

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	9 th March 2011
Location	Catherine's home, near Kildare Town, Co. Kildare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Bernadette Prendergast
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1969 Home County: Kildare
Education	Primary: Scoil Bhríde Naofa Presentation Sisters, Kildare Secondary: Presentation Convent, Kildare Third Level: Leinster Secretarial Institute, Rathmines
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married to Declan with 3 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Round Towers; Kildangan; Kildangan Nurney Ladies
Occupation	Blood Stock Agency; National Stud; Pig Farm; Greenisle Foods
Parents' Occupation	Foreman in National Stud [Father]; Confectioner, Graham's Bakery, Housewife [Mother]
Religion)	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Musical Society, Stud Entertainment Troupe

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Catherine Gannon
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1943 Home County: Kildare
Education	Primary: Presentation Sisters, Kildare
Family	Siblings: 7 brothers & 2 sisters
Club(s)	Round Towers
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	Kildare County Council, Water Caretaker [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Labour
Other Club/Society Membership(s) (Optional)	Historical Society, Children of Mary

Date of Report	8 th August 2012
Period Covered	1920s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Kildare, Laois, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Bernadette and Catherine talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years. Catherine discusses her father's, William Squires Gannon's, career in the GAA in Kildare. She talks about the two All-Ireland football finals in 1927 and 1928 that he won and notes how Kildare were the first team to win the Sam Maguire. She recalls her father bringing the Sam Maguire back to Kildare town and the celebrations that were held. They talk about the influence of Squires Gannon on the GAA in Kildare and Catherine describes what kind of man he was. They talk about the role of the GAA in Kildare town and the place of the club in the local community. They talk about Squires Gannon's involvement in the Round Towers club and how the club's stand is named in his honour. Bernadette talks about her involvement in the Kildangan club and how her children play with the club. They describe what it is like to be related to Squires Gannon and the respect he still gets and how he is remembered.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:39 (Catherine) Talks about her early memories of the GAA. Travelling on a train to a Kildare match in Croke Park.</p> <p>02:02 (Bernadette) Discusses her earliest memories of the GAA. Notes that her grandfather was William Squires Gannon. Recalls people coming for her brother Bill to play a match. Describes the Gaelic park in Kildare town. Her brother being known as 'Young Squires'.</p> <p>03:29 (Catherine) Talks about her family's interest in Gaelic games and sport. Her brothers Christy, Mick, John and Jim all played for either Mooretown or the Towers. Nancy played</p>

	<p>camogie. They also played other sports.</p> <p>04:04 Talks about her father, William Squires Gannon. Originally from Newbridge. Describes his life and how he got the name 'Squires. Mentions the various farms he worked on and getting a job with Kildare County Council.</p> <p>05:45 Discusses his GAA career, playing with Round Towers and Kildare. Recalls a medal of his being found. Talks about him playing with Laois as well as Kildare.</p> <p>09:08 Talks about Squires Gannon winning the All-Ireland in 1928 and taking part in the Tailteann Games.</p> <p>09:55 (Bernadette) Recalls stories she was told about Squires Gannon.</p> <p>12:20 (Catherine) Talks about how her father didn't drink and how he provided jobs for people in the area.</p> <p>12:50 (Both) They talk about his involvement in the building of St. Brigid's Park, the grounds of the Round Towers club. Mentions the Squires Gannon Stand.</p> <p>13:22 (Catherine) Recalls how the family home was an open house. People leaving bicycles in the house on their way to work. Describes how the Sam Maguire was kept in Alice Graham's bakery.</p> <p>15:30 Discusses the prize her father got for winning the All-Ireland. Notes how Kildare were the first team to win the Sam Maguire.</p> <p>17:10 Talks about the impact of her father's GAA career on his family life. Discusses his involvement in the Round Towers club and the trips he went on.</p> <p>19:00 Discusses the family's interest in the GAA. Talks about taking part in a 'drill display' in school.</p> <p>20:20 (Bernadette) Talks about playing ladies football in school and how there were no girls teams in Kildare town when she was growing up.</p> <p>21:10 (Both) They talk about listening to and watching All-Ireland finals. Catherine notes how they had the first radio on her road. Recalls the first All-Ireland on TV in colour.</p> <p>21:40 (Catherine) Discusses how there was no sport for girls when she was growing up.</p> <p>22:20 (Bernadette) Talks about her family's interest in the</p>
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	<p>GAA and athletics. Mentions Mooretown. Discusses her father working in the Stud. Mentions his involvement in the local pipe band. Recalls Kildare getting to the All-Ireland final.</p> <p>25:00 (Both) They discuss the availability for women's sports today.</p> <p>26:28 They talk about the role of women in the GAA in the past. Recalls the jerseys being made from flour bags. Catherine gives her opinion on Kildare playing in green jerseys. Bernadette talks about the link between Odlums bakery and the flour bag jerseys.</p> <p>29:10 They describe how they travelled to matches – walking, cycling, getting the bus. Her father would have cycled to Dublin. Bernadette went by car and train. Mentions Joe Heffernan running a bus to matches. Recalls a trip to Derry.</p> <p>31:34 (Bernadette) Talks about her children's involvement in the GAA. Discusses holding a fundraising match for a sick child. Talks about her son playing for Kildangan instead of Round Towers.</p> <p>34:05 (Both) They discuss the social aspect of the GAA. Discuss the introduction of floodlights. Recall the 80th Anniversary of Kildare winning the All-Ireland.</p> <p>39:30 (Catherine) Talks about her father's funeral and his involvement in the Army. Describes what it is like to be from Kildare.</p> <p>41:50 (Bernadette) Highlights the importance of the GAA in her family life. Talks about the issue of politics. Being a member of Kildangan rather than Round Towers.</p> <p>44:45 Talks about her husband's interest in the GAA.</p> <p>46:20 (Both) They talk about how Gannon is a Mayo name.</p> <p>47:05 (Bernadette) Recalls how she met her husband. Talks about holding a charity match for over 40s.</p> <p>49:15 Discusses the fundraiser she helped organise. One person from each county to play against a Kildare inter-county side. Mentions Jim Hyland, Christy Byrne, Glenn Ryan and Sean Boylan.</p> <p>52:20 Talks about the difference between an urban club like Round Towers and a rural club like Kildangan. Discusses her and her husband's involvement in administration.</p> <p>54:25 (Catherine) Recalls hanging flags from the round tower</p>
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	<p>in Kildare town.</p> <p>55:05 Talks about the role of the GAA in her life.</p> <p>55:40 (Both) They give their opinion on the various rule changes in the GAA over the years and the opening of Croke Park.</p> <p>58:33 They talk about the main changes in the GAA and the introduction of women into the game. Mention Katie Taylor. Describe the improvements in club facilities.</p> <p>01:01:13 They talk about their GAA heroes. Mention Johnny Doyle, Mickey Harte, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh.</p> <p>01:03:24 They discuss their biggest disappointments in the GAA. Bernadette highlights the expense of tickets nowadays.</p> <p>01:05:37 They talk about the impact of Squires Gannon on their interest in the GAA.</p> <p>01:07:40 Catherine and Bernadette describe the role of the GAA in their lives.</p> <p>01:09:20 (Bernadette) Talks about Alice Graham's piano.</p> <p>01:10:09 Sings the 'Curragh of Kildare'.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Bernadette:</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 checked="" 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>Catherine:</p> <p><input checked="" 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>Bernadette: Played at school for 2/3 years.</p> <p>Catherine:</p>

	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Bernadette: Has been involved in administration since 2003 / 2004 as a committee member. She is a committee member of the Kildangan Crumlin Group Fundraising Committee. Catherine: N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:11:26
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: _____08/08/12_____