

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2011
<b>Location</b>	Maldron Hotel, Limerick City
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Shane Fitzgibbon
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1963 <b>Home County:</b> Limerick
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> CBS Adare, Co. Limerick <b>Secondary:</b> St Clements College, Limerick <b>Third Level:</b> University of Limerick
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Elaine), 1 son & 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Adare GAA [Limerick]
<b>Occupation</b>	AIB Official
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Sales Representative for General Electric Company [Father]; Restaurant Owner [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Adare Manor Golf Club

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<b>Date of Report</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1960s - 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Limerick, Cork, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Galway, Tyrone, Americas, North America, Canada
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Education, Religion, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, All-Ireland, Rivalries, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Socialising, Relationships
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Shane talks of his family's GAA background including his father's experience of 'The Ban' and returning to the game when his ban was lifted. He tells of his first trip to a match and an All-Ireland. He goes on to discuss his involvement with the Adare hurling and football club from playing to coaching and managing. Also talks of playing for University Limerick, for the Limerick county team and on the All-Star team. Talks of his methods of coaching and the developments that have taken place in hurling since his days playing. He discusses "Lifting the Treaty" and all that it involves. Finally, he tells of his pride at watching his children playing hurling and football after reflecting on the various positions he has held throughout his years in the GAA.</p> <p>00:29 Discusses his early life in Adare, Co Limerick.</p> <p>00:51 Talks of the families interest in Gaelic games over the years. Mentions his father playing.</p> <p>01:18 Speaks of his father playing football and hurling but also soccer in the early 1960s and subsequently being banned from the GAA for a number of years because of this.</p> <p>01:52 Tells of his father's involvement in the Adare hurling club after his ban was lifted. Mentions hearing stories as a child of his father playing.</p> <p>02:38 Talks of the primary sport in Adare, when he was young, being hurling with badminton also being very popular thanks to Brother Duane from Tipperary who started the club for the hurlers in the off season. Mentions him becoming a top coach in badminton.</p> <p>04:08 Speaks of his earliest memory of hurling with his father</p>

	<p>taking him to the club's first Senior county final in 1968 against Claughaun. Mentions watching the band march on the pitch.</p> <p>04:40 Tells of his first All-Ireland final in 1971 when Tipperary played Kilkenny in an 80 minute final. Mentions Michael "Babs" Keating playing some of the game in his bare feet.</p> <p>05:08 Talks of playing hurling in the CBS in Adare with Brother Duane training and his regime. Mentions various school leagues.</p> <p>06:21 Speaks of playing in the interschools league and playing in a blitz against Na Piarasaigh in Cork. Tells of children turning ten and then playing Under 14. Mentions Brother Duane's team Kilruane MacDonaghs And how he coached one boy who went on to play badminton for America in the Olympics.</p> <p>08:35 Talks of Brother Duane's coaching sessions of the time and the similarity to the coaching today.</p> <p>09:33 Tells of how fearsome Brother Duane could be at times and of his strict discipline.</p> <p>10:29 Speaks of those he admired on the hurling field Eamonn Cregan and Pat Hartigan and their contribution to hurling.</p> <p>11:52 Talks of travelling by train to the All-Ireland Hurling final in 1973 when Limerick beat Kilkenny and of the players coming to the school with the cup.</p> <p>12:28 Talks of the impression this made on him as a young boy.</p> <p>13:11 Speaks of going to Saint Clement's Secondary school which had little hurling but concentrated on soccer and rugby. Fr. Dempsey tried to organise the hurling but there were not many games or training.</p> <p>14:23 Talks of playing through the various levels from Under 14 to Senior level in about 1980. Mentions the structure involved in getting to the county championships. Also mentions the club winning the 1975 Divisional championships and winning again in 1982.</p> <p>15:40 Speaks of how the nucleus of the Senior team came from the team that contested four out of five Under 21 county championships.</p> <p>16:09 Talks of playing for Adare in the 1986 county final</p>
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	<p>against Cloughaun with Eamonn Cregan who had played in 1968. Mentions losses in county finals in 1986, 1990, 1993 and 1996.</p> <p>16:48 Speaks of the team getting stronger over the years until they finally won in 2001. Mentions the five wins in the last ten years.</p> <p>17:28 Talks of the rivalry with the Patrickswell hurling club and its standing in hurling at the time (1970's to 1990's). Mentions their nineteen titles since 1965.</p> <p>18:26 Talks of the style of possession running game played by Patrick's Well, which is now favoured in Cork and mentions how Phil Bennis All-Ireland winner in 1973 coached that style.</p> <p>18:56 Speaks of the structures in the Adare club and those involved including Seán Heffernan, Brother Duane, various chairmen, Paddy Fitzgibbon (Shane's father), Andrew Murphy, Vincent Foley (Mark Foley's father), Dave Keane who managed Limerick. Mention of the 1986 County Final.</p> <p>21:05 Talks of the role of the club in the community and of the teams from Under 8 up to Senior level in both hurling and football. Mentions the support for both local and county teams with players from the club on the county teams at all levels.</p> <p>22:23 Tells of Ladies football, Underage girls football, camogie and the involvement of all. Mentions the predominance of hurling over football but of the increased interest and organisation of the footballing side of the club.</p> <p>23:29 Speaks about playing both hurling and football for the club and playing for both the club and county Under 21 hurling teams as well as for University of Limerick. Mentions that the training then was not as intense as it is today.</p> <p>25:40 Talks of playing badminton and golf at the same time but tells of how hurling took over his life.</p> <p>26:44 Talks of playing in Division 2 with University of Limerick.</p> <p>27:50 Tells how John Lenihan was the man behind hurling in University of Limerick. Mentions them winning their first 1989 Fitzgibbon with Sean McMahon of Clare and Brian Lohan on the team. Mentions their winning it again this year.</p> <p>28:44 Speaks of the predominance of sport to the college</p>
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	<p>over the years.</p> <p>29:10 Recalls his selection for the Under 21 Limerick team and being in the panel for three years. Mentions being captain in his third year when they lost to Tipperary by one point with Eamonn Cregan as coach.</p> <p>29:40 Talks of the differences that development squads have made to the game as the players get to know each other before they are selected to the county teams. Mentions the improved atmosphere as a result of this gives and the social interaction between players.</p> <p>31:00 Speaks of the mentors of the Under 21 team in his day and of training in Mary Immaculate college.</p> <p>32:28 Talks of the honour and delight of being the first player from the club to be selected to play for the county at Championship level.</p> <p>33:54 Talks of day to day life as a player on the county team and the love of hurling in the county and how people reacted to him at the time.</p> <p>35:00 Speaks of the popularity of hurling versus rugby in Limerick.</p> <p>35:22 Talks of making plans to fit in around the hurling season. Mentions his understanding wife, an international badminton player, and how his wedding date was decided around the hurling season.</p> <p>36:20 Talks of retiring in 1993 and the effect this had on him and his life.</p> <p>36:50 Speaks of how hurling shaped his choices in his career. Mentions how this was not unique to him but was the same for all players.</p> <p>37:57 Tells of how playing hurling at inter-county level opened doors for him but that he had to have competence behind him to succeed.</p> <p>38:43 Tells of his own style of playing and the various positions on the team he has played under Eamonn Cregan. Mentions his love of scoring goals but also playing as a back.</p> <p>41:15 Talks of admiring Jimmy Barry Murphy but did not consciously model himself on any player.</p> <p>41:52 Speaks of simply playing the game without knowing what your individual position was supposed to bring to the</p>
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	<p>game.</p> <p>42:33 Tells of the players that he played against and while they were all good players at that level those who stood out in his mind, were Sylvie Linnane and Peter Finnerty of Galway and Brian Corcoran of Cork. Mentions the type of hurling played against his various opponents.</p> <p>43:38 Speaks of playing Kilkenny and Dick O'Hara.</p> <p>44:16 Talks about becoming good friends with his fellow Senior team members over his ten years playing. Mentions the social side of the game and collecting Leonard Enright for training and going for a few drinks after.</p> <p>45:50 Discusses the individual needs of players and how they are met in training today rather than in his day playing when many things were left up to the individual. Mentions the scientific approach to training now.</p> <p>46:58 Talks of the celebrations after the championship matches in his day.</p> <p>47:38 Speaks of the characters involved in the Senior team when he started playing for Limerick and being somewhat in awe and then relaxing into the team. Mentions the diversity of the group over the years.</p> <p>49:17 Talks of coming in at the end of one team and leaving at the start of another. Mentions the winning All-Ireland Under 21 team from 1987, Gary Kirby, Ger Hegarty, Pa Carey, Ciaran Carey, and Leonard Enright, Mossy Carroll, Liam O'Donoghue, Joe McKenna, Ollie O'Connor from his first early days on the team.</p> <p>50:15 Speaks of match day and sitting in the same spot in the dressing room for the fourteen years he played and being last out on the field.</p> <p>50:52 Talks of spending a lot of time hanging around before matches with the team being together from 10:00am for a 3:30pm match.</p> <p>51:33 Discusses playing with the All-Stars in 1989 and going on tour to New York and Florida and mentions being a replacement for Nicky English of Tipperary. Mentions playing in the Skydome in Toronto in 1990.</p> <p>52:52 Talks of having the opportunity to meet other inter-county players as well as footballers and the social aspects of the Railway Cups. Mentions players from Tyrone and Dublin.</p>
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	<p>53:37 Talks of retiring in 1993 and moving into coaching in 1994 in the National schools in Adare and his family situation at the time. Mentions first coaching in the Adare Minor team in 1990 when they won their first Championship on the same day that he played for the Senior team.</p> <p>55:50 Speaks of taking the school kids up to Croke Park and playing matches in Dublin. Mentions that nine of these boys went on to play in the Adare Senior team that won the 2007 County Championship.</p> <p>56:22 Talks of managing many underage teams.</p> <p>56:45 Discusses his approach to coaching and realising that while you might want to play a particular way the players will dictate how you play. Mentions the need for hard work, commitment and a desire to improve and develop as a team.</p> <p>58:08 Speaks about learning as you go and discussing style and tactics with others coaches. Mentions Brian Cody of Kilkenny and Micky Harte. Feels he is a better manager than a coach and open to bringing in the best individuals for the jobs.</p> <p>01:00:03 Speaks of the sharing of ideas between coaches on various teams and how they learn from each other. Mentions how training today is built on excellence.</p> <p>01:01:25 Discusses “Lifting the Treaty” and all that it encompasses and his involvement in it in Adare. Mentions the product of that work over ten years and the consistency that was achieved. Organising underage players can lead to successful Senior teams.</p> <p>01:03:32 Talks of the level of competitiveness being too high at the underage level when the young players should be allowed to play. Mentions Eibhear O’Dea a teacher who is driving this move.</p> <p>01:06:16 Discusses the research process that was undertaken during “Lifting the Treaty”, talking to clubs. Mentions Eamonn Cregan’s and Eibhear O’Dea’s involvement.</p> <p>01:06:53 Speaks of the developed skill level in Limerick and how this is moving towards better teams.</p> <p>01:07:40 Talks of the differences of opinion that occurred at divisional and other levels.</p> <p>01:08:36 Tells of the hope he has for Limerick hurling and the</p>
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	<p>vision for the future.</p> <p>01:09:35 Talks of Limerick's standing within the province and Ireland.</p> <p>01:10:18 Discusses the challenge of instilling a belief that they can win into a team. Mentions Limerick beating Cork in a Munster Minor Championship match for the first time in twenty five years.</p> <p>01:11:37 Talks of the role played by winning in instilling belief and crossing this bridge. Mentions Dave Keane and winning three All-Ireland Under 21's in a row and Árd Scoil Rís winning two Harty Cups and contesting two colleges finals.</p> <p>01:12:36 Discusses the impact with the Senior team last year and the platform this gave to those who would knock Limerick GAA. Talks of his hopes that it is in the past.</p> <p>01:13:43 Talks of his pride at his son's involvement with Árd Scoil Rís and contesting the last two All-Ireland Harty Cup Finals against Thurles CBS.</p> <p>01:16:24 Reflects on the positions he has held over the years and tells of his greatest pleasure which came from playing with coaching/managing a close second. Mentions having no ambition to move up the rungs to another level and speaks of the joy of watching his son playing hurling and his daughter playing football.</p> <p>01:18:16 Tells of how sport is his focus and if he had not had hurling he would have filled the void with another sport. Mentions how difficult a sport hurling is and how it is the skill of the players that makes it look simple.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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 type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played hurling and football from U10 level up throughout all the grades with Adare GAA club. Won Limerick leagues and West Championships in both codes.</p> <p>Member of the UL Fitzgibbon Cup team.</p> <p>Played on Limerick U21 hurling team, 1982 &amp; 1983. Played</p>



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	on Limerick Senior hurling team 1983-1993 and won 2 National Leagues (1985, 1992). Won All-Star awards for hurling in 1989 and 1990.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Has managed Limerick hurling teams at all levels up to U21. Member of the Adare GAA committee for many years holding many positions. Involved in Limerick's 'Lifting the Treaty' programme.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:19:55
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the 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 interview.

Signed:      Regina Fitzpatrick

Date:      15<sup>th</sup> June 2012