

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Padraic O'Connor
Date of Interview	20 th Oct 2010
Location	Cooley Kickham's complex, Co Louth
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Féidhlim Rice
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1959 Home County: Louth
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers; 1 sister Current Family if Different: wife and four daughters
Club(s)	Cooley Kickham's GFC [Louth]
Occupation	Communications Technician
Parents' Occupation	Farming
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	13 th July 2012
Period Covered	1974 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth, Meath, Dublin, Offaly, Wexford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Food and Drink, Socialising
Interview Summary	<p>The interview covers Feidhlim Rice's earliest memories and experiences of the GAA and part it played in his family life. Rice discusses the landmarks in the Cooley Kickhams story during the 1970s and developments in the club and the region in subsequent decades. He touches on issues of emigration and discusses the changing role of women in Cooley Kickhams. Club and county rivalries are mentioned as are the highs and lows of his involvement with the GAA.</p> <p>00:00:30 The GAA as an integral part of life growing up.</p> <p>00:01:00 Introduction to playing games through School aged 11 or 12. Mentions that there was only Under 14 football available in schools at that time.</p> <p>00:01:10 Mentions his family background and the fact that Uncles on his mother's side would have been involved with Cooley Kickhams.</p> <p>00:01:30 Discusses travel to club games in his youth. Walking to attend home games and 'thumbing a lift' to those played away.</p> <p>00:01:53 Earliest memory of attending a Louth game was a Leinster championship match against Offaly in Croke Park in 1973. Talks about travelling by car with his brother on the morning of game.</p> <p>00:02:14 Comments on the being 'reared' on stories of Eddie Boyle and Cooley's championship winning team of 1939. Lists friends of his father's who played at that time.</p> <p>00:03:00 Reference to football as part of the household conversation when he was growing up – his parents would have discussed their memories of the 'famous' Cooley</p>

	<p>league.</p> <p>00:03:12 Mentions his introduction to the Cooley club and the role of the GAA club in the community.</p> <p>00:04:10 Discusses club long-running rivalry with neighbouring St. Patrick's and the recently established Cuchulainn Gaels. Refers to the 'craic' in the area when games are on.</p> <p>00:04:48 Recalls the Cooley's championship victory in 1971, their first in 32 years and the reaction in the area with 'bonfires' being lit. Talks about travelling on buses to support Cooley in Leinster club championship games in later years.</p> <p>00:06:00 Mentions some of the county players on the Cooley club team – Harry McCarthy, Peter McCarthy, Peadar Gallagher, Alan McGrath, Patsy Maguire, Gerry Farrell, Gerry Morgan, John Woods.</p> <p>00:06:20 Discusses migration from the area and recalls how, as a minor selector in the mid 1980s, a lot of young players were leaving the area.</p> <p>00:07:00 Refers to impact of current recession on the club.</p> <p>00:07:20 Indicates that the internal politics of Cooley Kickhams were typical of those of rural parish clubs.</p> <p>00:07:40 Discusses the dramatic changes in the club over time with reference to team preparation, coaching and administration.</p> <p>00:08:20 Recalls being 'squashed' into the back of cars to be transported to games as a child. While the use of buses replaced this practice, he suggests, based on his experience in underage girls football, that there was a move to get parents transport children to games as a means of saving money.</p> <p>00:09:00 Discusses the changing role of women in the GAA. Discusses the rise of ladies gaelic football in Cooley and the involvement of women on committees.</p> <p>00:10:05 Mentions the various sponsors of club teams and their record of involvement in the club.</p> <p>00:10:30 Discusses post-match rituals: stopping for ice-cream on the way home for games as a child and later, when playing, staying in a clubhouse for a drink or stopping off on the way home.</p>
--	---

	<p>00:11:04 Discusses the importance of the volunteer ethos to the GAA, to the community, and as an example to young people.</p> <p>00:11:46 Comments on the prominence of the clergy in club affairs – as administrators and players.</p> <p>00:12:05 Refers to the Louth's inter-county rivalries and recalls matches with Dublin in 1973-74. Mentions also the rivalry Meath.</p> <p>00:12:45 Mentions his fondness for the Offaly team of the early 1970s, in particular players Wille Bryant, Kevin Kilmurray and Paddy McCormack.</p> <p>00:13:10 Says that the greatest high and low he has experienced as a Louth supporter was the 2010 Leinster final defeat to Meath. Recalls travelling home from his holidays in Wexford to attend a game which, up to the end, looked like delivering the 'perfect end to the perfect holiday'. Recalls the sense of disappointment at the outcome.</p> <p>00:13:45 Mentions as a club highlight the 1971 championship and Cooley's 'movement into the big time'. Refers also to the ongoing determination within the club.</p> <p>00:14:22 Talks about the strength of tradition in the GAA in relation to the playing of National Anthem at Gaelic games.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer ✓ 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>Three Junior League titles; three Junior Championships (1980 – 1995)</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Vice -Chair of Cooley Kickhams for two years</p>

REFERENCE NO. LH/1/20

Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:14:22
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: Padraic O'Connor

Date: 20th Oct 2010