

REFERENCE NO. (OFFICE USE ONLY):

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

Dad was always involved in football and our home was beside the local pitch
So from a very young age football was always there, day or night we were up at the pitch either playing or watching teams, Dad managed teams.
My earliest memory is us as a family going off with dad who also was a referee
We would all head off with him.

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

Yes both Mam and Dad heavily involved. Dad in football and committees and Mam in Scor and various committees

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

Yes our house and relatives all talk Gaa, They would have talked about the good old days, the hard physical matches, the distances and hardship the had to go through to get to a match and various other stories.

Q4: Tell me how GAA affected your family life?

It affected it in a good way, We had Scor and football, Then the social side as a family going to matches whether they be club matches or county 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).

Supporting the club was great even though we didn't win much until the mid eighties when our Junior team won the junior championship which they had tried to do for several years. Under age teams were ok but not that competitive.

On the county scene as when we were younger price didn't eman much as Mam and Dad paid, we visited mainly Connaught grounds as it was mainly the championship we followed.

In recent years we go to league games, Croke Park and there isn't too many grounds I haven't been in. Prices are fair, don't usually eat the food at games, clothes worn as a child was just county colours, nowadays it's the jersey. Match day tradition is to always park the car facing for home and usually there an hour before kick off and never leave till over no matter what the score.

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

Sligo losing to Armagh in Navan and Armagh went on to win the All Ireland that year. We had drawn with Armagh in the quarter final in Croke park and could have won it.

This was a massive year for Sligo who were always the under dogs and could have made the semi final this year.

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

Gaa plays a big part in my life both as a child and now as an adult,
Gaa is all about community and I love being part of the Gaa

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

The Club plays a huge role in the community from coaching kids to holding functions in our fabulous club house. The club is very important to the community

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

Very little as I wasn't good enough to make school or college teams

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

I admire anyone who gives time voluntary to help clubs and the gaa at any level, No one person stands out for me as no one person makes a club, team or organisation

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

Pitches, facilities, flood lights, marketing,

The changes are all for the good of the game

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

Yes emigration is hurting us badly and then economic downturn has caused financial difficulties on the club also.

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

No I don't think they have changed that much over the years,

Whilst women football is more prominent now, women mainly still do back office support and other items on committees

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

The role of the church is small with the exception of the Parish Priest being the club president.

It hasn't changed much for me during the years

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

No connection

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

None really apart from loosing matches

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

Yes and No, Im a outgoing person, very vocal and very involved, There is no doubt I got this from my Dad, whether that's because he was in the GAA OR NOT IM NOT SURE

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

Im not a good Irish speaker and therefore it has had no personal affect on me

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

Rivalries are huge important, the pride of the parish, the bragging rights, My home club in Sligo rival was always Saint Johns and In Kilcock its Cappagh or Maynooth

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

Brilliant, clubs would not survive without them

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

Like everything it just takes over your life and takes up so much time.
As a player, it meant training two nights a week and games at the weekend, as a manager it's the same except you have to make calls and texts to make sure you have a team and as a committee member, meetings after meetings are time killers but they have to be done.

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

None apart from travelling to London and New York to watch Sligo in action

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

Media coverage is great, papers, pictures, TV. HIGHLIGHTS, Everything has changed for the better.

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

Keeping players from emigration, keeping players playing and not going to soccer when money is paid. Continue to fill grounds and get all teams competitive

Q25: What does the GAA mean to you?

Everything I love the Gaa and all it stands for

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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?

No pictures, documents or videos.

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

No

Q28: How did you hear about this project?

Brian Connaughton Club Secretary for Kilcock Gaa asked us to do this survey

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: _____ Donal Cummins _____ Date: 4/04/2011 _____

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

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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 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.