

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Maurice Walsh
<b>Date of Interview</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011
<b>Location</b>	South Court Hotel, Limerick
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Dónal Fitzgibbon
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1950 <b>Home County:</b> Limerick
<b>Education</b>	N/A
<b>Family</b>	N/A
<b>Club(s)</b>	St Patrick's GAA [Limerick] Mungret St Pauls GAA [Limerick]
<b>Occupation</b>	
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011
<b>Period Covered</b>	1970-2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Limerick
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Donal Fitzgibbon discusses his involvement with the GAA at local, county and national levels. He talks about the influence the GAA has had on his personal and family life and the friendships it has helped him forge. Looking beyond his own personal circumstances, Fitzgibbon talks about the major developments in the recent history of the Mungret/St. Paul's club and considers the prospects for the future. Fitzgibbon also reflects on the GAA people who have made an impression on him. The interview ends with a recital of a club poem, 'The Mungret Minors'.</p> <p>00:00:20 Interviewee is introduced as a former officer of Mungret/St. Paul's club, who had served also at county board level.</p> <p>00:00:50 Earliest memories of GAA in Mungret: recalls influence of his father, a Tipperary hurling man, on his GAA involvement.</p> <p>00:01:14 Refers to having played previously with St. Patrick's club and UCD in Dublin.</p> <p>00:01:23 Tells story of return to Mungret and turning up for a final.</p> <p>00:01:36 Discusses his own children's involvement in Mungret and refers to un-developed state of facilities at the time.</p> <p>00:02:06 Recalls the process by which he was appointed Secretary of the club and refers to other positions he has held – Chairman and PRO.</p> <p>00:02:25 Comments on his absence from family life and wife's reference that she was entitled to 'the single parent allowance'.</p>

	<p>00:02:30 Comments on the 'friendships' he has made through the GAA.</p> <p>00:02:49 Discusses the highlight of his involvement with the Mungret club – the 1993 Minor final. Talks about the Minor championship of that year and its culmination in the defeat of Patrickswell in the final.</p> <p>00:04:01 Discusses the major developments in Mungret club – refers to issues of duality, the growth of underage football, losing four Intermediate finals, participation levels, purchase and development of community centre, ladies football and Camogie, ambitions for the future.</p> <p>00:05:27 Mentions a club strategic plan that had been launched the year before, which led to 'revamp' of club.</p> <p>00:05:40 Refers to amounts raised by a club walk and a fashion show.</p> <p>00:05:55 Talks about influences inside and outside the club: mentions admiration for Joe McDonagh and Seán Kelly and Kelly's brother. Talks about admiration for Limerick GAA people, in particular Eamon Cregan and Dave Keane. Refers also to 'unsung heroes' and mentions various names – John Quane and John Galvin.</p> <p>00:07:38 Discusses the qualities of Eamon Cregan and what they brought to Limerick – refers to 1973 All-Ireland final. Mentions also his role as manager of Limerick.</p> <p>00:08:27 Reflects on the impact of the GAA on his own life. Refers to friendships and the GAA as a means of relating to other Irish people.</p> <p>00:09:30 Discusses Mungret's GAA future: refers to importance of keeping a group of players together and cites the importance of having a college – Ard Scoil – close by.</p> <p>00:10:50 A poem entitled 'The Mungret Minors', celebrating a team from 1975, is recited.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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 checked="" 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>

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<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)	Chairperson and Secretary Mungret St Pauls; Chairman and Development Officer from Limerick County Board.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:13:05
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed:      Maurice Walsh

Date:      7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011