

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Padraic O'Connor
Date of Interview	24 th Nov 2010
Location	N/A
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Nicholas Fitzpatrick
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Rathgore NS, Co. Louth. Secondary: Dunleer Technical College
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers; 4 sisters
Club(s)	Naomh Mairtin GAA Club [Louth]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	16 th July 2012
Period Covered	1950s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth, Down, Kerry, Meath
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Volunteers, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Alcohol, Socialising, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Alongside the stories of his early involvement with the GAA and how he came to play with Naomh Mairtin, Fitzpatrick touches on clerical influence in the promotion of the Gaelic games and the social life that surrounded those same games. Fitzpatrick reflects on the impact of rule changes on Gaelic football, the teams and players he has admired in the past and his criticisms of the handling of the controversial Leinster final of 2010. Fitzpatrick also considered the economic recession and the role of the GAA in securing employment for players.</p> <p>00:00:05 Nicky Fitzpatrick introduces himself as a member of Naomh Mairtin GAA club.</p> <p>00:00:15 Earliest memories – playing under 14 in black and amber jerseys in the early 1950s on a school team run by the local curate.</p> <p>00:00:55 Discussion of the individuals involved in Gaelic football during his schooldays.</p> <p>00:01:27 Reflects on the role of priests in promoting games – driving children to and from games. Tells story of playing in a carnival and getting their supper afterwards from Fr. Murphy.</p> <p>00:02:02 Recalls playing Phillipstown at minor and in the second division before joining Naomh Mairtin. Joined Naomh Mairtin in 1961. Discusses being approached to sign transfer by priest.</p> <p>00:03:25 Family involvement in GAA: Father, who died of cancer when he was 13, had little involvement, but his Uncles had.</p> <p>00:03:50 Discusses involvement with Naomh Mairtin and their playing record in the 1960s and 70s.</p>

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	<p>00:04:13 Discusses involvement on committees and as a team selector.</p> <p>00:04:40 Louth 1957: recalls celebrations that followed All-Ireland success.</p> <p>00:05:18 Remarks on the quality of earlier Louth teams, in particular that of 1949 and 1950.</p> <p>00:05:45 Reflects on the changes in gaelic football in recent decades and decries rules that have led to the decline of the overhead catch. Mentions the emphasis on running in the modern game.</p> <p>00:08:00 Suggests ways to improve Gaelic football – give advantage to player who catches ball.</p> <p>00:08:50 Mentions that after matches the ‘few fellas who took a drink’ went to Donegan’s (pub). Refers to efforts to curb drinking when he was involved with teams in the 1980s and criticises drinking levels in the Association.</p> <p>00:09:45 Remarks on the declining influence of priests in the GAA.</p> <p>00:10:05 Admiration for Kerry football and the Down team of the 1960s.</p> <p>00:10:48 Criticises the GAA’s handling of Louth’s defeat to Meath in the 2010 Leinster championship. Remarks on the confidence that comes from winning</p> <p>00:11:50 Prospects for the future: comments on the economic climate and the success of other counties in getting jobs for their players and holding on to them. Fears that emigration will ‘tear’ team apart.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for 16 years</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how</p>	<p>Manager for 3 years</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:12:26
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Paraic O'Connor

Date: 24th Nov 2010