

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	21 st July 2012
Location	David's home, near Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	David Rice
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Kilkenny
Education	Primary: Knocktopher NS, Co. Kilkenny. Secondary: St Kieran's College, Kilkenny. Third Level: Pallaskenry Agricultural College
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Wife (Betty), 2 sons (Brendan & Paul) and 1 daughter (Mary)
Club(s)	Knocktopher Huring Club [Kilkenny]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Muintir na Tíre; Macra na Feirme; Irish Farmers Association; National Ploughing Association; Knocktopher Social Club

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Date of Report	25 th August 2012
Period Covered	1940 – 2012
Counties/Countries Covered	Kilkenny, Cork, Dublin, Waterford, Limerick, Tipperary
Key Themes Covered	Playing, Training, Coaching, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Culture, Volunteers, Rivalries, Religion
Interview Summary	<p>David talks about his early years growing up in Knocktopher. He discusses the dominance of hurling in the area and his participation in hurling at school in St Kieran's College. He talks about the role of the clergy in hurling and the fierce competition for a place on a team in the college. He discusses his return to Knocktopher after attending agricultural college and his enjoyment and sense of fulfilment playing with his native club. He talks about his support for the Kilkenny hurling team, discusses memorable matches and mentions his nephew Michael Rice, a current Kilkenny hurler.</p> <p>00:28 Discusses his early days growing up in Knocktopher.</p> <p>01:03 Talks about the importance of hurling in national school – had to take a hurling stick and schoolbag to school every day.</p> <p>01:30 Recalls playing hurling on Sundays in Knocktopher.</p> <p>02:37 Describes Knocktopher when he was growing up. Mentions that the church was the focal point of the community.</p> <p>04:53 Talks about the social club in Knocktopher.</p> <p>06:38 Mentions that Knocktopher was predominantly a farming community. Talks about the local creamery.</p> <p>07:46 Discusses family involvement in the GAA. Notes that Knocktopher had a football team in the early 1900s that represented Kilkenny in the Leinster championship.</p> <p>09:15 Talks about his ancestors and their involvement in sport – notes that his uncle Stephen Rice played on the Knocktopher football team, his father played on the cricket team.</p> <p>11:00 Talks about his early days playing hurling in Knocktopher. Notes that the schoolboys league was gone</p>

	<p>from his national school in his school days.</p> <p>11:57 Talks about his awareness of the Kilkenny county team in his national school days. Mentions Bill Walsh.</p> <p>13:28 Recalls listening to football matches on a neighbour's radio. Mentions Micheal O'Hare.</p> <p>15:47 Discusses the broadcaster Micheal O'Hare.</p> <p>16:22 Talks about hurling in St Kieran's College, Kilkenny. Recalls travelling to Nowlan Park to watch matches. Mentions that everyone had to participate on a team.</p> <p>18:04 Discusses Fr Tommy Maher. Talks about his enthusiasm and uncluttered views towards hurling.</p> <p>21:46 Describes the day to day life in St Kieran's College.</p> <p>23:44 Recalls having a half day on Wednesday and all day Sunday to play hurling while at St Kieran's College. Mentions a special treat of being taken to the pictures for the hurling team after matches.</p> <p>24:23 Notes the fierce competition for places on teams in St Kieran's College.</p> <p>28:07 Recalls being a substitute on the 1955 team that won the Leinster Intermediate Colleges Championship.</p> <p>28:55 Talks about other colleges that participated in the championship. Mentions rivalry with Thurles CBS.</p> <p>30:29 Notes that he attended agricultural college. Recalls the sense of freedom he felt after leaving St Kieran's College.</p> <p>31:35 Talks about studying agriculture. Notes that it was a good time to be in college as there were new ideas and mechanisation coming into farming.</p> <p>32:35 Recalls playing football with the college – had not played football previously.</p> <p>36:46 Discusses his return to Knocktopher after college. Talks about his eagerness to resume playing on the Knocktopher team.</p> <p>37:52 Talks about the fulfilment of playing with Knocktopher. Mentions the importance of being part of the community and social structure.</p> <p>38:36 Talks about a hurling competition started by a local prior among junior hurling teams in South Kilkenny to raise</p>
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	<p>funds and to give the junior teams more competitive matches in the year.</p> <p>42:47 Notes that the hurling competition went on for about 2 weeks in Knocktopher with entertainment in the Friary and dances. Mentions the Mount Carmel Cup and medals.</p> <p>46:55 Talks about the set-up of Kilkenny County team. Notes that county players were previously only being selected from senior club teams in the county.</p> <p>47:40 Talks about the particular style of hurling associated with Knocktopher in his playing days.</p> <p>48:55 Discusses the positions he played. Notes that his favourite position was at centre back.</p> <p>50:38 Describes the form of training in his early playing days. Compares it to training nowadays.</p> <p>51:08 Talks about the facilities in Knocktopher in his playing days and discusses the development of facilities around the country over the years.</p> <p>53:08 Recalls his role as Secretary on the hurling club in Knocktopher in the 1960s. Notes that he was delegate for the club at county board meetings.</p> <p>54:00 Discusses rival teams – mentions Carrickshock. Talks about the introduction of the parish rule.</p> <p>56:16 Notes that there were very few social outlets in Knocktopher in his early years. Discusses his involvement with Muintir na Tíre.</p> <p>1:00:50 Talks about retiring from hurling at the age of 31. Discusses the disadvantages of playing past your best.</p> <p>1:02:11 Recalls winning a senior championship against Galmoy. Mentions Frank Cummins.</p> <p>1:05:22 Talks about travelling to Kilkenny matches. Recalls his first visit to Croke Park for a Leinster final. Travelled by train with his brother.</p> <p>1:06:39 Recalls travelling to a Knocktopher match in the back of a neighbour's lorry – playing Carrick Swans. Mentions Henry Byrne.</p> <p>1:09:22 Discusses the seminarians in St Kieran's College. Talks about the ban on clergy playing GAA sports.</p> <p>1:11:32 Discusses Knocktopher hurlers that played on the</p>
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	<p>Kilkenny team.</p> <p>1:12:09 Describes attending county matches. Mentions watching local Knocktopher hurlers Denis Heaslip and Frank Cummins.</p> <p>1:13:07 Notes that Kilkenny were not always as successful in hurling as they are today. Talks about the dominance of Tipperary in the 1950s.</p> <p>1:15:18 Discusses “stand out matches” – the 1957 All-Ireland.</p> <p>1:16:50 Talks about players he admires.</p> <p>1:19:20 Discusses a league match between Cork and Kilkenny. Mentions Christy Ring.</p> <p>1:22:20 Talks about the current success of the Kilkenny hurling team. Discusses Brian Cody.</p> <p>1:27:04 Talks about his nephew Michael Rice, a current Kilkenny hurler. Discusses his successes – 3 All-Irelands, 2 All Stars.</p> <p>1:31:35 Talks about “Pay for Play”.</p> <p>1:32:46 Discusses his optimism that hurling and football will remain amateur within the GAA. Compares the GAA with the soccer league in Ireland. Talks about pride in club and county.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from age 7 until age 31. Played hurling with Knocktopher, as St Kieran’s College and hurling and football at Pallaskenry Agricultural College. Won a Junior Hurling County Final with Knocktopher; Won Intermediate Leinster Colleges medal in 1956.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Secretary of Knocktopher Hurling Club in the 1960s. Club delegate to Kilkenny County Board during same period.</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 1:35:07
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 25th August 2012