

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

Training with a girls team - Michael Glavey's club in the 1970's. Just training no matches in John Pa Burkes field Clonfad with Pake Walsh. I played in goal. We had one match on sports day - a mix of two teams among ourselves.

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

No.

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

My Dad always found a house with a T.V. to watch the all Ireland Hurling & Football finals. They listened to matches on radio

Q4: Tell me how GAA affected your family life?

- \* Was always a topic of conversation i.e. match results particularly if Roscommon were playing.
- \* From once we got T.V. every match on was viewed and analysed.
- \* Nowadays my daughter plays for our local club, I help train underage girls teams.
- \* We support local club activities and fundraisers.

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).

In Early years the support was all through watching T.V. listening to T.V., reading local papers. We always waited at the head of the road to wave our Ros. flags at the cars coming home from the matches.

The first proper match I went to, I was 18. There was always a great pride in supporting club & county but especially to see a club player reach a county team and do well.

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

The minor all-Ireland replay in Ennis - Roscommon v Kerry in 2006. The roar that went up when we won, to see people crying with joy.

The homecoming to Roscommon that night - to be so proud of our local lads on the panel.

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

I love the community based element of the G.A.A.

If you can talk about matches, teams, results etc. you always have a topic of conversation.

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

It plays an important role particularly for young people from 8 upwards. It bonds people, it makes you friends for life.

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

As a pupil there was very little girls football.

Now as a teacher I think its an excellent way for young children to shine, to be part of a team and to aspire to great things.

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

1. The players who give of their time free to provide enjoyment for fickle fans.
2. Those who become referees and leave themselves open to terrible criticism.

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.

Living on the border of Mayo Roscommon & Galway there are songs from all counties.

- (1) Mayo - Green & Red of Mayo - saw doctors
- (2) Galway - Fields of Athenry.
- (3) Roscommon - I always feel theres a great opening for someone to write a proper anthem for Roscommon.

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

1. To see rugby played at Croke Park.
2. The emphasis now placed on ladies football - (bulky)

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

Yes.

- ① More emphasis on girls football and competitions at under 8 + 10 levels. - Bigger population of young children in the area.

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

Yes.

Improved for the better.  
I was lucky to be part of a team when I ~~was~~ was 10.  
Then it faded out.  
Now its back to full strength.

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

Years ago the priest was very involved.  
He trained the boys team and took them to matches.  
Now there is less church involvement.

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

None really. I was never into politics. The ideal situation is not to mix sport and politics at all.

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

- ✧ To see the rule of place kicking for frees become optional.  
- Its a skill that should remain
- ✧ The G.A.A. continues to use alcohol producers as sponsors.  
I disagree with this.

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

Yes. Its makes me proud to be Irish, proud to be from Roscommon and proud to be part of my local club.

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

Because hurling & football are native to Ireland then there should still be a contact with the Irish language but not to over do it. I think its right at the moment.

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

Rivalries make it fun, gives you something to cheer for. But it should remain fun and not become too serious. My rivals will always be ~~Roscom~~ Mayo & Galway at County level and Kilglass at Club level.

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

Volunteers are essential to the continuation of the G.A.A. It can't work without them. I think its great to see parents of young children involved.

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

As a player I loved it, lived for it.  
As a manager I enjoy it.  
As a club member I would hope I'm very committed.  
As a supporter I'm very vocal (maybe too loud at times)

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

Just through T.V. + Newspaper articles.



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

From having no T.V. - just radio  
to having S.K.Y T.V.

From hearing little snippets of  
information about a match to  
listening to detailed analysis.

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

To keep young people involved.  
The current economic crisis  
could see a lot of our young  
population leave rural Ireland.

To keep down the level of  
verberae at matches among players.

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

Not really.

Most of it is in the head.

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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?

Brendan Cregg - Chairman of the  
Res. Minor Board.

Fr. Michael Flannery P.P. Connacoon.  
He was the clerical priest who  
brought car loads of teams to  
matches.

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

That's fine

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Regan