

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Donal Fitzgibbon
<b>Date of Interview</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011
<b>Location</b>	South Court Hotel Limerick
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	John O'Grady
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1940 <b>Home County:</b> Limerick
<b>Education</b>	N/A
<b>Family</b>	N/A
<b>Club(s)</b>	Mungret St Paul's GAA [Limerick]
<b>Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011
<b>Period Covered</b>	1940s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Limerick
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Playing, Refereeing, Fundraising, Sponsorship, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Career, Violence
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>John O’Grady discusses his early involvement in Gaelic games and Limerick, shedding light on the absence of provision for underage players in the Mungret of his youth and the prevalence of club tournament competitions at adult level. O’Grady talks about his progression from player to referee and recounts various incidents from his refereeing days at club and inter-county level.</p> <p>00:00:10 John O’Grady is introduced as someone who has ‘refereed All-Irelands’ as well as other major events.</p> <p>00:00:30 Provides absence of underage teams in parish when he was growing up. Mentions playing underage with Commercials in football and YoungIrelands in hurling.</p> <p>00:01:01 Mentions returning to Mungret to play junior hurling on reaching 18, c. 1959.</p> <p>00:01:12 Discusses the club’s relative lack of success and the prevalence of club tournaments – which were ‘money-makers, but also provided additional games.’</p> <p>00:01:44 Talks about being drawn to refereeing. Tells story of being asked for the first time to referee in 1958, aged 18. The first game he refereed was Patrickswell V Ballybrown in a tournament final.</p> <p>00:03:03 Talks about ambition to get to ‘Croke Park’ as a referee. Mentions high profile games he’s refereed, including the 1977 All-Ireland hurling final, and learning his ‘trade’ in junior matches in east and west Limerick.</p> <p>00:03:54 Tells story of refereeing 1972 Munster senior final between Cork and Clare and sending off Denis Coughlan of Cork. Mentions incensed reaction of Cork supporters and the threat to his safety.</p> <p>00:05:22 Tells story of refereeing tournament club game and blowing up early to facilitate replay.</p> <p>00:06:20 Discusses the rules of hurling, compares them to</p>

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	football.
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Junior title with Mungret
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Secretary, Mungret St Paul's Secretary City Board GAA
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:07:03
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed:        Donal Fitzgibbon

Date:         7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011