

**GAA Oral History Project**  
**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Newcastle, Co. Down.
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Dominic Fitzpatrick
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1935 <b>Home County:</b> Down
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Carnacaville Primary School; St Mary's Boys School Newcastle. <b>Secondary:</b> Newcastle Technical College <b>Third Level:</b> Gwydyr Forrestry College, North Wales.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Patricia); 3 sons & 2 boys
<b>Club(s)</b>	St Donards Athletic and Youth Club (Gaelic Football) [Down]; Bryansford GAA [Down] ; Castlewellan GAA [Down]; St Mary's GAA, Newcastle [Down] ; Clogher GAA [Tyrone] ; Stewartstown GAA [Tyrone]
<b>Occupation</b>	Forrestry
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Market Gardener and Shopkeeper [Father]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1940s - 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Down, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Armagh, Kerry, Wales, Great Britain
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Celebrations, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>00:51 Describes growing up in Carnacavill, Newcastle, in the 1940s. Presence of American army and British army. Attending St. Mary's Boys School in Newcastle. Lack of football. Mostly soccer till he was 13. Mentions Under-16 Gaelic team, linked with St. Donard's Athletic and Youth Club. Under-16 East Down League, seven-a-side teams.</p> <p>02:29 Recalls joy at winning seven-a-side medal, beating Banbridge in final. Scoring goal. Captain.</p> <p>03:10 His father's disapproval of him playing football, fear of injury. His uncle playing football at St. Colman's College, Newry. Inheriting his shin guards, giving these shin guards to Dominic's own son.</p> <p>04:25 Predominance of soccer in Newcastle. Parish soccer league. Representing locality in Irish league.</p> <p>05:05 Six-month suspension for football players caught playing soccer. Players playing under different names.</p> <p>05:43 Recalls evacuees sent to Carnacavill School from Belfast during the war. An evacuee selling him football boots, his father taking studs out. His father shopkeeper and market gardener. Lack of luxuries.</p> <p>07:43 Evacuees housed with local families. Half-days at school due to increased amount of students. Violence of teacher. Changing to Newcastle school. Lack of encouragement to play football. Formation of youth club: training, boxing, football.</p> <p>10:11 Recalls going to technical college in Newcastle, playing in goal there. Trial for U-16 Northern Ireland schoolboy team in Belfast, not selected.</p> <p>10:56 Mentions his childhood heroes: Billy Emery playing for</p>

	<p>Newtownards. Joe Toner who played for Northern Ireland and Arsenal, PJ McElroy playing for UCD and combined universities.</p> <p>12:30 Describes playing football and soccer in Newcastle school. Football team in Bryansford. Explains parish boundaries. Bryansford team of 1930s and 1940s winning county championship four consecutive years. Problem of lack of players subsequently. Recalls going to Bryansford match, watching player's leg breaking, subbing for him without boots.</p> <p>15:48 Discusses playing with Bryansford in seven-a-side football. Travelling in one of the player's taxis. Lack of success. Describes seven-a-side tournaments. Recalls playing in Kilkeel seven-a-side, two players banging heads.</p> <p>18:42 Bryansford GAA Club grounds off White Forest Lane. Explains location. Michael Meldon's land. Team disbanding in 1951. Formation of St. Mary's GAA Club, Newcastle, in 1952. Playing in St. Patrick's Park, county ground. Good condition. Dressing rooms.</p> <p>20:54 Recalls being asked to play for Castlewellen before that. Membership in two clubs on several occasions. Newcastle, St. Donard's, Castlewellen. Outlines successes. County minor team sub in 1953. No back doors or minor leagues then.</p> <p>23:48 Recalls being selected for county minor team. Playing trial match in Hilltown, South vs East Down. Playing out of position. Disappointment at being sub. Hopes to play. Pride in wearing red jersey. Losing match.</p> <p>25:11 Love of football. Training in St. Patrick's Park. Also passionate about soccer. His father's fear of injuries.</p> <p>26:12 Mentions individuals involved in formation of St. Mary's in 1952: John McElroy, county footballer; Jim McCarrick, Antrim hurler; Jack McLarnon from Belfast. Mentions the clubs the men played for before coming to Newcastle. Winning junior league its first year. Successes of St. Mary's.</p> <p>29:00 Ease of decision to leave Castlewellen seconds to come to St. Mary's. Known as The Magpies, black shirt with white collar.</p> <p>29:53 Describes a photo of himself and John McElroy in 1953.</p> <p>30:53 His progress with St. Mary's. Intermediate league. Mentions Paddy Doherty of Ballykinlar. Recalls rivalry with</p>
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	<p>Ballykinlar. Outlines Doherty's career. Mentions Harry Doherty, Paddy's brother. Also mentions the Macnamara brothers of Loughinisland and Dr Martin Walsh, medic with team.</p> <p>34:23 Discusses rivalry between Newcastle and Leitrim. Mentions PJ McElroy. Mentions Father Faran, St. Mary's president. Occasional aggression between both teams.</p> <p>37:53 Describes going to Wales aged 19 in 1954. Playing soccer in Wales in seventh division of North Wales league. Forestry college. Many Irish students. Mentions Finbar Conlon in the college, Down footballer. Conlon's skill, his subsequent illness. Conlon also playing rugby in college.</p> <p>39:38 Discusses his time in Wales, returning in 1956. PJ McElroy also studying forestry in Wales. Dominic moving to Tyrone, playing senior football for Clogher against Omagh in 1956. Mentions Brian McSorley for Clogher. Also Jackie Taggart for Omagh. Difficulty of fitting in with Clogher team. Registered in Tyrone and Down at same time.</p> <p>43:22 Moving to East Tyrone. Playing for Stewartstown Harps Gaelic Football Club. Abundance of football teams in East Tyrone. Mentions Coalisland, Clonoe, Donoughmore, Dungannon, Derrylaughan. Violence of football. West Tyrone and East Tyrone senior leagues.</p> <p>45:47 Recalls playing friendly match against Cookstown, mentions Eoin Mulligan. Describes Sammy Park's contribution to Stewartstown club and his involvement in town. Scoring a hatrick.</p> <p>47:38 Close-knit community in Stewartstown. Mentions Iggy Jones for Dungannon. Playing Carrickmore, mentions Frankie Dunne. Playing in tournament matches during week in summer. Reaching final of Lavey tournament. Prize of set of team jerseys for runners' up.</p> <p>51:22 Describes recurring knee injury from 1959. Mentions his doctor, Charlie Cosgrave. Transferring to Fermanagh, mentions Fr Hugh McGreal. Asked to play for Killeshir. Playing golf in Bundoran Golf Club. Knee operation in 1963.</p> <p>56:29 Reflects on missing the game when forced to quit in 1959. Down winning Wembley Tournament, and All-Ireland senior football final. Recalls first time in Croke Park in 1953 for Kerry vs Armagh All-Ireland senior football final. Stopping in Drogheda to drink on way home. Mentions Tony Haddon, Paddy Doherty, PJ McElroy. Down's success.</p>
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	<p>59:06 Recalls going to Croke Park to watch All-Ireland Senior Football Final in 1960. Record crowd. Atmosphere. Down beating Kerry. Mentions players Kevin Mussen, Jarlath Carey, Eddie McHale living locally. Also mentions trainer Martin Walsh. Also mentions Lenihan in All-Ireland team in 1990s.</p> <p>01:01:55 Describes his life after he finished playing: living in Fermanagh, marrying in 1964, returning in 1972 to Newcastle. His children's involvement in local swimming club in Slieve Donard Hotel pool. Recounts the pool being bombed out one night in 1970s, other incidents. His views on violence for political gain. Outlines violence and destruction during The Troubles.</p> <p>01:06:07 Reflects on the impact of The Troubles on football. Security checks on way to and from matches. Delays.</p> <p>01:07:06 In Tyrone in late 1950s, bridges blown up, bombings. Official IRA campaign. Security checks, car searched at night.</p> <p>01:09:02 Ponders his views that Gaelic games and politics too closely interlinked, his belief the GAA should be impartial. Disagreement with using GAA grounds for political events. His son Brian's involvement in football in St Colman's, his youngest son John's interest in athletics and swimming.</p> <p>01:15:48 Outlines history of Newcastle and Bryansford clubs amalgamating and separating since the 1950s. Mentions joining Ballykinlar club to get All-Ireland tickets. Lists the eight GAA clubs he has been a member of.</p> <p>01:19:14 His joy in Tyrone's recent GAA success. Tyrone's support for Down when Down was flourishing. Mutual support among Northern Ireland counties. Mentions Tyrone's Jim Devlin who was killed in The Troubles.</p> <p>01:21:10 Discusses changes he has witnessed in GAA. Different style of football. More financial reward for players now.</p> <p>01:22:55 His views on football style now: likes fast pace, less holding of ball. Mentions Charlie "Chuck" Higgins, Derry county player, who played for Stewartstown.</p> <p>01:24:35 Reflects on his GAA highlight: Down winning the 1960 All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Recalls Armagh missing a penalty in 1953. Skill of 1960 Down players. Mentions skill of half-forward line comprising James McCartan, Paddy Doherty, and Sean O'Neill.</p>
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<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played U16 football with St Donards, won 7-aside leagues. Was a member of the Down Minor panel in 1953.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:25:55
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.