

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
<b>Location</b>	Fingallian's GAA, Swords, Co. Dublin
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	David McKittrick
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1967 <b>Home County:</b> Dublin
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St Colmcilles BNS, Dublin. <b>Secondary:</b> St Finian's Vocational School
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 brothers & 4 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife, 1 son & 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Fingallians GAA, Swords [Dublin]
<b>Occupation</b>	Civil Servant
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Security Guard & Labourer [Father]; Factory Operative at Smurfits and Irish Dancing teacher [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Labour Party
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

**REFERENCE NO. DB/1/12**

<b>Date of Report</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1884-2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Dublin
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>David talks about the long and varied history of his local club in Swords, Fingallians. His family's involvement with the club goes back generations and as a former player, manager and administrator he is proud to continue that association. He talks about the many characters and families who have been involved with the club down through the years, all of whom had a real sense of community spirit. Together they have developed a club that has many aspects to it and well-developed facilities that allow its large membership to feel part of something special. Fingallians have a history that reaches far back and coincided with important events in Irish history, and David also discusses this while sharing stories that have been passed on to him about club members who played a role in shaping the face of a nation.</p> <p>00:20 Born in 1967. Became a member of Fingallians GAA club in 1971.</p> <p>00:40 Seán Broderick a founding member of the hurling branch of the club in the early 1980s. Originally from Galway. PJ Broderick and Colm Crowley also instrumental.</p> <p>01:50 His uncle, Paddy McKittrick secretary of the club for 35 years. Also involved with the Dublin County Board.</p> <p>02:15 Eamon Ó Murchú trained him when he was playing with the Under-10s. Travelling to games in a Ford Escort with him.</p> <p>02:40 Joe Walsh, his wife Bernie and Martin Wheeler founding members of the athletics section of the club in 1969.</p>

	<p>Joe and Bernie receiving a lifetime achievement award. Paddy Kelly and Jimmy Harford also involved.</p> <p>03:30 Fingallians representing Swords in the Community Games. Joe's daughter a Paralympic champion.</p> <p>04:15 Entertainment committee in the 1980s. Joe Dolan and other acts like the Wolfe Tones playing. Useful for fundraising. How they attracted the acts. Festival committee and what they did. Regulations changing and effects of that.</p> <p>05:40 Cáit Ní Ceallaigh on the Leinster Council and club committees. Fluent Irish speaker.</p> <p>06:25 Noreen McKittrick married to Peter. Work she did for the club. Washing jerseys in 1942. Cycling to the club every morning. Involvement in line dancing.</p> <p>07:15 Charles Clarke a cousin of legendary hurler Eddie Clarke and integral to the football side of the club. Team he managed. Involvement in athletics.</p> <p>07:50 Jim Rogers and Eithne O'Hara key members. Jim looked up to by all within the club. His enthusiasm. Managing minor and Under-21 teams for many years. Nicholas Stanley, Marcus Fitzsimons, Kevin Madden, Peter McKittrick training underage teams before they were taken over by Jim when older. Eithne managing Under-21s with him. Umbrella she took to matches for protection.</p> <p>10:10 Tom Scathall manning the gates at games.</p> <p>10:30 Martin Byrne starting up camogie within the club. Reason that that died out. Ladies football blossoming. Prospects for camogie.</p> <p>11:45 Peter McKittrick his father's brother. Main groundsman at the club. Died while carrying out duties at the club. His contribution over the years. Work as a referee.</p> <p>13:20 Kevin O'Hagan secretary and vice-chairman in the past. Teacher in a local school. Introducing secondary school children to the club.</p> <p>13:55 Daniel Kelly playing with his father in the 1930s and later acting as chairman for many years. Bringing Ciarán Duff and Harry Keegan into the club.</p> <p>15:10 Bill Gallagher involved with running bingo at the club. Goalkeeper on a 1956 junior championship winning team. Later managed teams.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. DB/1/12

	<p>15:55 Jess McKittrick involved. Sisters Jane, Frances and Betty involved.</p> <p>17:50 All-Weather pitch opened by former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern. Main pitch opened by former GAA President Christy Cooney.</p> <p>18:30 Grandfather, James, and medals he won. One of them from 1902. What he did with his medals.</p> <p>19:25 Seán Foley chairman in the 1980s. Cyril Markey, John Manton, Patrick Weldon, Noah McNalley, Christy Martin, Thomas Markey, Nicholas Donaghy, Paul Neville. also involved. Christy Martin once chairman and bus driver for underage teams.</p> <p>21:05 Ciarán Reidy involved in fundraising and development of the club.</p> <p>21:25 Eugene Keogh a one-time goalkeeper. His son playing for Dublin.</p> <p>21:45 Patsy Markem once chairman of the club.</p> <p>21:55 Dermot Clarke, Dermot Murphy, Harry Donnelly, Tony Donnelly also involved. Donnelly's grandfather first Fingallians member to represent Dublin and mentioned in a book by Seán Ó Suíocháin.</p> <p>22:55 Ciarán Duff with the club a long time and still involved in 2010. Bringing his medals to lá le club day.</p> <p>24:15 Harry Keegan a former Roscommon player and trainer of the ladies football team.</p> <p>24:35 Stephen Carslake playing with the club. Kevin O'Hagan, Freddy Donnelly and Paddy O'Hara also involved.</p> <p>25:40 Dublin championship-winning team of 1993 included James McKittrick as manager, Micheál Ó Scanlon, Paul Gormley, Martin O'Brien, Ronan Barrett, John Manton, Damien Rodgers, Ray O'Rourke, Gregory Hyatt, Dermot Gallagher, Richie Rodgers, Thomas Markey, Alan Gormley, Paul Bruin, Anto O'Hare, John Shephers, Tommy Reilly and James McNally, Peter McIntyre, Rona Reynolds, Cyril Markey, Tommy Reilly, Dominic Caul, Brian Barker, Keith Galvin, Declan Rickard, John Scathall, Paul Martin, Noel Brady, Derek McKittrick, Conor Gargin, Nicholas Donnelly as trainer. Alan Gormley, and Stephen McNally mascots.</p> <p>29:40 Danny Kelly and Joe Walsh promoting the club at</p>
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	<p>culture day in Swords.</p> <p>30:10 Dessie and Declan helping lay out flags on the pitch.</p> <p>31:00 Paddy Christy and Paul Quinn visiting with the Leinster Cup.</p> <p>31:10 Underage success in the 1990s. Paul Flynn went on to play for Dublin. Training that underage team.</p> <p>32:00 Summer camps and annual 7-a-sides.</p> <p>32:40 JA Maguire and Frank Lawless founding members of the club in 1884. Buying the pitch from the Taylor family. A Long and a Willie Colman early members of the club. Many of them involved in 1916 Easter Rising. Club splitting up in the 1920s.</p> <p>35:00 Peadar Ó Ceallaigh involved in club reforming and occupying role of secretary. Fundraising dance that was held. GAA not happy. Issue going to court. Split as a result. Some people going to St Colmcille's.</p> <p>36:20 Holding the Jimmy Magee All Stars once a year. Former Taoiseach Charles Haughey and former Dublin football boss Kevin Heffernan visiting.</p> <p>37:10 History of the club. Mike Dunne first captain of the club, succeeded by John Dunne, who later went off to war. Frank and Eamon Lawless central figures. Involvement in 'Battle of Ashbourne'. Thomas Ashe a central figure. Frank's descendent on a Dublin team trained by Tommy Lyons that lost a Leinster final to Laois.</p> <p>39:25 Bobby Savage a former captain of the club. Jack Kelly, Peadar Hughes, Andy Hamill, Peter McEvoy, Jimmy Woods also involved.</p> <p>41:10 Tommy Taylor, John Taylor, Chris Taylor involved in purchase of club grounds in 1911. Peadar Ceallaigh chairman and secretary of the club.</p> <p>42:55 Importance of families to the club over the years.</p> <p>44:25 Swords a rural club in the past. Players travelling to games by horse and cart in 1932.</p> <p>46:30 Economic hardship crippling the club in the 1950s. Emigration. Similar problems in the 1980s. Troubles fielding teams in 2009.</p> <p>48:15 Membership in 2010. Strength of underage</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. DB/1/12**

	<p>membership. Offering family deal on membership prices.</p> <p>49:45 Facilities and specialist personnel they have at the club.</p> <p>50:55 Community spirit. Seeing the same in Ballymoney, Wexford. Popularity of Féile. Trying to reach out to more of the community.</p> <p>52:40 Academy at the club for young children. Underage teams they have.</p> <p>53:10 Club shop and what is sold there. Go Games equipment.</p> <p>56:10 Looking after children under their supervision. Juvenile trainers they have in the academy. Easter camp at the club. Summer camps. North Dublin Easter Tournament.</p> <p>58:30 Volunteers and why they give of their time. How they approach volunteers. Strategic review group and what they do.</p> <p>59:40 Organising DubStars game. Weather issues and how they combated that. Meeting health and safety requirements.</p> <p>01:01:40 Sponsorship from CityJet and how that has helped. Needahotel.com a former sponsor. Swords Credit Union supporting them. Jones' Garden Centre sponsoring underage events. Aviva insurance sponsoring camps. Signage deals.</p> <p>01:05:45 Impact of recession on club. Need for main sponsor.</p> <p>01:06:40 Immigrants and their children more likely to play for soccer clubs. Children from different backgrounds playing at the academy.</p> <p>01:08:35 Role of women at the club. Representation on committees. Hatching fundraising ideas. Ladies team going to play in Holland. Fundraising they did in advance. Importance of having women involved.</p> <p>01:12:20 Family involvement with club. Different generations occupying identical roles at the club. His father breaking his leg at a trial game in Parnell Park. How that happened. Father walking away from the club for many years before returning. Danny Kelly helping to convince him to return. What he said about him as a player. Others telling him stories of the day his father broke his leg.</p> <p>01:16:55 Importance of family legacy to him. Going to games</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. DB/1/12**

	<p>with his father. Travelling on the bar of his father's bike.</p> <p>01:19:20 Amount of time he spends at the club. Getting phone calls at all hours of the day.</p> <p>01:21:20 Club a busy place on Sundays.</p> <p>01:22:05 What motivates him to stay involved.</p> <p>01:24:00 GAA and his sense of Irishness. Bloody Sunday in Croke Park and his impressions of that.</p> <p>01:25:00 Scór and his mother's involvement in that.</p> <p>01:25:55 Tailteann Games and his desire to see something similar return. Encouraging athletics within the club. Handball and Scór not prominent in Dublin.</p> <p>01:28:55 Disappointment with GAA's reaction to losing sports grants. Impact of that. Managers getting paid. Expenses. How things could be improved.</p> <p>01:32:45 Hopes for the future of the club. Pride he feels when he sees his son representing the club. Club player Paul Flynn playing for Dublin and feeling pride at that.</p> <p>01:36:20 Dangers professionalism would bring. Need to manage things well at amateur level.</p> <p>01:36:10 Greatest GAA memory.</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 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 checked="" 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>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>1971-2009 played with Fingallians; Won Dublin Junior Football Championship in 1993.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Assistant Secretary of Fingallians for 2 years; Currently secretary for the club; Spent 2 years as secretary of the juvenile club.</p>

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<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:36:41
<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:      17<sup>th</sup> July 2012