

**GAA Oral History Project**  
**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Araglen, Co. Cork
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Fitzgerald
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1952 <b>Home County:</b> Cork
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Coolmohan NS
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 8 siblings <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Bridie); 1 son (Kevin)
<b>Club(s)</b>	Araglen GAA [Cork]
<b>Occupation</b>	Hurley Maker
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/17

<b>Date of Report</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1952-2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Cork
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Material Culture, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Relationship with the Association, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>00:20 Originally from Araglen, which is between three counties - Cork, Waterford and Tipperary. Rivalries in the area during the Munster championship.</p> <p>01:40 Family's GAA involvement. 9 children in the family. Playing with Araglen.</p> <p>02:15 Born in 1952. Early GAA memories. No juvenile club so he played with Kilworth. Playing junior football with Araglen. Rivalry between the two clubs. 1965/1966 encounter between the two in Fermoy. Winning a junior B hurling title in 1973. Juvenile success in the 1990s. Winning their first ever junior B title in 1990. Celebrations.</p> <p>05:20 Prominence of football in the area. Benefits that success brings. Activities of Araglen club. Araglen Festival Committee. Demands of being a dual club.</p> <p>08:40 Administrative involvement - chairman, selector, treasurer. Business interests in other counties.</p> <p>09:35 Role of GAA in the community. His son Kevin's GAA involvement. Success with Coláiste team.</p> <p>11:05 Working as a hurley maker after retirement. His friend Eoin Hickey suggesting it to him. Reasons for doing it.</p> <p>12:45 Learning his craft with Aidan Faulkner and his father Sonny in Piltown. Process of hurley making. Skills needed. Choosing the timber. How the process has changed over the years. Tools used. Step-by-step account of making a hurley.</p> <p>20:15 Selling hurleys. Making contact with clubs. Individuals coming with specific requirements. Repairing hurleys.</p> <p>21:20 Players and their superstitions.</p>

	<p>21:50 Importance of buying an Irish-made hurley from an Irish hurley maker. Problem of imported ash.</p> <p>23:20 Availability of ash in Ireland. Role of Coillte. Level of support from Government and Croke Park. Involvement with Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers. Meeting 2010 GAA President Christy Cooney and Pat Daly to articulate concerns about hurley making in Ireland.</p> <p>28:25 Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers and what they do.</p> <p>29:10 What makes a good hurley. Final checks involved when making a hurley. Importance of what it feels like.</p> <p>30:20 Style of hurley he makes. Different styles in different counties. Characteristic of a Cork hurley. Kilkenny and Wexford styles. Popularity of big boss hurleys. Type of hurley favoured by backs and forwards.</p> <p>32:10 Information needed to make a specific type of hurley for a player. Supplying inter-county players from Cork, Waterford and Tipperary. Benefits of that for business. Unusual requests. Importance of balance.</p> <p>36:20 Hurley making going abroad and reasons for that. Price of hurleys. Supplying schools, county boards and divisional boards with juvenile hurleys. Competition.</p> <p>39:05 Hand made hurleys and hurleys made using a machine.</p> <p>42:10 Feeling when he sees players using his hurleys. Timmy McCarthy winning All-Irelands with his hurleys.</p> <p>43:00 Son's involvement in hurley making. Chris Gorman from Waterford working for him and playing hurling with Lismore. Spotting Chris' talent. Pat Carney working with him and playing underage hurling with Waterford.</p> <p>46:15 Key developments in hurley making. Working in tandem with other hurley makers and benefits of that.</p> <p>47:10 Future of hurley making. Economic difficulties and the pressure that brings.</p> <p>48:50 Popularity of hurling and camogie. Supplying clubs abroad and costs associated with that.</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/17

	<p>50:00 Difference between making hurleys for hurling and camogie.</p> <p>51:20 Importance of supporting Irish ash hurley makers.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Under- age medals; 2 junior medals; 1 All-Ireland inter-firms
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Araglen: Chairman (3 yrs); Treasurer (3 yrs); Selector (10 yrs)
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 0:52:09
<b>Language</b>	English

REFERENCE NO. CK/1/17

**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: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012