

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Cormac Kelly
Date of Interview	14 th January 2011
Location	Boston College-Ireland, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Andy Flaherty
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: N/A Home County: Dublin
Education	N/A
Family	N/A
Club(s)	N/A
Occupation	N/A
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DB/1/24

Date of Report	24 th July 2012
Period Covered	1958 - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Earliest Memories, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Education, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Sacrifices, Opening of Croke Park, Socialising
Interview Summary	<p>In this short interview, Andy Flaherty, a member of the Na Fianna club in Dublin, sets out his early GAA experiences at school, with his club and as a supporter of the county team. He emphasis the social as much as the sporting side of GAA involvement and reflects on the role that his club has played in his life and that of others in the community. The healthy participation of women is touched upon as are his fondest memories and his sporting idols. He concludes by describing the GAA as part of his 'everyday life'.</p> <p>0:00:25 Earliest Memory of the GAA. Listened to Micheál O'Hare on the Radio.</p> <p>0:00:50 Initial involvement in the GAA. Playing in the Rackard League.</p> <p>0:01:37 Difference between the GAA of his childhood than the GAA of today. Transport, training and parental involvement.</p> <p>0:02:40 Castletown Liam Mellows GAA, Co.Wexford.</p> <p>0:03:00 Discusses Local GAA heroes when he was growing up, Oliver Cullen and Andy Merrigan(Who the All-Ireland Club Championship Cup was named in honour of.)</p> <p>0:04:00 His father's involvement with the GAA.</p> <p>0:04:30 Visible change in the GAA in terms of facilities and equipment from when he was younger.</p> <p>0:06:10 Noticeable difference between the facilities of clubs in Wexford and Dublin, such as Eoghan Ruadh GAA, when he first moved to Dublin at 17 years of age.</p> <p>0:06:37 Used to train teams and watch matches at</p>

	<p>Grangegorman Richmond Asylum as it was the closest pitch for use by the school he worked in North Brunswick St.</p> <p>0:08:06 How his role within Castletown Liam Mellows GAA has changed over the years, also how players were brought to matches.</p> <p>0:09:30 The social aspect of his club and the support at all levels. Very supportive at times of bereavement.</p> <p>0:10:20 Discusses local rivalry with Kilanerin-Ballyfad GAA and how passionate the rivalry was. Tells of how Aidan Kavanagh started off with an U12 Rackard League team that he brought through to Senior level which dominated football in Wexford.</p> <p>0:11:25 The role of women in Castletown Liam Mellows GAA and how it has changed over the years.</p> <p>0:12:43 He discusses the Irish language in relation to the club and the club's involvement in Scór.</p> <p>0:13:40 Discusses the advantages of being a member of the GAA and how vital it is to the paish.</p> <p>0:14:40 Discusses the sacrifices of many people involved with the GAA and the effect it has on their lives.</p> <p>0:16:00 Discusses the obstacles towards women gaining positions of authority within the GAA.</p> <p>0:17:30 Discusses the importance of the voluntary aspect of the GAA.</p> <p>0:18:00 Discusses how the ethos of the GAA with regard to volunteerism has changed over the years and how those who are involved with the GAA seem to have a loyalty to the community and volunteering within the community in general.</p> <p>0:18:48 Involvement of the clergy in the club. Fr. Sean Kitt founded the Castletown Liam Mellow Club, also how the clergy were honorary presidents of the club throughout the years such as Fr. Vincent Quilter. The difference between the involvement of clergy in the Dublin diocese and the Ferns diocese.</p> <p>0:20:15 The major role of the Christian Brothers' and lay teachers in the development of the GAA at juvenile level.</p> <p>0:21:22 Experiences as a Wexford supporter and the rivalries with Kilkenny and Cork.</p>
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	<p>0:22:05 The pride he felt in County Wexford as a supporter, especially following Wexford's success in the 1996 All-Ireland Hurling Championship.</p> <p>0:23:10 The atmosphere and camaraderie at GAA matches. The lack of animosity found amongst fans in other sports apart from a few Dublin GAA supporters over the years, who were now usually followers of GAA. Similar animosity within Derry GAA supporters in the 1970s.</p> <p>0:25:00 How the GAA can shape someone's identity and can strengthen the locality and community as a whole.</p> <p>0:26:00 The success of Castletown Liam Mellows GAA this year as they won the Wexford Senior Football Championship for the first time in nearly 30 years.</p> <p>0:27:00 The role that the Irish language plays in the GAA</p> <p>0:27:50 How the prominence of the Irish language has changed within the GAA.</p> <p>0:29:00 Favourite memory of the GAA. Being in the Hogan Stand when Wexford won the 1996 All-Ireland Hurling Championship.</p> <p>0:29:16 Talks of Tony Doran of Wexford as his GAA hero. Also mentions Mick Jacob of Wexford, DJ Carey, Henry Shefflin, Jimmy Barry Murphy, Dennis Caulin???</p> <p>0:31:35 What his involvement in the GAA means to him and how involvement with the GAA is good for young people. Discusses what's it like to see a child's interest in GAA grow and see them go through all the levels up to senior success, such as Tomás Sheehy, Captain of Castletown Liam Mellows' senior football team. Also mentions Eamon Scallan who was a great footballer and hurler as a child and went on to win an All-Ireland Medal with Wexford in 1996.</p> <p>0:34:00 How important the GPA is for the protection of players. How rewarding players by non-monetary means such as holidays is good.</p> <p>0:35:25 How the GAA must remain an amateur sporting organisation</p> <p>0:35:45 Discusses the significance of Croke Park, and the opening of Croke Park to foreign games to both the GAA and the country.</p>
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Involvement in GAA	<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 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)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:36:58
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____ Cormac Kelly _____

Date: _____ 13/01/2011 _____