

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Eddie Nangle
Date of Interview	17 th Nov 2011
Location	Interviewer's home near Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Adrian Fenlon
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1973 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: CBS, Enniscorthy Secondary: CBS, Enniscorthy Third Level: DIT, Dublin
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters, 2 brothers
Club(s)	Rapparees-Starlights
Occupation	Pharmaceutical Executive
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	17 November 2011
Period Covered	1980 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Offaly, Kilkenny, Dublin, Limerick
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Celebrations, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>00:00:22 Key biographical information: born in Enniscorthy in 1973. Parents' background and employment.</p> <p>00:01:27 Refers to siblings and place within the family of six children.</p> <p>00:01:40 Mentions growing up and then residing in Enniscorthy</p> <p>00:02:00 Earliest memories of the GAA. Recalls living opposite Bellefield, the GAA field in Enniscorthy.</p> <p>00:02:23 Mentions that father attended GAA matches, but did not play. Mentions also the influence of older brother, Pat, who began playing at the age of 8, 9 or 10 and the excitement to be found around Bellefield.</p> <p>00:03:00 Refers to absence of tradition of playing Gaelic games in his father's family and to his father's involvement in cricket. Alludes to the ban on foreign games and the involvement of GAA members.</p> <p>00:04:05 Further discussion of family background and the absence of GAA tradition.</p> <p>00:04:50 Going to watch Wexford in the 1980s in the Croke Park. Refers to the stops made and food and drink. Recalls also the general interest in hurling in the county and the absence of serious competition from other sports.</p> <p>00:06:00 Discusses the influence of club and school in shaping interest in hurling. Mentions the role Brother O'Connell in the school during his time and the impact of the subsequent decline of religious in schools on the playing of hurling.</p> <p>00:07:00 Mentions 'hurling in the towns' as an issue the GAA needs to address and the importance of investment in coaching.</p>

	<p>00:07:40 Discusses record of achievement in school – winning a few Rackard medals – and with the club – winning underage county titles. Refers also to captaining the county at various underage levels.</p> <p>00:08:14 Discusses the quality of team and teachers in secondary schools. Winning Leinster colleges medal in 1987 and losing All-Ireland final to Athenry.</p> <p>00:09:00 Mentions the contrasting emphasis of his brother Pat and himself in balancing study and sport.</p> <p>00:10:00 Discusses the history and profile of his club, Raparees-Starlights. Refers to the difficulty of dual clubs competing against single sport clubs. Mentions the success he has enjoyed with the club football team and the talent that existing within the club.</p> <p>00:12:02 Contrasts the hurling culture in Raparees-Starlights with that in Rathnure, Oulart, Buffers Alley.</p> <p>00:12:35 Outlines the context in which the club operates – the social problems of Enniscorthy and the competition from other sports.</p> <p>00:13:10 Discusses the place of the club within the community and activities that take place within its social centre.</p> <p>00:14:10 Talks about the role of the schools and teachers and the waning numbers interested in the GAA in the town.</p> <p>00:15:00 Discusses the impact of the ‘Celtic Tiger’ and the subsequent economic bust on the town of Enniscorthy and on the Raparees club. Refers to immigration, emigration, unemployment and the skills-set of certain club members.</p> <p>00:16:45 Discusses the facilities within the club – pavilion, pitch and floodlighting – and the quality and accessibility of the venue within the county.</p> <p>00:18:25 Local Heroes, club and county, among them John Conran and Mick Jacob, Christy Keogh, Paul Lynch.</p> <p>00:19:30 Initiation into county teams, including playing the Tony Forrestal cup at the age of 13.</p> <p>00:21:20 Rivalries: mentions the underage rivalry with the Harriers, Geraldines and the strength of the underage teams on which he played.</p> <p>00:22:35 Reflects on the failure of club to translate underage success underage to senior. Considers the differences between town and rural clubs and the difficulties of the former</p>
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	<p>in retaining players.</p> <p>00:23:20 Notes the number of senior county finals the club played in, and lost, between 1993 and 2001. Considers the depth of talent and the desire for success within the group.</p> <p>00:23:55 Attitude to sporting success and failure.</p> <p>00:25:00 Balancing GAA involvement with other responsibilities. Reflects on impact on social life, on studies, on work and offers an example of the daily routine. Mentions that at the top level 'you try and work around your sport rather than the other way around.'</p> <p>00:27:12 Selection for Wexford senior team in 1992, aged 19. Recalls annoyance at being taken off early in a league game and subsequently pulling out of panel during the 1993 league. Reflects on the decision he made.</p> <p>00:28:45 Returning to Wexford panel during summer of 1993 and the Leinster final of that year against Kilkenny.</p> <p>00:29:59 Mentions that he played with Wexford from 1993 to 2005 and reflects on his style of play and contribution as a player.</p> <p>00:30:50 Discusses his reputation for ground hurling and sideline cuts.</p> <p>00:32:20 Comments on previous proposals to award two points for sideline cuts.</p> <p>00:33:00 All-Ireland winning year, 1996. Discusses the standing of Wexford hurling at end of 1995; the beginning of training in October of that year and what it entailed; the league performance in 1996; Leinster championship run and games against Kilkenny, Dublin and Offaly; All-Ireland semi-final against Galway; All-Ireland final against Limerick.</p> <p>00:38:50 Memories of All-Ireland final day, 1996. Influence of Liam Griffin on players and their mental preparation. Mentions the dressingroom before game, meeting the President.</p> <p>00:41:12 Reflects on the match (All-Ireland final 1996)</p> <p>00:41:55 Celebrations. Crowds greeting team in Wicklow and towns and villages on the road back to Wexford.</p> <p>00:44:02 Impact of All-Ireland final on personal profile and the pressures it brought.</p> <p>00:44:45 Demands on time from outside Wexford after 1996 All-Ireland. Dislike of limelight. Refers also to offers of money to attend functions and his lack of interest in it.</p>
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	<p>00:47:58 Ongoing involvement with the GAA: playing junior hurling with his club and involvement in mentoring. Explains his motivations for remaining involved.</p> <p>00:49:09 Interest in remaining in coaching and the need balance involvement with commitments to family and club.</p> <p>00:51:00 Highlights of playing career: 1996 All-Ireland win and defeat of Kilkenny in 1997 Leinster final. Mentions also winning club senior football title in 2002.</p> <p>00:52:00 Biggest disappointments: talks about losing county finals and losing the 1998 Leinster final to Offaly.</p> <p>00:53:28 Reflects on the contribution of the GAA to life and the value of it to young people.</p> <p>00:54:58 Comments on his desire to remain involved in the GAA and the sense of responsibility to 'give back' to club. Refers also to the 'discipline' the GAA helps instil.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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>(a) One All-Ireland Senior Hurling Title 1996 (b) Three U21 County Hurling Titles (c) Three Leinster S.H. Titles (d) Two minor County Hurling Titles (e) All-Star 1996 (f) Three Shinty V Scotland (g) Two County Senior Football Titles (h) Seven Walsh Cup Titles</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>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: 00:56:26</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Eddie Nangle

Date: 17th Nov 2011