

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick	
Date of Interview	19 th Jan 2011	✓ Photograph of Interviewee
Location	Toomevara GAA Club House, Co. Tipperary	
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Thomas Dunne, Paddy O'Brien, Ned Gleeson, Matt Hassett, William O'Brien, Thomas Berkley, Patrick Hassett, Tom Shanahan, Seamus Delaney, Thomas Hassett, Tom Hassett, Mary Bourke Darcy, Andrew Harty, Donal Shanahan, Neil Williams, Kieran Grace	
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>		
Gender	Male and Female	
Born	Year Born: N/A Home County: Tipperary	
Education	N/A	
Family	N/A	
Club(s)	Toomevara GAA [Tipperary]	
Occupation	N/A	
Parents' Occupation	N/A	
Religion	N/A	
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A	
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A	

Date of Report	25 th August 2012
Period Covered	1885 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Tipperary, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Family Involvement, Childhood, Career, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>The group discusses Toomevara tradition and history as a hurling club. They remember the great characters involved in the club and the great successes they enjoyed. They pay particular attention to 1960 and 2001, when Matt and Tommy respectively, captained the club to a County Title and led Tipperary to All-Ireland success.</p> <p>They emphasise the importance of the underage structures they have in place, and the impact this has had on their senior teams. Neil describes the development of the juvenile section of the club and his role in it.</p> <p>Willie sings songs at regular intervals throughout the interview and they also read passages and poems from the club history. Throughout, they establish a sense of continuity and of community within the club, from its establishment in 1885 to the present day.</p> <p>00:20 Willie sings a song called 'A Song for the Toomevara Hurlers'.</p> <p>03:15 Matt gives a brief overview of the club's history. Tells of successes in the early 1900s and refers to some of the people involved in the club at the time. Mentions Jim Looby, Joe Meagher, Jim O'Meara, Ned Kennedy, Michael Kennedy.</p> <p>05:55 Matt tells of his father's cousin's involvement in the GAA in the USA. Tells of two brothers, Stephen and Martin Hackett, playing against each other in the 1927 All Ireland Final. Mentions the Irish Echo. Mentions Dublin and Tipperary.</p> <p>07:48 Paddy tells of his uncles Martin and Stephen Hackett.</p>

	<p>Mentions Dublin. Mentions Faughs GAA.</p> <p>09:45 Matt talks through some of the names that were involved when he was young. Mentions becoming secretary himself. Mentions Tom Conway, Dan Gleeson.</p> <p>10:40 Matt tells a story about Garrett Howard, who was a garda in the area. Mentions Gortagarry. Mentions Martin Sigerson, Fr John Cleary, Michael Cleary. Mentions the Tailteann Games.</p> <p>13:16 The group discusses the tradition of hurling in the area. Mentions the Toomevara Greyhounds from the 1910s. Mentions football and soccer. Refer to a football game against Nenagh.</p> <p>14:35 Someone recalls playing in a North Tipperary Under 16 C competition. Mentions volleyball.</p> <p>15:14 Matt elaborates on the Toomevara Greyhounds. Refer to the training at the time. Remembers where they trained. Mentions O'Meara's Field and Carrolls Field. Mentions Jim Looby and Skinny O'Meara</p> <p>16:45 The group remembers the different Junior clubs that were in the area.</p> <p>17:05 They discuss some other Toomevara players. Tell another story about Stephen Hackett. Mention Jack Harty, Mick Ryan and Frank McGrath.</p> <p>18:25 Andrew talks about his memories of the Greyhounds and more recent Toomevara teams. Mentions his uncle Jack Harty, Jim O'Meara, Stephen Hackett, Bill Kelly, Matt, Neil, Tom, Sean Ryan and Jack Hough.</p> <p>21:10 The group talks about the different industries in which people were employed. Refer to emigration.</p> <p>22:00 They tell a story about Martin Kennedy's house. Mention Templederry and Toomevara.</p> <p>24:00 They discuss activities in the area during the War of Independence. Mention the Curragh Camp, Wormwood Scrubs. Mention the Hacketts, the Hartys, Wedger Meagher, Stephen Hackett, Jack Harty, Terence MacSwiney and Dan Breen. Mention the Black and Tans.</p> <p>26:30 They tell of the influence of the Civil War on the club.</p> <p>27:07 The group elaborates on the number of Junior clubs in the area. Tell of amalgamation in the 1950s. Mention</p>
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	<p>Gortagarry, Mackey, Kylroo Rovers. Mention Christy Quinlan</p> <p>28:25 They recall the impact of acquiring a field and remember other fields in which they used to play. Refer to a team in 1946. Mention Fr Cosgrave, Mary's father Martin Burke, Dan Casey and Sean Ryan.</p> <p>30:20 Mary remembers a story she heard from her father and his family and their links to the Toomevara club.</p> <p>31:30 The group tells of a number of people killed in the early 1920s. Mention Tom Devaney and Gleeson of Killowney.</p> <p>32:50 Someone introduces and reads an article entitled 'Toomevara Hurling Something Magical' written by Kay Wallace (née O'Gara) relating to her memories of Toomevara hurling in the early years.</p> <p>36:05 They explain Kay's links with the club. Mentions her brothers Matt, Seán and Tom.</p> <p>37:28 They discuss the role of the GAA in the community when they were young. Refer to notable victories by both club and county in the 1960s.</p> <p>39:55 Neil talks about the build up to County Final success in 1960. Refers to Thurles Sarsfields five in a row 1955-1959. Describe their preparations. Mention Ossie Bennett.</p> <p>41:50 Neil recalls the day of the match and the game itself. Mention Mullallys Hotel in Templemore. Mention Dr Dwyer, Billy Donovan,</p> <p>42:50 Someone tells a story about Neil and his brothers Sean, Pat and Joe after Neil transferred from Kilruane to Toomevara. Mentions the Hacketts.</p> <p>44:40 Neil remembers his brother marking him during a game.</p> <p>45:19 The group recalls the celebrations after the final in 1960. Mentions Stephen Ring, Paddy Ryan, Phil Hennessy, Sean Ryan.</p> <p>47:15 Tell of a tragedy that befell Gerry Hough in 1961. Mention Jack Hough, Phil Shanahan, the Donovans, Frankie Ryan, Con Ryan, Michael Meagher.</p> <p>50:05 Elaborate on the County Final of 1961. Discuss their fortunes in subsequent years during the 19s and into the 1970s.</p>
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	<p>50:55 Describe the development of the juvenile teams and tell of successes at all levels through the 1980s, 1990s and up until the present day. Refer to the development of club facilities. Mention Neil, Jim McDonald, David Young, Benny Dunne and John O'Brien.</p> <p>54:15 They give more details about the reasons for developing the juvenile structure in the club in the 1970s and the way in which they went about it. Highlight the role of the teachers. Mention Fr John Mulqueen.</p> <p>57:25 Illustrates the extent to which the population in Toomevara has dropped in 20 years.</p> <p>58:55 They explain the way in which Toomevara's attitude towards juvenile teams spread to other clubs around the country.</p> <p>59:40 Someone tells a story about Neddy Spillane and his sons from a game in Templemore against Thurles.</p> <p>1:01:20 They highlight the involvement of local players in the successful county teams since 1992.</p> <p>1:01:50 Someone returns to talking about the juvenile development. Refers to the social aspect of the parish league. Recalls the games, the training and the support. Mentions Neil.</p> <p>1:05:06 He remembers travelling to other counties to play challenge matches. Tells of Toomevara's success at Under 12 level. Mentions Tommy and his nephew Pádraig.</p> <p>1:06:41 They talk about Neil's influence in the club. Also refer to Jack Donovan's involvement.</p> <p>1:07:25 Neil recalls an Under 12s Final in 1983.</p> <p>1:07:02 They stress the importance of hurling in the schools, both for the teachers and the students.</p> <p>1:09:19 They discuss the 1991 North Tipperary Final in which Tommy and his father Tony played in the same team.</p> <p>1:11:56 Kieran introduces and reads a tribute to Thomas Dunne taken from the club history.</p> <p>1:14:58 Tommy comments on his career. Stresses Neil Williams' influence on him when he was young.</p> <p>1:17:24 Tommy remembers players he looked up to. Mentions Rory Brislane, Pat King, George Frend, Declan</p>
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	<p>O'Meara, Michael O'Meara, Jodie Grace, Pat Meagher and Mike Murphy.</p> <p>1:18:18 Tommy tells of the relationship between Toomevara and the Tipperary county team. Mentions Nicky English.</p> <p>1:19:33 Tommy recalls the All-Ireland Championships 2001. Remembers how he felt the day of the final and his homecoming to Toomevara. Refers to Matt.</p> <p>1:21:47 Matt remembers the aftermath of his All-Ireland victory in 1960. Compares it to the celebrations in 2001 and 1949. Mentions Archbishop Maurice and Pat Stakelum.</p> <p>1:24:00 The group recall their experience of the 2001 celebrations. They refer to various club members captaining the county team. Mention Mike Meagher and George Frend.</p> <p>1:27:26 They talk about the impact of having a successful senior team on the younger players. Refer to hurling families. Mentions Tommy and Tony Dunne, the Dunnes, the Hacketts.</p> <p>1:29:00 Someone tells of going to games with Matt Ryan. Mentions the All-Ireland Club Finals in 1993. Mentions the Cooneys, Thomas Dunne.</p> <p>1:31:49 Someone talks about the importance of dealing with defeat.</p> <p>1:32:22 They remember an incident at a match in Nenagh. Mention Tommy Ryan.</p> <p>1:33:37 Willie introduces and sings a song called 'The Boys in Green and Gold'.</p> <p>1:37:06 The group talks about club songs. The tell of a game the Toomevara Greyhounds played in 1913. Mention Shanahan and George Walsh. Mention the Croke Memorial.</p> <p>1:38:52 Tom then sings a song written by Michael Burke about that game.</p> <p>1:42:10 They talk about Toomevara's rivalries. They talk about the strong hurling regions in Tipperary.</p> <p>1:43:29 They stress the importance of the backroom members in fundraising to develop club facilities. They refer to the spirit of volunteerism in the parish and explain what gets the young people involved in the club.</p> <p>1:46:44 Refer to other sports in the area. Mention soccer and rugby. They talk about the Ban on Foreign Games and</p>
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	<p>Dances.</p> <p>1:48:00 The group remembers local tournaments and leagues.</p> <p>1:49:49 They talk about the tradition of camogie in the area. Tell of the club's successes. Refer to the juvenile system. Mention Fr Kennedy and Deirdre Hughes. Mentions Toomevara and Templederry.</p> <p>1:51:24 They discuss the relationship between the camogie club and the GAA club. Mentions Matt Ryan and. Suzanne Kelly.</p> <p>1:53:08 Mary tells of her daughter Julianne's involvement with the boys' teams and moving onto playing camogie.</p> <p>1:54:00 They describe the process by which camogie became part of the club and how the camogie team's success was seen by the community.</p> <p>1:55:20 They remember the camogie team winning All-Irelands in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Mentions Deirdre Hughes.</p> <p>1:56:00 The group recalls the club going on a holiday after the the All-Ireland Club Championships Final in 1994. Mention Gran Canaria.</p> <p>1:57:06 They stress the importance of the volunteers and refer to players who get involved when they stop playing. Explain how this keeps momentum going in the club. Mention Tommy.</p> <p>1:59:21 Tom talks about the club's sponsors and the other fundraising activities in which the club engages.</p> <p>2:02:00 The group discusses the expense of running a club. Praise the quality of the facilities. Describes the benefits offered to young people by the club.</p> <p>2:04:25 Matt explains the role of Club President. Tells of his loyalty to the club. Remembers his time as secretary and treasurer. Refers to fundraising. Mentions Jim O'Meara.</p> <p>2:06:51 They talk about Jim O'Meara's card tricks. Mentions Wedger Meagher, Jim Hurley, Jimmy Barry Murphy, Jim Regan.</p> <p>2:09:12 Matt tells a story about the Greyhounds from 1912 and about a team preparing for the 1930 County Finals.</p>
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	<p>Mentions Garrett Howard.</p> <p>2:11:53 They talk about the changes they have noticed in the association. Describe the current facilities and equipment they have in the club.</p> <p>2:15:10 The group highlights some things that has stayed the same over the years in the club.</p> <p>2:16:20 They talk about the introduction of helmets. Refer to an incident at a match against Thurles Sarsfields. Mentions Tony Delaney.</p> <p>2:17:45 They talk about the children playing hurling. Refer to the indoor hurling alley.</p> <p>2:18:50 They talk about the process of compiling their second club history. Mention Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh.</p> <p>2:20:38 A final song is sung. It is called 'Toomevara Down Through the Years'. Mention Brother Perkins.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	Length of Interview: 2:25:40
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 25th August 2012