

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

Being brought to matches by Father
Brothers hurling
My Father hurling.

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

Yes: Grandfather hurled for Wex 1930's
Father hurled for Wex U18 in 1960's
Uncle Teddy O' Connor won All Ireland
in 1968 with Wex.

All uncles played club hurling for Rathnure.
Mother plays camogie. Aunts played camogie for Wex
My Brother John plays for Wex

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

All the time, driving up to Wexford
matches in Croke Park when they were
younger. County final won. Great
memories. Great heroes in the county eg:
Nicky Rackard, the Quigleys

Q4: Tell me how GAA affected your family life?

All summer. Long gang to matches.
 Trips to Croke Park.
 Going to camogie training and 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).

We lived for the matches. Our club is also very successful. Travelled to games parents + 5 children squashed in back. Always parked in Mountjoy Sq (now O'Connell school). Had tea (black) + sandwiches from boot of car and headed to the game. All had jerseys, made our own headbands out of wool. When got older got a bus from Wex. Now living in Dublin always need friends in Quins / Mc Graths pub.
 Local tradition - when we won co. final had a bonfire on the mountain.

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

When Wexford won the All Ireland in 1996. The excitement, hunting for tickets. The build up + hype. The song 'Dancing at the Crossroads'. The victory, appearing on TV in the crowd in Croke Park. The homecoming night in the various towns I lived.

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

Huge especially since my brother John has played at all levels with Wexford. ~~has~~ Captained Wexford to All Ireland U14, Senior Leinster, All Ireland Intermediate

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

Huge, like here in the community.
Huge social aspect.

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

School - GAA coaches, GAA summer camps
Camogie training / games / tournaments

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

amateur aspect
Pride of jerseys
Bonds communities

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.

Dancing at the Crossroads
The Purple and Gold
Come on Nichey Kachod
Cuchullains Son (tribute to Nichey Kachod)
Bobby (tribute to Bobby Kachod by Martin Gadd)

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

Opening Croke Park to rugby / soccer.

G.P.A.

Inter-county commitments - all year round.

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

Decrease in rural population,
clubs are smaller so less success
in underage level.

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

Still not enough. 2 cousins won
camogie All Ireland in 2007, not the
same credit as men.
Getting better but still second class status.

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

In the beginning huge involvement.
Former parish priest, now dead trained
lots of underage teams my brother were
on. New P.P. less involved but
still supports all the teams.

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

Not particularly.

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

Wexford losing to Kilkenny at
the time!

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

Yes, I've huge pride for my club/county. U. proud of my brother and his achievements.

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

Irish culture especially abroad
Match commentary as Gaelic

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

Huge rivalries with local clubs
eg: Rathnure U | Oulans The Ballagh
Dufles Miles
Cloughbawn

Counts :

Kilkenny

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

Couldn't survive without them.
Huge commitment.
They do it for the love of the
game / community.
They pass on their experiences and
talent to the young.

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

Player - going to training + games.
Supporting club + county

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

Played camogie in Boston, huge community spirit for Irish. Great days out at club house in Canton. to 2 years.
Brother lived in San Francisco and got very involved in club, great social outlet
Friend lived in London - GAA club huge help for her home sickness

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

Improved. but was always good.
especially old commentators eg Michael O'Hehir,
Michael O Murchantaigh. TGLI great for
GAA Gold, - Old All Ireland.
Setanta also has local games.

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

Doom + gloom economy - emigration
Keep out professionalism
Player power - eg Cork, sacking managers

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

REFERENCE NO. (OFFICE USE ONLY): WX/2/2

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?

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

No

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I agree:

Subject to the following conditions (if any): _____
