

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Tommy McCann
Date of Interview	10 th Nov 2011
Location	N/A
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Reid
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1949 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Collon National School, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers; 3 sisters
Club(s)	Mattock Rangers GFC [Louth]
Occupation	Accountant
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Teacher [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Local Historical Society; Board of Management of local school; Local Archaeological Society

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Date of Report	17 th July 2012
Period Covered	1940s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Playing, Training, Managing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life
Interview Summary	<p>Michael Reid outlines his family background his introduction to Gaelic football through school and club and the extent of his playing and administrative involvement with the Mattock Rangers club in Louth. In the course of the interview, Reid also offers observations on the experience of listening to games on radio in the pre-television age, the changing role of clergy, women and schools in the promotion of Gaelic games, the growing costs of running GAA club and the role that clubs play in community life.</p> <p>00:00:06 Michael Reid introduces himself as a member of Mattock Rangers GAA club.</p> <p>00:00:22 Family background: mentions that father was a member of Hunterstown Rovers where he played and served as a selector in the 1940s and 1950s. Recalls travelling to club and inter-county matches with father.</p> <p>00:00:50 Listening to the 1957 All-Ireland final on radio. Reference to victory dance around kitchen at the end of game. Reflections on the experience of listening to games on radio.</p> <p>00:02:12 Comments on playing small games of football during lunch breaks in school. No team in school league.</p> <p>00:03:12 Began playing with club at 16 years of age. Recalls playing in, and winning, the Under 16 competition, the O'Duffy Cup – lists the clubs involved.</p> <p>00:03:44 Refers to attending (St. Pat's) school in Armagh in the 1960s and becoming involved in club on his return during summer holidays. Comments on playing a lot of football in St. Pat's.</p> <p>00:04:05 Mentions family background. Mother from Mayo and</p>

	<p>interest in her family in GAA.</p> <p>00:04:48 Attendance at first inter-county game, Louth V Westmeath in Navan. Story about confusing minor game with senior.</p> <p>00:05:30 Recollections of attending other games in the early 1960s – Louth V Meath in Croke Park in 1964. Mentions some of the leading players for Louth during that time.</p> <p>00:06:24 Recalls reading in school about Louth defeating Longford, then National League champions, in Leinster championship.</p> <p>00:07:00 Memories of other prominent teams and players of the 1960s. Mentions players from Down, Offaly and Meath.</p> <p>00:07:52 Playing days: recalls losing Cooley in Minor final in 1968 and the poor record of club against Cooley throughout the 1970s. ‘They broke our hearts...’</p> <p>00:08:25 Discusses playing career, predominantly in junior ranks.</p> <p>00:08:50 Became secretary of club, aged 19. Mentions the emphasis on youth in club administration at the time and the reasons for it. Refers to ‘influence’ of club on life.</p> <p>00:10:10 Outlines the involvement of siblings in the GAA, in particular a brother who played for county in the 1970s. ‘I looked up to him...’ Refers to father becoming involved with Mattock Rangers as a selector in 1973, following his sons into a new club.</p> <p>00:11:15 Outlines various roles held within club – selector, PRO, Treasurer, Chairman.</p> <p>00:11:40 Refers once again to rivalry with Cooley.</p> <p>00:12:00 Selects 2002 senior victory as a highlight. Refers to subsequent successes, the style of play, the celebrations and the pride in achievements.</p> <p>00:12:50 Lowpoint: relegation from senior football in 1979. Charts fortunes of club from 1979 to 1995.</p> <p>00:13:40 Work of club in community. Reference to growth of club, acquisition of new ground, camogie and hurling, underage girls football.</p> <p>00:14:45 Participation of women in club. Reference to Ladies committee in 1970s and the broadening of the club’s appeal.</p>
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	<p>Support from women for club activities in previous decade.</p> <p>00:15:40 Decline of church influence in club since 1960s.</p> <p>00:16:30 Comment on the role of schools and the decline in numbers of male teachers. Reference to ongoing relationship with local school and to influence of club on school coaching.</p> <p>00:17:40 Discussion of changing financial demands on clubs. Contrasts costs involved in running club in 1971 and 2010 and provides figures by way of illustration.</p> <p>00:18:55 Comments on the improvements in Gaelic football with reference to skill and fitness levels. Criticises overemphasis on handpass and comments on the impact this has had on the game.</p> <p>00:19:45 Reflects on the role that GAA clubs play in community life, the growth in local population, the integration of new inhabitants into club through children.</p> <p>00:21:00 Efforts to integrate non Irish nationals.</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 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>14 years as an adult player; 10 years as a junior player</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Club committee member for 42 years</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview:00:21:23</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Tommy McCann

Date: 11th Nov 2010