

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Eddie Nangle
Date of Interview	7 th Dec 2011
Location	Interviewee's House near Rathnure
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Bernie Higgins
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1965 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Rathnure NS, Co. Wexford. Secondary: Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy , Co. Wexford
Family	Siblings: 7 sisters & 4 brothers
Club(s)	Rathnure GAA Club [Wexford]
Occupation	Factory operative
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	8 th Dec 2011
Period Covered	1974 – 2008
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Celebrations, Education, Religion, 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, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Relationship with the Association, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>00:00:30 Interviewee states that Rathnure is her home parish</p> <p>00:00:50 Mentions her family’s farming background and the fact that she has seven sisters and four brothers.</p> <p>00:01:18 Family background: mentions her mother’s GAA background and the strength of their hurling and camogie connections. Notes interest of father’s side of family in horses.</p> <p>00:02:20 The beginnings of her own GAA involvement: talks about hurling games among the children in front of the house.</p> <p>00:02:50 Mentions that all her sisters and brothers were involved to some degree: all four sisters played camogie for county and brother Jim played hurling for the county. Conversations about hurling and camogie around dinner table.</p> <p>00:03:22 Recalls playing first game playing under 13, aged 9, and early underage career as a goalkeeper.</p> <p>00:04:30 Mentions playing in school, but notes primacy of club.</p> <p>00:04:45 Secondary school at Coláiste Bride in Enniscorthy and family’s association with camogie success in the school. Discussion of the achievements of various camogie teams in the school’s history.</p> <p>00:05:55 Origins of camogie club in Rathnure – founded in 1968 – and the individuals associated with it.</p> <p>00:06:35 Local GAA heroes: mentions the importance of families, in particular the Quigleys, the O’Connors and Flynns. Also mentions Mickey Foley. John Conran and Jimmy Houlihan.</p> <p>00:07:22 Memories of defeating Kilkenny in an Under 14 Leinster final in 1979. Recalls playing first county senior game</p>

	<p>against Cork when she was 15.</p> <p>00:09:00 Early aspiration to play for county.</p> <p>00:09:42 Lists underage achievements with the club.</p> <p>00:10:25 Club rivals throughout career.</p> <p>00:10:50 Mentions that there were 32 or 33 clubs in county at the time of interview and notes the positive impact of Wexford's 2007 All-Ireland win on the camogie in the county. Reflects on the relative strengths of different clubs.</p> <p>00:11:33 Discusses some of the players she played alongside with the club – goalkeeper Mary Fleming, Mary Hayden, Geraldine Codd, Eileen Dillon (nee Keogh).</p> <p>00:12:00 Recalls winning club all-Ireland in 1995 and mentions two girls on team who were still playing.</p> <p>00:12:40 Highpoint of playing career: corner forward on All-Ireland winning club team in 1995. Discusses the All-Ireland campaign and the games played.</p> <p>00:15:44 Comments on post-match celebrations in pub and her own status as a non-drinker.</p> <p>00:16:30 Discusses the balancing of camogie with family and work.</p> <p>00:17:35 The sociability of Gaelic games.</p> <p>00:18:15 Discusses injuries and forced retirement from inter-county and then club camogie.</p> <p>00:19:10 Movement into coaching and referee. Mentions working with underage teams and the roles she fulfilled.</p> <p>00:19:45 Speculates on what camogie was played in the area prior to founding of Rathnure club in 1968.</p> <p>00:20:28 Discusses return to Rathnure after a period of absence from area and camogie due to work commitments. Mentions completion of FAS training course with county board in 1988 and working with schools. Enjoyment from imparting skills of game.</p> <p>00:21:50 Mentions underage success achieved and some of the players who played for her.</p> <p>00:22:40 Reflects on success of Rathnure camogie and the factors which influenced it e.g. GAA traditions of area.</p> <p>00:23:26 Discusses involvement of a parish priest – Fr. McDonald, a priest in the locality for 25 years until his death in 2002 - in the life of the club.</p>
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	<p>00:24:25 Discusses the changing training methods. Compares fitness standards past and present and the professionalism of the modern game.</p> <p>00:26:00 Mentions more great players she played alongside.</p> <p>00:26:25 Need to strike a balance between fitness and skills in training.</p> <p>00:27:10 Reflects on the hard decisions that coaches/selectors have to make and the 'team' approach to management.</p> <p>00:28:19 The dedication of players and voluntary participation.</p> <p>00:29:30 The difficulty in balancing work and camogie. Tells story of an employer changing her working roster to facilitate her GAA involvement.</p> <p>00:30:53 Comments on economic recession and difficulties in sourcing funding.</p> <p>00:31:25 Discusses volunteerism and the voluntary commitments at club, county and national level of some of her peers.</p> <p>00:32:25 Discusses the influence of family within the GAA and camogie and gives examples of teams dominated by members of particular families.</p> <p>00:33:30 Identification of Rathnure with hurling and camogie and pride in place. Refers on the local support the club receives when transporting teams to games etc.</p> <p>00:35:55 Discusses economic recession and the impact or otherwise of emigration on the camogie club and the hurling club.</p> <p>00:36:40 Discusses the development of local facilities - the opening of an indoor hurling arena – and how it was funded.</p> <p>00:38:15 Comments on the playing fields available and the use by camogie of GAA and school facilities. Reflects on poor facilities in the past – absence of dressingrooms and showers.</p> <p>00:39:00 Importance of facilities to attractiveness of club to young players.</p> <p>00:39:40 Discusses gender profile of the club's camogie trainers and coaches.</p> <p>00:40:35 Reflects on the involvement of women in the administration of Rathnure GAA club and comments on</p>
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	<p>changing perception of women.</p> <p>00:41:12 No recollection of clergy – Fr Mac apart – being involved with club.</p> <p>00:41:38 Highlight of career: success of club at adult and underage in 1995. Mentions one girl, Brigid Murphy, who won 11 medals between county and club in the one year.</p> <p>00:43:42 Reflects on the team she played on during the 1990s – a ‘great’ team.</p> <p>00:44:27 Considers the team of 2007 onwards as the greatest ever Wexford team.</p> <p>00:44:45 Reflects on the Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny camogie teams of the past.</p> <p>00:45:40 Admiration for Mary Walsh from Wexford, Martin Quigley in hurling, Jimmy Barry Murphy and John Fenton from Cork, Joe Cooney from Galway, the Hendersons from Kilkenny.</p> <p>00:46:15 Mentions attitudes to football in Rathnure.</p> <p>00:46:53 Describes experience in GAA and camogie as ‘priceless’ and explains why.</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 ✓ Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Two U14 county titles; two U16 county titles; one intermediate county title; three Leinster senior club titles; One senior All-Irl club title. One U14 Leinster title; one U16 Leinster title; one Junior & one Senior title; one Gael Linn Junior title</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Club Sec 1988-93 Club PRO 1999-2005; Under-age selector 1988-2009</p>

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Duration	Length of Interview: 00:47:28
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Eddie Nangle

Date: 8th December 2011