

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	29 th April 2010
Location	Na Fianna Club House, Dublin
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Bertie O'Boyle
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1928 Home County: Sligo
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: 5 daughters
Club(s)	Na Fianna [Dublin]
Occupation	Gateaux Wholesalers, Finglas
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimmy Gray
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1929 Home County: Dublin
Education	Primary: St Patrick's NS, Drumcondra, Dublin Secondary: Coláiste Mhuire, Dublin
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 4 children
Club(s)	Na Fianna [Dublin]; CJ Kickhams GAA [Dublin]
Occupation	Irish Exports Board [Retired]
Parents' Occupation	Dublin Corporation Officer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Cathal Ó Feinneadha
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1928 Home County: Dublin
Education	Primary: Secondary: Third Level:
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 4 children
Club(s)	Na Fianna [Dublin]; CJ Kickhams GAA [Dublin]; Eoghan Rua [Dublin]
Occupation	Retired Civil Servant
Parents' Occupation	Bus driver [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Conradh na Gaeilge; St Raphael's Parents and Friends Association

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Date of Report	17 th July 2012
Period Covered	1890 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Alcohol, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Jimmy, Cathal and Bertie revisit the origins of their club, Na Fianna. Formerly known as CJ Kickhams, the new club was formed after a dispute which was followed by an acrimonious split. They three recall the ins and out of that split, discussing in detail how it originated and who the central players were. They also describe how the new club got off the ground - fielding teams, raising funds, securing grounds and enlisting members. They talk about their own playing days and the characters they encountered along the way as a new community was forged by the members of the nascent Na Fianna.</p> <p>00:30 (Cathal) History of Na Fianna club. Split with CJ Kickhams in mid-1950s. Source of dispute. Kickhams at a low ebb in early 1940s. Demotion. Vote at 1953 annual meeting on voting rights for minors. Dispute. Former GAA President Paddy McNamee acting as arbitrator. Paddy O’Keefe enlisting his help. Leinster Council involvement.</p> <p>04:55 (Jimmy) Cavendish House used for holding meetings. Bill Fitzpatrick central to the split. How long dispute lasted. Numbers that transferred to Na Fianna.</p> <p>06:30 (Jimmy) Training at the cricket ground and the ‘15 acres’. Cycling to games.</p> <p>07:10 (Jimmy) Playing numerous games in one day. Old Crumlin ground. County board getting O’Toole park as a swap. Looking for grounds and little materialising. Wanting a ground near Devaney Gardens.</p> <p>09:05 (Charlie) Working on the Land Commission. Enquiring</p>

	<p>about Mobhi Road. Farmers' grazing rights prioritised.</p> <p>10:20 (Bertie) Cycling with his brother to Blanchardstown to play a game. Brother playing for Dublin minors. Team winning the All-Ireland in 1954.</p> <p>11:55 (Bertie) Seán Clerkin asking him to play handball in 1955. His fascination with the sport. Hand ball in the area.</p> <p>12:50 (Cathal) Playing in Green St and in Ballymullen. Handball dying out in Dublin.</p> <p>13:20 (Bertie) Handball not a great spectator sport.</p> <p>13:35 (Jimmy) Handball alleys at the club.</p> <p>14:00 (Cathal) Kickhams formed in 1890. Success they enjoyed in football and hurling. Playing for Owen Roes hurling club when he was younger. Reason for that. Transferring to Kickhams in 1950.</p> <p>15:15 (Cathal) Some of the Kickhams hurlers leaving for Parish Gaels in the 1940s. Kevin Heffernan going to O'Tooles. Charlie Stritch leaving for Westerns. Reason they left. Playing a championship game against Erin's Isle. Fatalistic attitude of players going into the match.</p> <p>16:50 (Jimmy) Disillusionment creeping in at Kickhams. Seán O'Neill resurrecting underage games within the club in later years. Seán's attributes. How the split affected him.</p> <p>19:30 (Cathal) Minor teams in 1930s playing Bulfin's and CFR.</p> <p>19:55 (Jimmy) Bitter aspects of split. People falling out with one another. Terry Hanna returning to the Fianna eventually. John Sheridan's departure baffling him. Eamon Finnegan coming back to play music.</p> <p>21:15 (Jimmy) Kickhams surviving for some years before amalgamating with Ballymun Gaels to become Ballymun Kickhams. Eddie Lenihen the connection.</p> <p>21:50 Kickham Cup and Power Cup given to winners of tournament organised by drapery houses. Frank McAuliffe trying to get the cups back from Ottoman pub. Drapery houses were Clery's Guiney's Todd Byrne's, Gorovan's, Pim's, Bernie's, Blackrock, Arnott's. Brendan O'Riordan's brother working in Gorovans. Handball player Austin Clarke working in Pim's. Many of the players pioneers but drapers took a drink.</p>
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	<p>25:00 (Bertie) Originally from Sligo. Moved to Dublin in 1943. Sligo team forming in Dublin. Joining Na Fianna in 1955. Brother the first Sligo man to win an All-Ireland minor medal. No GAA clubs near him where he previously lived in Sligo. Cycling to Sligo from Ballintogher.</p> <p>26:45 (Bertie) Enjoying being a member of Na Fianna. Making friends. Playing football and handball.</p> <p>27:20 (Jimmy) Deciding on Na Fianna name. Tom Fitzpatrick involved. Different names that were mooted. Why they chose the name Na Fianna.</p> <p>28:35 (Cathal) Na Fianna hurling club that had existed in the past. Seán O'Neill involved. Returning emigrant going to a Na Fianna man thinking it was his old club.</p> <p>29:40 (Jimmy) Deciding on club colours. Fabian Walsh making a proposal. Playing College of Pharmacy in Islandbridge, and then Vincent's in Croke Park. Clash of colours. Paddy McCarthy training St Michael's. Helping them out with jerseys for Croke Park game.</p> <p>31:20 (Jimmy) Work Seán Fitzpatrick did for the club. Tony Carr and Tommy Norton working with his.</p> <p>32:10 (Cathal) Seán Fitzpatrick playing in the 1940s. Being targeted on the field because of decisions he made as a referee. Being chased out of Parnell Park during a game against Round Towers. Working with the ESB. Marrying Winnie Bell's sister. Selling eggs. Meetings held in his caravan.</p> <p>33:50 (Jimmy) Seán Fitzpatrick being authoritative during meetings at time of split. Paddy McNamee at the meeting. Disagreements.</p> <p>36:00 (Cathal) Kerryman Fitzpatrick getting in trouble with Ger Lyons during a game. Objection made.</p> <p>36:55 (Jimmy) Going to junior hurling board meetings. Playing New Irelands in Corn Ceitinn hurling final. Issues at junior board meetings over scheduling of that.</p> <p>38:55 (Jimmy) How Fitzpatrick died. Lifelong pioneer. Dan Whelan not picked for a game because he drank. Bobby Kane also liked a drink and later objecting when club applied for license to sell alcohol.</p> <p>40:00 (Cathal) Harry in the Burlington nursing home during the split. Eddie Lenihan asking him if they could visit him. arry</p>
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	<p>advising them on split from death bed.</p> <p>40:55 (Jimmy) Paddy Prendergast dislodging Paddy King on the team when he joined the club. Harry advising him on that.</p> <p>42:00 (Jimmy) Early years of Na Fianna. Underage success they had. Lack of a ground at the beginning. Securing land in Mobhi Road in 1960, which Home Farm soccer club had previously used. Brendan Morris secretary at the time. Brendan Menton working at Department of Finance at the time. First goalposts they put up cut down. Relations with Home Farm.</p> <p>44:10 (Cathal) Home Farm applying to use their bar. What was done about that.</p> <p>45:05 (Bertie) Contribution of women when club was first started. Fundraising.</p> <p>45:25 (Cathal) Eamon Murphy telling a story about split and how much money the club had.</p> <p>46:00 (Jimmy) Developing facilities at the club when they first got it.</p> <p>46:30 (Cathal) Larry Ledwidge a man of action along with Seán O'Neill at the beginning.</p> <p>47:10 (Jimmy) Getting a cricket pavillion from Guinness. Jackie Stakelon involved. Jack Murphy bringing water supply to the club. Pavillion they got and how that came about. Tom Loftus chairman of the county board at the time. Applying to them for money. Benny Connolly from Castleblayney, Monaghan assisting them. Brian O'Carroll, Gerry Kirwan and Mick Cahill helping out. Money they spent. Des O'Kane helping them out with equipment.</p> <p>52:15 (Jimmy) Carnivals they held. Former Kerry footballer Charlie O'Sullivan attending. Carnivals in Parnell Park and O'Toole Park. What took place at the carnivals. Ban on 'foreign' dances. Getting around that rule.</p> <p>54:40 (Jimmy) Few people paying club subscriptions when they were younger compared to 2010 figures.</p> <p>55:20 (Jimmy) Corn Ceitinn final and amount of money taken in at the gate. Replay in Islandbridge. Former Vincent's man Fr McAuliffe watching the game and commenting on a Vinny Bell play. Score Bell got in the replay.</p> <p>56:55 (Jimmy) Seán Clerkin introducing camogie to the club. Getting notice to quit pavillion. Scoil Cairtriona needing land.</p>
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	<p>Jack Murphy and Vinny Bell going to see prior in Eccles Street about it. Former Taoiseach Charles Haughey getting involved. Politician Kevin Boland advising them. Resolution.</p> <p>01:00:20 (Cathal) Proposal to amalgamate Coláiste Mhuire and Scoil Cairtriona.</p> <p>01:02:00 (Jimmy) Improvements that have been made to their pitch over the years. Facilities developed.</p> <p>01:03:10 (Jimmy) Club beginning to modernise from 1969.</p> <p>01:03:35 (Cathal) Juvenile tournament in Howth and how that helped them progress. Street leagues. Craobh Rua playing. Harry Giltrap.</p> <p>01:05:50 (Jimmy) First game for Kickhams was at minor level against Seán Heustons. Being overage.</p> <p>01:06:35 (Jimmy) Sense of relief when Na Fianna was set up. Type of club it was. Players coming from Vincent's school. Prison officers joining club. Link with Vincent's. John Howard getting players from Vincent's. Paddy Gallagher of Ballyfermot reacting to an objection at a meeting.</p> <p>01:11:20 (Jimmy) Work of Seán Clerkin. Tony Carr a chairman of the club.</p> <p>01:12:10 (Bertie) What his involvement with Na Fianna has meant to him.</p> <p>01:13:05 (Jimmy) Club helping to foster a sense of community.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Bertie:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" 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>Jimmy:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p>

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	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Cathal:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" 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>Bertie: Played handball for many years</p> <p>Jimmy: Played hurling and football for club and for Dublin</p> <p>Cathal: Played minor football for Dublin winning an All-Ireland with them in 1945; Won Dublin Minor Hurling League playing with Eoghan Rua in 1945.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Bertie: N/A</p> <p>Jimmy: Has served as Chairman of Na Fianna GAA; Dublin GAA and Leinster GAA</p> <p>Cathal: N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:14:15</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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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: 17th July 2012