

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	25 October 2008
Location	Liverpool
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tony McDevitt
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1978 Home County: Tyrone
Education	Primary: St Patrick's Primary School, Newtownstewart Secondary: Omagh CBS Third Level: Queen's Belfast
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers, 5 sisters
Club(s)	Newtownstewart – St Eugene's; John Mitchel's, Liverpool
Occupation	Finance Officer
Parents' Occupation	Retired
Religion	Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	

Date of Report	22 September 2009
Period Covered	1980s-2008
Counties/Countries Covered	Tyrone, Great Britain
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Playing, Training, Coaching, Education, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Northern Ireland, Other sports
Interview Summary	<p>Introduction</p> <p>0:25 From Newtownstewart in Co. Tyrone. First in family to be involved in the GAA, through he is the second youngest in his family. Started playing in 1984, aged six for the under 10s.</p> <p>1:04 Played for Omagh CBS. Concentrated on club football from college on.</p> <p>1:24 Changes in coaching techniques since he was young. Progression in the GAA in terms of skill.</p> <p>2:08 Rivalry – West and East Tyrone – 48 clubs in the county – a number of rivalries eg. Castlederg, Strabane, Omagh – always very competitive but good.</p> <p>3:25 Supporting Tyrone – Finbarr McConnell the Tyrone goalkeeper from his club; also Aidan Morris (Captain of under 21 team and played senior). Great influence on club.</p> <p>3:56 Pause for interruption</p> <p>4:03 Interview resumes – friends with Finbarr McConnell’s family. Influence of seeing county players everyday and training with county players.</p> <p>5:08 Never missed a Tyrone match at home</p> <p>5:31 Travelling to matches by car or by buses organised by the club.</p> <p>6:03 Moving to Liverpool. Going to college in Belfast.</p>

	<p>Liverpool as an Irish city.</p> <p>7:14 Getting involved in the GAA in Liverpool – no longer fit to play – agreed to coach ladies team – has been coaching them for two years.</p> <p>7:55 Highlights of being with John Mitchell's – The ladies team winning the 9-aside – the first thing he had ever won. Winning the All-Britain – seeing the club grow – the mix of players – the atmosphere that has developed.</p> <p>8:56 Girls team – strong unit – gel together well.</p> <p>9:36 Coached under age at home and coached Aussie Rules men's team.</p> <p>9:58 Differences between coaching men's and ladies' teams. Ladies teams listen more; doesn't believe in losing temper on the sideline.</p> <p>10:55 Influential coaches growing up – coaching regimes were old school. Stephen Mc Namee and Aidan McGuire very influential – they changed the way the club was run. In coaching – an Aussie Rules coach was the greatest influence on him.</p> <p>13:08 How he began playing and being involved in Aussie Rules in Belfast.</p> <p>14:17 Trained alone during the week – played Aussie Rules on Saturdays; Played GAA games on Sundays</p> <p>14:50 Success of John Mitchel's Ladies – popularity of Ladies football in England – hard working team – have won two All-Britain titles.</p> <p>15:30 GAA's role in the community; ladies football as a sport.</p> <p>16:58 Danny McDonagh (Chairman of men's team) very supportive. Problem is making it competitive – some clubs struggling to field teams. Still a developing sport.</p> <p>17:51 Being involved in the GAA in Liverpool – belonging to a team – as an aspect of life that he would miss if he didn't have it.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. TY/01/01

<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>No titles won – playing since 1984</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>PRO John Mitchel's Ladies, Liverpool 2007</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 18:36</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 22 September 2009