

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Dónal Fitzgibbon
Date of Interview	7 th Dec 2011
Location	South Court Hotel, Limerick
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Patrick O'Brien Pa
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1935 Home County: Limerick
Education	N/A
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Mungret St Pauls GAA [Limerick]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. LK/1/17

Date of Report	7 th Dec 2011
Period Covered	1930 - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Limerick
Key Themes Covered	Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Patrick (Pa) O'Brien discusses hurling in Mungret in the 1940s and the difficulty for club and school in securing suitable places to play. O'Brien also discusses his own children's involvement with gaelic games and how those games have changed over the years.</p> <p>00:00:20 Interviewee is introduced as a former officer of Mungret/St. Paul's club, who had served also at county board level.</p> <p>00:00:50 Earliest memories of GAA in Mungret: recalls influence of his father, a Tipperary hurling man, on his GAA involvement.</p> <p>00:01:14 Refers to having played previously with St. Patrick's club and UCD in Dublin.</p> <p>00:01:23 Tells story of return to Mungret and turning up for a final.</p> <p>00:01:36 Discusses his own children's involvement in Mungret and refers to un-developed state of facilities at the time.</p> <p>00:02:06 Recalls the process by which he was appointed Secretary of the club and refers to other positions he has held – Chairman and PRO.</p> <p>00:02:25 Comments on his absence from family life and wife's reference that she was entitled to 'the single parent allowance'.</p> <p>00:02:30 Comments on the 'friendships' he has made through the GAA.</p> <p>00:02:49 Discusses the highlight of his involvement with the Mungret club – the 1993 Minor final. Talks about the Minor</p>

	<p>championship of that year and its culmination in the defeat of Patrickswell in the final.</p> <p>00:04:01 Discusses the major developments in Mungret club – refers to issues of duality, the growth of underage football, losing four Intermediate finals, participation levels, purchase and development of community centre, ladies football and Camogie, ambitions for the future.</p> <p>00:05:27 Mentions a club strategic plan that had been launched the year before, which led to ‘revamp’ of club.</p> <p>00:05:40 Refers to amounts raised by a club walk and a fashion show.</p> <p>00:05:55 Talks about influences inside and outside the club: mentions admiration for Joe McDonagh and Seán Kelly and Kelly’s brother. Talks about admiration for Limerick GAA people, in particular Eamon Cregan and Dave Keane. Refers also to ‘unsung heroes’ and mentions various names – John Quane and John Galvin.</p> <p>00:07:38 Discusses the qualities of Eamon Cregan and what they brought to Limerick – refers to 1973 All-Ireland final. Mentions also his role as manager of Limerick.</p> <p>00:08:27 Reflects on the impact of the GAA on his own life. Refers to friendships and the GAA as a means of relating to other Irish people.</p> <p>00:09:30 Discusses Mungret’s GAA future: refers to importance of keeping a group of players together and cites the importance of having a college – Ard Scoil – close by.</p> <p>00:10:50 A poem entitled ‘The Mungret Minors’, celebrating a team from 1975, is recited.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>All Ireland Cross Country Champion</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator</p>	<p>Received a Presidential Award for his voluntary contribution to the GAA in 2006</p>

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(Positions held; how long for)	
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:13:05
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Donal Fitzgibbon

Date: 7th Dec 2011