

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

Recollections of any nature are timely, perceptive, selective and thus at best relative; however it is with this said that I have clear memories of being brought along to under ten training by my mother; to watch whilst my older brother was put through his paces. To be honest that older brother never had much interest in the concept or actuality of the G.A.A. - as a child, or even now. More pertinent may be the fact that as I spectated; as myself and my younger brother busied ourselves with our independent session on the sideline - exposition to the beauty of playing football with all your friends seemed a wonderful idea to me; and I was hooked from the start. With only a year between my youngest sibling and I, we grew up playing together as a given. Backyard football which drew many "espies" from the ranks of our friends; and led by my Dad, was the 'modelling' which shaped the greater part of my childhood. The conditioning which afforded me self expression, creative outlet and the feeling of true freedom. So consider involvement in the local G.A.A club was thus natural progression; in its simplest terms the transition from all that I knew and loved to an extended "playground", to an extended family to "belong" to: to contribute to. So as my youngest brother began U14's, so too did I.

\* I believe the coaches to have been Tommy "Kredico" Devenny and Joe Patton.

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

To a degree, yes. My mum's father, Brendan McGuigan and his brother Charlie were two proud players and clubmen for St. Eugene's Neulamhewast. Their sister Maggie Dougherty also played camogie for the club. Indeed, despite having a family of 11, with 5 boys - none of my mum's immediate brothers or sisters played G.A.A. With this said, I'm pretty sure that my mum must have had aspirations; for she is fiercely proud of Brendan's involvement and has carried with her zeal for the game she only ever spectated and a wider passion for the association based upon a "holistic" approach to it; with regards its ensuing/complimentary culture of language, dance, music and core values. As for my father, he played for St. Eugene's of course, as did his brother Gerard and it would seem this was accompanied by a lineage of uncles and cousins on the ORR side of the family.

It transpires that my Granny McGuigan's sister's family - the Tracy's were also a great G.A.A. "clann"; descendancy of course linked to the generation of McConnells, including that of Brian, Finbar, Jordan and Pascal whom are well recognised within the association. My dad started representing the club in the many parish sports days I's throughout the county; in the process meeting many "local stars" and having opportunity to line out against the hard hitters such as Frankie Donnelly (Carriackmore) and so. With local man & goalkeeper Pat Harkin leaving the realms of St. Eugene's and Neulamhewast to take up residency in Belfast, Dad was then approached by John McNamee and Dessie Maguire to attempt the onslaught of filling Harkin's boots in the no.1 jersey.

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

Unfortunately I never had the chance to speak with my Brendan McGuigan on such matter, although I would have loved to; due to the reality of his dementia and death, before I was old enough to understand the relevance of the "tradition" of G.A.A. My dad was a great man for years of my footballing nature; and such oral education of such history seemed to further entice my younger brother and I's love for the game as we grew up; (and yet still!) Nostalgic stories of how during a county final in Dungannon against an East Tyrone force of opponents, county scorers had been sent to monitor my dad's performance. On the day - with Dad lining out between the sticks, the cruel hand of fate was replaced temporarily by the cruel 'shoulders' of fate when a high ball deflected off ex-county man Anthony Connolly, on the backline and sneaked past my unprepared father as an O'G, resulting in defeat for the team. Tales of how Big Brian McConnell dropped the trophy out the bus window in Sion Mills on the return leg off the back of a victorious 9aside comp my dad also played in; breaking the base of the award. Indeed this tournament was followed by a Tyrone's away clash (albeit in "friendly" terms) with Mickey McManus representing St. Eugene's club @ Corrymore. Stories of how the year Newry won the league and my dad played... how granny posted him as his medal afterwards, as he had had to go to England to find work. Had remnants well the timeline of pitches from opposite the graveyard, to the field beside the river below McGuigan's, to the field at the woodhills in Sarsanscourt and finally to to site of the current AS Ballyvaughan pitch. "paradise" of dreams! Indeed my dad's stories aren't without the realities of the juxtaposition of G.A.A involvement with his love of and participation in soccer; concurrent with his commitment to club; and often the debatement of reasoning that based on

a parallel of such loves, his role within the G.A.A, as a player was often compromised and looked upon with disdain on occasions. For dual allegiances performance. Regardless of the many times however; it is not always what is said but the manner in which it is said which is most relevant: and in light of such it is more than apparent through enigmatic paraphrase, heightened pitch, tone & laughter; that my dad's recollections are certainly based on a socialisation which cannot be denied as valuable, as a process based upon exchange and need and resulting in a true love of the game and those assoc. with it.



**Q4: Tell me how GAA affected your family life?**

GAA was the AFFECT of my family and has/continues to affect my family life. It is a circular process. I am very confident that my parents understood the value of the association long before they encouraged us as children to get involved in gaelic games. Because the GAA is more than football - more than speaking or playing - it is a culture; and culture is the fine flowering of real education. For regardless of what we do, "we must be children and citizens, brave we can be travellers and philosophers". As a child I learned to love the Irish language - dance, arts + sport @ home... this family extended to my club... my club family extended to my school, my playing team, my county, my province... so as I grew up my culture embraced all that made me feel part of something greater than myself. With this said, when looked so deeply in your own culture; it is then easier to accept, appreciate and respect the cultures of others; differently though they may be. So in essence, the GAA complimented our family aim to try to be good people and to always respect others. It afforded me an outlet of expression + friendship - yet I understood that it was only part of a bigger picture. My dad played soccer as well as gaelic when he was younger, + perhaps influenced by this or perhaps for other reasons, myself + my younger brother played so many sports - soccer, karate, ransing, swimming, horse riding etc... often times later complicated - but GAA always won. GAA is a massive part of who I am and that began with my family - without my parents encouragement + support I would never have gotten to play ladies football - or school football hereafter; my circle of friends would be different; I may not have the same mindset I have now. Who knows what other differences may have occurred? GAA was what I got up every day for until I hit the wall with injury + recovery injury. And even a spike of such - I have remembered that motivation - albeit on compromised knees. Differences ceased to exist between differing training times - indeed even demands on what we worked for dance changed. Looking back, yes, I did put pressure on my mum + dad without even realising it - because all I thought of was football. And so too must they - because they never let me down.

the concept that does all the work but the butterfly gets all the publicity without my parents - I wouldn't have been capable of being so heavily involved in the GAA.

**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).**

Longing to play the game for so long - before I actually did - I learned that spectatorship is a two sided coin; that psychologically it can draw upon the inherent and often clash with societal norms and codes of conduct. Which spectating games from a young age there were - gender differentiation became an unnatural concept exposed. Whilst wanting to play - I saw no evidence of other females doing just that; either within my home club or on the media. I never felt compromised by this - but it dwelt on my mind. Supporting my club as a child is vague; because of such, and the thought that feeling such a commitment for an early Nuala Naomh Eoghain to this day - and the irony of a marriage of these concepts - I questioned my parents on the matter. Basically as we grew up my mum and dad put us first. My mum was a housewife - and my dad worked between my uncles bar, and my other uncles aluminium factory as a lorry driver. Indeed my father worked serious hours for a relatively poor wage, so whilst we were younger, paying in to see a club game was fairly out of the question in terms of priority and keeping the family's collective neck above the water level. As we got older, and grew up in the ranks of the underage teams - mum and dad would give us (me + my younger brother) to go see the weekend games when they could. Then my brother lined out for the reserves and seniors, and myself and dad would go as often as we could to support him especially; to acknowledge his efforts, within the team. So whilst I was ferried to and from neighbouring parish getting to play for the ladies, and Kevin and I brought home increasing supplies of dietary laundry from our weekly training sessions and games - the extra pressure of expense on my parents outweighed their desire to bring us to more games to spectate - participation outweighed such across the board; and we were happy enough with that. With such said - on occasion - there would be a big push for a family day out to the county matches. Looking back on such - it seems strange that we weren't taken to club games before family when the ship began, but both my mum



and Dad agree that whilst we were playing our underage football and had no family members involved in senior club games - it wasn't the same. My father missed playing abt when he hung up his boots (perhaps prematurely due to the worry of injury as he got older; yet the necessity to work to pay the mortgage) - and even talking about it with him now, it would seem he preferred being in the thick of the action rather than the perimeters of it, on a local level.

I remember many days at Clones, and these are some of my nicest probably memories from my childhood. We only had a small Mazda 363, but the 6 of us would be packed in - perhaps with only 2 or 3 tickets between us, as we hadn't enough money for one each! I never had a jersey going to the Tyrone games. The first thing I had was a red + white striped snappy t-shirt, that even on cold days was brought out in a passionate display of semi-dress! We were nearly always late and the walk from being parked would be miles from St. Tighe's park - although we loved it. Funny how it always seemed longer enroute rather than on the way back out too; as we couldn't wait to get there; to see the county greats!

I guess that when purchasing - my mum + dad also realised the value of our understanding of being part of a united family even than our club; the influence that would have on us + our love of the game, and I truly appreciate that. Because I was the smallest, although not the youngest; I was often put under benches, over walls + more, along with my younger brothers to get into the games when tickets were short. Indeed it's mad to think how lax security must have been; and the lengths my dad went to so we could all see the game!

I remember the Down vs Tyrone Ulster final against Down in 1996, 28th July: The family had to split into different areas of the grounds cuz of tickets allocated: with one ticket, myself, my dad + my younger brothers took our seats behind the nets on the scoreboard end and just below the main stand, the rightful owners of the ticketed seats me + Kevin occupied came along (a Down supporter 2 boot!) My dad was adamant we were in the right seats (although he knew we shouldn't have been!) and although humorous was looking back as we all squashed into the row - I'm sure it was difficult for my dad 2 have 2 do that. As children we had no concept of money anyway. Myself and Kevin always packed "adventure bags" with red + white brometone bands, ribbon, a notebook and pen to write down scores and the best things about the day - and if we made it onto the pitch after the game, for an autograph, and waterproof coats. Mum always made sandwiches that we shared when we got back to the car; and they were always amazing - even though if we had have been given them in the house normally we wouldn't have eaten them! We always got a programme to share between us + we collected them, so me + Kevin have half of a collection each I guess. The worst thing is was if it was my turn to keep it and it rained, cuz the pages stuck together and meant it couldn't be opened thereafter!

My mum often gave up her place on the days to Clones to let my business friend Brendan go. He was the youngest of a family of ten + his family hadn't much to do with the game in the town either I don't think. Soon he was bringing his adventure bag and climbing walls to get in too! Then when we got home we would write poems on the game + reenact the big action in the backyard, usually with a ball half bust! Clones was amazing. Like the niece of all us as children aspired to. We had comps to see who could get Finbar McConnell's goal flag and clipped as a memento. We weren't stealing for the sake of stealing - we just wanted a part of something that was so amazing to us (but we never told my mum what we got)

Dublin '95 was a great day out. My family hadn't enough money for tickets - but we all got picked up and drove to Dublin. We were part of it although not inside the cage + we watched it in a bar. I loved it. The occasion, capital city, the excitement, the pride. In 1996 we made it to the croke stand - it had only just opened for the Meath semi-final. My first time in croke and I was hooked. And

Finbar was in net. Newcastle was the best place in the world to be born. Dad tells me we didn't pay the mortgage to the next month - but the stress was unbearable. We even got Tyrone t-shirts up the Ballygawley line <sup>roughly</sup> that's what the goal means to my family. I went into the pitch that day - asked questions + kept + my own record for it. The more!



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

What a question?! And indeed I question its actual relevance; because that's synonymous to saying pick a moment in life and define why that is most crucial to you. It's illogical - because everything we do in life, in football is interrelated; as are our feelings & opinions around such. No game such be viewed as a vacuum - but as a link in a chain of "events". So I cannot possibly choose one - as it depends on the perspective one adopts @ any given time. There are many relevant games I recall:

\* Newsummeawast v's Tattymough (U14 boys) - We finally taken the plunge to play. I've learned with the boys & played those games. Friday was @ home in pairc Naamh Eoghain. A rough off the ball tackle on my backside coupled with the fact that the referee's taking me away with clean murder on the field is really making me angry. I want to play by the rules - but obviously he doesn't. So I last out - I clean the Tattymough half back with a punch. Red carded. Sent off. My last game for the U14s - I so love playing with. I just want to line out in the Newsummeawast jersey - but I'm 14. They say I have to stop. After this season as we had to play with the boys. Dubman Chudeglerz Jans speaks to the referee who says he's not going to file the red offence as I'm a girl. He gives him Badoney later's contact details for my mum (who meanwhile is so angry with me on the sideline). Big Brian Mc Camell tells her to give me a break - it's all in the game, and he laughs. This is the end of me + Newsummeawast. A week later I go is enough to watch Badoney's enough in healy park. They're amazing - and despite my loyalty to Newsummeawast, I really want to play football. Next season and I'm behind the hedge of Croslin's Council Field in the rain, training with 20 girls I don't know under Jimmy Kelly. I'm still playing. I'm still happy. :)

\* Last U14 game for Badoney (v's Tattymough away) Last league game of the season & we need the points. I'm playing right forward back. We've been kept in the changing rooms out of torrential rain, thunder & lightning - it cools off for a while - we play - yet the weather conditions resume. Shearag thing is, I love it. The girls are all fired up today, Brian is playing a blinder, Fitzsimmons moves to go and I'm down. My first experience of injury as I tear my ankle ligaments - I'm off. I'm out. We lose by 2 points I think. My first lesson of the darker side of the game.

(P.T.O)

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

I think more relevantly the question should be - what impact has the G.A.A. not had on your life. It might be easier and quicker to answer; because it's almost impossible to define the far reaching lengths which my involvement in such has had to date and I am certain will continue to have in the future. On so many levels - my life is continuously shaped by the GAA. As I've mentioned what was instilled in me @ home grew into a passion for the culture around the association. I loved that the G.A.A. was complimented by the Church - as was and is so important to me as a child and as an adult. It complimented id and supererog and allowed for great balance in my life somehow. I despise not having had the opportunity to play for Newsummeawast through the ranks - after all that is the essence of the sport; the amateur, fielding proudly for their town, their parish. It is the beauty that we shouldn't have to pick our club. But I did have 2 in order to play with that said I wouldn't change anything. Playing for Badoney has been amazing. I've been so lucky to grow up in a scene with a squad of girls I feel undeniably close to and whom I know will always be such to me. I've been so lucky to have trained under the care of Eddie Macaulough, Jimmy Kelly, Mickey Mossey, Liam Mossey, Claran Woods, Ryan Cunningham, Raymond Munnroe and more... and to have had the opportunity to be welcomed so warmly to a club which will always have a special place in my heart. At the same time, this in itself has cut me off from GAA in my own parish. Time dedicated to train, travel & play meant time away from my friends in the town, not play to my same idols. Weeding away from a drink culture to play is harder than imagined, esp. for girls. I think - and so many I became reamed from everything they were. Whilst pursuing my passion 2 play - I ended up isolating myself also. I remember Newsummeawast's pain to 'ship success - I was playing & thus needing to get off work - which meant I worked sun shifts in hotel here & made it to a game all season. That was tough. So G.A.A. has meant "family" to me - but it has also meant a constant struggle between home & away simply in order to play. I couldn't imagine life without G.A.A. - despite my many other interests: and 2 knee ops later here I am, back for more. perhaps sin 5: actions speak louder than any words!



\* Tyrone v's Dublin '95 - paradox of excitement + loss (Enraptured by The stage of Choke Park!)

\* Tyrone v's Meath '96 - Injustice of refereeing decisions made (my concept of "fairplay" challenged)

\* Newtown vs Esker '2003 - Junior C'ship final - excitement felt @ local level - amazing feeling and one for me that outweighs the county scene. I am very proud to be from Newtown. My younger brothers on the bench, but I'm really glad his part of the squad kept to lines out as the youngest senior player to feature in an adult C'ship final (lining out @ left corner forward) Joffie playing wing half back and still hasn't tied his laces properly in a C'ship final. I'm in my shirt and wish mum and dad was here. I got a lift up. Dad's cutting grass + hedges cuz they're so long - and he's back at work tomorrow. Today I feel part of a wider group of amazing people - but really wish my family were together at it. I think we've beat by one point. I'll dislike Esker from now on, cuz you don't forget a day like today.

\* Baccharney v's Killesnoe Championship semi-final (away 17th August 2007)

I'm leaving for Newryork in six hours and should be packing - but I ask mum will she take me up to the Baccharney game in Killesnoe. And of course she drops everything and does. I can't drive, cuz it's only been three weeks since my cruciate + cartilage knee op (sustained through football @ training). I haven't played with no goals in so long as I've walked over a year and a half for my op - yet here I am again - I got my "sucker" all clear earlier and already I'm thinking of when I'll be able to play AGAIN. The pitch in Donaghmore was waterlogged 2006, hence change of venue. The Baccharney full back line are weak, but it's a tight game and I only wish I was out there. We win 5-12 to 4-06. I'm greening and happy for them; but disappointed + miserable because I miss the game so much.

\* LYIT Ladies v's Coleraine (U.U.) November '09

I'm on at half back. There's been a blinder. I'm so fit and playing out of my boots. Then bang. My other knee's gone. I felt a niggle playing midfield against Magee - but just a simple kick and it's gone now. The sick, all too familiar feeling of the cruciate gone is back. I'm laying with my face in the muck and crying out loud. It felt so good being back on the turf fighting for the ball. I'm crying because the reality is a lengthy waiting process before knee surgery. 26, 2 injured knees and I'm angry and fed up and miserable because I'll never be able to play for Newtown now!



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

Newtownshewart is a small, quite politically divided community. At the heart of this community for me @ least are 3 places; the Church (which in effect leads to "choosing"/and the educational system/ hierarchy) the G.A.A club; and the bar - (where the community gathers to discuss the Church & the G.A.A club!) An Aile NUA Naomh Eoghann's value may only be truly realised by seeing it no longer ceased to exist; for often that is the way: we take for granted that in life which is most treasured to us. In light of such - I am in a way in a unique position to view the club in such a manner. For all the value placed in it and playing for it and wanting to play & be a part of it was in a way taken from me when I went to Badooney; and whilst I loved playing for the girls - I knew that it couldn't be the same as lining out in your home jersey in front of your own people, your own family. I can see clearly how relevant it is to be afforded that opportunity growing up. I can see how the club nurtures the members on so many levels: health related fitness, social integration, cultural awareness, local pride. The club is a community in itself and without this facilitation like in Newtownshewart could not possibly be justified for many or indeed most.

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

Thankfully, after making the transition to Ladies Football at the age of fourteen; with a club and more defined skills, I was confident enough to try out for the school team in Lons. up until that point, playing with the boys had cut me off from the gangs of girls in class with these kirbogs and discussions on weekend games. It cut me off from potential groups of friends that got to know each other from immediate clashes. Badooney changed that - although I was fiercely adamant to defend the fact that although I played for & was loyal to them - I was a hater. I even adopted carrying my brother's old An Beile Nua kirbog to affirm this. I loved school football - and it gave me the chance to play with the cream of the county's talent such as Maureen Kelly, Aislinne O'Keefe, Aidyn Hagan, the likes of Aislinne & beyond. And whilst some of them turned out together - worst type of representation was poor; in that I was the last woman standing when you went past enough in that direction; of this I was also fiercely proud: that I could forehead with the rest - that Newtown was up there!! (As far as an underage player semi-final!) when I went to art college - I travelled home every weekend for training/matches & over two years - I decided some day over away much to everyone's surprise - I dropped out of art college. Something I've never fully explained to anyone - yet which made perfect sense to me: it was simple (P.T.O....)

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

Another tough question. First and foremost, although not strictly "in" the GAA - my answer is undoubtedly my parents. Without them my initial beliefs, experiences, etc... would have been shaped differently. I would have not been given such opportunity - and I understand that indeed, such was borne from their absolute selflessness, and love. More than anyone, my parents. On a wider scale though - perhaps admire is the wrong word; that seems to imply placing me on a pedestal; what is more real to me are two people I respect in the G.A.A. - And it is all too easy to name names - of "achievement"; for it is simple to give credit to acclaim. I do not condone such - but for me, the ones to truly be respected are yes, the parents who support the club - who give up time & expense to the benefit of these children; to the coaches who work weekends, in all sorts of weather; to the players dedicated despite a hard week @ work and financial worries; to the man standing outside the fence @ the game to watch it cuz he hasn't enough money to get in - because when it comes down to it that's what the GAA's about. The simple game of a simple people. A passion that cannot be denied despite circumstance or condition. I admire the girls that live according to the true ethos of the GAA's culture; that match deed with word and action with intention. Money and extrinsic motivation aside, you cannot teach someone passion. It may be shared; but for it to last it must come from within. There are many such men & women in the G.A.A - for me, they are the unsung heroes. In my own club people such as Christopher Jones, John Gallogher, Kevin Gallogher, in general, Mickey Massey, Patsy McCussey, Anne McCullough. Without them, would a club exist?! ...



... two things I love conflicted and I couldn't do both. It was art or football - and guess which I chose?! To this day I have never told my parents the true reason, for absolute fear of their reaction of my "throwing away a career" for football. To me, perhaps emotionally embroiled; I simply prioritized; and have never regretted that decision. There will be time to paint & draw when I am no longer at the ball!

I came back from Dublin and behind a myriad of other things - was happy to be back on full-time terms with Backoney.

I have since returned to college to study a Bachelors of Business in sports dev & coaching - as for many reasons (including injury) I value the merit of qualifications. Passion isn't always enough when change is to be initiated - and one thing I am certain of is change I want to bring about to push for a senior team in the county. So chances are afforded opp. I only wish I had had. As George Ford said "Don't find fault, find remedy".

As a marine student, G.A.A. hence plays a large part in my college house and as a LYIT player for the GAA team (albeit precluded by a 2nd degree op!)

LYIT college football is close knit and something I also place a great amount of value in; something a great number of my good friends are part of. It is thus proven, where I go - I seek the G.A.A. and I remain in it.



**Q11: In your experience what have been the biggest changes in the GAA?**

In the fourteen years spanning my beginnings with the U14 Neumannstown team, to date so many changes have punctuated and "reshaped" to an extent the G.A.A. I believe these changes to have been collectively highlighted and necessitated out of the underlying changing face of society which we live in. In liberal terms, the G.A.A. may be viewed as a "business" it is a service; its annual marketing needs and wants; and it maintains the ability to meet such - it must as an organisation respond and "adapt" according to the people of which its body is composed. The challenge has been, not to do so - but to do so and remain "true" to the original core values of the association also. Peoples attitudes has changed alot in 14 years. Where I was once viewed as a wilky tomboy wanting to play - this now a given that the opportunity to facilitate participation "across the board" is embraced and realised for mutual benefit of club and thus community. Indeed as the Premier grading sport in Ireland, Ladies Football continues to go to what goes next! Facilitation has been another key area - within the town, within Tyrone, within Ulster, standards are constantly improving in pitches, changing + training facilities etc... a far cry from my farmed days of changing into "dubet-like jerseys" under the bridge in Newtown, and having had the cows "let loose" on their dunes, have to wear the "pat" toward threads home! A far cry from my U14 days where you got to change in a separate changing room from the boys - but had to do so in the dark as there were no lights in them. It was either face the possibility of a jersey back to front and being locked in (as the bolt on the outside was often pulled out by younger, mischievous boys!) - or

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**Q12: Have changes in your community affected your club and how?**

I guess that overall the above answer, in a manner also answers this. Of course changes in Neumannstown have affected the club - the club is made up of the community above all. And the same can be said for any parish. If it is specificity that you seek in respect: then as economic downturn has ensued, the G.A.A. has had to take this on board with regard greater need for the club, with escapism through sport prevalent perchance. On the downside with lack of opportunity the club has witnessed numbers of young members go abroad/emigrate/ leave the town + parish to live + and work elsewhere. Thus numbers + sustenance are relevant; as it the manner in which coaches and committees strategise + perform as a result of such/in direct response to. Political divides have witnessed the bucking of our club nets, and to a lesser extent vandalism, and the clubs response of "moral highground" perhaps served purpose better than any other. It is often important that diamonds are indeed made under pressure - but the council of the clubs committee + patrons has served it well, amidst all and testament to actual change is the summer season whereby union jacks + redhand's fly side by side with the red hand of Tyrone. Mutual respect has been hard earned but is now apparent on some sort of level. Great gusto has been put in Ladies Football development in Neumannstown I am proud to say - there has been a need filled once again - although progressive and is testament to the efforts of all involved.

More that have chosen to remain have more responsibility to their work now in order to keep jobs i.e. cannot choose hands - so more difficult for coaches/volunteers to work around a F.T. exact employment - as well as players.



wear the jersey over a t-shirt and play while fighting constant sweat!  
 And improved Facilitation may be realised as a direct result of the "marketing" of the game. Sponsorship on jerseys, placards around pitches, 30week draws and Regional 5/10K's, replica jersey sale, club membership, sponsorship, endorsement, advertising etc... etc... has sought not only more creative committee application in order to generate new ideas/marketing strategies to enhance the clubs - but which has perhaps placed greater kudos on the finances involved for the average player/supporter. There are across all 2 sides to every coin. This may be said to be relative - with increase in wages over the years - but the change to "monophtse" and amateur Association has been a massive step that must accept responsibility in both positive + negative terms.

And change of attitude + Facilitation - must have lead to change + advancements in the sports development + coaching strategies. This is now a more formulated / scientific and holistic application of what was once - the more the runs the better you'll be tactics.

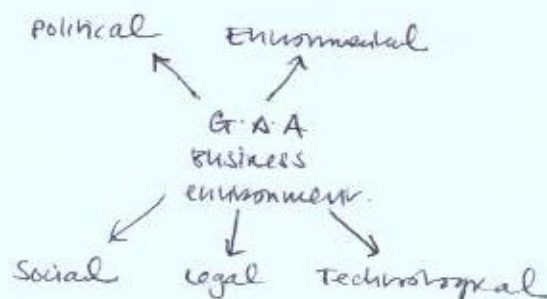
As lifestyle in general changes - where exercise has been somewhat "engineered" out and high pressure + demanding (mentally taxing) "careers" on the rise, the requirement / understanding of the G.A.A as a hub of release / escapism / health + rec has been underplayed (ie "fitness" in its holistic interpretation) - coupled by the growing need to feel the benefits of culture in a growing global "economy".

Changes in political + religious terms have also affected the G.A.A. Opening up these to the game + rugby's exposition of the clergy's wrongdoings undermining confidence in their authority perhaps / and/or resultant assoc. with G.A.A on account of such.

Legalities around accountability + litigation is paramount i.e. insurance, child protection etc... it also a key changing point. "Rights" are the sports of the day and must be dealtt with professionally (out of care / injury workout etc).

And this "professionalisation" of an amateur sport is occurring - whether people, whether the Association likes it or not.

The G.A.A. is a business whether that be not for profit social enterprise or beyond. thus the best way to clarify changes = through a PEST and SWOT analysis.



Strengths / Weaknesses  
 Opportunities / Threats



**Q13: Do you think the role of women in the GAA has changed over the years and how?**

What I think moves is the G.A.A.'s acceptance of the role of women in the Association has changed. I believe women always played a part to some extent (perhaps that is a naive outlook) but without women raising children in a "culture" of sports, perhaps G.A.A. would not have been as strong. Everything begins in the home, as they say. On the other hand yes it has changed dramatically in terms of overt behaviours in relation to socially acceptable behaviour. So once again as attitudes of society changed so too - has the GAA allowed liberation of its value of women to follow suit. With empowerment of women as capable of being career minded + primary breadwinners over the late 80's - and 90's this "movement" extended to the G.A.A. Since I left for Badminton 14 years ago - New Ross now has an under 14, 16, 12 and 10 teams. A woman held Chair of late, and women hold positions as secretary, treasurer, P.R.O. et al. an constant, as well as coaches and general committee members. I believe it has been successful and well needed since we are all individuals within a club - but in terms of "synergy" the combination of talents brought to the table in any G.A.C. is still lesser than the sum of such parts, i.e. whether contributed by men or women  $2 + 2 = 5$  and the "greater good" is only reflective of joint effort for a joint goal. That is what has occurred over the past decade I believe - the "family" of the G.A.A. finally acknowledged the value of the complete "family" it should draw upon for contribution, people power + development: and @ the heart of every home is or was a woman - almost certainly the driving force of the family.

**Q14: Describe the role of the churches and clergy in your club and how it has changed over the years?**

I'm not quite sure how the church + clergy played a role years ago? My dad tells me that the priest was usually chair as right of passage - that the clergy was respected hierarchically - that parish carnivals and sports was where most footballers began their epic G.A.A. careers in T's tournaments before holding for 15 a side club football. It sounds to me like a perfect + complimentary marriage of concepts.

It has been said that man believes that which he wishes that to be true - and I agree with such. As a strong Catholic I would like to think that the parish priest plays a pivotal role in the parish's G.A.C.; after all the catholic church and the G.A.A. share like almost of intrinsic motivation to seek a higher - + in the process help others; in the process - become of the "greater good".

In reality - I'm not sure if Fr. Keaneey our current P.P. boasts much authority within such. Yes he discusses rosary + fixtures from the altar - etc inappropriately so I indeed believe - and yes I see him @ the odd game. To the credit of our club, Ta na gclub begins with a mass annually which I think is lovely. We are a common people of a common faith on most occasions and to celebrate that alongside football to me is special. However Ta na gclub is often an occasion which sees many club members who do not regularly attend mass - only there out of "occasion" perchance. I do not wish to believe it - but perhaps the catholic church has lost a little of its credibility within the G.A.A.? Perhaps as Bob Dylan put it "The times they are a changing"?



**Q15: Was there a connection between politics and the GAA for you, if so what?**

Yes - walking down to U14's with my brother and our friends - controversy could arise when local protestants a little older than us would threaten to give us a hiding for sporting our G.A.A. jerseys. From a young age I learned the G.A.A. meant Catholic and Nationalist and on numerous occasions, did get that hiding because of it. Maybe that made me love it more because we had to fight to defend what we loved and our right to express that. I remember the year the protestants took the orange parade past Páirc Naomh Eoghain whilst the seniors were playing - I remember the year our green and gold was burned by local protestants - not long after the Chapel was pipe banded. I remember being told not to wear GAA jerseys to work as potential customers may take offence. The G.A.A., politics + the church to me were inextricably linked. Fourteen years on ... things have changed - I honestly believed both parties have gotten weary of the aggravations - in fact I know many protestants who follow G.A.A. avidly. Perhaps since Croke Park opened its gates to the larger public - perhaps a mutual respect has been borne out of necessity? Regardless - you do not forget either; because even on the other side - P.T.O.

**Q16: What have been the main disappointments you have had with the GAA?**

As a child I was heartbroken at having to leave the parish to play football - & yeah I would say disappointed @ the very least. I believed nobody took seriously just how much value I placed in the Neumann jersey - just how much I loved where I was from. Just how much I longed to hold my Páirc Naomh Eoghain - uncompromised. I cannot recall being heartbroken over a defeat whilst playing - although many were subdued. Perhaps this is because, psychologically, I was already winning by simply playing; what I loved most. I was disappointed around the behaviour of many "apparent" gael when mania set in for tickets for the All Ireland final in 2003. Many genuine and deserved supporters were characterised by club politics and money in many instances across the county - and it made me question the ethos in its entirety. I was disappointed to a degree in my injuries. Devastated by the thought of not being able to play - but disappointed that although injured at the club - nothing was done for me in effect; with a year and a half waiting list and compromise of lifestyle due to other sporting commitments also. It made me question my worth as a player as perhaps a "blow in" to another parish?... I was disappointed (P.T.O.)

**Q17: Did the GAA shape your own identity in any way?**

Of course; indeed without doubt; and I have indeed embraced this concept. As a sports degree student I have become very interested in psychology and sports psychology as a means of understanding my own motivations, reactions + thus tempering my behaviour in accordance with ideals. I have understood the relevance of the application of "shaping" theories or "behaviourism"; where the basic theory underlines that exposure to particular behaviours, complemented by either positive or negative operant conditioning, will lead to a greater possibility of desired outcome effect .... I do not feel this can be to the exclusion of the subsequent 3 forces. Yes shaping plays a part; but more so as a child growing up: there reaches a point where behaviourism must be complemented by cognitivism: the definitive crossing of the mind as to why this behaviour is desirable or @ the very least acceptable. From a young age - I was very conscious of the power and influence of the culture of the G.A.A. and the effect this had on me as a person. I allowed my identity to conform I suppose to the ideals of the subculture; and yet this became challenged when I went to get college. I found the mentality within NCAD and the city more liberal, more openminded - and this made me question the greatest impact the G.A.A. has had on me; in both positive and negative reasons. Yes I still believe in the core values of the association & indeed am defined myself by them - but I do not believe this should be to the exclusion of a greater world vision. In such terms, it would be naive to assume comprehension of the relevance relevance of many factors of the gael's ethos on a club level i.e/ health, marketing + sustainability, vision, and mission (realised through objectives + operations) - P.T.O.



of such events, they are ingrained into Club mentality I believe. The desire to protect what is most precious to us, the right to express our ideals and beliefs through the club.

Things are different now - but I will always remember my mum and I being stopped by local businessmen, blocking the govt road, in protest - and as an "orange" revolt. I remember not really knowing what would happen, but hating these men. All I wanted to do was go to football!

Although threatening to light fires on the road - perhaps it was all bravado - "scare tactics" that did not phase my mum.

I'm not sure how, I can't quite remember - but I did make it to training that night - and I stopped waving at the milkman who was a part of it thereafter!

When I missed the Junior C'ship Final that St Eugene's won ~~that~~ season (2009) I didn't mind missing during the celebrations - but @ work I waited with bated breath on each text, each update, wishing I was there to see it.

I was disappointed when my younger brother stopped lining out for St Eugene's - I understand that it was for very justifiable reasons - a mixture of work, injury + changes in lifestyle in the city - but part of me felt I lost a huge connection with the team and the club in that; part of me wished our family to be represented on the field and I secretly wished Kerns shared my passion and loyalty enough to ensure that - . . . . .

Although yes - I have been shaped by the culture of the G.A.A. - I have also sought to place it in wider context - and I feel that this allowed me to develop as a person.

Perhaps the quote that best summarises this is that "it is good to love our own country more than all others - because we are children and citizens before we can be travellers + philosophers". Again it is about perspective. One might say - yes! Thus the relevance of the G.A.A. in entirety! - but I disagree. I believe that rooted in a culture - I am capable of greater sporting exploration + appreciation; because based upon a sound foundation of identity + conscientiousness and culture - it is indeed easier to respect those differing cultures and identities of others. To in a sense appreciate, understand + relate/learn from the "external business environment" perspective.

The G.A.A. to an extent has aided my identity - but ultimately, I am the final authority over me. I make me" (Orlick, 2000).



**Q18: What role has Irish language and culture had in your club and on your personal involvement with the GAA?**

The Irish language and culture has of course played an inextricable role in my involvement with the G.A.A. Although initially something which my mother passed onto us on a basic level within the home - nighttime prayers included the *Seo do bheatha & Se n-aimir* - we learned the fundamentals - and I loved linking this unique language which I grew to love and be proud of with G.A.A club names - place names in our locality - minor game - broadcasts on *highlights* radio by Michael Magee and of course my name on a team sheet list out. This was complimented by primary school and the efforts of a new principal in Mosker Neil Mc Cruigan when I was in P6. He changed the focus approach to the language via more creative methodology + practice of dance, language, football and music within the structure of the school. This highlights the value of R'ship which should & does exist of school and club: and I believe a greater emphasis should be drawn to such in like + complimentary terms. I carried this passion through to A-level standard - and it was the receipt of numerous Gaelic football business from my playing club of Bodoney Factors - which only (P. 10)

**Q19: How important are rivalries within the GAA and what are yours?**

Rivalries are very important within the G.A.A. on fundamental levels. As a player with Bodoney, the local derbies with *Spearmint* of Greenock and Plumbridge / Greenally always proved the most fractious - the most inspiring of games! Indeed I remember training during the winter in Plumbridge on St. Joseph's school grounds asphalt pitch, in the snow, under monkey noise and that season remaining in the parish to their club grounds in blue war Nike fashion for the seniors. Local derbies reaffirm the pride of parish in you. With neighbouring villoges + towns, family's may be split: Cousins v's Cousins, friends v's friends; there are unspoken rules and code of conduct, every ball, every pass, every challenge, every off the ball tussle & torment is sacred, its heightened passions. As an "outsider" posse to Bodoney these were the games I loved the most: the occasions when all was to play for - for both manager + team alike. When I felt I was truly part of the team, in the emotive nature of circumstance. I suppose this is a primal / primate instinct & behaviour?!... p.t. 0...

**Q20: Comment on the role of volunteers within the GAA?**

The G.A.A. is founded on volunteers - it would not exist without volunteers - from players, committee, coaches, teamakers, etc. etc... look @ any & every facet of the game, the association and it is underpinned not only by people power, but passionate people power.

Indeed such is the beauty and purity of the G.A.A. - that time is given freely - that people are there, that clubs exist and function on the basis of the belief of a greater good. (in the ethos of the culture of the G.A.A.)

G.A.A. volunteerism is the actualisation of synergy. ie/ whilst many individuals bring to the table many differing skills, abilities, ideas and talents - the sum of many individuals = greater than any one person. The age old concept of  $2 + 2 = 5$  = highlighted.

this is another reason I truly love the G.A.A. I've heard it said, the definition of community = a place where I know half the people and the other half know me. I love this concept and that is the concept of the volunteering family of the G.A.A! - and should be recognised as its greatest strength. (in numbers). where else in the world does such practice or phenomenon

occur to the absence of "paid involvement"? G.A.A. is unique and special and it's volunteers which continue to drive this movement. the question remains amidst a changing society however, as to how this mentality, this passion, this co-works may be sustained? How the core ethos of the G.A.A. may survive herein.



afforded me the opportunity to attend Coláiste Mhuirne each an t-úr, as a gaeltacht student pursue to my GCSE and A-level exams; as otherwise my family may have not been able to afford to send me. Indeed the club also paid travelling expenses to my mum, covering my stay on the GCSE course - to travel to Loch an t-úr, take me out of the programme for the evening, stop me home to play a club league game and bring me down again. This reinforced for me the relevance + the connection between the Irish language + Gaelic football. From then on - they could not be separated; they equated to the same in my mind: this positioning reinforced by the facilitation of a culture I love. Indeed many years have passed since my A-levels, and I'm so very glad An Baid Nua Naomh Eoghanna now consistently offer Irish classes to its members which I am happy to avail of. Indeed, perhaps it's even more relevant to continue the practise, as these initial learning - ie/sustenance of core club values - promotion + representation of ethos + culture - from the broader spectrum of "education" for all. No need to chase the chieftain!

It assumes likeness with the age-old landmarks between "clans" that defines our history as a people and as a nation.

Local derbies instigate and renew vigour and wholeness. They remind players of their role within their community and team.

Passion to play for and it's full commitment to each ball, or quite literally "bust" lol.



**Q21: Describe your experience with teams as a player, manager, committee member or supporter.**

I guess there's so much to write on this subject - basically because you ask me to detail my experience with the G.A.A. to date - lol. In order to attempt such - I'll be succinct: one situation. one sentence;

PLAYER

U14 St Eugene's Newtownmountkennedy: Pride, Parish, Family, Friends, Gender discrimination, Solid Foundation of coaching & skills

Badoney Ladies GFC (Underage → senior): development of skill tactics, development of concentration of goal + its role. extended "Family". Belonging, friendships for life.

Wexford Intermediate LFC: Broadening of gaa network, Ulster college C-ship stage fine competition. Pecking order. Increased awareness of H.E.C. of Fitness/Health.

LYIT: Aerial ability + country. Greater realization of ability/potential - increased competitiveness. 3rd level competition: personal/mental/psychological development. Injury!! (involvement experience + education).

Manager

U10 Ladies St Eugene's NKS: Pressure. Enjoyable. Pure. Pride + Parish. Basic skills. Community. Time?!

U16 Ladies Badoney

U12 Ladies Badoney

} Appreciation to coach older girls. Seeing progression, development. Implementation of my greater understanding of H.E.C. of fitness + degree: compromised by leaving meeting girls from my own parish in games which I did not attend. Realisation of where I should be in development football which my own Parish. Inevitable misperception. P.T.O...

**Q22: Describe your experiences, if any, with the GAA outside Ireland.**

My experience is only of spectatorship - having went out to New York to see my younger business play @ Gaelic Park. Kevin was offered the opportunity to play for Armagh in New York and along with some friends went out. When I went to see him play it seemed almost surreal. Armagh vs Leitrim in summer heat on a new world pitch - commented on by a "superfluous" Yankee and flanked by N.Y.'s Railway line skimming behind the U.S. and Irish flags on either side of the scoreboard. It was amazingly different and far removed from what I understood G.A.A. to be. I understood Kevin's love of the game, + love of travel so I gave him a perfect solution. Almost the perfect extended holiday to share your culture comforts far from home. The idea doesn't appeal to me however; it is far from what I love about G.A.A. Breaking all weekends, preseason and beyond to train, tests the will and passion of football - and I understood the difficulties of tagging out in another parish's jersey out of necessity - I didn't grasp the drive to leave one's own parish for another out of want. I was quite glad to come home to the rougher turf, the colder skies of G.A.A. in Ireland. P.T.O...

**Q23: Describe how media coverage of GAA in your lifetime has changed.**

As with everything else in society - the media's constantly changing/evolving + revolving and this change has not been to the exclusion of its impact on the G.A.A. - and while many may view this as unnecessary - as detrimental to the purity of the ethos of the Association - I disagree. I think what would be more worrying would be the inability of the G.A.A. to correspond to the times that are in it: to relate to a society enters which they best and most easily comprehend. After all, the G.A.A. as previously described relies on volunteers. There are whilst there avenues in which members may be disconnected from G.A.A. and highlighted by the media - so too must the G.A.A. (whether overtly or subliminally) make itself more "attractive" more accessible, + more understood. Whilst media coverage of the sport may include television, Radio, marketing, advertising, promotion, communication etc... to discuss the lengths at which change has occurred would be to strip down almost every facet of club, county + indeed national operations + strategy. Perhaps that is the key word: strategy. Whilst telephonic on a simple basis has increased more timely updates for players + managers from managers - whilst coverage of games on the big screen has increased in view of punditry/psychological association/advancement etc - on so many levels has media driven the sport to an extent.

Any business's marketing mix + thus success depends on communication as the corner stone to achievement of objectives. Better informed players = greater potential numbers = thriving clubs = greater county potential = provincial domination = national success - it is a link of process - thus the reliance of social media, clubhouses, telephonic networking. P.T.O...



## Committee Member (Bachony Ladies G.F.C)

### Positions held:

General Committee Member: Found it difficult to convey my ideas, as I was alot younger - (16/17/18)

P.R.O.: was too young for this position. Didnt fully understand responsibilities - but loved helping.

Assistant Secretary: Enjoyed the role. Retained the responsibility. (26)

Secretary: Had numerous ideas to enhance club, however felt that I should take a back seat to "parish" members. Whilst identifying needs within the club & becoming more responsible in terms of parish outreach - I became more aware of the difficulty of coming from another parish to fulfill a committee role, although I played for the club. I became more aware of the link to the parish school & wider parish and realised I should be using our parish on committee terms i.e. seeing the beauty of club nature - pick of place & people, not being able to choose ones and club truly belonging.

## Committee Member: (Newswestward St Eugenes)

### General Committee Member:

I have today - despite all qualms of leaving to play for Bachony - despite years of truly enjoying football in another parish & perhaps of doing more for that community than my own, after years of feeling quite isolated from my own people - joining the committee now a little older, for the 1st time in my home parish is very exciting. It has taken me this long to experience playing - and club set up - to understand "club like" people - in order to gain the skills, the understanding & the desire to come home I guess, and now use what I have learned as best as I can within the club. That is an indescribable feeling.

22 →  
continued.

I'm aware of the great work of Peter Mossey in Dundee, and indeed Scotland within the G.A.A. schip. An older brother of post Bachony club manager Mickey Mossey - their family is steeped in club and association culture. Great "go a" family as would be said. My older sister Bernadette, never had a chance or opp to play club or school football, as no provision was available during her time. However, whilst @ university in Dundee she did play for Dal Riada mna and won a university c'ship (scottish) under Peter Mossey's management. I recall as a child by a year younger than her - visiting her in Dundee on a trip with my family, and watching the team train. I was amazed by the thought of 3rd level football - training + playing beyond school life. The club had strong links to Fr Eugene O'Sullivan originally a Kilkenny & hurling man of the faith, running a Franciscan Friary in Dundee. He was of great sporting + pastoral support to my sisters + their teams mates - aiding funding + support for the team no. A wonderful setup + great promoter of the game outside Ireland!!!

23 →  
continued

grant sponsorship, etc... many only seem to aid "brand positioning" - credibility, awareness, etc. of how the consumer/parish/individuals needs + wants must be met.

thus media coverage may be attributed to "positioning" of the sport - improvement of facilities etc... but to the detriment of what? - where are these all 2 sides to every coin.

Role of technology = so important in terms of past change + future direction! - i.e. the consumption of any given product of the G.A.A. "before, during + after". i.e. online ticket sales - merchandise sales + photography // reporting. the process = cyclical + effectual; and the relevance of such should not be overlooked by each + every club on numerous levels.

indeed Bernadette gave me a Dal Riada club sweater + her old football boots as my "new" pair of boots. Tangible gifts which truly inspired me in terms of the game for many years. It was wonderful to have my sisters playing as well as me!!



**Q24: What in your opinion are the biggest challenges facing the GAA in the future?**

As an association, the G.A.A. faces so many challenges. Once again I believe this to be best interpreted in terms of a business that is challenge No. 1. The association, although amateur, needs to view itself as a business; if only non profit social enterprise. Without such approach - the structure required to formulate adequate response + positioning to sustain itself, I believe will be next impossible in the future.

Indeed - challenges should be viewed as both threats + opportunities - both strengths + weaknesses. As one is only marginally differentiated from the other, in terms of differentiation of perspective.

I believe analyzing the economy of the G.A.A. is relevant in terms of "impact" with economic downturn + emigration increasing - facilitation of existing club members = retention = key. There is one interpretation of the marketing mix - breakeven point - is all relevant. The need for critical analysis of the commercialisation of sport is paramount as well as the virtue of such + the portrayal of this process as a socially desirable + unproblematic practice must be questioned + challenged. Thus the relevance of the "clubs in health" programme in order to heterogenise development + plan for provision of challenges. At least all challenges may be umbrella termed - but they are also specific to each club on a number of levels also i.e. demographics / social stratification patterns etc.

Management "process" within clubs I believe will have to shift from kitchen table practice to upgraded status in order for real development to occur. The asymmetric (P10)

**Q25: What does the GAA mean to you?**

The G.A.A. is a large part of who I am. The G.A.A. is a large association of whom I am proud to be a part of.

It would be easy and weigh attractive to perhaps write a thesis long answer to this question, as has been the case for all aforementioned questions in this survey also... but perhaps that in itself gives you the most succinct answer of all.

The G.A.A. touches, reaches, extends to every facet of my personality. So how can a simple answer suffice to any or all of the questions asked.

The G.A.A. is a family, a community, an affiliation of belonging, so much more than a "detached" association - and so much more than any given robot.

For in life all experience is effected by and effects previous + subsequent experience. It is therefore more relative to me, to say that the G.A.A. in my terms cannot be "written" - it can only be felt. The G.A.A. to me is not connotative, it is emotive. The G.A.A. to me, may be in my head, but is ruled by my heart; and I truly do love it.



24 → Relationship between club and sponsorship must be addressed - as well as the realisation of the presented constructed myths of the sport - often overshooting the pertinence of supplementation, overtraining, injuries, eating disorders etc... in quest for exhaustively emphasised reward/achievement.

A balance must be found and thus synonymous with such is a need for continuous and enforced/prerequisite coach training + education.

there are indeed so many challenges - it would not be possible to list all - but thus is the relevance of specific clubs specifying + prioritising those individual SWOT and PEST analyses. thus = distraction from tactical planning which suggests undertakings of pressurized decision making for the short term.

Strategic decision making = a journey, defined by logic in the 7p's of marketing + gerenciale working to McMillan's matrix\* as a model - to find moral agenda over profitable agenda + thus maintain the core values of the association while ensuring its sustainability?!

Big need to be inclusive + progressive: ie/ accommodate for all aspects of the "club + membership" in view of "participation" in special populations + marginalised groups

ie/ LTPAD vs LTA pathways (recognition of such/ competence of football + having comprehended

programmes of intervention + thus grant aid for prolonging of involvement on sporting terms for women/ over 40's particularly / disabled etc....

! Big recognition of environmental factors = detrimental to clubs I believe - big area of potential, development, funding + duration - relevant!!

Implement the 7p's of the S.A.S:

Prox Planning + Preparation prevents plus post performance!

... and always -

- Be what you desire to appear

"do not repeat the tactics which have gained you one victory, but let your methods be regulated by the infinite variety of circumstances"

(Sun Tzu 490BC: Chinese Military Strategist)

The G.A.A must view its potential future success as iconoclastic, not excessive profit or over reliance on monetary terms - but the realisation of a livelihood which brings self sufficiency + contribution to club, community + culture!

ie/ when men stop  
stop playing it has  
an effect on  
mental + physical  
health potentially

"The decline of the  
activity may be  
related to decline  
in itself of society"  
(Carroll)

Need to find  
methods of  
making these  
members feel  
needed within  
clubs and/or  
suitable roles  
for such....



REFERENCE NO. (OFFICE USE ONLY):

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

**Do you know any songs or poems about the GAA in your local area that you can send us or write in here?**

**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?**

I have old programmes from county games / McCrossy cup games / some match tickets I kept / some newspaper clippings from 1995 and below detailing Tynon's path to Ulster + All Ireland potential successes.

I know we have poems myself and my brother used to write on our U14 games and experiences of county games @ a young age - although I would have to look for them.

In my locality a great man to speak to would be Christopher Jones - as a starting point. There are many others, of whom he could make you aware in relation to different angles on the project and / the scope on An Baile Nua Naomh Eaghan.

**Q27: Is there anything else you would like to say about the GAA?**

Much could be said about the G.A.A. - but perhaps that is just the point. I have found tremendous personal value in this project. Sitting down to talk about memories + experiences within the G.A.A. with my friends + family has further inspired me. It has been lovely + lovely makes me realise how essential it is to my life; how responsible I feel to ensure this tradition is sustained + further opportunity created. And perhaps we don't talk enough. So much can be said for the development of coaching - but is really inspire you! - we must draw from specific + real experience on personal + parish terms!!

**Q28: How did you hear about this project?**

Club P.R.O. Mairead Gallagher

I hereby assign the copyright of the answers 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 questionnaire.

Signed: Faith McLooney Date: 4th January 2011

\*\*\*Please Note: If you are aged 18 years or younger this must be signed by your parent / guardian. Failure to do so will mean that we are unable to include your responses in the Archive\*\*\*



## REFERENCE NO. (OFFICE USE ONLY):

### Data Protection Information

The GAA Oral History Project aims to record the fullest possible picture of what the GAA has meant to the Irish people, in their own words. The project will record face-to-face interviews with thousands of people in Ireland and internationally, including GAA members and supporters, current and former players, managers, officials and administrators; anyone who has ever had any contact or involvement with the GAA. In addition, in order to reach the largest number of people possible, the GAA Oral History Project is also requesting that people fill out one of the questionnaires or send the project a letter or email about the place of the GAA in their life.

At the start of each questionnaire are a number of biographical questions, which we hope will be completed by each respondent. By including this section we aim to build up a profile of the socio-economic, religious and political composition of the people involved in the GAA. As this project aspires to be the largest public history project carried out in the state to date, the material collected will provide possibly the richest source of material to the sociologists of the present and the historians of the future. By including biographical information such as religion, political affiliation, education and occupation this project will allow academics, family or local historians and interested individuals to build up a picture of the composition of the GAA in a locality, a county and in the country. The interviews that are conducted and the questionnaires that are collected will allow current and future family members of participants to hear and see their ancestors, to view their handwriting, to learn about how they lived and the place of the GAA in their lives.

The interviews, questionnaires, letters, documents, recordings and photographs gathered will be preserved as the GAA Oral History Project Archive – a permanent resource on the history of the GAA in particular and Irish society in general. Samples of the collected material will be made available to the public on our website [www.gaahistory.com](http://www.gaahistory.com) and may be used in: public performances, lectures or talks; publications, including print, audio or video cassettes or CD ROM; public reference purposes in libraries, museums and archives; on radio or television; in educational establishments, including use in a thesis, dissertation or similar research; publication worldwide on the internet.

The entire GAA Oral History Project Collection, i.e. the full length interviews, questionnaires, letters, photographs, documents and recordings, will be made available to the public through the GAA Museum and Archive.

It should be noted that all contact details provided will be kept entirely confidential and will be accessible only by the staff of the GAA Oral History Project Team. Your contact details will only be retained so that we can contact you to clarify factual information, to send out a thank you note for your contribution, or to request clarification on items that you may have donated. Under no circumstances will your details be passed on to a third party, without your prior consent.