

GAA Oral History Project Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Eddie Nangle
Date of Interview	16 th Dec 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Morris
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1957 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Castledockrill NS, Co. Wexford Secondary: St. Mary's CBS, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: 1 son & 3 daughters
Club(s)	Marshalstown-Castledockrill GAA Club [Wexford]
Occupation	Farming
Parents' Occupation	Farming
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	16 th Dec 2011
Period Covered	1968 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Politics, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>John Morris, Vice-Chairman of Marshalstown-Castledockrell GAA club, shares his memories of growing up in Marshalstown and his introduction to the GAA when playing games in fields around the parish. As well as sketching out the history of Gaelic games in the area and the various GAA clubs have served it through the decades, he sets out the record of his own involvement as a player, mentor and administrator. In doing so, he reflects on the roles of women and clergy within the club and sheds light on the club's approaches to the development of its facilities and to the nurturing of younger players. Morris also reflects on his difficulty in dealing with his retirement from playing, with combining the demands of being self-employed with GAA commitments. In addition, he talks about his sporting heroes, local and national, and considers his future involvement with the GAA.</p> <p>00:00:10 Interviewee is introduced as the Vice-Chairman of Marshalstown GAA club, Co. Wexford.</p> <p>00:00:30 Provides information on place and date of birth. Describes parent's background as farming</p> <p>00:01:00 Says that he has three brothers and one sister.</p> <p>00:01:20 Notes that he is living in the house into which he was born.</p> <p>00:01:28 Earliest memories: travelling to games all over Ireland with his father.</p> <p>00:01:44 Mentions that father played football with Marshalstown.</p>

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	<p>00:02:05 Introduction to Gaelic games through school in Castledockrell, aged 10 or 11. Prior to that he would have played in fields around the parish. Mentions that informal games between Marshalstown and Castledockrell would be held in field.</p> <p>00:04:30 Other family associations with the GAA – refers to an Uncle who played with Marshalstown.</p> <p>00:04:50 Talks about the rivalry with local during his father’s time, the priority given to football and history of clubs and teams in the area. Club names mentioned include Woodlands and Hollow Rangers, which was founded in the mid 1950s and survived until the 1970s.</p> <p>00:06:08 Refers to Hollow Rangers the ‘well-earned’ reputation for being tough.</p> <p>00:07:05 Alludes to the intensity of local rivalries, including that with Duffry Rovers.</p> <p>00:07:28 Discusses the GAA involvement of other family members.</p> <p>00:08:15 Talks about ‘Sunday’ as a GAA day and refers to his father’s interest in travelling.</p> <p>00:08:55 Recalls the difficulty in taking holidays when he was younger and not allowing ‘work’ interfere with games on Sundays. Refers to starting a business and not expecting lads who worked for him to work on a Sunday.</p> <p>00:10:35 Influence of club on life. Mentions ending playing career in late 1980s due to injuries.</p> <p>00:10:55 Remarks that all his children – 3 girls and 1 boy – play.</p> <p>00:11:10 Contrasts his children’s experience of playing with his own, noting the facilities within clubs.</p> <p>00:11:50 Remarks on the limited number of adult players in club and explains the reason for it – emigration, decline of comraderie, influence of pub.</p> <p>00:12:50 Scarcity of young players and makes observation on the potential impact of ‘Go games’.</p> <p>00:14:34 Comments on the attitudes of children and parents to the club and contrasts it with his own experience.</p>
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	<p>00:16:04 History of club: refers to the different names used by club over the years and the jerseys worn.</p> <p>00:17:05 Discusses the relative strengths in hurling and football in the club and mentions the success enjoyed by camogie and ladies football.</p> <p>00:18:00 Talks about the strength of underage camogie in the club and the influence of locals in county team management.</p> <p>00:19:00 Discusses his involvement with the club following his retirement from playing. Refers to influence in club of cousin Mick Kinsella and becoming an Intermediate selector in 1996.</p> <p>00:20:53 Discusses the financial pressures on club arising from development plan – talks about the focus throughout Wexford on facilities, the debt accumulated and costs to clubs and games.</p> <p>00:23:23 Attracting new volunteers in the club, including women. Remarks on the positive influence of women on the club and the importance of an inclusive approach.</p> <p>00:25:14 Talks about sponsorship and the impact of economic recession.</p> <p>00:26:00 Reflects on the place of the club within the community and the value that's put on it. Mentions support for club lotto and bingo.</p> <p>00:27:11 Refers to the competition from soccer, with clubs either side of the GAA club. Mentions the frustration of dealing with players with divided loyalties.</p> <p>00:28:24 Comments on the growth of the area, development of new houses and the absence of any gain for club.</p> <p>00:28:55 Impact of emigration in previous months – comments that 5 or 6 had left – on the ability of club to field adult teams. Mentions that club has dropped to Intermediate football and hurling and plans to prioritise younger players. Talks about lack of commitment below first-team level.</p> <p>00:30:35 Discusses the development of pitches and facilities over decades, including the acquisition of new fields and the building of dressingrooms, hurling walls etc. Refers to voluntary effort and free labour provided.</p> <p>00:35:11 Talks about the development of women's role within</p>
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	<p>the club and the positions they fill – reference to competence with modern technology.</p> <p>00:35:52 Discusses the role of the clergy in the local GAA – mentions influence of one particular parish priest, but criticises the non-involvement of others.</p> <p>00:37:25 Comments on the vetting of underage mentors, concerns over child welfare and attitudes of parents.</p> <p>00:39:00 GAA heroes: talks about Wexford team of the 1970s recollections of going Croke Park for 1970 All-Ireland final with his father. Refers to some of the high profile players on that Wexford team, the Dorans, the Quigleys and the Jacobs.</p> <p>00:40:52 Reflects on the quality of 1993-1997 Wexford team. Recalls the 1993, 1995, 1996 and the aftermath of the 1997 Leinster final. Refers to Liam Griffin and describes the phase of Wexford's hurling history as 'special year'.</p> <p>00:43:30 Comments on the progress of Wexford hurling in the early 2000s and the contribution of Marshaltown's Mitch Jordan.</p> <p>00:43:58 Discusses some of the pre-eminent club players on Wexford teams, in particular Mitch Jordan. Also discusses the 'genius' of Johnny Walsh.</p> <p>00:45:50 Mentions his attendance at 3 soccer matches and 2 rugby matches in his lifetime and describes his experience of watching both games. [laughter]</p> <p>00:47:00 Balancing work, family and the GAA. Speaks about the difficulty of self-employed people in meeting GAA commitments. Makes humorous reference to smoothing relations at home by bringing along children to the GAA field. [laughter]</p> <p>00:48:38 Discusses the difficulty in combining playing and selectorial duties.</p> <p>00:49:18 Discusses the difficulty of retiring from playing in his late 20s. Also mentions hurling injuries and their impact on his work.</p> <p>00:52:16 Discusses club successes at Intermediate level in 1983 and the background to it, in particular the underage amalgamation with Duffry Rovers. Mentions the names of individuals involved in the amalgamated teams and the friendships that were forged.</p>
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	<p>00:56:25 Charts the progress of the club through the 1980s and 90s. Mentions nine players on 1983 Intermediate team represented Wexford and the difficulties in getting subsequent generations to turn out for the county.</p> <p>00:57:45 Discusses the difficulties the Marshalstown club has had in keeping players committed and motivated – refers to different training methods deployed.</p> <p>00:59:50 Discusses dealing with amateur players and makes general observation on easy treatment of players. Talks about respect for managers, for jersey, for fellow players.</p> <p>01:02:46 Recalls the winning Intermediate Championship in 1995 and the pride involved.</p> <p>01:03:20 Discusses socialising with the club and refers to various venues routinely – Riverside hotel in Enniscorthy, Ballycarney Inn and The Hollow. [laughter]</p> <p>01:05:00 Highlight of GAA experience – Wexford’s Leinster hurling final win in 1997. Refers to being at the game and the witnessing the quality of Wexford’s performance.</p> <p>01:06:16 Highlight of club experience – reflects on the feeling of winning minor title in 1999 and the involvement of his brother and others, including the local priest.</p> <p>01:07:30 Worst memory – reflects on being dropped for the Intermediate final in 1983. Refers to family politics in the selection of team and the impact it had on him.</p> <p>01:09:25 Talks about the quality and potential of the 1983 Intermediate winning team. Charts their progress through senior championship the following year.</p> <p>01:11:00 Reflects on the top club sides he has seen – Buffers Alley and Birr are discussed.</p> <p>01:12:30 GAA heroes: Talks about Johnny Walsh and Henry Shefflin. Compares Shefflin to DJ Carey. Mentions also footballers Jack O’Shea , Peter Canavan and Wexford’s Ciaran Lyng.</p> <p>01:14:30 Refers to his current GAA involvement – at club and county levels – and considers his future involvement with the GAA. Mentions the importance of the GAA to his life and the enjoyment he derives from it.</p> <p>01:17:17 Describes his involvement with, and commitment to, the development of a centre of excellence for county teams in</p>
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	Ferns. Comments on its location and the benefits that will flow from it.
Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Rackard N.S. League 1970 Wexford Co. U-21 Hurling Title 1977 Wexford Co. Intermediate Hurling Title 1983
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Vice-Chairman, Marshalstown GAA Club 2010-12 Committee-member, “ “ “ 1992-2010 Co. Board Rep. “ “ “ 1995 – 2012 Wexford Co. Board Development Committee
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:18:56
Language	English

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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: Eddie Nangle

Date: 16th Dec 2011