

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Jackie Napier
Date of Interview	15 th Feb 2011
Location	Jackie's home, near Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jackie Napier
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1942 Home County: Wicklow
Education	Primary: Bray NS, Co. Wicklow Secondary: Technical School, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: Wife (Josie), 1 son & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Bray Emmets GAA [Wicklow]
Occupation	Printer with Smurfit Print, Dublin
Parents' Occupation	Barber [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	17 th July 2012
Period Covered	1885 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Wicklow, Dublin, Great Britain, England
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Jackie talks about his involvement in the GAA over the years. He recalls growing up in Bray and the role that the Association had in the town. He talks about his first involvement with the Bray Emmets' club and becoming juvenile secretary at the age of twelve. Jackie describes the development of the club over the years and the different administrative roles he has had. He talks about being involved with the Wicklow senior hurling team and discusses their various campaigns including the winning of two junior All-Irelands in 1967 and 1971. He discusses the history of the Bray Emmets and how the club has changed over the years. He discusses the development of his own administrative career which has seen him working at both a provincial and national level on the Leinster and Central councils. Jackie describes the place of hurling in Wicklow and highlights his hopes for the future. Towards the end of the interview Jackie discusses the importance of the GAA in his life and describes what the Association means to him.</p> <p>00:29 Jackie talks about growing up in Bray. Recalls Joe Butler opening a chemist in Bray and his first experiences of the GAA. Discusses 'big' Bray playing matches against 'little' Bray in Emmet Park. Discusses becoming juvenile secretary of the club at the age of eleven or twelve.</p> <p>03:44 Discusses hurling in Bray when he was growing up.</p> <p>04:32 Talks about growing up in Bray and playing Gaelic games in parish leagues with teams from north Wicklow and south Dublin.</p>

	<p>05:50 Discusses playing hurling in Emmet Park after school. Talks about getting interest in the GAA and how his grandfather was from Tipperary.</p> <p>07:30 Talks about his own playing career.</p> <p>08:00 Describes what Bray was like when he was growing up.</p> <p>08:50 Talks about the prominence of soccer in Bray. Players playing both soccer and Gaelic games during the times of the Ban.</p> <p>09:35 Discusses becoming selector for the minor team in the late 1950s when he was only a teenager. Talks about becoming secretary of Bray Emmets and the work that was involved. Mentions Matt Britton.</p> <p>12:30 Talks about his involvement in Wicklow hurling and the different counties they travelled to. Describes the different roles he has held with the county. Recalls the 1954 Leinster championship. Becoming a senior hurling selector in 1962 and the county's progress over the next number of years. Talks about winning the All-Ireland in 1967.</p> <p>17:12 Recalls the winning of the All-Ireland junior hurling final in 1967. Playing in the Wembley tournament in London in 1968. Talks about Wicklow's campaigns over the next few years. Recalls beating Wexford. Talks about playing Hertfordshire three times in a final and an incident in the second match.</p> <p>24:00 Recalls how Hertfordshire protested over Wicklow's Eamon Murray.</p> <p>25:43 Talks about being a selector for the Wicklow team and recalls stories from that role. Discusses the 2003 All-Ireland senior 'B' final.</p> <p>27:45 Talks about the different managers he worked with over the years. Recalls a story about Paddy Croke's greyhounds and rabbits.</p> <p>29:43 Discusses what the training was like during that period and the teams they played against. Talks about the strong hurling clubs in Wicklow at the time.</p> <p>31:28 Talks about working on the Wicklow hurling board and hurling's relationship with football. Mentions Jimmy Hatton, Sean Doyle.</p> <p>33:25 Discusses what the role of selector was like. Describes</p>
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	<p>the type of support the county hurling team received.</p> <p>36:30 Talks about the development of his career in administration and the people he worked with. Mentions Sean O'Farrell, Sean Doyle, Don Hyland.</p> <p>41:20 Discusses the history of the Bray Emmets' banner. Describes how it has been used for parades. Mentions Joe Kenny.</p> <p>45:55 Talks about his involvement in the Bray Emmets' club and describes the development of the club over the years. Mentions Hugh O'Brien.</p> <p>48:58 Talks about Hugh O'Brien. Mentions Hugh Byrne and Martin O'Neill.</p> <p>50:33 Discusses being joint President of Bray Emmets. Talks about how the club has changed over the years and his involvement. Describes the club's facilities and the type of fundraising the club has done. Talks about the development of the new ground and moving from Emmet Park.</p> <p>56:00 Describes how Bray is close to Dublin. Talks about the Bray players who have played for Wicklow.</p> <p>58:00 Talks about the challenges he faced when he was involved in administration with the club. Describes the sense of community in the GAA.</p> <p>01:00:15 Discusses the work of Matt Britton for the club. Reads from the club's history book.</p> <p>01:03:35 Talks about the role of the club in Bray. Describes the club's relationship with the town's soccer clubs.</p> <p>01:04:55 Discusses trying to get people to play hurling in Wicklow.</p> <p>01:05:25 Talks about his work on Leinster Council and Central Council. Recalls Jack Boothman being elected president of the GAA.</p> <p>01:07:15 Discusses the role of non-Catholics in the GAA in Wicklow. Mentions Hugh Byrne.</p> <p>01:09:17 Describes the type of meetings he attended.</p> <p>01:11:00 Recalls working for Smurfit Printers.</p> <p>01:11:45 Describes how the GAA took up a lot of his time and what keeps him motivated.</p>
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	<p>01:12:22 Talks about his trip to New York with the Wicklow footballers. Playing New York in Gaelic Park.</p> <p>01:13:28 Reads a poem from the club's history book.</p> <p>01:16:10 Describes the improvements in facilities for the GAA over the years. Notes how the social scene was better in the past. Talks about the dances they went.</p> <p>01:17:45 Talks about the different competitions that the club played. Recalls meeting Christy Ring.</p> <p>01:19:33 Describes his proudest moment in the GAA. Seeing Bray Emmets win their first minor title in 2004 and Don Hyland winning a Railway Cup medal.</p> <p>01:20:10 Talks about the teams he admires. Mentions John Henderson and the Kilkenny hurling team.</p> <p>01:20:54 Discusses his family's interest in the GAA.</p> <p>01:21:25 Describes hurling as the greatest game in the world and the GAA as the greatest association in the world.</p> <p>01:21:50 Talks about his work with Tom Ryall on the Bye-Laws Committee.</p> <p>01:22:10 Discusses being involved in the writing of Wicklow's GAA history.</p> <p>01:24:20 Jackie reads a poem from which the Wicklow GAA history book took its name, 'The Leather's Echo'.</p> <p>01:26:08 Highlights the work of Mick Mangan.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Bray Emmets: 1953-56: Juvenile Secretary 1957 - ? Club Secretary Many years: Vice-Chairman</p>

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	<p>1977: Chairman Current: Joint President with Tom Walsh</p> <p>North District Board: Pre-1963 & post-1966: Vice-Chairman 1963-66: Chairman</p> <p>Wicklow Hurling Board: 1972-73; 1987-89: Chairman 1969 (and various other times): Vice-Chairman 1994 – 2005: Secretary</p> <p>Wicklow County Board: 1970s – Current: Management Committee 1970s – Current: Disciplinary Committee Current: CCC 1984: History Committee PRO (11years) Ciste Gael Co-ordinator (9 years)</p> <p>Leinster Council: 1984 – 96: Wicklow Delegate</p> <p>Central Council: 2010 – current: Wicklow delegate.</p>
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:27:08
Language	English

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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