

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Eileen McCallion
<b>Date of Interview</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's house, near Cookstown, Co. Tyrone
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Norman Fuller
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1963 <b>Home County:</b> Donegal
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Cashel National School <b>Secondary:</b> Carrick Vocational School
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 Sisters; 1 brother <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married; 2 Daughters; 1 Son
<b>Club(s)</b>	Naomh Columba GAA Club, Glencolmcille [Donegal]
<b>Occupation</b>	Telecom Engineer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Retired Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Church of Ireland
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/4

<b>Date of Report</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011
<b>Period Covered</b>	1980 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Donegal, Tyrone
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Sponsorship, Education, Emigration, 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
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Norman talks about his early years in Donegal, before subsequent moves to London and later Tyrone. His ties with his home club are unbreakable, and he talks about constant journeys and experiences with his club. He explains his father's long standing role in the club, and his part in making sure that the club's sand based pitch was saved from the elements years ago and is still in use today. He talks about his favourite players and inspirations, and explains why he feels that the GAA is so important to Irish society. He explains his journey home to watch the 1992 All Ireland and his love of club and county.</p> <p>00:01:00 Due to his father's ill health he played little youth football.</p> <p>00:01:35 Describes how despite being from a Church of Ireland background his father was involved in the local football club from a young age.</p> <p>00:02:15 Reflects on the difference in the football of today against the football of years gone by where there was little protection and every man kept their positions.</p> <p>00:03:50 Describes how he would travel to all club games through County Donegal</p> <p>00:04:20 Describes how many years ago his father and other volunteers protected the sand based pitch which was being eroded by the sea and how the pitch is still in good condition today because of this work</p>

	<p>00:05:22 Describes how his Father at 85 is the club president and how he attends every game held at the club, whether that is under age, senior or Ladies.</p> <p>00:06:10 Describes how his father has been presented with many awards from the club over the years.</p> <p>00:06:40 Discusses the Gaeltacht All Ireland football competition and how his club participates in it every year.</p> <p>00:08:40 Describes the excitement every year when on Sports Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> August his club would hold a football match between the senior team and the exiles from the club. But this no longer takes place.</p> <p><b>File 3:</b></p> <p>00:09:10 Recalls how in the late 80's he was sent off when he was playing a match against Ballyshannon and how the treasurer at the time Cathal Dougan asked the Referee Jackie Furey not to disallow him for 4 weeks because he was the only protestant playing for the club and how he only got suspended for 2 weeks.</p> <p>00:12:10 Reflects on how when he was young there was organisation in running the club as people like Sean O'Hanna would take it upon himself to cut the grass and mark out the pitch etc. Everyone including his father would take pride in keeping and maintaining the club but very different these days.</p> <p>00:13:15 Explains that his mother calls his father Charles but how locally he is known as Charlie Fuller but how lately Norman himself has started to call him snowball because of the colouring of his hair.</p> <p>00:13:50 Feels that with the abundance of money there is not the same ethos of Volunteerism in the GAA.</p> <p>00:15:00 States how the ethos of GAA has such a bearing on providing a good stable community life.</p> <p>00:16:20 Explains how local rivalries between clubs and</p>
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	<p>counties often depend on the success of each club or county.</p> <p>00:17:20 States that he is a Club man first and then supports his county and then any other county in his province.</p> <p>00:17:50 Feels that the abundance of money has taken away from travelling to matches and reflects on how when money was short, the GAA was still a priority and still made the effort to get to the matches.</p> <p>00:19:10 Compares the rivalry and supporters from Soccer to that of Gaelic.</p> <p>00:21:20 Reflects on Donegal winning the All Ireland in 1992 and how he returned home from England for the match and the anti climax of having to return to England where no-one could share or understand his joy.</p> <p>00:24:30 Feels there is no low's in GAA, only disappointments and that there is always hope for the next year.</p> <p>00:25:30 Reflects on how he feels and considers the position of Donegal football today in 2011 with Jim McGuinness in charge</p> <p>00:27:20 Club Hero's – Michael Oliver McIntyre his influence had a big impact on Norman</p> <p>00:29:05 Reflects on the impact the media has on the game today and how the referee decision is no longer final</p> <p>00:30:25 Reflects on how proud his small rural club were of club men who made the county team such as Finian Ward, JJ Doherty, Noel and Paddy Hegarty.</p> <p>00:32:27 Compares the difference in religions in Donegal is only one hour every Sunday whereas in Cookstown where he now lives, the town was closed on the night in 2008 when Tyrone won the All Ireland because of disturbances as not</p>
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	everyone was happy with Tyrone winning.
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:35:50
<b>Language</b>	English

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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: Eileen McCallion

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011