

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	14 th Dec 2010
Location	Andy's home, near Kildavin, Co. Carlow
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Andy Redmond and Tom Doyle
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: Andy: 1930 Tom: 1949 Home County: Carlow
Education	Primary: Andy: Kildavin National School.
Family	Siblings: Andy: 1 brother Current Family if Different: Andy: Wife, 2 sons and 1 daughter.
Club(s)	Andy: Kilbride GAA; Kildavin GAA
Occupation	Andy: Land Reclamation
Parents' Occupation	Andy: Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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(Optional)	
Date of Report	18 th May 2008
Period Covered	1930s-2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Carlow, Wexford, Dublin, Galway, Americas, New York
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Scór, Club History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	<p>00:28 Talks of his childhood in Kildavin and the handball alley that had been there in the village. Mentions the Roberts, Sean Finley, Hugh Foy and Jim Lyons.</p> <p>02:35 Tells of people playing handball as there was not much football or hurling and they were depending on farmers to loan you a field.</p> <p>03:30 Speaks of his earliest memory of football being going to Bunclody in a pony and trap to see Carlow and Wexford in the 1940's. Mentions Mr Walker.</p> <p>04:40 Talks of buying seven acres in the mid 1960's for £200 and getting back £100. Mentions playing in many different fields before that.</p> <p>07:01 Speaks of having a nine hole golf course and basketball court included on the seven acres. Mentions fundraising to pay for the field by raffling a car.</p> <p>09:00 Talks of buying an excavator to dig stones out of the field and the various people who drove it. Mentions land reclamation.</p> <p>10:42 Talks of Johnny Roberts coming with an ass and car with a procession behind them and playing behind Murphy's field.</p> <p>12:37 Talks of there being very few Church of Ireland playing football. Mentions winning the under 14 championship in 1963 and there being a Church of Ireland player on the team.</p> <p>14:10 Speaks of the development that followed the purchase of the field. Mentions writing to Cardinal Spellman, Bishop of New York, whose grandparents were from Sherwood, for support. Also mentions receiving \$2,000 from him and naming the park after him, but unfortunately he passed away</p>

	<p>before it opened</p> <p>18:52 Talks of Bill Mulhall and his work with the school teams. Mentions Eamon Whelan who took over from him. Also mentions his involvement in Scór.</p> <p>20:59 Tells of him loading up the car with ten or twelve children to bring to a game.</p> <p>21:39 Talks of football and hurling being played when he was in school. Mentions a teacher Tim Grey who was great with Gaelic games but was a tough teacher. Speaks about the launch of the history book and his attendance.</p> <p>24:51 Speaks of hurling and football being popular when he was in school but not in a club. Mentions Carlow's success in the Leinster final and subsequently losing to Dublin.</p> <p>27:14 Talks of Carlow playing Wexford to three draws before winning and the team cycling home.</p> <p>28:07 Recalls cycling to Athy to watch games.</p> <p>29:28 Speaks of WWII and Carlow having their best season. Mentions foot and mouth in the area and the team not being allowed to travel or play because of it.</p> <p>32:03 Talks of not having a radio when young but listening to other peoples radios, a minimum of three miles away.</p> <p>33:39 Recalls listening to the match from the Polo Grounds in New York in 1947.</p> <p>34:37 Talks of Kilbride having a good Senior team in the 1930's as the local team had fallen away. Mentions playing for them himself.</p> <p>36:05 Talks of getting Kildavin up and running again in the mid 1950's and the Junior team winning in 1957. Mentions Mick Kavanagh and Mick Davitt.</p> <p>39:07 Talks of the celebrations after the win in 1957. Mentions the dance in the handball alley. Also mentions a murder in Kilbride.</p> <p>41:39 Talks about John Ryan and how good he was and people coming a great distance to see him play.</p> <p>44:19 Speaks of Jim Murphy training the team for the Junior final in Murphy's meadow jumping over hay stooks. Mentions Billy Hillard Tommy Murphy, the boy wonder, Phil Wilson, George Coleman and Tommy Wogan.</p>
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	<p>46:25 Talks of the rivalry with Bunclody where Carlow and Wexford were concerned. Mentions Tommy Roberts.</p> <p>47:29 Also talks about the rivalry between Kildavin and Kilbride.</p> <p>47:56 Speaks of the strongest period for the club being during the 1960's in to the 1970's. Mentions winning the Senior Championship and League. Also mentions a tournament run for Cheshire Homes and the rivalry between Kildavin and Castletown who Andy Merrigan, of the Andy Merrigan Cup, played for.</p> <p>50:22 Talks of the home tournaments with the Rail yard and how they raised money for the club.</p> <p>50:52 Speaks of the preparation of the field and further developments including a dressing room all built with volunteer labour.</p> <p>52:14 Talks of the place the GAA holds in the community and the work of those who assist.</p> <p>53:24 Speaks of camogie in the area and Brigid and Mary Scully. Mentions the club being the hub of the community.</p> <p>55:14 Talks of fundraising events throughout the years. Mentions Margaret Barry singing at an event. Also mentions running a field day, James Galway and Eileen Donnelly.</p> <p>59:30 Talks of having the facilities to put on shows but tells of the big names costing too much to book for events.</p> <p>01:00:27 Speaks of the football team bringing in someone from Wexford to play for them. Mentions Tony Stack being played as he lived in Carlow but objections were made. Also mentions him being picked to play for both Carlow and Wexford when they were playing each other.</p> <p>01:03:40 Talks of another footballer who played well but after a draw simply left and was never seen again.</p> <p>01:04:49 Speaks of playing hurling Kildrone and Willie O'Connor telling him that he knew that team and there were six he had never seen before and being given the game after objecting. Mentions other players that were played illegally.</p> <p>01:08:04 Talks of the Ban on Foreign Games not being a concern as there was very little by way of foreign games in Kildavin.</p> <p>01:08:37 Speaks of Scór in the area and Dick Gibson and</p>
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	<p>Sonny Wilson. Mentions novelty acts and winning the All-Ireland in Galway. Also mentions one act that went too far in his opinion.</p> <p>01:11:20 Talks of Maureen Moorehead a singer the won Scór and others that won the All-Ireland.</p> <p>01:12:36 Speaks of those who coached the various performers for Scór.</p> <p>01:13:42 Talks of the problems with amateurs judging amateurs and of one occasion in the early 1970's when it made national headlines with a 'brawl' in the hall. Mentions it being brought up at the county board.</p> <p>01:18:24 Speaks of travelling all over the country with the Scór. Tells of it losing popularity over the last ten years.</p> <p>01:20:27 Talks of Scór involving another set of people in the GAA and how the footballers and hurlers would support them.</p> <p>01:21:48 Talks of there being nothing else to do but be involved in the GAA, especially when you didn't drink.</p> <p>01:22:47 Speaks of the impact of emigration on the GAA in the area. Mentions Clonegal and the on off amalgamation between the two areas.</p> <p>01:25:03 Speaks of Kildavin winning so many games in tournaments, championships and leagues in the 1970's that Kevin Kavanagh after a loss said without the occasional defeat your victories become empty.</p> <p>01:27:53 Talks of the biggest change being overhand passing and how it has destroyed the game.</p> <p>01:29:04 Tells of still attending the games in Kildavin. Mentions the standard of refereeing not being great.</p> <p>01:30:35 Speaks of following Carlow football still.</p> <p>01:30:51 Talks of his pride at forming the club but wishes there was more spirit in the club. Mentions the wins but also the disappointment at losing some finals.</p> <p>01:33:01 Speaks of the improved facilities in the club and the most recent development being within the last six years in a village that hasn't even got a grocery shop.</p> <p>01:34:40 Tom talks of his position of Chairman of the club and being aware of the history of the club and the GAA in the area. Mentions being hopeful for the future.</p>
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<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Andy:</p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ 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>Andy:</p> <p>1957 Junior Football Championship with Kildavin</p> <p>Played football with Kilbride and then Kildavin</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Andy:</p> <p>Secretary of Kildavin GAA Club for 18 years</p> <p>Chairman of Kildavin GAA Club for 2 years</p> <p>Selector for Kildavin football teams</p> <p>Vice-Chairman of Carlow County Board in the 1970s.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p>✓ Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:37:05</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: 18th May 2012