

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	15 th Dec 2010
Location	West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gabriel Keating
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1944 Home County: Clare
Education	Primary: Cross NS, Co. Clare Secondary: Ennis CBS, Co. Clare
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 2 sisters
Club(s)	Naomh Eoin [Clare]; Roscommon Gaels [Roscommon]
Occupation	Finance, County Councillor
Parents' Occupation	Sub-Postmaster [Father]; Teacher [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Irish Wheelchair Association, Adare Golf Club

REFERENCE NO. CE/1/12

Date of Report	17 th July 2012
Period Covered	1948 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Clare, Roscommon, Limerick, Americas, USA, Great Britain, England
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Refereeing, Administration, Fundraising, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, GAA Abroad, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	<p>Gabriel gives a brief overview of his playing career, with emphasis on his time playing hurling for Roscommon at Minor and Under 21 level. Tells of his involvement with Roscommon Gaels. Gives his opinion on the conflict between the Gaels and County Board over the use of Hyde Park. Talks about becoming involved in Clare GAA and describes the series of events that led to the establishment of Naomh Eoin GAA and tells of the club's successes over the years. He identifies what he sees as a danger to the future of the club and outlines what he is doing to counteract it. He also discusses his time as chairman of the Clare Football County Board and reveals what he sees as his greatest achievements during his career.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:25 Gabriel remembers listening to the radio when he was a child in Cross, Co. Clare. Mentions Paddy Kenny, Christy Ring.</p> <p>01:00 Refers to his brothers' involvement with Shannon Rangers and tells of travelling to matches with a neighbour. Mentions George Stoddart. Mentions travelling by car.</p> <p>01:55 Recalls moving to Galway, Tipperary and Roscommon while working for the post office. Tells of travelling from Cashel to Dublin for the All-Ireland. Describes his first impression of Croke Park. Recalls the first televised GAA match. Mentions Garry McAuliffe.</p> <p>03:24 Tells of his arrival in Roscommon. Talks about his mother's attitude towards football and refers to the environment in which he grew up, lack of radios in Cross. Discusses his experience with the Roscommon county hurling teams [Minor, U21]. Mentions Eamonn Grimes, Eamonn Cregan, Justin McCarthy, Charlie McCarthy, Gerald</p>

	<p>McCarthy.</p> <p>04:55 Remembers becoming secretary of Roscommon Gaels. Tells of getting a job in Limerick with Bowmaker in 1973.</p> <p>06:03 Explains his involvement in the establishment of Naomh Eoin GAA in 1974. Explains why they chose the name. Mentions Bridges of Ross. Mentions soccer.</p> <p>07:44 Recalls how they got their field, and its initial development. Refers to sponsorship and fundraising. Mentions Stephen Haier, Michael 'Babs' Keating.</p> <p>08.20 Talks about the early years of the club. Tells of success in 1976 and 1977. Describes how they raised funds to go to America. Lists the games they played over there. Mentions Gaelic Park, New York.</p> <p>09:50 Discusses subsequent games, telling of victories and defeats in the late 1970s and the 1980s.</p> <p>10:50 Tells of becoming chairman of the Clare Football Board. Refers to club success in football across various levels.</p> <p>11:24 Describes the importance of culture in the club. Refers to the use of Irish (Gaeilge). Refers to Glór na nGael. Talks about Aonach an Chláir. Mentions Rothaí Eoin Cycling Club, Hall Eoin, Teach Eoin, Coill Bhaile Eoin Athletic Club.</p> <p>12:26 Talks about recent difficulties in the club and draws parallels with how it was when the club first started. Explains the different influences in the area. Refers to the commitment of the players. Mentions Shannon Rangers. Mentions Marty Morrissey. Mentions TG4.</p> <p>14:56 Discusses the trip to America. Mentions Roscommon Gaels.</p> <p>15:24 Talks about his current involvement in the club. Mentions becoming a county councillor.</p> <p>15:59 Tells of his disappointment with the support they're getting from GAA headquarters.</p> <p>16:40 Explains his ideas for Loop Head Lighthouse and the impact this would have on the area. Refers to the centralised nature of the GAA. Mentions Hook Head, Bishop's Island.</p> <p>17:39 Talks about the growing popularity of soccer and rugby. Tells of his disappointment with the television coverage of</p>
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	<p>Gaelic games. Mentions Arsenal and Manchester United.</p> <p>18:53 Describes his attitude towards coaching. Discusses the influence of St. Flannan's College.</p> <p>19:50 Discusses his role as County Football Chairman. Refers to the All-Ireland Football Championship 1992. Tells of changes he made during his tenure.</p> <p>21:10 Talks about the fortunes of the county football team while he was chairman. Refers to Naomh Eoin purchasing and developing land. Discusses his experience on various committees and with congress. Mentions Seán Kelly.</p> <p>24:05 Describes the relationship between hurling and football in Clare. Talks about the administrative structure in Clare when he was involved.</p> <p>25:02 Reveals what he considers as his greatest achievement during his GAA career.</p> <p>26:26 Talks about his involvement in the development of Hyde Park while he was secretary of Roscommon Gaels. Mentions St. Coman's Park (The Lough). Mentions Dr Donal Keenan.</p> <p>27:50 Discusses the conflict between Roscommon Gaels and the Roscommon County Board over the use of Hyde Park. Mentions Lisnamult. Mentions Dr Donal Keenan.</p> <p>29:40 Tells of his admirations for Dermot Earley and Seán Kelly. Refers to the opening of Croke Park. Mentions Noel Walsh and Tom Kenoy.</p> <p>31:05 Remembers playing in Gaelic Park in 1977. Mentions Dr Mick Loftus. Mentions golf. Mentions Dubai and Miami.</p> <p>31:36 Briefly talks about the lifting of the Ban. Discusses the way in which the fixtures are drawn up. Tells of his wish for uniformity in refereeing.</p> <p>33:30 Describes the importance of the GAA in his life. Outlines his involvement over the years. Stresses the role of the clergy and the teachers in promoting Gaelic games. Mentions the Christian Brothers.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played from 1960 – 1981. Got to an All-Ireland Junior final with Roscommon in 1965. Won Connacht Intermediate and Junior championships with Roscommon; 5 Senior hurling championships with Roscommon Gaels and a Junior league with Naomh Eoin in 1976.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Got involved in administration in 1965. Club: Secretary of Roscommon Gaels (1973); Chairman of Naomh Eoin (1974 – 1981, 1990 – 2000); Delegate to County Board (1974 – 1981, 1990 – 2000) County: Chairman of Clare Football Board (1981 – 1984); Delegate to Munster Council Delegate to Congress for 25 years
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:35:38
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____ Arlene Crampsie _____

Date: _____ 17/07/12 _____