

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	4 th Oct 2010
Location	Clonea Parochial House, Co. Waterford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael O'Mahony
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1942 Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Clonea NS, Co. Waterford
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife & 4 children
Club(s)	Clonea GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Factory Worker
Parents' Occupation	Forestry worker [Father]; Housekeeper [Mother]
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. WD/1/12

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pat Hunt
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1965 Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Clonea NS, Co. Waterford Secondary: Carrick-on-Suir CBS, Co. Waterford Third Level: Kilmacthomas VEC
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife (Alice) & 1 son
Club(s)	Clonea GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Sales Representative
Parents' Occupation	Forestry worker [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Carrick-on Suir Golf Club

REFERENCE NO. WD/1/12

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Peter Mackey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1973 Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Clonea NS, Co. Waterford Secondary: Kilmacthomas VEC, Co. Waterford
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife & 4 children
Club(s)	Clonea GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Addiction Counsellor
Parents' Occupation	Breadman [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Carrick-on Suir Swimming club

REFERENCE NO. WD/1/12

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	David Flynn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1955 Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Clonea NS, Co. Waterford Secondary: Mount Mellery, Co. Waterford Third Level: Rockwell Agricultural College, Co. Tipperary
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife & 5 children
Club(s)	Clonea GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	21 st June 2012
Period Covered	1902 - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Waterford, Kilkenny, Clare, Tipperary, Monaghan, Americas
Key Themes Covered	Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Challenges, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>In this interview four club officials from Clonea start by outlining the setting up of the hurling club in Clonea. Mick goes on to discuss the early victories for the club and the lean years that followed. He goes on to talk about John Cusack and his brothers. He then discusses the various families that were involved with the teams over the years and the role they played in the success of the club. He talks about the Meehan family who made the first hurleys in the county. He then talks about the various fields that the club played on over the years. He goes on to discuss mentors for the teams before talking about the club successes of the 1970's. Pat then talks about the teams of the 1990's and how they became the backbone of the intermediate team. He then speaks of the two local clubs one focussed on hurling and the other on football. Mick then talks of the changes in the club over the years and the development of facilities including a clubhouse. Pat mentions the challenging times for the club in terms of developments. He then discusses how he got involved in the club. Peter discusses his time as chairman and how he was influenced by his father. David then talks about playing at Junior level and his involvement since then as well as his work as chairman and his hope that the developments will continue. He goes on to talk about the importance of looking after the younger players. Pat talks about the work being done at underage level and the need for developing this to bridge the gap to adult levels. Mick speaks of the difficulty in organising games due to the level of bureaucracy involved. There then follows a discussion about the league style of the championships and how it means more work but insures more games for each player. Each of the panel then</p>

	<p>discusses the origin of their involvement in the GAA. Pat then talks of the place held by the club in the community. He then talks about the work required to keep the field in such a good condition. This leads to a discussion about the time and effort that volunteers have to put in to the club and what motivates them. There then follow a discussion on the importance of family support within the club. Pat talks about the role of women within the club after which speaks about the local Ladies Football team Comeragh Rangers. Mick then talks about what it means to be a good chairman and they each discuss their high and low points. Mick then talks about some of the famous people from Clonea including Sean Kelly. The interview ends with the 1952 County Final ball from Dungarvan.</p> <p>00:48 Mick talks about the setting up of the hurling club by the Kirwan Brothers in 1902 in Clonea winning the Senior Championships in 1903, 1905 and 1907. Mentions the five Kirwan brothers and their involvement in hurling, football, athletics and pole vaulting.</p> <p>01:56 Talks of the lean time until winning the Junior Championship in 1929 and again in 1939. Mentions the impact of emigration but the club carrying on anyway.</p> <p>02:50 Speaks about the teams of the 1970's and being beaten in 1975 by Ballyduff. Mentions winning the 1977 Intermediate Championship.</p> <p>03:39 Talks of the Senior team's of the 1940's mentioning John Cusack who won an All-Ireland Senior Hurling medal with Waterford in 1948. Mentions his three brothers.</p> <p>04:42 Tells of the importance to the club to have an All-Ireland medal winner in the club.</p> <p>05:35 Talks of the 1940's team staying together and playing for many years. Mentions the Cusack brothers, Paddy Shanahan, Andy Coughlan, Paddy Kelly and the Galvin brothers.</p> <p>07:04 Tells of how emigration caused problems for the club during the 1950's and 1960's.</p> <p>07:18 Talks of Paddy Hughes playing in 1939 in Tipperary. Mentions a teacher Paddy Joe Sullivan.</p> <p>08:55 Talks about the Whelan family and their association with the club from its formation to today.</p> <p>09:42 Talks about Clonea and the agricultural jobs that</p>
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	<p>players had over the years as well as the industrial enterprises in local factories.</p> <p>11:22 Speaks of the teachers that had an interest in GAA. Mentions Paddy Joe Sullivan, who became County Secretary, and Father Kellaheer.</p> <p>12:18 Discusses the hurley makers, the Meehan family, who have supported the club for many years. Mentions the club being one of the oldest in the county.</p> <p>12:53 Peter discusses the first hurleys to come out of Waterford coming from ash on the Kirwans land.</p> <p>13:22 Mick discusses where the club played over the years, Foran's field and Castle field for training.</p> <p>14:20 Talks of moving to Con Power's Field, the Croke Park of the parish with games against teams from Tipperary, Kilkenny and Waterford and the buses coming up and the players togging out on the bus before walking across to the field to play.</p> <p>15:18 Talks of being dependant on farmers to borrow a field for a game and having to remove cow pats from the field before a game especially around the goal.</p> <p>16:05 Speaks about a game about to start and the cattle having broken one of the uprights earlier in the day.</p> <p>17:15 Tells stories about lads playing when overage, mentions Dinny Dee.</p> <p>18:51 Speaks of the change of systems in the 1960's brought in by the GAA. Mentions some players playing for different local teams under assumed names.</p> <p>20:30 Recalls picking a team on the sidelines due to not knowing who would turn up for a game.</p> <p>20:54 Talks of the mentors of the teams at the time. Mentions Paddy Whelan, and ordinary members like themselves. Also mentions the Hanrahan brothers who were players and officers of the club.</p> <p>23:08 Pat Hanrahan arrives.</p> <p>23:37 Mick talks about the successes of the teams of the 1970's. Mentions the Under 21 County Final of 1973 and 1975 and winning the 1977 Intermediate Championship and 1978 and 1979 Under 21 Championships.</p>
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	<p>25:59 Talks about winning the Intermediate Hurling Championships in 1981.</p> <p>26:40 Speaks about the 1990's with winning a minor B Championship in 1996 and 2000 along with a minor A Championship playing against Mount Fines, De La Salle, Ballyconnell.</p> <p>27:27 Pat tells how those minor A players are now the backbone of the Intermediate team. Mentions being beaten in the County final last year by Dungarvan and just missing out on moving to the Senior level.</p> <p>28:36 Mick talks about aiming to win always but accepting defeat to a better team.</p> <p>29:22 Tells of playing football in the area and winning the county Junior football championships in 1987. Mentions John Mitchells club that were strong before that.</p> <p>30:55 Pat talks of the captain of the 1979 under 21 team, Ciaran Power and the high praise he received from Pat Spillane.</p> <p>31:58 Talks of there being two separate clubs in the parish one dedicated to hurling and one to football but that this was not always the case and there were heated exchanges in the late 1960s. Mick mentions that the new generation had a different outlook and sorted out the differences which led to the structure in place today.</p> <p>33:47 Mick talks of the players coming from the school in Kilmacthomas.</p> <p>34:28 Talks of changes in the club over the years including the purchase of the field in 1984-85 and the problems involved in that. Mentions the fundraising involved including one hundred pounds from each farmer as well as lottery funding.</p> <p>38:33 Tells of the building of the clubhouse in 1989 and the official opening with all complete in 1996.</p> <p>40:00 Pat mentions how challenging the times were and are for developments. Mick agrees and states that recession is not something new to the older members of the club.</p> <p>40:45 Pat tells how he got involved in the administrative side of the club up to his current position as secretary.</p> <p>41:36 Peter discusses his time as chairman of the club and his interest being spurred on by his father's interest. In his</p>
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	<p>third year as chairman he hopes to carry on with the developments to the club.</p> <p>42:47 Talks of playing when he was younger before moving to America. Mentions sponsoring the team when they won the county final in 2006.</p> <p>43:15 David talks about playing at Junior level and being involved with the club since then including becoming chairman in 2000 a post he held for six years. Mentions winning the Minor B and Minor A and contesting the eastern final at intermediate level twice and winning it once.</p> <p>44:09 Talks about the importance of the GAA to the parish and having a good group of players. Mentions the importance of looking after the younger players from when they leave underage level as some can fall by the wayside if they don't think they can go on to play at the other levels.</p> <p>45:39 Pat talks of the work being done at underage level and admits that the pitfall is from minor to adult level. Mentions the successes at Under 16 level with both eastern and county championships in the last couple of years. Also mentions the need for more games coupled with the difficulty the county board has with getting the existing games played.</p> <p>47:23 Mick speaks of the difficulties involved in organising the matches due to the bureaucracy within the GAA. Mentions the problems of dual players and the great work that the county board are doing.</p> <p>49:10 Pat recalls when they started hurling first in the 1970's it was at Under 14 level and piling into the back of a Fiat 128 estate to go to matches. Mentions Jim Flynn and Joe Kiely. Also mentions the great work done in developing further underage levels below Under 14 which are now available.</p> <p>51:10 David talks about the league style of the championships which ensures each player a number of games.</p> <p>51:37 Pat talks of the pride of having a club player on the county team but that this can also hold up club championships.</p> <p>51:58 Mick talks about the Munster club championships at all grades and how this is an incentive to the clubs to win the county championship. Mentions contesting the Munster championship in 2006 against a Clare team.</p> <p>53:01 Pat talks about Féile and their guests being from</p>
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	<p>Carrickmacross and being put up in local houses and being transported by tractor and transport boxes on bales of hay.</p> <p>53:52 Mick talks about the thirty two county involvement in the Tony Forrestal Tournament and the 1997 Feile.</p> <p>54:40 Pat talks about football being played against teams from New York.</p> <p>54:52 Peter talks about going to see games in Yonkers when he lived in Queens.</p> <p>55:20 Pat and Mick talk about the club representatives on the county teams. Mentions Pat Hanrahan's brother, the Whelan's, the Cusack's, the Kelly's and the Power's.</p> <p>56:25 Mick talks about being the only member of his family to be involved in the GAA. Recalls cycling to the training field and playing hurling with the neighbours.</p> <p>58:12 Discusses getting involved in the administrative side of the GAA. Mentions conditions being very poor and the need for plastic bags to keep your clothes dry while playing.</p> <p>01:00:33 David talks of his grandfather being on the 1939 team that won the county championship. Mentions the rivalry with Ballydurn.</p> <p>01:01:29 Tells of getting involved in the administrative side of the club as he had an interest in it. Mentions the importance of having an interest in the club not just in playing hurling.</p> <p>01:02:38 Speaks about the difficulty in keeping younger player with pressure from soccer, rugby, football and golf. Rugby seems to be the most prominent rival sport.</p> <p>01:04:01 Peter discusses his families interest in hurling and driving to matches as a youngster. Mentions giving up hurling at a young age as he was not very good and the standard was so high.</p> <p>01:05:44 Talks of bringing on teams of players in 2006 and his admiration for them. Mentions his brother playing in 2001 through to today.</p> <p>01:06:43 Pat tells of the high place held by the club in the local community with great disappointments and sense of mourning when being beaten.</p> <p>01:08:10 Mick emphasises the fact that the club does not entertain the word defeat unless they have to and this is why</p>
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	<p>they are there so long.</p> <p>01:09:20 Pat talks about the field and how well it is kept. Mentions Victor Daly who keeps it so well.</p> <p>01:10:17 Mick tells of the compliments from other teams that have played there such as Mount Sion and the Kilkenny team that opened the field.</p> <p>01:11:00 Pat talks about the volunteer element and the motivation required to keep the interest in the club.</p> <p>01:11:49 Mick talks about the transition from the field to the administrative side of the club. Mentions the huge commitment required to keep a club going.</p> <p>01:12:53 Pat talks of the great involvement of parents at underage level.</p> <p>01:13:26 Mick tells that currently they are trying to get more parent involved.</p> <p>01:13:40 Peter talks about his own son who is three and he is looking forward to him playing in the club and his continued involvement for the next generation.</p> <p>01:14:23 Mick talks of the toll on family life and how the club needs families to come through the club and continue to grow.</p> <p>01:15:30 Pat talks of the family support that exists and how people will row in to help whenever they are needed.</p> <p>01:15:59 Mick speaks about community spirit and how it has to encouraged.</p> <p>01:16:16 Pat talks of the role of women in the club. Mentions Tina, Roisin and Joan Whelan and perhaps the need to call on them for more.</p> <p>01:17:03 Peter talks of the Comeragh Rangers Ladies football team and their success. Mentions a number of their players on the Waterford Intermediate team.</p> <p>01:17:43 Mick talks of what makes a good chairman. Mentions the development of the field and clubhouse as his best memory.</p> <p>01:19:40 Talks of greatest victory of the club coming back from eighteen years of lean times to win the Junior County championship.</p> <p>01:20:46 Pat talks of the low time as a selector on the 2009</p>
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	<p>intermediate team who lost to Dungarvan. Mentions the win that year in the eastern championship.</p> <p>01:21:28 Tells of a high point being two of their former players, his nephews, being professional soccer players, Steven and Eoin.</p> <p>01:21:44 David tell of his high point being appointed chairman of the club and mentions the disappointment of being relegated in 2007 without winning a match.</p> <p>01:22:55 Peter also speaks of the honour of being appointed chairman of the club and of trying to bring honesty to the table for his part. Mentions the importance of communication and of the personal development associated with being chairman.</p> <p>01:24:14 Talks of the high of beating Dungarvan and the low of being beaten in the final last year and being beaten in the relegation match. Mentions coming back and contesting the eastern finals at Junior and Intermediate levels and there being forty three people training that day. Recalls recently having 110 training in the field.</p> <p>01:26:10 Mick talks of the famous people of the village such as Sean Kelly the cyclist, Pat's nephews Steven and Eoin and the All-Ireland medal winner John Cusack.</p> <p>01:27:58 Speaks about the official ball of the 1952 County Final in Dungarvan brought back by Paddy Shanahan.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Michael O'Mahony:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Pat Hunt:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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>

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	<p>Peter Mackey:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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 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>David Flynn:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input 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>Michael O'Mahony: Played for 15 years with Clonea, won one county medal in 1970.</p> <p>Pat Hunt: Played for 10 years with Clonea GAA</p> <p>Peter Mackey: Played for Clonea from U14 – Minor level</p> <p>David Flynn: Played for Clonea for 10 years</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Michael O'Mahony: Member of Clonea GAA Committee for 43 years holding many positions including Chairman and Trustee.</p> <p>Pat Hunt: Member of Clonea GAA committee for 7 years serving in various positions including juvenile chairperson and he is currently secretary of the club.</p> <p>Peter Mackey: Has been chairperson of the club for the past 3 years.</p> <p>David Flynn: Chairman of Clonea for 6 years and has served for many years on the club committee.</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:29:02
Language	English

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: 21st June 2012