

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2010
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Abbeyleix, Co. Laois
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mick Carroll
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Laois
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1943 <b>Home County:</b> Laois
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Raheen NS <b>Secondary:</b> Ballyfin College
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother and 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Anne), 5 daughters and 1 son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Raheen GAA, Colt GAA, Abbeyleix GAA [Laois]
<b>Occupation</b>	Laois County Council Road Overseer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	County Council Worker [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Member of local Golf Club and local Tennis Club

<b>Date of Report</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1943-2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Laois
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Education, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Mick talks about his GAA involvement in Laois over the years. He always had a great love of hurling, training constantly, going to games with his father and playing with Abbeyleix when he was young. He represented Laois at county level and became club secretary at Abbeyleix. Later he was county secretary for 20 years, overseeing major projects like the redevelopment of O'Moore Park. He was also a delegate on the Leinster and Central Councils, and was involved in publishing a book on the history of Laois GAA. A proud Laois man, his involvement with the Association has given him great pleasure and his passion for hurling remains undimmed.</p> <p>00:15 Born in Derrycairn, Raheen in 1943. Living in Abbeyleix.</p> <p>00:40 Team in Derrycairn in the past. Team in Raheen. No underage teams.</p> <p>01:00 Playing in Abbeyleix in 1958.</p> <p>01:15 Fr Kehoe coaching minor teams in Raheen.</p> <p>01:40 Fr McMahon later setting up a minor team. Playing for them.</p> <p>01:50 Later playing for Colt.</p> <p>02:00 GAA at national school. John Hoyne and Mrs Lawlor were the teachers. Playing with rubber balls and sticks.</p> <p>02:30 Getting involved with Abbeyleix. Brother Alvin and Fr Kennedy encouraging him.</p> <p>03:20 Earliest GAA memory - listening to Micheál Ó hÉihir on the radio.</p> <p>04:05 Father encouraging him to play hurling.</p> <p>04:30 Hurling prominent in the area. Shanahoe having a team as well as Raheen.</p> <p>05:00 Heroes were Paddy Lawlor, Paddy Kelly, Clonad's Billy Bohane, Joe Styles, Borris-in-Ossory's Christy O'Brien.</p>

	<p>05:25 Going to games with his father by bicycle. Watching Abbeyleix in a county final in the 1960s.</p> <p>05:45 Abbeyleix referee officiating at a game between Portlaoise and Borris-in-Ossory.</p> <p>06:15 Training nightly as a teenager with Brother Alvin.</p> <p>06:45 Other pastimes in the area.</p> <p>07:40 Raheen becoming defunct and Colt starting up.</p> <p>08:00 Going back to his own parish at minor level.</p> <p>08:35 Getting transferred from Raheen to Abbeyleix in 1959.</p> <p>08:45 Position he played.</p> <p>09:05 His playing career. Playing in goal against Mountrath as a minor in 1959. Losing to Rathdowney in Clough.</p> <p>09:45 Going to watch Kilkenny play Laois.</p> <p>10:05 Abbeyleix re-graded in 1974.</p> <p>10:25 Winning an intermediate competition. Further success. Being re-graded up and down.</p> <p>11:00 Beating Kyle in a final in 1979.</p> <p>11:10 Honours over the years.</p> <p>11:30 Being sent off on one occasion.</p> <p>11:35 Making friends.</p> <p>11:45 Getting involved in administration while he was still playing.</p> <p>12:00 Abbeyleix managers included Ned Taylor, Bob Purcell and Joe Carroll.</p> <p>12:20 Reason for getting involved in administration.</p> <p>13:25 Being club secretary and playing at inter-county level at the same time.</p> <p>14:10 Becoming vice chairman of the hurling board in 1971.</p> <p>14:20 His family encouraging him.</p> <p>14:50 Being selected for the Laois team. Going for a trial in Mountrath. Playing minor, Under-21, intermediate, senior.</p> <p>16:10 How he felt about playing for Laois.</p> <p>16:45 Training for the county team. Travelling in a van. Facilities.</p> <p>17:40 Type of training they did.</p> <p>18:40 Phil Shanahan training the team. Tactics. Fr Tommy Maher of Kilkenny giving them a talk.</p> <p>20:45 Physical nature of the games. Different refereeing standards.</p> <p>21:10 Injuries he suffered.</p> <p>22:00 Difference in how the game is played today. Less ground hurling.</p> <p>22:40 Laois style of hurling.</p> <p>23:45 Being club secretary. Taking over from Bobby Taylor. Ned Brennan chairman. Billy Whelan and Paddy Brennan involved. Meetings they had.</p> <p>24:55 Fundraising events they held. Festival in May and how that worked. Other associations getting involved.</p>
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	<p>26:15 Watching the Macra na Feirme Hall being built in 1956.</p> <p>26:55 Winning a final illegally in 1974 and the club being suspended. Reason for the suspension.</p> <p>28:10 Objections to clubs at the time.</p> <p>29:30 Becoming secretary of the hurling board in 1978. Michael Delaney chairman and Michael Lawlor vice chairman. Reaching two Leinster finals.</p> <p>30:10 Becoming county secretary for 20 years.</p> <p>30:40 Meetings they held and what they did.</p> <p>31:40 Developing O'Moore Park. Dick Miller, Niall Hanley and Liam O'Neill finishing it. Seán Armstrong starting it. Paddy Buggy chairman of the Leinster Council and Con Murphy GAA President at the time.</p> <p>33:05 Fundraising for the redevelopment. Bobby Miller and Pat Butler spearheading the initiative. Grants. Costs involved.</p> <p>34:30 Changes in structures while he was county secretary.</p> <p>35:15 Suggesting that clubs should be more involved in the county board.</p> <p>35:50 Sending out minutes of meetings to members.</p> <p>36:05 Benefits of technological developments.</p> <p>37:25 Being a Leinster Council and Central Council delegate. Bill Delaney retiring in 1988 allowing him into Central Council. Working under Peter Quinn and Jack Bootman.</p> <p>39:05 Enjoying playing hurling.</p> <p>39:45 Winning the National League in 1986 and the All-Ireland minor in 1996. Tom Hassett chairman at the time. Winning Leinster titles. Gabriel Lawlor, Brian Delaney and Oliver Phelan training successful teams.</p> <p>40:55 Changing the management system.</p> <p>41:45 Publishing a history of Laois GAA and enjoying that. Teddy Fennelly, Jackie Hyland, Pat Delaney, Pat O'Connell, Pascal McEvoy and Gerry Kavanagh working on it too.</p> <p>43:00 What the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>45:00 Future of the GAA. Need for young people to get involved.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<p>✓ Supporter    ✓ Player    <input type="checkbox"/> Manager    <input type="checkbox"/> Coach    ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson    ✓ Committee Member    <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer    ✓ Jersey Washer    ✓ Referee    <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>

**REFERENCE NO. LS/1/3**

<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played age 14-42. Won two junior and one intermediate Laois County Hurling Championship.  1964 - Played U21 Hurling with Laois  1967 – Played Intermediate Hurling with Laois  1970-71 – Played Senior Hurling with Laois
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	1967/8 – 1975 Secretary of Abbeyleix GAA  1971-74 – Vice-Chairman of Laois Hurling Board  1975 – PRO of Laois County Board  1978 – Secretary of Laois Hurling Board  1979-1999 – Secretary of Laois County Board  Leinster Council Delegate  1989-2009 Central Council Delegate
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:47:41
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012