

REFERENCE NO. (OFFICE USE ONLY):

MH1213

Q1: Describe your earliest GAA memory and how you became involved in the GAA.

Meath Senior Football County final 1979
Played Gaelic football in primary school.

Q2: Did your family have a tradition or history of GAA involvement?

Father played when underage

Q3: Did your relatives discuss their GAA experiences with you? What were they?

No.

Q4: Tell me how GAA affected your family life?

father would bring me to matches, sometimes the whole family would go to Meath matches or Tipperary hurling matches.

Q5: Tell me what it was like to support your club/county when you were young and down through the years (travelling to games, prices of tickets, food, grounds visited, clothes worn, match-day traditions, local celebrations and traditions).

Travelling to Meath games in Croke Park - traffic jams in Blanchardstown, Mulhuddart and Dunshaughlin. Got to All Ireland finals and sat on seat with father - children able to get in for free. Visited Croke Park, Clones, Breffny Park, Tullamore, Portlaoise, Thurles, Drogheda.

Q6: If you had to choose just one game from all you've experienced, which would you choose? Why?

Beating Dublin in 1991 on the third replay. They should have beaten us that day, but the comeback by Meath was incredible. That Meath team were a great team and it was finally recognised after that match.

Q7: What impact has the GAA had on your life?

I've played since I was 12, with a gap of a few years, when I was a student. I am currently P.R.O. and secretary of my local club.

Q8: What place and role does your club have in your community?

For those involved, it's very important but for others it's not.

Q9: What role did the GAA play as part of your school and/or college life?

I played with the school but didn't play on college.

Q10: Who do you admire most in the GAA and why?

The local parish focus which helps create a local identity.

**Q11: What are the GAA songs and poems from your local area that you know?
Please enter them here or copy and send them to the postal address given.**

Q12: In your experience what have been the biggest changes in the GAA?

Sponsorship and also rule changes, frees from the hand, sidelines from the hand.

Q13: Have changes in your community affected your club and how?

Difficulty of getting young people playing - a fall off from ages of 16-21.

Q14: Do you think the role of women in the GAA has changed over the years and how?

Yes, a lot of them are coaching and there has been the growth in ladies football and camogie.

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Q15: Describe the role of the churches and clergy in your club and how it has changed over the years?

None.

Q16: Was there a connection between politics and the GAA for you, if so what?

None.

Q17: What have been the main disappointments you have had with the GAA?

Losing Primary Schools final by a point, to a team who had beaten us previously by 27 and 12 points in earlier matches. My man scored the winning point.

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Q18: Did the GAA shape your own identity in any way?

NO.

Q19: What role has Irish language and culture had in your club and on your personal involvement with the GAA?

None

Q20: How important are rivalries within the GAA and what are yours?

Very - local with O'Mahony's and Simonstown

Q21: Comment on the role of volunteers within the GAA?

Very important - becoming more difficult as people are commuting longer distances to work. Also some parents aren't prepared to do any volunteer work.

Q22: Describe your experience with teams as a player, manager, committee member or supporter.

Player - played with Simonstown - underage
Beckive - adult
Manager - managed teams in every school I've worked in.
Committee - P.R.O and Secretary in club
Supporter - Beckive and Meath.

Q23: Describe your experiences, if any, with the GAA outside Ireland.

None.

Q24: Describe how media coverage of GAA in your lifetime has changed.

Club websites now very common. Saturation of coverage of G.A.A. in newspapers during the summer.

Q25: What in your opinion are the biggest challenges facing the GAA in the future?

Keeping the G.A.A. going in towns and cities - too many competing attractions for young people nowadays -

Q26: Do you have any pictures, documents, video etc. that you could share with us? Please provide a brief description.

No.

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Q27: Can you think of anyone else in your locality or in your family circle who we should contact for this project? Who are they and why?

No.

Q28: Are you prepared to be interviewed in person or by phone for this project?

~~No~~ Yes.

I hereby assign the copyright of the answers above to the GAA Oral History Project and waive any moral rights which I presently own in relation to this work 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 questionnaire.

I agree:



Subject to the following conditions (if any): _____
