

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	17 th Feb 2010
Location	Glen Rovers' Clubhouse, Cork City
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	David O'Brien, Noel Lynam & Bernie Hackett
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Males
Born	David: Cork, 1923 Noel: Cork, 1937 Bernie: Cork, 1935
Education	David: Primary: Blackrock NS Secondary: Gerald Griffin Technical School, North Monastery, Cork City Noel: Primary: Blarney Street CBS, Cork City Secondary: North Monastery, Cork City David: Primary: North Monastery, Cork City. Secondary: North Monastery, Cork City
Family	David: Siblings: 5 sisters & 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Wife, 1 son & 1 daughter

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	<p>Noel: Siblings: 2 sisters & 5 brothers Current Family if Different: Wife & 5 sons</p> <p>Bernie: Siblings: 6 sisters & 1 brother Current Family if Different: Wife, 1 son & 3 daughters</p>
Club(s)	<p>David: Gerald Griffins GAA [Cork]; Glen Rovers HC [Cork] Noel: Glen Rovers Hurling Club[Cork] Bernie: Glen Rovers Hurling Club [Cork]</p>
Occupation	<p>David: CIE worker Noel: Warehouse worker Bernie: Electrician</p>
Parents' Occupation	<p>David: Insurance Agent [Father]; Housekeeper [Mother] Noel: Tanora Factory worker [Father]; Housewife [Mother] Bernie: Carpenter [Father]; Housekeeper [Mother]</p>
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Noel: Cork Gold Club
Date of Report	6 th June 2012
Period Covered	1923-2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Cork
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	David, Bernie and Noel recall the early days of the Glen Rovers club, which was formed in the 1920s after a merging

of local clubs. They all played with the club at various levels, and Glen Rovers were instrumental in the development of minor football on a national level. A well-known and successful club, they boasted several inter-county players at one stage, with Noel going on to represent his county. They also had legendary figures like Christy Ring and Jack Lynch in their ranks, and all three share their recollections of these men. Noel later coached camogie teams and won various titles with them. The three men talk about how both the club and the GAA have changed over the years, touching on issues such as professionalism and the opening of Croke Park. Proud of the Glen Rovers club and its legacy, they believe that the past should always inform the present - something which, they feel, happens less and less as time goes by.

01:45 (David) Reasons for moving around so much.

03:05 (David) Family involvement in GAA.

03:55 (David) Formation of the club.

04:40 (David) Little hurling on the northside of the city.

05:05 (David) Some people playing with the Brian Dillons team.

05:20 (David) Blackpool players going to Riverstone to play a match in 1914/1915. One of them arriving late and being dropped. The others refusing to play as a result and a split occurring, which led to the formation of a new club in 1915.

06:25 (David) Meeting in Spring Lane in 1916 and a team affiliated for the minor championship.

07:35 (David) Winning a county title in 1924, before going intermediate and senior.

08:15 (David) Paddy O'Connell in Blackpool in 1927 and starting an underage team, Thomas Davis. Fines introduced for various breaches of discipline.

09:30 (David) Merging with another team to form Glen Rovers.

10:20 (David) Minor championships in Cork in 1926.

10:45 (David) Schools competitions.

	<p>11:00 (David) Dublin team challenging any underage team in Ireland. O'Connell accepting the challenge and being friends with Pádraig O'Keefe - after whom Páirc Uí Chaoimh is named - at the time.</p> <p>12:00 (David) Game played before the Cork-Kilkenny All-Ireland hurling final in 1926. Glen Rovers winning.</p> <p>12:35 (David) Glen Rovers putting in a motion the following year for a minor championship to be started.</p> <p>12:55 (David) Inter-county minor competition coming in in 1928.</p> <p>13:00 (David) O'Connell's achievements on the pitch.</p> <p>13:30 (David) Paddy 'Fox' Collins the first Glen man to win an All-Ireland and getting involved in running the team. Jack Leahy also involved.</p> <p>14:00 (David) Many of those players reaching the county final in 1930. Jack Lynch a young boy at the time and attending all the games.</p> <p>14:40 (David) Minor tradition always important within Glen Rovers.</p> <p>15:05 (David) Effect of the Troubles on GAA affairs at the time.</p> <p>15:15 (David) Redmonds and Blackrock rivals on the southside. Teams not allowed play on a Sunday.</p> <p>16:30 (David) Earliest GAA memories. Playing hurling in Inniscarra.</p> <p>17:35 (David) Seeing his first hurling match between St Finbarr's and Éire Óg in Coachford.</p> <p>18:20 (David) Knowing an Éire Óg player, Johnny Sullivan, who drove a steamroller.</p> <p>19:30 (David) Seeing Glen Rovers playing for the first time in 1932, against Carrigtwohill.</p> <p>20:05 (David) Father working from a young age in Blackpool.</p>
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	<p>20:55 (Bernie) Born in Dublin Hill.</p> <p>21:10 (Bernie) Father's involvement in GAA and Thomas Davis club.</p> <p>21:35 (Bernie) Aunt playing senior camogie with Glen Rovers</p> <p>21:50 (Bernie) GAA talk in the household.</p> <p>22:10 (Bernie) Playing on the road when he was young.</p> <p>22:45 (Bernie) His aunt, Kathleen Martin, playing. His sisters playing.</p> <p>23:10 (Bernie) Brother's involvement.</p> <p>23:45 (Bernie) Glen Rovers in the community when he was growing up.</p> <p>24:05 (Bernie) Playing Na Piarisagh.</p> <p>24:50 (Bernie) Training they did.</p> <p>25:20 (Bernie) Getting to play with Glen Rovers.</p> <p>25:50 (Bernie) Neighbours watching games.</p> <p>26:25 (Bernie) Position he played.</p> <p>26:40 (Bernie) Playing with Christy Ring, Vincey Twomey and John Lyons. What that was like.</p> <p>27:35 Building (David) a hall in Blackpool. Players helping to build it. Void left behind when they were gone.</p> <p>28:25 (David) Playing with Jimmy Doyle, who did not know how many county medals he had exactly.</p> <p>29:45 (David) Christy Ring playing on the Glen Rovers team for 27 years.</p> <p>29:55 (David) Watching games with Christy Ring.</p> <p>30:20 (David) Type of person and player Christy Ring was.</p> <p>31:05 (David) Clashes against Tipperary and Kilkenny players.</p>
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	<p>32:30 (David) Bobby Rackard having an accident and Christy Ring visiting him.</p> <p>33:15 (David) What made Christy Ring stand out.</p> <p>34:50 (David) Christy Ring working from a young age and having strong hands as a result.</p> <p>36:20 (David) Ring helping him out when his wife died.</p> <p>37:30 (David) Ring's influence on younger players.</p> <p>37:55 (David) Difference between Ring and Jack Lynch.</p> <p>39:00 (David) Ring's funeral.</p> <p>40:20 (Bernie) Ring's legacy from a club perspective.</p> <p>41:20 (David) Ring's family winning things with the club.</p> <p>41:50 (Noel) Born off Blarney St on the northside of the city.</p> <p>42:00 (Noel) Family's GAA involvement.</p> <p>42:30 (Noel) Playing soccer and then being forced to choose between sports.</p> <p>42:50 (Noel) First game for Glen Rovers.</p> <p>43:10 (Noel) What attracted him about hurling. Watching Christy Ring play.</p> <p>43:45 (Noel) Impact of having a lot of county players on the club. Johnny Clifford not remembered by the younger players.</p> <p>44:30 (Noel) Cycling to games and walking back together.</p> <p>46:05 (Noel) Winning medals at underage level.</p> <p>46:25 (Noel) Winning medals with Glen Rovers.</p> <p>46:40 (Noel) Administrative involvement.</p> <p>46:55 (Noel) Winning the Harty Cup with North Mon in 1955.</p> <p>47:55 (David) Rockwell, St Coleman's College, Thurles CBS, Limerick CBS all strong school teams.</p>
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	<p>48:35 (Noel) Role of GAA in school life.</p> <p>49:15 (Bernie) Many class teams when he was in school.</p> <p>49:45 (Noel) Role of clergy in the GAA.</p> <p>50:35 (Noel) Playing for Cork and what that was like.</p> <p>50:45 (Noel) Winning a junior All-Ireland medal in Birmingham and what that was like.</p> <p>52:10 (David) Starting a team with Brother Cas and raising funds for jerseys.</p> <p>54:00 (David) Mick Conefrey the youngest man to captain Cork to an All-Ireland, breaking his forearm.</p> <p>54:25 (David) Gardiner O'Keefe, known as 'Lightning' doing tricks for the tourists.</p> <p>57:05 (Noel) First set of club jerseys knitted by nuns.</p> <p>57:35 (Noel) Raising money to build churches through churches tournaments.</p> <p>58:40 (Bernie) Going to tournaments held by James Stephens every year.</p> <p>59:20 (David) Vice chairman of the club, Dr McCarthy, talking to Bishop Lucey about building churches. Seamus O'Brien, a bookmaker, also involved. Deciding to hold tournaments.</p> <p>01:00:25 (David) Playing St Vincent's in Croke Park in 1954 in a tournament final. Sergeant Howard from Limerick refereeing. People going to Dublin by train to attend the game.</p> <p>01:01:05 (David) Fight breaking out.</p> <p>01:01:40 (David) Admiration for Vincent's.</p> <p>01:02:00 (David) Developing a relationship with Raheny. Jack Lynch's brother, Finbar, involved.</p> <p>01:02:50 (David) Finbar Lynch making contact with a Raheny kids' team at a summer camp in Knockadoon near Youghal and setting up a game against Glen Rovers.</p>
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	<p>01:04:10 (David) Raheny making contact when Cork were due in Dublin for an All-Ireland semi-final. Staying with the Lee family in Dublin.</p> <p>01:05:00 (David) Paddy Hickey instrumental in organising it.</p> <p>01:05:30 (Noel) Glen Rovers having the best team in Cork at the time and in demand as a result.</p> <p>01:05:55 (Bernie) Jack Lynch and what he was like.</p> <p>01:06:50 (David) Playing Cloyne in the 1960s in Cobh and Jack Lynch giving them a much-needed pep talk.</p> <p>01:08:05 (David) Joe Hart telling him a story about Jack Lynch.</p> <p>01:09:15 (David) St Nick's playing football in Bandon in 1938 and the ball bursting. Jack Lynch taking action when they lost the second ball.</p> <p>01:10:50 (David) What it means to them having had Christy Ring and Jack Lynch in their club.</p> <p>01:11:20 (David) Secret to their success as a club. Paddy Connell, Fox Collins, Liam Ó Tuama, Tom O'Reilly doing a lot of administrative work to promote the club.</p> <p>01:13:55 (David) Popularity of bowl playing and bird fanciers at the time.</p> <p>01:14:30 (Noel) Involvement with camogie teams and success they had.</p> <p>01:15:10 (Noel) What it was like working with a camogie team.</p> <p>01:15:40 (David) Camogie team celebrating.</p> <p>01:16:50 (David) Changing role of women in the club.</p> <p>01:17:05 (Noel) Girls playing at underage level.</p> <p>01:19:20 (Bernie) Parents bringing their children to play on Sunday mornings.</p> <p>01:21:10 (David) Number of teams they have.</p>
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	<p>01:22:50 (Bernie) Some of the senior players unemployed.</p> <p>01:24:35 (Noel) Challenges facing the club. Rising costs.</p> <p>01:26:30 (David) Problems associated with coaching.</p> <p>01:28:20 (David) Seeing old footage of games at Croke Park.</p> <p>01:29:40 (David) Reading Kevin Cashman's article on Michael Doyle pulling late on John Crowley in a Cork game. Consequences of the article. David giving Cashman assistance with a problem.</p> <p>01:32:30 (Bernie) Changes they have seen in hurling over the years.</p> <p>01:34:10 (David) Newtown's success in hurling.</p> <p>01:34:35 (David) Bernie O'Connor marrying a girl from Newtown and running the school team.</p> <p>01:36:55 (David) Effects of hurling disputes on Cork.</p> <p>01:37:45 (David) Brian Murphy involved in the strike but not in favour of it.</p> <p>01:38:55 (Noel) Importance of amateurism in the GAA and need to learn lessons from what happened to rugby.</p> <p>01:40:20 (Noel) Prospect of professionalism in the GAA.</p> <p>01:41:20 (David) What motivated Mick O'Dwyer to coach the Kerry team.</p> <p>01:44:10 (Bernie) Battles between the club and the Cork County Board.</p> <p>01:44:45 (David) Being against the opening of Croke Park.</p> <p>01:46:35 (Noel) Importance of the GAA.</p> <p>01:46:50 (Bernie) What makes him proud about the GAA.</p> <p>01:46:50 (David) What makes him proud of the GAA.</p> <p>01:47:35 (David) Staying in Dublin for the All-Ireland in 1978. Teams being shown the video of the game at police headquarters the day after.</p>
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	<p>01:48:20 (David) Going to the Clarence Hotel where the Cork team were staying and meeting Christy Ring. Going home with him.</p> <p>01:50:00 (David) Arriving at Johnstown in Kilkenny and Christy Ring becoming enthusiastic.</p> <p>01:51:00 (David) Arriving at Cashel and a man introducing his son to Christy Ring. Talking to that child, Damien Irwin, years later in 2009.</p> <p>01:52:25 (David) Positive influence of GAA on his life.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>David:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): President of Club</p> <p>Noel:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Bernie</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>David: Not Specified</p> <p>Noel: Won Junior All-Ireland Hurling Final with Cork, 1958; Won Harty Cup with North Monastery Cork City in 1955; won 3 intermediate and 3 senior Cork county hurling medals played with Glen Rovers</p> <p>Bernie: Won county senior hurling championship medals</p>

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	playing with Glen Rovers 1958-60; won 4 county intermediate hurling championship medals 1954-57; also won a minor county championship football medal.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	David: Selector for Cork Hurling team U14-Minor 1950s-1980s. All offices in the Glen Rovers Minor Club Noel: Assistant Treasurer of Glen Rovers 1966-71 Bernie: Underage committee member; chairman of minor club; selector for minor team
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:54:12
Language	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: 6th June 2012