

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Anne Finn
Date of Interview	26 th Aug 2009
Location	Interviewees Home, near Gorey, Co. Wexford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tony Doran
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Boolavogue National School, Co. Wexford. Secondary: Gorey C.B.S., Co. Wexford.
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers Current Family if Different: Married, 5 children
Club(s)	Buffers Alley GAA Club [Wexford]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmer
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/4

Date of Report	12 th July 2012
Period Covered	1960's – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Managing, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life
Interview Summary	<p>Tony is a native of Co. Wexford and has been involved at various levels within the GAA. He has been a supporter, player, club chairman and selector and member of the County Board. He is from a family of five brothers; he is married to Mary and has five children. He was an inter-county player for several years and continues to be involved with his club Buffers Alley</p> <p>00.00 Introduction</p> <p>00.31 Born in Co. Wexford in the parish of Boolavogue</p> <p>01.16 His father was a farmer from the area; his mother's maiden name was Walsh. He is the second youngest of the family, his brother Colm is the youngest.</p> <p>02.01 He has always been farming and has managed to fit in time for farming and hurling.</p> <p>02.35 His earliest memories of hurling are of listening to radio broadcasts and going to local matches. His father was always involved at club level.</p> <p>03.59 Discusses changes in club facilities – in his early days players togged out at the side of a ditch.</p> <p>05.31 His father encouraged his interest in sport.</p> <p>05.41 Recalls the 1950's era when Wexford was "on top of the world". Doesn't mention any particular game but remembers how radio coverage usually meant commentary on one game even though there might be a few games played on any given Sunday.</p> <p>07.08 In recalling heroes – Nicky Rackard was everyone's</p>

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	<p>hero.</p> <p>07.36 The focus in Buffers Alley Club was on hurling with very little football being played. The club was involved at minor and intermediate level and built up to senior level. The club ground was purchased in 1971; various fundraising ventures are recalled.</p> <p>10.17 Volunteering has been very strong in the club. He believes that if volunteers disappear the GAA will disappear.</p> <p>10.57 He speaks of pride in wearing County jersey and playing Irish games – shapes idea of being Irish and of personal identity.</p> <p>15.28 Recalls 1968 All-Ireland Senior Hurling final – Wexford v Tipperary; recalls a bad first half and great second half, including his two goals. Celebrations were held in Bray and the team travelled home by convoy of cars on Monday night, stopping off at the main towns.</p> <p>18.37 He discusses Wexford hurling during the 1970's, including being captain of the senior hurling team in 1976 and 1977.</p> <p>22.00 In preparing for a game he feared and respected every opponent and hoped to be lucky enough to get the beating of them.</p> <p>23.42 Mentions opponents from other counties but doesn't recall specific games</p> <p>25.09 Discusses the Railway Cup competition – believes it was important as it gave weaker counties an opportunity to show their skills on the bigger stage.</p> <p>27.00 Discusses the present Hurling Championship format; believes the back door system is useful as teams get a second chance- would've been great during the 1970's when Wexford was constantly being beaten, however with the knockout format once a tough opponent was beaten they were gone.</p> <p>28.00 He likes the provincial final format but feels the open draw format may have to be introduced.</p> <p>28.42 He is happy to see Croke park used for other sports</p>
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	<p>and events provided it doesn't interfere with Gaelic games by having games scheduled for lesser venues thus denying a GAA player an opportunity to play in Croke Park.</p> <p>29.37 He discusses sponsorship and believes it is necessary. While corporate boxes may not always be occupied by true followers of GAA the occupants pay for the privilege of being there.</p> <p>30.55 He discusses media coverage of games, believes it is good but sometimes may have too much detail. Over analysis might, on occasion, affect a player.</p> <p>32.07 He discusses changes in how hurling is played – ball travelling faster and further, less overhead striking and ground hurling.</p> <p>33.08 He discusses fitness/training and general changes in life-style</p> <p>34.28 With regard to special memories he feels that to have played at a good level for many years and to have been successful is all a great memory. Winning Club and All-Ireland Titles are great memories, while losing All-Ireland Hurling Finals in 1976 and 1977 are the bad memories.</p> <p>36.21 His pride is in playing the game over a long period.</p> <p>36.51 He sometimes meets former players/opponents.</p> <p>37.35 Regarding special heroes, he feels, from a Wexford point of view, the hurling team of the 1950's were all heroes, with special memories of Nicky Rackard</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input 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>All-Star (Hurling) 1967 and 1976; Hurler of the Year 1976; Captain of the Wexford Senior Hurling Team in 1976 and 1977. member of the Leinster Hurling team which won five-in-</p>

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	a-row Railway Cup finals
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Buffer's Alley Club Secretary: mid1970's – early 1980's Club Chairman: 1991 – late 1990's Club Team Selector
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:38:38
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Annie Finn

Date: 20th Apr 2011

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