

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2010
<b>Location</b>	Park Hotel Dungarvan
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	John A. Murphy
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1941 <b>Home County:</b> Tipperary
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Cashel NS, Co. Tipperary <b>Secondary:</b> Cashel CBS, Co. Tipperary; St Augustine's Friary, Abbeyside, Co. Waterford.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Eileen) & 4 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Cashel King Cormacs GAA [Tipperary]; Dungarvan GAA [Waterford]
<b>Occupation</b>	Journalist
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Tailor [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	Late 1940s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Tipperary, Waterford, Kilkenny, Dublin, Cork, Wexford, Monaghan
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Playing, Training, Media, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Childhood, Impact on Life, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Socialising
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>John is a Tipperary man living in Waterford with a passion for the GAA in both counties. In this interview he talks about his childhood in Lismore and his experience of playing Gaelic games both in Cashel CBS and St Augustine's Friary in Dungarvan. He also reflects on his career as a journalist and a lifetime of covering the games. Having held prominent positions in Waterford GAA, John gives his thoughts on the administrative structures of the GAA and key changes throughout the years.</p> <p>00:38 Discusses his upbringing in Cashel, Tipperary and he tells how his father was a tailor and mentions Lismore in Waterford. He talks about his school life and mentions the Christian Brothers in Cashel and St Augustine's in Dungarvan.</p> <p>01:12 Tells how he became a journalist in 1960.</p> <p>01:35 Discusses the level of Gaelic Games and Rugby in Cashel. He talks about Hurling and Football, and the senior county championship in Tipperary in 1991. He mentions Cashel King Cormac's GAA Club.</p> <p>02:38 Describes where the name Cashel King Cormac's derives from. He talks about the High Kings of Cashel and the Rock of Cashel.</p> <p>03:25 Discusses his father and mother's involvement in the GAA. He mentions football, hurling and Lismore in Waterford. He talks about the 1925 Senior Hurling Championship.</p> <p>03:58 Discusses his profession as a journalist and mentions the Irish Examiner.</p> <p>04:20 Describes his mother's maiden name as 'Ormond'. He discusses her brother's involvement in the GAA and talk</p>

	<p>about one of her brother's political career.</p> <p>04:55 Talks about when Lismore won the Junior Hurling Championship in 1924 and the Senior Hurling Championship in 1925. He tells how his father, Jackie Murphy, and his wife's father, Mick O'Brien, played on the 1925 team.</p> <p>05:54 Discusses his father's career. He mentions Clonmel, Lismore, and Mount Mellory.</p> <p>06:27 Discusses his father's role as a tailor for the Monks in Mount Mellory. He talks about the cemetery in Leahy Park in Cashel.</p> <p>07:38 Describes his childhood and his earliest memories of the GAA. He talks about cycling from Gools cross to Limerick to watch the Munster finals and tells a story about this.</p> <p>08:52 He talks about his GAA heroes from Tipperary and mentions Pat Stakelum, Mickey 'the rattler' Byrne, Tony Redden, Sean Kenny, Paddy Kenny, John Doyle, Kieran Carey, Jimmy Doyle, Sean McLoughlin, Liam Devenny, and Jimmy Finn.</p> <p>09:40 Tells a story that was told to him by Mick Maher about a Munster final between Tipperary and Cork.</p> <p>10:20 Recalls the level of Hurling played at his national school, Cashel CBS. He compares this to the level of Football played, and mentions Badminton and Basketball and Rockwell College.</p> <p>11:22 Discusses the role of teachers in the GAA and mentions Brother Nolan, Brother Ryan, and Brother Downey. Describes how Cashel King Cormac's and Cashel CBS were linked.</p> <p>12:05 Talks about his playing career in hurling and football. Discusses how he played minor and junior hurling with Cashel and Dungarvan.</p> <p>13:29 Compares the day-to-day running of his club in Cashel and Dungarvan.</p> <p>14:40 Describes the prominence of the GAA in the Augustinian Friary in Dungarvan where he went to secondary school. He mentions hurling, football, the Fruin Cup, and the Munster Junior Football Championship.</p> <p>16:12 Talks about how the GAA was incorporated into the school day.</p>
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	<p>16:44 Discusses the level of handball played in St Augustine's College when he attended in the 1950s and compares this to the level of Handball played there now.</p> <p>17:39 Tells how he illegally played minor for Dungarvan in 1958 and also played minor with Cashel in 1958 in the Tipperary Championship. He mentions a man named Michael Kelly.</p> <p>18:24 Describes the successes of Dungarvan GAA Club. He mentions Abbeyside and Mount Sion.</p> <p>18:59 Describes how old Dungarvan GAA Club is. He mentions Jack Boothman.</p> <p>20:17 He discusses the people who run the club and how much the volunteer effort is needed and appreciated.</p> <p>21:02 Talks about CBS Dungarvan and the link between the school and Dungarvan GAA.</p> <p>21:38 Describes his involvement Dungarvan minor teams in the 1950s. He talks about winning a Minor county championship and how the team began to struggle and why.</p> <p>22:30 Describes the effect of emigration on Dungarvan GAA Club. He also discusses how the club handled members who played both the GAA and Soccer.</p> <p>23:44 Describes the extent to which the ban was enforced in Dungarvan.</p> <p>23:57 He discusses the ban committee and tells how Tom Cheasty was suspended from the GAA for 6 months. He mentions an All-Ireland in 1951.</p> <p>24:56 Discusses the affect the ban had on relations between Soccer and the GAA. He recalls Pat Fanning and the GAA congress in Belfast when the ban was abolished in 1971. He discusses the GAA since the ban has been abolished.</p> <p>27:31 Discusses his involvement in administration within his club and different roles, such as chairman secretary and PRO, he has had. He mentions Stradbally and the West Waterford Division Board.</p> <p>28:27 Explains how he was nominated for county chairman in 1981 and how this made him feel. He discusses the centenary year in 1984 and what it meant to the GAA.</p> <p>30:20 Describes why he feels the GAA has been so resilient and popular within Ireland since its formation in 1884. He</p>
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	<p>discusses the relationship between nationalism and the GAA and how the GAA has formed his identity.</p> <p>32:50 Describes when he first became part of the administrative aspect of the GAA. He shares some of the key challenges to the club he experienced as part of the administration.</p> <p>34:23 Describes some of the different methods of fundraising undertaken by the club in the past. He discusses the money raised for the new development of the club grounds in Cloghran in the 1980s. He mentions the county board.</p> <p>35:43 He explains how the club acquired the new club grounds in 1988 from the Industrial Development Authority.</p> <p>37:07 Explains where the club played and trained before the purchase of the club grounds. He talks about the show grounds in Fraher Field, which he claims held two All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championships. He talks about the county board.</p> <p>38:12 Gives an account of a member of the club who opposed the move to the new grounds. He tells how the grounds were re-zoned and how they made a profit from this.</p> <p>41:30 Discusses the role of the GAA in the Dungarvan community. He also discusses the importance of the GAA to the nation as a whole.</p> <p>43:09 Talks about involvement in community life of people who have no involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>44:16 Explains why he became involved in the administrative aspect of the GAA. He talks about becoming chairman of the west provisional board and chairman of the county board.</p> <p>45:45 Tells a story about the county secretary, Seamus Grant, the treasurer, Davy Power and the Munster Championship in 1982 in Cork when Waterford played Tipperary.</p> <p>47:57 Discusses the challenges he came up against while chairman of the county board and the divisional board. He discusses his involvement in the controversy in the late 1980s that arose before a County Final in Walsh Park.</p> <p>52:08 Describes what he feels makes a good chairman and explains that three guidelines he set for himself when he became chairman.</p> <p>53:09 Discusses the internal politics that can arise within</p>
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	<p>clubs and how this can affect the GAA.</p> <p>54:03 Tells what he is most proud of in his entire involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>54:40 Recalls when he was voted chairman of the county board and how he felt when he heard the result. He mentions Gary Cunningham and recalls what he said to him after his speech.</p> <p>55:51 Describes his worst memories as chairman. He discusses the Munster Finals of 1982 and 1983 when Waterford played Cork. He mentions the 2008 All-Ireland Final.</p> <p>57:10 Describes how he feels about the friendships he has made through his involvement with the GAA.</p> <p>58:10 Describes the advantages and disadvantages of being involved in the administration of the GAA. He Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.</p> <p>59:24 Describes how things he learned from his county involvement affected his club involvement. He talks about people from different sections of Irish society you encounter when involved at county level.</p> <p>01:00:36 Describes how he feels about the organisational structure of the GAA. He mentions Croke Park, Semple Stadium, Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Gaelic Grounds, Killarney, and Nowlan Park.</p> <p>01:02:00 Discusses what he feels about the amateur status of the GAA and the issue of 'pay for play'. He talks about the players, both club and county, and how he feels they should be treated. He mentions Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.</p> <p>01:03:22 Discusses the issue of the inclusion of the Gaelic Players Association into the GAA, 'pay for play', and the ethos of amateurism.</p> <p>01:04:29 Discusses the changes in the GAA and the ban on foreign games and dances. He discusses the varies bodies within the GAA.</p> <p>01:05:48 Discusses what he feels are the biggest challenges the GAA is facing. He mentions Soccer, Rugby and He Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.</p> <p>01:06:36 Explains why, when and how he became a journalist. He mentions Brother Ryan, St Augustine's College in Dungarvan and Cashel. He talks about his role in the Irish</p>
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	<p>Examiner beginning in 1969.</p> <p>01:07:49 Discusses going to Rome and having a private audience with Pope John Paul II. He tells a story about when John McGee was installed as the Bishop of Cloyne.</p> <p>01:08:57 Recalls a story he covered called 'The Angel of Death' in the mid-1990's. He talks about St Mary's Parish church in Dungarvan and priest named Fr Michael Kennedy, who won an All-Ireland Hurling medal for Offaly in 1981 and 1985.</p> <p>01:10:57 Talks about the changes in journalism he has seen throughout his time with the Irish Examiner from when he started to the present.</p> <p>01:11:39 Explains how he attained stories when he was a journalist and how he wrote stories. He mentions the Dungarvan Observer, and Dungarvan Vocational School.</p> <p>01:12:47 Recalls covering an All-Ireland Final between Dublin and Cork and tells a story about this.</p> <p>01:14:40 Talks about covering sport stories and news stories as a journalist. Talks about the Dungarvan Observer and the Cork Examiner.</p> <p>01:15:30 Discusses people who influenced him when covering games. He talks about Jim O Sullivan from the Irish Examiner, Míchéal Ó Muircheartaigh, Tom Humphreys, and Martin Breheny.</p> <p>01:16:08 Discusses the death of Peadar O'Brien of the Irish Press and the Irish Sun. He mentions Colm Keyes and David Flynn.</p> <p>01:16:55 Describes the atmosphere in the Press Box on a match day.</p> <p>01:18:06 Discusses the level of women's involvement in sports journalism. He talks about Clíona Foley of the Irish Independent.</p> <p>01:19:20 Discusses covering two All-Ireland Senior Ladies Football Finals, both Waterford V Monaghan. He mentions Michael Ryan, the Waterford manager at the time. Describes how the sport is becoming more skillful.</p> <p>01:20:29 Explains his style of writing when covering a match. Discusses the research he does before covering a game. He talks about Míchéal Ó Muircheartaigh.</p> <p>01:22:26 Describes how media coverage of games have</p>
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	<p>changed over the years.</p> <p>01:23:43 Recalls the first All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final he covered in 1963 between Kilkenny and Waterford. He talks about the 2010 All-Ireland Hurling Final between Tipperary and Kilkenny.</p> <p>01:24:57 Discusses researching and attaining information from people and players.</p> <p>01:26:20 Describes negatives reactions to different articles he has written.</p> <p>01:27:30 Discusses the relationship between the media and the GAA and talks about PR (Public Relations) companies and their involvement with the GAA. Mentions Danny Lynch.</p> <p>01:28:32 Discusses covering games while he was chairman of Waterford County Board.</p> <p>01:29:52 Talks about remaining unbiased when reporting on certain teams.</p> <p>01:31:15 Describes some of the highlights of his involvement in the GAA. He mentions John Doyle and Christy Ring.</p> <p>01:32:05 Describes how his career as a journalist and his GAA career complimented each other.</p> <p>01:32:54 Describes how his wife's involvement with the GAA has changed since she met him. He talks about his daughter's involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:33:32 Tells a story about his daughter Deirdre and her marriage to Larry Murphy, an All-Ireland winner for Wexford in 1996. He talks about the All-Ireland Semi Final between Tipperary and Wexford in 1997. He mentions Martin Storey, Tom Dempsey, Adrian Fenlon, and Damien Fitzhenry.</p> <p>01:34:51 Discusses his grandchildren's involvement with the GAA. He talks about Connor Duggan and a County under-21 football final.</p> <p>01:35:58 Talks about Oifig na Gaelige and the relationship between the Irish language and the GAA.</p> <p>01:37:12 Discusses what Ireland would be like without the GAA.</p> <p>01:37:55 Describes what the GAA has meant to him throughout his life-time.</p> <p>01:38:31 Describes what his hopes are for the future of the</p>
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	<p>GAA. He mentions Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.</p> <p>01:39:26 Tells what Tipperary beating Kilkenny in the 2010 All-Ireland Hurling Final meant to him. He refers to Kilkenny as 'the Cats'. He mentions the All-Ireland Hurling Final in 1951. He discusses the Kilkenny team of 2009 in victory and defeat.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<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 checked="" 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>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played hurling and football from juvenile level to senior level with Cashel King Cormacs; played minor and senior hurling and football with Dungarvan GAA. Won Waterford Minor Hurling Championship, 1958.</p>
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Selector at all grades with Dungarvan GAA; Chairman of West Waterford County Board, 1975 – 1980; Chairman of Waterford County Board, 1981 – 1984; PRO of Waterford County Board, 1985 – 1987; Has been an executive committee member of Dungarvan GAA for many years and held positions including Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and PRO.</p>
<b>Format</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:41:29</p>
<b>Language</b>	<p>English</p>

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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: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012