. Exposure to gaelic games for children is mentioned.</p> <p>00:11:00 A lack of formal clubs is discussed with exceptions of Eoghan Ruadh and St. Finbars being given. Handball, soccer, and boxing are mentioned.</p> <p>00:11:37 He recalls his father being a local hero because of soccer. John Gyles is mentioned. Street football, with coats for goals and other variations, being a training ground for</p>
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	<p>association football is discussed.</p> <p>00:12:50 He discusses soccer was as a foreign game, possible GAA competition, and that his father's experience with people ignoring him because of his involvement with soccer.</p> <p>00:13:21 He recalls an incident when he was reprimanded during a gaelic football game for using a soccer skill to score a goal. His manager, a Christian Brother, recommended that referee disallow the goal.</p> <p>00:13:50 He expresses the need for some players of soccer and gaelic football to use different versions of their name depending on which sport they were playing as a result of the foreign games ban.</p> <p>00:14:39 He recalls his father keeping a scrapbook of international boxers' clippings. Joe Louis, Battling Siki, and Nelson Mandela are mentioned.</p> <p>00:16:21 He discusses boxing and his interest in African affairs.</p> <p>00:16:43 He discussed being named after Ken Kaunda.</p> <p>00:17:13 He recalls having his heroes stay at his childhood home. Stanley Matthews and his work in Ghana and South Africa is mentioned.</p> <p>00:17:45 He describes his work with Trade Unions, Left Wing politics, the Dublin Inner-City Partnership.</p> <p>00:18:08 He describes noticing the influx of immigrants in the late 1990s. Racially motivated graffiti, and cases of racial abuse are mentioned.</p> <p>00:18:27 He describes the formation of Soccer Against Racism in Ireland (SARI) with Frank Buckley and Perry Ogden. The first SoccerFest, won by the team from Congo, and supported the Dublin Inner-City Partnership and Mick Wallace is mentioned.</p> <p>00:19:07 He discusses making connections with organizations such as Kick it Out, Show Racism the Red Card, BAFF (Germany), Football Against Racism Europe, and UEFA.</p> <p>00:19:45 He recalls helping form UEFA's "Ten Point Plan" against racism. The European Union, Michel Platini, and UEFA are mentioned.</p>
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	<p>00:20:00 He discusses the desire to reach the GAA, IRFU, and the FAI in Ireland. Writing all members of the Irish Sporting Council is described. Responses from Irish Amateur Boxing Association, and the Irish Cricket Union are mentioned.</p> <p>00:20:55 He recalls the FAI's response. His help in finding funding for the formation of an inter-cultural plan through UEFA is discussed.</p> <p>00:21:30 He remembers building the framework for the FAI plan. The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Inter-Culturalism, Show Racism the Red Card, the Trade Union are mentioned.</p> <p>00:22:05 He recalls having the GAA in mind as they worked on the FAI framework.</p> <p>00:22:45 Strategic government pressure is discussed. Requiring an equality clause in sporting constitutions is discussed.</p> <p>00:23:01 Sports Against Racism Ireland's mission is described..</p> <p>00:23:10 He discusses SARI's outlook in combating xenophobia.</p> <p>00:23:40 He states SARI's commitment to attacking homophobia, discrimination against people with disabilities, sexism, and ageism as a part of an integrative anti-racist agenda.</p> <p>00:24:14 He discusses Dublin being the European Capital for Sport in 2010.</p> <p>00:24:28 He cites precedents for government pressure on Irish sporting organizations. Provisions for child protection and anti-doping clauses to constitutions are mentioned.</p> <p>00:24:45 He discusses reluctance to include equality clauses in constitutions. Sectarian activity, sexism, color barriers and barring women from golf clubs are mentioned.</p> <p>00:25:10 He discusses Sean Kelly and keeping global pressure on local organizations.</p> <p>00:25:40 He gives the initial GAA response to being asked to adopt an equality clause. He discusses the GAA as a parish based grassroots organization governed by its own international body in Croke Park.</p>
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	<p>00:26:35 He mentions Pat Ryan and the Asian GAA. Voting at the GAA Congress, Louth, Leitrim, and Dublin are noted.</p> <p>00:26:53 Sporting Equals Symposium held in Croke Park SARI is discussed. GAA involvement, Brian Carr, and Right Cross of Sport are mentioned.</p> <p>00:27:43 He discusses an incident with Teboga Sebala in Carlow.</p> <p>00:28:47 He discusses a incident with Darren Graham, a Protestant player from Fermanagh.</p> <p>00:29:21 He describes approaching Sean Kelly which and Nicky Brennan of the GAA. He discusses the difference between a non-sectarian body and an anti-sectarian body.</p> <p>00:30:10 A meeting with Nicky Brennan is described. Integrative anti-racism and homophobia are mentioned.</p> <p>00:30:45 He describes an incident with Donal óg Cusak. His admission of homosexuality is mentioned.</p> <p>00:31:30 He discusses Nicky Brennan's launch of the GAA Inter-Cultural Plan. Tony Watney is mentioned.</p> <p>00:31:45 He discusses the need for proper prosecution for violations of inclusion plans.</p> <p>00:32:10 He discusses his role with a GAA integration subcommittee. Representation from Chinese, Polish, and other immigrant communities is mentioned. He describes the broad base of opinion and the future potential of the group.</p> <p>00:32:40 He discusses the challenges to implementing the Inclusion Plan. Promotion, training of referees, and the 2010 Leinster Senior Football Semi-Final are mentioned.</p> <p>00:33:30 He discusses the parish base of the GAA. Communication between Croke Park and the local clubs is mentioned.</p> <p>00:33:47 He discusses challenges for Tony Watney. Finding new immigrant communities and discrimination within the games are mentioned.</p> <p>00:34:00 He mentions reports of racism in locker rooms, remarks by coaches, and other incidents.</p> <p>00:34:45 He discusses immigrant participation in gaelic games.</p>
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	<p>00:35:00 He describes the popularity of rounders in the UK.</p> <p>00:35:30 He describes handball being played by Mexican, African American and Jewish communities in the United States.</p> <p>00:35:55 He discusses the level of attention given to each Gaelic game. He describes integration of people of various cultures into different Gaelic activities. Dancing and Irish language are mentioned.</p> <p>00:36:40 He describes the face of the GAA in recent years. Jim Larkin and reaching out to immigrant communities are mentioned.</p> <p>00:37:11 He identifies the GAA as an all-island body. Brazilian hurlers in Galway, Bangladeshi hurlers in Kilkenny, and potential recruits in Loyalist communities are mentioned.</p> <p>00:37:45 He states the need to break down barriers to both racism and sectarianism.</p> <p>00:38:00 He discusses Donal óg Cusak's admission of homosexuality, and Sean Kelly's role in helping the organization progress.</p> <p>00:38:55 Peter Ryan mentioned for his work with the Asian GAA.</p> <p>00:39:15 Games promotion is discussed. His promotion of the GAA at international sporting meetings such as UEFA, FIFA, and the Olympic Council. He mentions the use of hurleys to help international rugby players warm up.</p> <p>00:39:50 Alan Kearns work in Zambia, Sport in Action, and Tracey Pickett's work in Malawi are mentioned.</p> <p>00:40:38 He expresses the need for understanding the different cultures in games promotion. Zambia is used as an example.</p> <p>00:41:08 He tells a story about a man who approached him about opening a club in Barcelona.</p> <p>00:41:41 He mentions GAA in the United States and internationalization.</p> <p>00:42:25 He speaks of the days when the GAA was associated with the Catholic Church, Fianna Fáil, and right wing groups.</p> <p>00:42:45 He mentions the constitution of the GAA.</p>
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	<p>00:43:08 Racism is said to be the biggest challenge for the GAA. Xenophobia and education are mentioned.</p> <p>00:43:53 The Guess Who is Coming to Dinner Program and Gerry Ryan are mentioned.</p> <p>00:45:15 He mentions receiving incident reports from parents. An example is given regarding a young hurler from Galway.</p> <p>00:45:45 The David Villa's contract with Barcelona is mentioned. Player racism is discussed.</p> <p>00:46:28 The difference between assimilation and integration is discussed.</p> <p>00:46:40 Different cultures of Irish are discussed using himself, Perry Ogden, and Mary White as examples.</p> <p>00:47:15 Sport is presented as the best vehicle for integration.</p> <p>00:47:45 Tony Wateney's response to incident reports is mentioned. The Camogie Association mentioned for their help with SARI.</p> <p>00:48:45 He discusses the need for local level GAA involvement.</p> <p>00:49:30 The continuation of current programs dealing with racism are discussed. The three year Inclusion and Integration plan and Try A Sport Days are mentioned with suggestions given.</p> <p>00:50:15 Heffo's Army and the Dublin All-Ireland team's return to Croke Park is mentioned with specific reference to David Hickey.</p> <p>00:51:30 He mentions going to see Down versus Dublin as a child.</p> <p>00:51:45 Croke Park opening up to other sports is mentioned. A France rugby game and protest is recalled.</p> <p>00:52:50 He discusses the economic effects of local sports partnerships. A Nemo Rangers case is given regarding the Nemo Rangers Football Club and FÁS.</p> <p>00:53:40 He discusses games development in the North and other non-traditional areas. He notes partnerships with East Belfast, Charter N.I., Glentoran Football Club</p> <p>00:54:40 GAA past policy regarding sectarianism and racism</p>
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	<p>is discussed.</p> <p>00:55:30 GAA foreign games plan is mentioned along with promotion of handball and camogie.</p> <p>00:56:00 He discusses development efforts in America.</p> <p>00:56:25 Using former players such as Sean Kelly in promotional efforts is discussed.</p> <p>00:57:00 He discussed amateurism with reference to his father's involvement with Bohemians and GAA.</p> <p>00:57:35 He discusses SARI as a volunteer organization. A professional outlook to voluntary work is mentioned with the inclusion of the GAA. Player expenses are discussed.</p> <p>00:58:40 Funding at the juvenile level, especially in coaching certification is discussed.</p> <p>00:59:40 Improving standards of the game is mentioned.</p> <p>00:59:50 GAA parish-based fundamentals are discussed. Inclusion and promotion of rounders and handball mentioned. Global strategies are described.</p> <p>01:01:05 He discusses GAA recognition of inclusion efforts.</p> <p>01:01:40 The concentration on hurling and football is discussed. Competitions for fundraising with camogie, rounders, and handball are given as examples. Potential All-Ireland champions in rounders and handball from Africa, Poland, and United States are discussed.</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 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>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:01:10:40
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: Brian Becker

Date: 26th July 2010