

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	11 th Jan 2011
Location	Tipperary County Library, Thurles, Co. Tipperary
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Donal McGettigan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1956 Home County: Tipperary
Education	Primary: Killenaule NS, Co. Tipperary Secondary: Fethard CBS, Co. Tipperary Third Level: NUI Maynooth
Family	Siblings: 5 sisters & 2 brothers
Club(s)	Killenaule GAA [Tipperary]
Occupation	Librarian
Parents' Occupation	Electrician [Father]; Shopkeeper [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Parish Council

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Date of Report	17 th July 2012
Period Covered	1887-2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Tipperary
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Donal talks about his experiences of the GAA in Tipperary. He developed a love for hurling at an early age, playing with his friends regularly and attending games with his father. When he was old enough he played with his club Killenaule, going on to represent Tipperary at different grades. Donal also played in inter-firms competitions and later in Masters competitions. When the time came he took over as manager at Killenaule and was soon called upon to be a selector for the Tipperary Under-21 hurlers, with whom he enjoyed All-Ireland success in 1995. A dedicated GAA man, Donal reflects on these experiences and also offers his opinions on topics such as the Irish language, funding, structures, development and the voluntary ethos that he believes is the lifeblood of the Association.</p> <p>00:15 Born in 1956. Originally from Killenaule. What that was like growing up. Danny Mullins a local teacher who was interested in GAA. Winning an Under-15 title in 1971.</p> <p>01:30 Playing in school. Hurleys scarce at the time. Bill Fogarty made hurleys. What they cost.</p> <p>02:20 Playing with the Under-15s at 11, and the Under-21s at 13.</p> <p>02:45 Playing on the street with older boys. Watching Killenaule senior training.</p> <p>03:15 Father taking him to games in the 1960s. Going to Limerick for a game. Watching Tipperary playing Cork in</p>

	<p>Munster hurling final in the 1960s. Tom Ryan of Killenaule on the 1960 Tipperary team. Verses composed in his honour.</p> <p>04:35 Paddy Moran of Kilkenny driving a bread van for Crotty's in the 1960s. Getting his autograph.</p> <p>05:00 Mick Roche and Tom Ryan heroes of his. Tom Ryan transferring to Clare and playing against them in 1967 and 1968. Jamie Doyle and Babs Keating other heroes of his.</p> <p>05:35 First All-Ireland final he went to was in 1966. Cork playing Kilkenny. Peter Doolin, Justin Barry and Seánie Barry playing for Cork. Eamon Creegan, Chunky O'Brien and Joe Henenssy other heroes of his.</p> <p>06:30 History of Killenaule club. Club involved in a tournament in Aghabullogue in Cork in 1887.</p> <p>07:05 Hurling the only sport in the area growing up. What the local field was like when they were growing up. Eddie Fogarty keeping goats in the field. Making their own goals with jumpers. Imitating their heroes.</p> <p>08:40 Agriculture main source of employment. Sugar factory in Thurles. Born na Móna in the area. Mines in Ballingarry. Emigration in the 1960s.</p> <p>09:10 People togging off before games in local hotels and shops. Refreshments during and after games.</p> <p>10:10 Carrick Davins rivals of theirs. Mick Roche playing with them. Ballingarry also rivals of theirs, as were Carrick Swans.</p> <p>10:50 Club joining with Mullinahone and previously Ballingarry.</p> <p>11:15 Playing senior hurling against Mick Roche and Babs Keating.</p> <p>11:25 Playing football with the club when he was young. 1966 soccer World Cup on television and impression that made on them. Football becoming stronger in the area after that,</p> <p>12:30 His own playing career. Positions he played. First Under-21 game and what that was like. Playing for Tipperary divisional side. Going for trials. Favouritism. Later becoming a selector. Things becoming fairer as time went by.</p> <p>14:30 Donning the Tipp jersey and how that felt. Winning an All-Ireland Masters title.</p> <p>15:30 Training when he was a Tipperary minor. Set-up at the</p>
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	<p>time. Selectors had more authority than when he himself became one.</p> <p>17:15 Need to keep hurling simple from a coaching point of view.</p> <p>17:55 Different sports strong in different areas of Tipperary. Playing finals against Borrisoleigh, Nenagh and Roscrea. Being seen as poor relations because of part of Tipperary they were from. Joe Hayes, Declan Ryan, Nicky English coming through from the west.</p> <p>20:05 Playing with the minors. Playing with Johnny Grace, Johnny Doyle, John Grogan, Séamus Hennessy.</p> <p>20:40 Being a selector with the Under-21s. Players being given a fair chance.</p> <p>21:15 Playing at intermediate level and junior level. Joe Dwyer and Donal Connell playing with him and having success at All-Ireland level. Club man Paul Shelley on an All-Ireland winning team in 1995 when he was a selector. Tommy Dunne and Brendan Cummins also club members who played for Tipperary. Stories told about Tommy Dunne.</p> <p>22:40 Eugene Nealon a talented player. scene there. Tommy Doyle, Connie and Blackie King, Liam Devaney, John Flanagan working there. Inter-firms team. Reaching an All-Ireland final in Rathdowney.</p> <p>23:20 Working for sugar company in Thurles. GAA scene there. Tommy Doyle, Connie and Blackie King, Liam Devaney, John Flanagan working there. Inter-firms team. Reaching an All-Ireland final in Rathdowney. Tommy Barrett working at Ein Foods. Gleasons of Borrisoleigh strong in inter-firms, as were baking factory of Roscrea that featured Tadhg O'Connor, Ballyduff Creamary.</p> <p>25:40 Playing illegally for a Ballingarry team against Smithwicks of Kilkenny in Tenny Park. Worried about being seen. Limerick County Council also strong, as were Kerry Co-Op and Avonmore, who had Benny Fitzpatrick. Competitive nature of games. Roger Ryan and Jimmy Shanahan of Roscrea playing. Positive impact of victories on workplace. Celebrations. Paddy Cooney a character who was fun in the dressing-room. Training they did.</p> <p>30:30 Depth of his weekly involvement with hurling. Tournaments.</p> <p>31:30 Winning divisional and senior titles with the club.</p>
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	<p>Celebrations.</p> <p>32:15 Knee troubles in the 1980s. Later playing with the Masters team. Séamus Mackey, Séamus Barry, Tom McGrath, Dinny Cahill on that team.</p> <p>33:10 Role as a selector in 1995 with Michael Duignan as manager. Jerry O'Brien of Portroe also involved. Beating Limerick. Controversy when playing Clare. Ger Loughnane angry about Ollie Baker and Frank LONE'S? potential involvement. Mike McNamara a selector. Aftermath of game. Clare not happy. Playing Clare in a 1999 Munster Under-21 final in Ennis. Bad atmosphere. 'Siege of Ennis'. Media coverage of game. Playing Galway in Tullamore after that. Clare-Tipperary bitterness.</p> <p>36:50 How he became a selector. County chairman Seán Fogarty approaching him. Managing Killenaule at the time. Mikey Doyle and Jerry O'Brien involved. How they worked together. Brian Horgan captain. Brendan Cummins and Tommy Dunne on the team. What he enjoyed about it. Peter Barry a strong player. Playing Kilkenny. Liam McGrath, Tom Hickey, Damian Clear, Aidan Butler and Brendan Ryan all playing.</p> <p>40:15 Difference between set-up when he was an Under-21 player and when he was a selector. Stress involved in selector role. Phone calls from parents and club secretaries with complaints. How he dealt with that. Aidan Butler and Keith Slevin playing well in the All-Ireland final in 1995. Understanding players and encouraging them. Eoin Baslande of Toomevara a good player who was criticised by some.</p> <p>44:25 Career as a selector and how the teams fared. Why he stepped aside. Enjoying the role while he was doing it. Time commitment. Timmy McCarthy of Cork scoring a late goal to beat them in a big game.</p> <p>45:55 Managing Killenaule and getting to know different players. Meeting players he has worked with in the past like John Carroll, Eugene O'Neill, Tom Costello, Eddie Enright. Seeing them win a senior All-Ireland with Tipperary.</p> <p>46:45 Involvement with Killenaule and what it was like managing them. Dealing with complaints about team selection. Man confronting him after an Under-21 game in a pub.</p> <p>47:50 Involvement in fundraising. Holding a race night. Other initiatives.</p>
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	<p>48:55 Developing facilities. Parish priest Liam Ryan assisting. Working with soccer team. What needs to be done to improve facilities.</p> <p>50:40 Voluntary ethos and how that has changed over the years. Celtic Tiger. People having more time on their hands during recession.</p> <p>52:15 Ladies football and camogie at the club over the years. Camogie strong in Cashel, Drom-Inch, Toomevara and North Tipperary.</p> <p>53:25 Scór in the club. Losing a final to Newport. Popularity in 1970s. Set dancing a big competition. Newcastle winning All-Irelands. Less interest in Scór over the years.</p> <p>54:50 Patsie Maher involved in Scór music events. Doing recitation. Killenaule ballad group doing well. Doing an O'Donovan Rossa recitation.</p> <p>56:35 Following the Tipperary hurlers down through the years. Going to a game in 1964 in Limerick and enjoying the game. Watching Cork in an All-Ireland final in 1966, Tipp and Wexford in the 1968 final and Tipp beat Kilkenny in 1971. Tipperary success returning in the 1980s. Winning in Killarney in 1987. All-Ireland win over Antrim in 1989. 1991 win over Kilkenny. Losing to Cork in 1990. 2010 win. Back door system. suiting stronger counties. Waterford unlucky through the years. Opinion of back door system.</p> <p>01:00:05 Winning the Under-21 All-Ireland his proudest memory. What it meant to play for his club and county. GAA and Irish identity.</p> <p>01:01:25 Irish language. Doing courses in Maynooth. Importance of language. GAA's efforts to promote the language and what he thinks of that. Inter-county players Dara Ó Cinnéide, Seán Óg Ó hAilpín, Paul Galvin, Jarlath Burns speaking Irish on TG4.</p> <p>01:04:30 What the GAA means to him.</p>
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<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 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>Played hurling and football with Killenaule juvenile – 34 yrs; played divisional senior, junior, minor and U21. Won 5 Tipperary Intermediate Championships, 1974, 78, 82, 84, 85 and 1 senior in 1988. Played on Tipperary Minor hurling team, 1974, on Tipperary Intermediate team, 1983.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has managed and coached several teams; selector with Tipperary U21 team for 7 years; member of various fundraising committees.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:05:35</p>
<p>Language</p>	<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: 17th July 2012