

## GAA Oral History Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Eddie Nangle
<b>Date of Interview</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's Home near Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Philip Howlin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1950 <b>Home County:</b> Wexford
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Caim NS, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. <b>Secondary:</b> CBS, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 4 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Duffry Rovers GAA [Wexford]
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Pharmaceutical Company Manager
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Foreman with Wexford County Council
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

**REFERENCE NO. WX/1/44**

<b>Date of Report</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011
<b>Period Covered</b>	1959 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Wexford
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Philip Howlin, chairman of Duffry Rovers, describes growing up in a GAA household and listening to his father and friends talking about gaelic games around the fireplace. He outlined his introduction to the GAA, his separation from it and his eventual return in his late 20s. Howlin provides an insight into the origins of the Duffry Rovers club and remarks on the various places they played prior to the acquisition of a permanent home in 1980. Other issues and themes discussed include the role of clergy, the relationship with camogie, travelling to games, the responsibilities of a club chairman and plans for the club's future. In addition, he reflects on the great achievement in Duffry Rovers history - the winning of 7 county senior football championships in a row – and considers the stand out moments and individuals in his personal GAA experience.</p> <p>00:00:10 Interviewee is introduced as the chairman of Duffry Rovers.</p> <p>00:00:33 Mentions that he is living in the house in which he was born, in the parish of Ballindaggin, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.</p> <p>00:01:01 Information on parents farming background and their occupations - Father worked with county council and mother was housewife.</p> <p>00:01:14 Mentions that he is the eldest of two brothers and recently retired.</p> <p>00:02:10 Earliest memories: Recalls conversations between his father and friends around the 'fireplace' in the 1950s.</p> <p>00:02:43 Introduction to games, mostly hurling, through primary school.</p>

## REFERENCE NO. WX/1/44

	<p>00:03:09 Memories of travelling with his father to Wexford matches and the preparations that went into it. Comments on the state of the roads and the pit-stops.</p> <p>00:04:19 Comments on the absence of any GAA tradition in family beyond his father.</p> <p>00:04:37 Recalls attending his first match with his father involving Duffry Rovers, aged 11. Recalls the game as 'dirty'.</p> <p>00:05:30 Talks about the origins of Duffry Rovers (founded in 1961) and a club in the area which preceded it. Explains the emergence of Duffry Rovers amid plans to amalgamate two existing clubs.</p> <p>00:07:20 Reflects on finishing with the GAA at the age of 18 and his return in his late 20s.</p> <p>00:08:10 Comments on growing up with the GAA and marrying into an inter-county camogie player. Talks about the effect this had on his own family's life.</p> <p>00:09:08 Describes Duffry Rovers as a dual club, competing in senior football and intermediate hurling.</p> <p>00:09:35 Mentions the strength of the local camogie scene and the nature of that club's relationship with the GAA club.</p> <p>00:10:15 Discusses the challenge of fundraising in an economic recession and the absence of serious club debt.</p> <p>00:11:00 Reflects on volunteerism and how to encourage participation. Comments on a recent underage AGM, the numbers joining underage and the involvement of new parents in coaching courses.</p> <p>00:12:55 Discusses the support the club enjoys from the local community.</p> <p>00:13:30 Comments on the 'Celtic tiger' growth of population and the changing profile in the schools.</p> <p>00:14:35 Emigration: mentions the loss of an intermediate hurler – Shane Rackard – to Dubai and the loss of others London. Touches on the efforts of the club to source work for young players and also those players interest in having 'a look at the world.'</p>
--	---

## REFERENCE NO. WX/1/44

	<p>00:15:30 Discusses the development of club facilities, reflecting on the various fields that have been used (including 'Rackards field') up until the acquisition of a permanent home in 1980. Talks about the subsequent development of the field and how it was funded. Also mentions the building of an indoor arena in the 1990s and its various uses.</p> <p>00:18:30 Talks about the recent publication of a club history and events that were held to mark milestones in the club's history. Talks about the people who were behind the production of the book.</p> <p>00:21:18 Discusses the role of clergy in the Duffry Rovers club, in particular the influential Fr. Harry Sinnott who was involved with teams in the 1970s. Mentions also Fr. Fintan Morris, a current committee member.</p> <p>00:23:20 Travelling to games for teams: recalls teams travelling in mentors cars in the early 1980s, talks about moving to buses and the costs involved and the move back to the cars of mentors and parents.</p> <p>00:25:15 Recalls the 'days of the bike' and the natural fitness of people who worked outdoors.</p> <p>00:26:16 Discusses his move into club administration and how he became interested in getting involved.</p> <p>00:28:30 Talks about founding members, including Terry O'Regan (first treasurer in the Duffry Rovers club), James Codd, Fr. Aidan Redmond (first chairman).</p> <p>00:30:00 Comments on the role and responsibilities that come with being chairman. Contrasts the role managing volunteers and managing staff in his former job. Talks about the demands on time.</p> <p>00:31:48 Discusses future plans for club and challenge of finance. Remarks on his emphasis on club culture and player development instead of facilities.</p> <p>00:33:30 Refers to the infrastructural improvements he would like to see – a walking track around pitch for parents, a small stand, an expansion of dressing-rooms and additional ground.</p> <p>00:34:52 Discusses his involvement as a selector with a golden era for club football in the mid 1980s to early 1990s. Talks about the emergence and development of that team, winner of 7 in a row county titles.</p>
--	---

**REFERENCE NO. WX/1/44**

	<p>00:36:26 Refers to 'pride' of people and celebrations that accompanied winning first ever football title. Remarks on how success in football shifted the sporting balance away from hurling within the club.</p> <p>00:37:40 Discusses how appreciation of the achievement has grown with time.</p> <p>00:38:52 Reflects on the character of the 7 in a row team and the winning culture.</p> <p>00:39:55 Mentions a number of the players who played throughout the mid 1980s and early 1990s – John Casey is mentioned as are the names of players who won 8 championship medals between 1986 and 1994.</p> <p>00:40:48 Talks about the 7 Fitzhenry brothers on the Duffry Rovers 7 in a row teams.</p> <p>00:41:30 Offers reasons for the success enjoyed by the club during that time – players, mentors and trainer, Bob Brakewell, who came from a rugby background in Wales and transformed training.</p> <p>00:44:04 Reflects further on the training provided by Bob Brakewell and benefits to players fitness.</p> <p>00:46:00 Comments on the decision-making process in picking teams and the problems of selection.</p> <p>00:48:05 Refers to the ease of motivation when a team is successful.</p> <p>00:49:30 Discusses rivalry with Glynn-Barntown, who they defeated in three finals in a row.</p> <p>00:50:25 Highlight of GAA experience – winning first senior club football championship and Wexford winning 1996 All-Ireland.</p> <p>00:51:30 Other highlights: launch and opening of pitch in 1984, launch of history book, the characters and craic.</p> <p>00:52:15 Recalls as a lowlight of his GAA experience an ill-disciplined junior hurling match involving the newly formed Duffry Rovers in 1962.</p> <p>00:53:20 Recalls a Leinster club football match that Duffry Rovers lost to Portlaoise in Belfield.</p>
--	---

**REFERENCE NO. WX/1/44**

	<p>00:54:00 Recalls Wexford's victory over Kilkenny in 2004 Leinster final.</p> <p>00:54:30 Expresses admiration for Meath team of the 1980s and recalls attending the games against Dublin in 1991. Mentions free-taker Brian Stafford and declares his dislike of free-kicks from the hand.</p> <p>00:56:20 Talks about the best club football team he has seen and comments on the achievements of Crossmaglen Rangers.</p> <p>00:56:48 GAA heroes: talks about Jim Cooper and Damien Fitzhenry from Duffry Rovers.</p> <p>00:57:48 Reflects on the qualities of the GAA and the contribution it has made to his life. Recalls a family tragedy and the support received from the people in the club. Talks about the satisfaction to be derived from working with voluntary organised based around the community.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter   <input type="checkbox"/> Player   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach   <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <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 type="checkbox"/> Referee   <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Committee Member 1970 - 1977 Club Secretary 1978 - 1988 Club Chairman 2011 - ?</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio                      <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:59:41</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

**REFERENCE NO. WX/1/44**

**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: Philip Howlin

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011