

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	10 Aug 2011
Location	Glanbia House, Kilkenny City
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Nioclás Ó Braonáin (Nickey Brennan)
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1953 Home County: Kilkenny
Education	Primary: Clinstown N.S Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny Secondary: St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny Third Level: Completed Diploma in Accounting & Finance in the University of Limerick during employment with Glanbia
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: Maireád (Wife); Órla, Conor, Nicola & Ciara (Children)
Club(s)	Conahy Shamrocks - Kilkenny
Occupation	Group Purchasing Manager – Business Services & I.T.(Current) at Glanbia plc
Parents' Occupation	Kieran and Peggy (RIP – both deceased) - Farming
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	None

Date of Report	21 st Aug 2012
Period Covered	1900 - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Kilkenny, Dublin, Tyrone, Armagh, Kerry, USA, Canada , Americas, England, Great Britain, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Australasia
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	Nickey talks in detail about his GAA experiences which have seen him progress from running out to play for his local club to rising to the very top of the Association. He recalls his youth in Kilkenny where he played under Fr Tommy Maher at St Kieran's College before going on to represent Kilkenny at minor, Under-21 and senior level, winning several All-Ireland titles along the way. During that time he also enjoyed success with his club Conaghy, going on to win a much-cherished junior championship. When his playing career ended he enjoyed a spell as a Kilkenny selector and manager, and was also chairman of the county board. That led to a seat on the Leinster Council and before long he was GAA President. This presented a whole new set of challenges that had to be met - coping with a rapidly changing economic climate, revamping the structures at Croke Park, overseeing the opening of the stadium to soccer and rugby, and facilitating the visit of Queen Elizabeth of England. There were trips to visit clubs all over the country and right across the globe, with the GAA expanding at a phenomenal rate overseas. From being held aloft by friends and family on the turf at Croke Park upon winning an All-Ireland title, to the nerve-shredding experience of running for election as President at Congress, to reaching out to those within the GAA community hit by tragedy, to attending an Asian GAA Games in Malaysia, to the cut and

	<p>thrust of Croke Park politics, to managing the Under-8s at his local club, Nickey has encountered all aspects of an Association that, even in 2011, never ceases to amaze him.</p> <p>00:15 From Conaghy in Kilkenny. Involvement in GAA over the years. Born in 1953.</p> <p>00:40 What Conaghy was like when he was growing up. Jenkinstown his home area. Father from Ballyfoyle, mother from Three Castles. Parents were farmers. Five boys and four girls in the family.</p> <p>01:40 Things tough economically in the 1950s. Farming an important source of income. Horse and cart common mode of transport.</p> <p>02:10 Lived between Ballyraggert and Kilkenny. Going to Nowlan Park a lot. Attending St Kieran's College and Clinstown National School.</p> <p>03:05 Parents' families GAA involvement. Mother's family members playing for Three Castles. Jack Rochford a famous hurler during the early 1900s. Uncle playing for Kilkenny. Joe Dowling a local national teacher heavily involved in GAA administration. His influence. Joe Phelan organising underage GAA locally.</p> <p>04:50 Conaghy a rural area. Facilities there. Lack of a village and impact of that on population and GAA activities.</p> <p>05:40 GAA club as a focal point for people of the area. Clubs becoming more organised after GAA centenary in 1984. Much upgrading of facilities at clubs, including Conaghy. Club facilities used for all manner of functions. Developing ladies' sports.</p> <p>08:00 History of Conaghy. Securing grounds - theirs called 'the Polo Grounds'. Their land once owned by the Bryant family who used to own Jenkinstown House. Later uses for the land. Cork musician Jimmy McCarthy setting up a recording studio on the land.</p> <p>09:40 Football tradition at the club. Nicholas Maher one of their players who was one of the first to score at Nowlan Park.</p> <p>10:40 Earliest GAA memory. 1963 All-Ireland hurling final. Fr Jack Phelan home from the United States for the summer. He and his father, Ned, saying mass at the local church. Serving mass with them. Fr Jack offering him a ticket for the final. Going to the game with his father and watching from the Nally Stand. Kilkenny playing Waterford. Eddie Kerr's performance.</p>
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	<p>Ollie Walsh in goal for Kilkenny. Being a Kilkenny selector with him 30 years later. Fran Larkin playing corner-back, who he later played alongside in an All-Ireland final. Cha Whelan playing, also Martin Treacy who he later attended county board meetings with. Ted Carroll at centre half-back, who he later worked with in administration. Martin Coogan a player who trained Conaghy. Playing with Eddie Kerr years later. Next time those counties would meet in a final - 2008 - he would be handing over the trophy to the winners.</p> <p>14:10 Less access to media back then. Imitating his heroes whilst playing with his friends. What they played hurling with.</p> <p>15:30 Being the eldest of the family. Four of the boys playing senior hurling for Kilkenny. Winning All-Ireland finals across four decades between them. Kieran, Paudie, Canice and he all playing for Kilkenny.</p> <p>16:50 Underage structures improving as he was growing up. More emphasis on skill and fitness levels.</p> <p>17:30 Playing hurling at school. Being a border at St Kieran's College. What that was like initially in 1966. Staying in the Desert Hall in Kilkenny for the first two years - named after Lady Desert. Her legacy. Toughness of life there. Sporting heritage there. Playing regularly in colleges competitions. Rivalry with Kilkenny CBS. Playing with Brian Cody and Billy Fitzpatrick in a 1971 colleges final. Competition for places.</p> <p>22:30 Seminarians and their eligibility when it came to playing GAA. Flexibility. Playing games against them. Many seminarians arriving from Northern Ireland. Distinction between sporting and academic sides of life at St Kieran's. Kilkenny coach Fr Tommy Maher on the teaching staff. His foresight as a coach.</p> <p>24:20 Fr Maher's approach to hurling. Working out a tactical game plan in advance. John Hanley of Clare, Donie Nealan of Tipperary and Des Ferguson of Dublin all attending an annual hurling school in Gormanstown College. Pioneering approach of those coaches. Implementing structures in their respective counties. Fr Maher the architect.</p> <p>26:30 What a training session with Fr Maher was like. Reputation. What his personality was like. Work ethic.</p> <p>28:55 Kilkenny CBS their main rivals. Being acquainted with the players on their team. 1969 colleges final against Finbarr's of Farranferris, Cork. Winning the final in 1971. Many of 1969 team playing for Kilkenny.</p>
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	<p>20:25 His development as a player. Being called up by Kilkenny minors. Reaching an All-Ireland minor final in 1971. Position he played. Tipperary playing Kilkenny in the senior final. Pat Butler of Callan CBS on the team with him. Attempt at goal by Butler. Jimmy Barry Murphy playing for Cork. Disappointment after losing final.</p> <p>32:15 Playing for Kilkenny Under-21s in 1974. Up against Waterford in All-Ireland final. Position he played in. How he fared during the match.</p> <p>33:30 Making the Kilkenny senior panel in 1974. Winning All-Ireland finals in 1974 and 1975. Coming on as a substitute in 1974 Leinster final after Wexford's Phil Wilson had been sent off. Playing against Galway in Birr in the All-Ireland semi-final.</p> <p>34:45 Playing again in 1978 and 1979, and again in 1982 and 1983. Breaking his hand on an All Star trip and losing his place. Total All-Ireland wins he enjoyed.</p> <p>35:25 Playing with St Kieran's providing his with exposure. Club going from junior to intermediate to senior, bringing him to the attention of Kilkenny selectors. Working for Avonmore and inter-firms competition standard very high. Winning All-Ireland finals with them. Benefits of that.</p> <p>37:30 What it felt like to be selected for the Kilkenny minor team. No development squads in those days. being a St Kieran's player helping his prospects. Getting the Kilkenny jersey for the first time.</p> <p>39:15 Kind of interests he had as a teenager. Prioritising hurling. Dedication. Ability as a hurler.</p> <p>40:25 Nerves before big games. Colleges final in 1971. Securing an accountancy job in Glanbia the day before. Playing in an All-Ireland final. Sense of occasion. Nerves settling down as the game wore on. Fellow clubman Dermot Healy a coach. Time passing quickly.</p> <p>42:45 Different media world when he was a senior player. Irish Independent, Irish Press, Irish Times, RTÉ main outlets. Increase in GAA coverage since then. Coping with attention.</p> <p>45:00 Kilkenny senior teams of 1970s and early 1980s. Being in awe of older players. Reason for that. Straddling three different teams over the years. 1979 a memorable year as he played in that All-Ireland final. Using dressing-rooms under Cusack Stand. Beating Galway unexpectedly. Seán Bán Breathnach of Raidió na Gaeltachta talking to Fran Larkin. Speaking to Seán Bán about the game. Later receiving a</p>
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	<p>cheque in the post.</p> <p>49:25 1982 and 1983 teams. Beating Cork two years in-a-row. Missing the 1983 final. Reason for that.</p> <p>50:30 Winning an All-Ireland and what that is like. Reacting at the final whistle when the pitch invasion commences. All panel members contributing equally irrespective of whether they got time on the pitch or not. Homecomings and what they felt like.</p> <p>54:20 How Kilkenny senior team was treated by the general public. Respecting privacy. Responsibility on modern-day players due to increased media presence.</p> <p>56:10 Awareness of diet in his playing days. Level of expertise they had available to them back then. Many players involved in physical activity in their day jobs. Benefits of that for playing hurling. Being practical about one's diet. Bringing intensity to training. How modern-day players are different.</p> <p>01:01:10 Wexford and Offaly strong teams when he was playing. Marking Martin Quigley and Rory Kinsella of Wexford. Marking Offaly's Pat Carroll, Johnny Flaherty, Joachim Kelly, Mark Corrigan. Fellow clubman Dermot Healy a key player in rise of Offaly hurling. Tipperary not strong in his time. Ger Henderson wanting to play Tipp in big games. Limerick, Galway and Cork strong. Marking Bernie Forde, Sylvie Lenane, Joe Connolly and John Connolly of Galway. Marking Cork's Jimmy Barry Murphy in 1982 All-Ireland final. How he fared. John Connolly of Galway, Clare's Ger Loughnane great hurlers who never won an All-Ireland final.</p> <p>01:05:50 Balancing club and county demands. Winning junior championship with club in 1976 and importance of that. Winning intermediate championship the following year, and an All-Ireland junior club final many years later. 1976 win with the club the pinnacle of his hurling career.</p> <p>01:08:05 Loyalty to the club. Rushing to club games immediately after playing for the county.</p> <p>01:08:45 Involvement in setting up Bord na nÓg to improve underage structures.</p> <p>01:09:25 Lack of free time when he was a player. Training with different teams of which he was a part. Helping younger players who looked up to him as an All-Ireland winner.</p> <p>01:10:55 Retired from Kilkenny scene in 1985. Father killed in an accident the same year. Feeling his time was up.</p>
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	<p>Continuing to play with the club for many years. Detaching emotionally from inter-county team. Ending his playing career with the club in his mid-forties due to back trouble. How he did that damage. Missing the game after he had retired.</p> <p>01:14:00 Coaching underage teams at the club. Working with the local primary school team. Using what he had learned from his own managers.</p> <p>01:15:10 Coaching the Kilkenny football team having played with them in the past. Playing in the Leinster championship for Kilkenny footballers against Meath in 1982.</p> <p>01:16:05 How he fared as coach of the Kilkenny footballers. Football scene declining in later years. State of play in 2011.</p> <p>01:17:55 Managing Kilkenny Under-21 hurlers. Beating Tipperary to an All-Ireland title in 1990. Playing Dublin in O'Toole Park that year. Close shave there. Playing Derry in the All-Ireland semi-final in Ballinascreen. Jim McIver training Derry. Playing Tipperary in the final in Portlaoise. Becoming chairman of the county board and having to give up management.</p> <p>01:21:00 His approach to management. Importance of skills. Responsibilities on players. Many players at Under-21 involved in third level education which made things difficult. Importance of team ethic. Players already acquainted with each other.</p> <p>01:25:05 Giving DJ Carey a fitness test the day before an All-Ireland final. Big decision on whether or not to start him. Having to tell players they will not be starting in a big game.</p> <p>01:27:40 Being a Kilkenny hurling selector with Ollie Walsh in early 1990s. Reluctantly accepting post as Kilkenny manager. Poor results on the pitch. How he views that period in hindsight.</p> <p>01:30:10 Involvement in administration from an early age. Being club delegate on Kilkenny football board. Elected chairman of the county board in 1991. How that came about. Running against Paddy Buggy and losing. Paddy Buggy losing interest. Getting the position the following year. Restructuring process he began. Working as a selector and losing All-Ireland final to Tipperary in 1991. Disappointment of that. Going to Clare with the squad for a weekend and positive impact of that. Working as chairman and selector at the same time. Young children at home. Legacy as county board chairman. Administrative changes. Leaving after four</p>
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	<p>years. Reason for that. Becoming Kilkenny delegate on Leinster Council.</p> <p>01:36:25 Paddy Grace a major Kilkenny County Board figure. What he was like as a person. Michael O'Neill chairman for a period. Nicky Purcell a major figure. Johnny Ivory from Lisdowney prominent, Ned Curran too. Tom Ryall a close confidante of his.</p> <p>01:38:30 Many contentious issues resolved at sub-committee level; county boards more business-like.</p> <p>01:39:40 Disadvantages of chairman automatically being a selector on the county team.</p> <p>01:40:05 Restructuring they did.</p> <p>01:40:55 Bringing people on board with what he was trying to do. Engaging others.</p> <p>01:43:20 Structures he wanted to overhaul from the beginning. Sitting down with others and listening to their views.</p> <p>01:44:35 Becoming a delegate on Leinster Council. Work he had done with them as Kilkenny chairman. Becoming vice-chairman of Leinster Council, which led to work on Central Council and on Croke Park Management Committee. Beating Liam O'Neill in the election for vice-chairman. Leinster Council improving hurling structures in Dublin. Involvement with Peter Quinn-chaired Strategic Review. Issues related to that.</p> <p>01:47:40 How provincial council work differs to that when chairman of a county board. Many counties with different needs. Evaluating investments and whether they are working out well. Work on redevelopment and making sure clubs were spending within their needs.</p> <p>01:50:00 Importance of business acumen for provincial council work. His experience with Glanbia coming in useful. Full-time secretary working on Leinster Council. Need for close relationships with chief executive and other staff.</p> <p>01:54:25 Provincial councils bridging gap between Croke Park and the county. Councils supplying grants and funding. Positive work done by provincial councils.</p> <p>01:58:00 Demands on club administrators growing. Processes and procedures. Insurance, health & safety. Bureaucracy. GAA developing training courses to help people</p>
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	<p>cope with extra demands. Developing online courses that people can do from their own homes. Technology facilitating greater communication and access to documents. Conference calls.</p> <p>02:03:10 What he enjoys about administrative work. Challenges. Incident over Dublin funding at a Leinster Council management meeting. How he handled it. Being conscious of needs of volunteers and paid members.</p> <p>02:06:55 When he first considered possibility of becoming GAA President. Attending first Congress as Leinster Council chairman. Séan Kelly elected President at Congress and others asking him if he would consider it down the line. Being elected at Congress in 2005. Decision to relax Rule 42 made on the same day.</p> <p>02:09:05 Campaigning and becoming GAA President. Talking to people about his intentions from early 2005. Not enjoying canvassing. Inter-county hurling background helping him. Administrative experience a plus. Core group of four people working with him and looking out for him in his bid to become President.</p> <p>02:12:25 What the election was like. Forecasting the result before the election. How that compared to actual result. Christy Cooney running against him. Presidential vote delayed because of debate on Rule 42. Kieran McDermott of Sligo in charge of the election. Nerves ahead of announcement of the result. How that compared to playing in All-Ireland finals. Mobile phone full of text messages after result was announced. How he felt at the end of the day.</p> <p>02:18:20 Considering his family when deciding to run for President. Full-time nature of the job. Need to consider his post at Glanbia. How they reacted. Adapting to new set-up having worked at Glanbia for so long. Knowing that Liam Mulvihill was going to retire during his tenure and restructuring that would need to be done.</p> <p>02:21:10 Not becoming heavily involved during year between being elected and taking up office. Visiting provincial secretaries. Making sure that work of committees was better understood by others.</p> <p>02:23:25 Objectives when he became President. Restructuring. Changing HR set-up. Bringing in a sponsorship manager, a finance director, a ticketing manager, a director of communications and Paraic Duffy as a player welfare manager. Engaging with the GPA before his term came to an</p>
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	<p>end.</p> <p>02:29:10 Setting up a forum where the Director General would meet with Croke Park heads of department and provincial secretaries. How that benefited the Association and the perceived gap between grass roots level and Croke Park.</p> <p>02:30:45 Appointing Paraic Duffy. Importance of doing it properly. How he approached the matter. Bringing a professional organisation to help determine things like salaries, measuring objectives, rewards when targets were reached. Evaluating applications. Need for discretion. Holding interviews in Dunboyne, Meath. What they were like. Whittling to down to three applicants. Second round of interviews to be held at Radison Hotel in Dublin Airport. Seeing in the newspaper that morning a report naming the people conducting the interviews. How he felt about that. Deciding to go ahead with the interviews. His suspicions about how the story became public knowledge. Feeling annoyed and embarrassed. Deciding to appoint Paraic. Meeting him in his house in Monaghan. Paraic justifying his appointment in the years since. Economic climate changing for the worse over the years. Paraic and the Association managing that. Tom Ryan in finance working hard in tougher economic times.</p> <p>02:48:40 Opening of Croke Park and benefits of that. Engaging with rugby and soccer people. First game was against France in rugby. Producing a special booklet for travelling media with promotion of GAA overseas in mind. Lead-up to rugby game against England. British Ambassador visiting Croke Park in advance. Global media interest. Irish people ringing Croke Park as they were unaware of what happened on Bloody Sunday in 1920. Admiration for approach of IRFU and English counterparts. English asking Conor O'Shea to talk to English squad about history of Croke Park. Bill Beaumont of the IRFU thanking him and how that felt.</p> <p>02:54:35 Feelings on the day of the England game. God Save the Queen played in Croke Park and wondering what would happen. Positive response and what he feels it did for Anglo-Irish relations.</p> <p>02:57:15 He and Christy Cooney having different views on opening of Croke Park in advance of the presidential election.</p> <p>02:59:15 Unique nature of Gaelic games in Irish life. Not feeling overly threatened by other sports. What GAA clubs mean to members in Northern Ireland. Pragmatic nature of</p>
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	<p>decision to open Croke Park.</p> <p>03:03:35 Many in Ireland who had never been in Croke Park before its opening to other sports. Their surprise when they first experienced the stadium. More respect for the GAA as a result.</p> <p>03:05:40 Meeting England's Queen Elizabeth at Croke Park. Significance of her visit. Absence of certain counties and how he felt about that. What was positive about the visit. Many Irish emigrating to England and playing GAA. Strength of Association in England. More English people playing GAA as a result of their queen's Croke Park visit. Former Taoiseach setting up an overseas unit for Irish abroad. GAA working closely with Department of Foreign Affairs. Doing development work in San Francisco, Boston, New York and Perth, Australia. Dermot Ahern and Micheál Martin also involved when they were in charge of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>03:12:25 Attending Asian GAA finals in Penang, Malaysia and his impressions of that.</p> <p>03:13:30 People forced to emigrate due to economic conditions. GAA clubs overseas giving them a sense of home.</p> <p>03:14:00 Trip to Malaysia and what that was like. Going to Singapore, Dubai, Australia, United States, Canada. Ray Bassett an Ambassador to Canada he had worked closely with. Going to a handball event in Edmonton, Canada. Many non-Irish on the ladies football team. Treasure Island development in San Francisco and attending the opening. Work Irish did to develop facilities there. Addressing San Francisco City Council. Meeting Mayor of San Francisco. Youtube video clip that showcases work done on development on Treasure Island. All Star games previously played at Balboa Stadium in San Francisco.</p> <p>03:19:50 Gaelic Park in New York vital for Irish in that part of the world. Then President Seán Kelly, Peter Quinn and himself attending a major meeting in New York on potential GAA development. Decision later made to redevelop Gaelic Park. Redevelopment money having disappeared in the past. Need to get it right on this occasion. Attending a fundraising event in New York. Meeting fundraising targets. Better facilities at Gaelic Park as a result. John 'Kerry' O'Donnell a legendary figure in New York GAA circles. Plans for further development. Facilities in Rockland County, New York.</p> <p>03:24:50 Critics of overseas investment and his response to</p>
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	<p>them.</p> <p>03:26:10 His first trip overseas was after 1974 All-Ireland final. Staying in Yonkers, New York. Staying near Van Cortlandt Park. Realising how far away such a place was from Ireland. Sensing the importance of the GAA to people over there.</p> <p>03:28:25 Progress being made on work with GAA overseas. Helping them to help themselves. People who were never involved with the GAA in Ireland getting involved overseas.</p> <p>03:30:00 Amount of travel he did during his time as President. Travelling to functions in every county. Doing his own driving. How he was received around the country. Accepting his role as a status figure in the eyes of others.</p> <p>03:32:35 Experiences as President changing his view of the Association. Witnessing the work done by unsung heroes of the GAA. Dedication of GAA members of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>03:35:10 Success of Kilkenny hurling during his time as President. Speaking at the funeral of former President Con Murphy and what he said. His wife a Kerrywoman. Presenting the cup to the Kerry footballers. Feeling pride presenting the cup to Kilkenny.</p> <p>03:37:40 Impact of presidency on his personal life. Wife, Mairéad, a teacher in Freshford. Job restricting her ability to attend functions. Staying in the Croke Park Hotel.</p> <p>03:40:15 GAA bringing in reforms over the years. Importance to allow people to make contributions before decisions were made. Need for consensus where possible. Approach to meetings.</p> <p>03:43:30 Lisa Clancy's role in communications department. Role of women generally within the Association.</p> <p>03:45:45 GAA's 125th anniversary celebrations. Game at Croke Park under floodlights and preparations for that. Arranging for a terminally ill child from Armagh, Cian Corrigan, to attend that night after speaking to his father Jarlath. How that was arranged and how the night went.</p> <p>03:50:15 Death of Michaela Harte - daughter of Tyrone football manager Mickey Harte - and GAA response to that. Death of Former Tyrone captain Cormac McAnallen. Going to a funeral of a young girl killed in a road accident and she laid out in a Kilkenny jersey. Attending a funeral of a boy who died whilst playing a match in Tyrone. Attending a funeral of a boy</p>
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	<p>in Cork who died playing hurling. Response of GAA community to such deaths.</p> <p>03:53:55 Skills he has learned in the GAA that he has brought to his working life. Doing a diploma in accounting and finance in Limerick and his work in the GAA helping him. How his career might have been different if he hadn't been involved in the GAA.</p> <p>03:56:25 Finishing his term as President and what that was like. Remaining on Central Council and the Management Committee. What he thinks of that convention. Chairing an IT committee and work involved there.</p> <p>03:59:15 Returning to coaching at underage level. Writing for the Kilkenny People newspaper.</p> <p>04:00:40 Commissioning the GAA Oral History Project and reason for that. Marcus de Búrca writing a lot about the GAA in the past. Need to get information from people around the country. Working with the project as part of his role with the IT committee.</p> <p>04:04:25 His motivation to remain involved with the GAA and where that comes from.</p> <p>04:06:45 Role within the GAA he has enjoyed the most and reason for that.</p> <p>04:08:30 His legacy and how he feels about that.</p> <p>04:10:10 Opportunities to get involved in politics and how he feels about such a possibility.</p> <p>04:11:25 What he might have done with his time if it were not for the GAA.</p> <p>04:12:40 Pride in being able to come from a small club and become President. What that says about the Association. Father dying before he became President and how he feels about that. Sacrifices his family have made for him.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer ✓ Jersey Washer ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>✓ Other (please specify): President of the GAA 2006-2009</p>

REFERENCE NO. KK/1/17

Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	See attached
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	See attached
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 04:16:25
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: 21st August 2012

Appendix – GAA Achievements & Officer/Committee Roles

Sporting Achievements

I am fortunate to have had many successes with my club Conahy Shamrocks, Kilkenny and Avonmore (now Glanbia) GAA teams. The following is a summary of my sporting achievements:

Club - Conahy Shamrocks

- Junior Hurling County Championship (1)
- Intermediate Hurling County Championship (2)
- Junior Football County Championship (1)
- Northern Junior Hurling Championship (1)
- Northern Junior Football Championship (1)
- Open Draw Football (1)
- Minor Football Championship (with Dicksboro in 1971)
- Numerous Tournaments successes

School - St. Kieran's College

- Leinster Juvenile Hurling Championships
- Leinster Junior Hurling Championships
- Leinster Senior Hurling Championships - 1969 & 1971
- All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship - 1971

County - Kilkenny

- All-Ireland Senior Hurling (5) – 1974; 1975; 1979; 1982; 1983.
- All-Ireland Under 21 Championship (1) – 1974.
- Leinster Senior Hurling Championship (6)
- Leinster Under 21 Hurling Championship (1)
- Leinster Minor Hurling Championship (1)
- National Hurling League (2)
- Oireachtas Tournament (1)
- Walsh Cup (1)
- Wembley Tournament (1)
- Played inter-county football championships at Minor, Under 21 and Senior level with Kilkenny

Work - Inter-Firms

- All-Ireland S.H. Inter-Firms Championship (10) – with Avonmore
- Leinster S.H. Inter-Firm Championship (13) – with Avonmore

Team Management

Conahy Shamrocks

- Coached Primary School, Under 13, 14, 16, 18 and 21 – both Hurling & Football with County League/ Championship successes in all grades

Kilkenny

- Under 21 Hurling Team (Team Manager 1990 & 1991 - All-Ireland title success in 1991)
- Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team Selector (1991 - 1994) - (2 x All-Ireland and 3 x Leinster Titles)
- Kilkenny Senior Football Team Manager (1986 - 1989)
- Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team Manager (1996 - 1997)

Appendix – GAA Achievements & Officer/Committee Roles

G.A.A. Administration

Club - Conahy Shamrocks G.A.A. Club:

- Founded Conahy Shamrocks Bórd na nÓg in 1981
- Bórd na nÓg (Chairman)
- Bórd na nÓg (Secretary / Treasurer)
- Senior Club Chairman
- Senior Club Secretary
- Senior Club Treasurer
- Senior Club Northern Board Representative
- Senior Club Football Board Representative
- Senior Club PRO

County - Kilkenny

- Football Board Representative on County Board
- County Board Chairman (1991-1994)
- Kilkenny Management Committee Member (1991 – 1998)
- Leinster Council Representative (1995 - 1998)
- Editor Kilkenny G.A.A. Year Book (1990)

Province - Leinster Council

- Chairman Leinster Hurling Development Committee (1995 – 1998)
- Leinster Council Member (1995 – 2006)
- Member of the Leinster Council Management Executive (1998 – 2006)
- Provincial Administration Review Committee (Chairman)
- Leinster Council Vice-Chairman (1999 – 2001)
- Chairman Leinster Coaching & Games Development Committee (1999 – 2001)
- Leinster Council Chairman (2002 – 2005)
- Leinster Council Management Committee & Games Administration (2002 – 2006)

National - G.A.A. Central Council

Member of the following committees (at various stages):

- Code of Conduct Committee (Secretary)
- Hurling Revival Committee (Secretary)
- Hurling Grading Committee (Chairman)
- G.A.A. Congress Review Committee (Member)
- Amateur Status Committee (Member)
- Information technology & Communications Committee (Chairman – On two occasions)
- G.A.A. Strategic Review Committee (Member – During two separate reviews))
- Competitions Review Committee (Member)
- National Coaching & Games Development Committee (Member)
- National Hurling Development Committee (Chairman)
- Féile na nGael National Executive (Member)
- Coiste Bainistí (2002 - 2010) – (GAA Management Committee)
- Árd Comhairle (2002 - 2010) – (GAA Central Council)
- Hurling Rules Version Work Group (Chairman)
- Member of Comhairle Árd Oideachas (Third Level Colleges) - representing Coiste Bainistí
- Páirc an Chrócaigh (PCT) Executive Committee (Member representing Coiste Bainistí)
- Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (2006 – 2009)
- GAA Anti-Doping Hearings Committee (2011 – TBC)
- Third Level Colleges Review (Chairman – 2011)

Appendix – GAA Achievements & Officer/Committee Roles

G.A.A. Administration

Directorships Held

- Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta 2006 – 2009
- Croke Park Museum 2006 – 2009