

GAA Oral History Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Eddie Nangle
Date of Interview	20 Dec 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Wexford Town
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Martin Quigley
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1951 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Donard N.S., Poulpasty, Co. Wexford Secondary: St. Peter's College, Wexford
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 3 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Rathnure GAA Club; St. Martins GAA Club [Wexford]
Occupation	Chartered Accountant
Parents' Occupation	Farming
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	20 th Dec 2011
Period Covered	1960 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Galway, Antrim, Carlow, Cork, Laois, Dublin, Kilkenny, Offaly, Limerick, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, The Troubles, Retirement, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Martin Quigley, a footballer and hurler with Wexford in the 1970s and 80s, outlines his introduction to Gaelic games at home and, subsequently, at St. Peter's College, where, following in the footsteps of his older brothers, he enjoyed huge success. St. Peter's and his brothers' example would shape the expectations of his future career. Quigley discusses his involvement with Wexford hurling and football teams throughout 1970s and 80s shedding light on some of the major events and personalities who dominated that era. Success at inter-county level was eclipsed by that with his club. Quigley charts his involvement in a glorious era for Rathnure hurling, albeit one that failed to deliver an All-Ireland club title. Furthermore, he compares and contrasts the GAA scene in Rathnure (where he played until he was 40) with that in St. Martin's, club in which his sons, and subsequently he himself, became involved. In doing so, Quigley points to issues of assimilation, facilities, volunteerism and duality. Finally, Quigley reflects on the highs and lows of his sporting career, travels with the All-Stars in the 1970s and the support of his wife and family.</p> <p>00:00:10 Interviewee is introduced as a former Wexford player and selector.</p> <p>00:00:38 Earliest memories: being born in 1951, he recalls listening to the 1960 All-Ireland final and going out to the field to play afterwards.</p> <p>00:01:18 Discusses the influence of St. Peter's College, which he attended at the age of 12, and to the strength of underage hurling in Wexford at time. Mentions that brothers had attended St. Peter's and won All-Ireland colleges medals previously.</p> <p>00:02:10 Refers to the strength of football in St. Peter's College.</p>

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	<p>00:02:20 Mentions the influence of the Galway three in-a-row team of the 1960s on his 'love' for football. Mentions watching games on television in a neighbour's house.</p> <p>00:03:00 Talks about his brothers involvement in colleges GAA and the success they enjoyed in the 1960s.</p> <p>00:03:45 Mentions that family consisted of five brothers and two sisters. Says that camogie wasn't strong in Wexford at time and sisters didn't play.</p> <p>00:04:10 Hurling as a 'way of life'. Mentions that brothers would play together in the field out the back of the house, and carrying hurl when going for the cows.</p> <p>00:04:43 Comments on his father's interest in Gaelic games, but lack of participation. Recalls father's excitement on sideline at brother's games.</p> <p>00:06:10 Mentions being youngest 'toughened him up'.</p> <p>00:06:35 Brother Dan Quigley's hurling career – mentioned that he wouldn't have played much before he entered St. Peter's. Influence of Ned Power in Peter's is touched upon.</p> <p>00:07:20 Discussion of the influence of Rathnure post-St. Peter's. Points to the club's strong traditions and mentions the emergence of a 'new breed' in the 1970s. Refers to the success and enjoyment with Rathnure in the 1970s.</p> <p>00:08:11 Says that a family holiday was 'unheard of' and mentions the focus on farming and hurling. Refers to occasional trips to seaside.</p> <p>00:09:25 Reflects on the influence of club on young adult life up to his retirement, aged 40.</p> <p>00:09:50 Discusses his own children's – and his own - involvement in St. Martin's club (outside Wexford town) and comments on the nature of his then connection with Rathnure.</p> <p>00:10:50 Comments on football in St. Peter's and Rathnure. Notes the 'relative' success enjoyed by Rathnure and his involvement with Wexford footballers.</p> <p>00:11:48 Reflects on playing in 3 Wexford senior football county finals.</p>
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	<p>00:12:00 Reflects on his hurling record with Rathnure, including the winning of 10 senior hurling titles.</p> <p>00:12:55 Comments on the primacy of hurling in Rathnure community.</p> <p>00:13:40 Reflects on the rise in Camogie in Rathnure, St. Martin's and Wexford generally.</p> <p>00:14:15 Discusses emigration from and migration into Rathnure. Talks about the location of Rathnure and its local geography as barriers to new settlers and contrasts its experience with that of St. Martin's whose catchment population increased in the late 1980s and 90s with, for instance, the Department of Agriculture at Johnstown castle. Mentions the involvement of these people in St. Martin's club.</p> <p>00:16:00 Memories of the 1960 All-Ireland and the local players involved. Recalls also Nicky Rackard and others from the 1950s.</p> <p>00:17:05 Comments on recent developments in Rathnure in terms of infrastructure and the support it commands from local community.</p> <p>00:18:14 Discusses the work of the St. Martin's club in relation to the numbers volunteering for underage teams. Comments, however, that 'passion' levels may not equate with that of other clubs.</p> <p>00:19:20 Beginning of involvement with St. Martin's in early 1990s when son began playing. Involvement came after injury forced his retirement from Rathnure and after he had been manager of Wexford of county team for 3 years (1990, '91 and '92).</p> <p>00:20:30 Recalls first competition won with son in St. Martin's, under 12 in 1996.</p> <p>00:21:18 Leaving his son's team (and reasons for it) and taking over management of St. Martin's seniors. Talks about the record – and profile - of the club in senior hurling since.</p> <p>00:23:16 Discusses the quality of club facilities available in St. Martin's – pitches, hurling wall, tennis court, hall, ball and dressing room – and the difficulty in accommodating the numbers involved, across different codes, women and men.</p> <p>00:24:18 Mentions the strength of camogie and the presence</p>
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	<p>of Ladies football in St. Martin's.</p> <p>00:24:40 Refers to the fashion-ability of Gaelic games for juveniles.</p> <p>00:25:04 Reflects on winning of Intermediate football in 2011 and a previous victory when selectors for both codes were the same.</p> <p>00:25:44 Comments on the importance of prioritising one sport over another and the difficulty for clubs combining both.</p> <p>00:27:00 Growing up and expectations of playing career. Recalls the careers of brothers Dan, Pat and John and his introduction to county teams in hurling and football and the success enjoyed.</p> <p>00:29:40 Talks about lining out alongside four brothers when winning championship with Rathnure; and lining out alongside three brothers in the 1970 All-Ireland final against Cork; and five brothers playing in Croke Park in two games on the one day, 1967.</p> <p>00:31:40 Rathnure's rivals: refers to Buffer's Alley, Harriers and the Shamrocks.</p> <p>00:32:20 Talks about his 23 year career with Rathnure and the players he played alongside. Reflects also on Rathnure's record in the All-Ireland club championship – appearing in numerous finals - and their failure to win a title.</p> <p>00:34:25 Recalls playing tournaments with Rathnure and the intensity of competition. Lists some of the teams they played against and the places they played. Recalls the fun of visit of a Dunloy in the early 1970s and the arrival of the Troubles.</p> <p>00:35:56 Reflects on the All-Ireland defeats with Wexford in 1976 and 1977.</p> <p>00:37:18 Considers the impact on county team of strong local club rivalries – suggests team could have been more tightly-nit. Reflects on impact of successive defeats on county team and attitude towards Offaly in the early stages of their emergence.</p> <p>00:39:15 Discusses the quality of the 3 in a row Cork team of the 1970s.</p> <p>00:39:49 Discusses the impact of being a county player on personal profile in Wexford. Refers also to living in Dublin in</p>
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	<p>mid 70s and the difference in his profile there.</p> <p>00:40:20 Talks about league performances in 1970. Recalls in particular defeating Limerick in League final in 1973 and the training that would have been done for it.</p> <p>00:41:20 Recalls playing three matches in one day and winning two Leinster medals. Recalls occasions when he played football and hurling for county on same day and when he played for club and county on same day.</p> <p>00:42:47 Discusses his inter-county football career with Wexford. Tells story of winning football medal for Wexford at the opening of pitch in Tullow, Carlow, in late 1960s.</p> <p>00:43:45 Discusses Wexford's missed opportunities in football in the late 1960s and its relative decline in 1970s and 80s.</p> <p>00:45:15 Considers Wexford's football fortunes in the mid to late 2000s and acknowledges contribution of Jason Ryan, team coach.</p> <p>00:45:44 The difficulty of combining football and hurling at county level and the toll it takes on the body. Talks about being brought back up from junior county ranks to play senior against Dublin in the championship of centenary year.</p> <p>00:47:27 Reflects on retirement and how his approach to playing the game had changed over time.</p> <p>00:48:35 Discusses involvement as manager of Wexford following his retirement and his return as a selector with John Conran in 2003. Recalls famous victory over Kilkenny in Leinster final and great game with Cork in All-Ireland semi-final.</p> <p>00:49:40 Recalls three-game National league final with Cork in 1993 and draw with Kilkenny in Leinster final – lists some of the players who would have been involved, including Damien Fitzhenry.</p> <p>00:50:45 Similarities between Wexford team of 1990s and that of the 1950s.</p> <p>00:51:42 Best memory of GAA involvement: recounts college days in St. Peter's and players who played alongside him. Mentions also the two county finals he lost out of twelve.</p> <p>00:54:00 Reflects on the disappointment of the 1976 and</p>
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	<p>1977 All-Ireland final defeats with Wexford.</p> <p>00:54:25 Refers to playing in, and winning, two seven-a-side competitions on eve of All-Ireland final.</p> <p>00:54:55 Memorable games: recalls a victory Rathnure had over Portlaoise in a Leinster final with two very late goals; recalls losing an All-Ireland club final in roughly similar circumstances.</p> <p>00:55:50 Comments on dealing with defeat and the enjoyment from playing game.</p> <p>00:56:40 Discusses the inspirational influence of Ned Power in St. Peter's. Tells story of Power 'bollocking' players out after playing poorly, albeit successfully, against Belcamp in a colleges game.</p> <p>00:57:50 Comments on the influence of Syl Byrne (possibly Barron) as the 'driving force' of Rathnure.</p> <p>00:58:25 GAA hero: talks about the profile, physique and sportsmanship of the Wexford hurlers of the 1950s. Also revisits the Galway football team of the 1960s and their influence on his football career.</p> <p>01:00:40 Contemplates future involvement with St. Martin's club and the need for young people to take lead.</p> <p>[Interview breaks temporarily at 01:02:00]</p> <p>01:02:05 Reflects on being four times selected as an All-Star (1973, '74, '75 and '76). Talks about the recognition, the presentation and the trips. Notes that it was his first time out of country. Mentions staying with host families – refers to staying with Wexford family in San Francisco. Talks about other cities played and nature of the All-Stars matches.</p> <p>01:05:35 Refers to the other Wexford players who travelled with him on All-Stars trips.</p> <p>01:06:09 Mentions players from other counties who travelled on All-Stars trips.</p> <p>01:07:05 Reflects on his wife's interest in the GAA and following son's games or local club games. Mentions the importance of her support to his career.</p> <p>01:08:43 Mentions that wife worked in Croke Park and her</p>
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	family's background in the sport.
Involvement in GAA	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" 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): <hr/>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	10 Wexford SH titles 1 All-Ireland MH title 1 Leinster MF title 2 All-Irl Sen Colleges Hurl titles 2 Leinster MH title 4 All-Star Hurling Awards 5 Railway Cup medals Played 1967 – 1991
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Chairman St Martins Club; Selector & manager Wexford; Selector & manager SH St Martins; Senior Hurling Team Selector & manager SH Rathnure; Chair Wexford Supporters Club
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:09:24
Language	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: Eddie Nangle

Date: 20th Dec 2011