

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Tommy McCann
Date of Interview	3 rd Nov 2010
Location	N/A
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Brian Kearney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: N/A Home County: Louth
Education	N/A
Family	N/A
Club(s)	O'Connell's GFC [Louth]
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	24 th July 2012
Period Covered	1970s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Education, Religion. Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Alcohol, Challenges
Interview Summary	<p>The interview charts the progress of Brian Kearney’s involvement in the GAA, from his schooldays onwards. Kearney discusses the highs and lows in the club’s experiences and refers to the impact of wider economic developments on the area and the challenges faced by the club. The paucity of women or religious involvement in the club elicits comment, as does Louth’s controversial 2010 Leinster final encounter with Meath.</p> <p>00:00:01 Brian Kearney introduces himself as a member of O’Connell’s GFC and remarks that as a player he was known by the nickname ‘Babs’.</p> <p>00:30:00 Earliest memory was, aged 7, attending O’Connell’s victory over Young Irelands in the 1976 Junior 2 final at Knockbridge. Remarks that it was one of the first championships the club ever won.</p> <p>00:01:17 Started playing with club in 1987, aged 17. Had previously started playing football in school, in 1977.</p> <p>00:01:49 Discusses his family background in the GAA – his grandfather had been a founder member of the club and his father was currently caretaker. Two of his brothers are also involved as players. Says there was ‘no way out’ for him.</p> <p>00:02:18 GAA did not dominate family conversation.</p> <p>00:02:40 Recalls running home to tell his mother when he learned e was first picked for the school team. Mentions that Terry Doherty, a schoolteacher from Dundalk, was his coach at that stage.</p> <p>00:03:48 Mentions his heroes growing up, including Kerry’s Jack O’Shea and Louth’s Stephen White, a neighbour who he</p>

	<p>never saw playing.</p> <p>00:04:50 Mentions the winning of the Junior 1 championship in 1988 as the highlight of his playing career, defeating St. Kevin's in Knockbridge.</p> <p>00:05:20 Mentions the pub and the week-long celebrations that followed – taking the cup around.</p> <p>00:05:35 Mentions loss of 2006 Intermediate final as the low-point of his involvement. Refers to the record of the club in the wake of this defeat.</p> <p>00:06:20 Discusses the various administrative roles he has held within the club, including his current role as club secretary. Alludes to the burden of the post and to a current controversy.</p> <p>00:07:00 Discusses the role of club in the community, especially its importance as an outlet - the only one -for children.</p> <p>00:07:30 Discusses the club attempts to attract new members from the growing population of the areas and the limited impact this had had.</p> <p>00:08:30 Says that emigration as a result of the economic downturn has yet to seriously hit the club – fielding teams are not a problem.</p> <p>00:09:15 Achieving senior status in 2004 – the first time since the club's foundation in 1929 – is identified as a club highlight.</p> <p>00:09:55 Repeats reference to the disappointment of 2006 Intermediate final defeat.</p> <p>00:10:04 Discusses club plans for the future– plans to build new club rooms and support for fundraising from the community.</p> <p>00:10:30 Mentions the change transport routines – where once a mini-bus was used, now players take their cars.</p> <p>00:11:00 Mentions the role of women in the club – although a number of women sit on committee, the club does not facilitate ladies teams. Says girls are encouraged to play and then directed to a nearby club which does have teams for them.</p> <p>00:11:25 Says that there would be no resistance to women becoming involved but they 'don't tend to get involved.'</p>
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	<p>00:12:10 Remarks that the church has no input into club, but priest would invited to certain functions.</p> <p>00:12:10 Discusses the future for the GAA in Louth. Refers to Leinster final appearance earlier that year and expresses a belief that the county had the players.</p> <p>00:14:08 Refers to 2010 as his Louth GAA highpoint and low point and comments on the controversy that surrounded the conclusion of the Leinster final against Meath.</p> <p>00:14:20 Mentions Jack O'Shea as his GAA hero.</p> <p>00:14:40 Comments on the relative neglect of the Irish Language by the Louth GAA and emphasises the important role the schools might play.</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>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:15:39</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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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: _____

Date: _____