

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Donal Fitzwilliam
Date of Interview	7 th Dec 2011
Location	South Court Hotel Limerick
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Noel Downey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1950 Home County: Kerry
Education	N/A
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Duagh GAA [Kerry] Mungret St Pauls [Limerick]
Occupation	Retired
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. KY/1/29

Date of Report	7 th Dec 2011
Period Covered	1960s - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Kerry, Limerick
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Education, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Childhood
Interview Summary	<p>Noel Downey discusses growing up in north Kerry in the 1950s and offers insights into the organisatin – or lack of – of gaelic games and the problems of transporting players and spectators. Downey tells a short, fascinating story about watching the 1962 All-Ireland final, the first to be broadcast on television. In addition, he tells of his move to London, Dublin and, finally, to Limerick and the level of his involvement with the GAA in each place. Finally, Downey comments critically on the character of modern Gaelic football.</p> <p>00:00:10 Interviewee introduces himself as a member of Mungret/St. Pauls GAA club.</p> <p>00:00:20 Interviewer mentions that Noel Downey is originally from Duagh in north Kerry.</p> <p>00:00:30 Talks about growing up in rural north Kerry in the 1950s. Refers to emphasis on football, the difficulty of travelling to play, the focus on games and the absence of training. Games were few.</p> <p>00:01:25 Recalls first televised All-Ireland final in 1962. Tells story of one television in area being placed in a window and locals sitting on truck outside to watch it. Mentions that Dan McAuliffe from Duagh was on the Kerry team.</p> <p>00:02:25 Talks about playing tournament games.</p> <p>00:02:35 Mentions moving to Birmingham, then Dublin and the nature of his GAA involvement in both.</p> <p>00:02:52 Mentions moving to Limerick in 1975 and becoming involved with Mungret/St. Paul's. Mentions the influence of a neighbour, a Dingle native, and the club's development plans at the time.</p> <p>00:03:30 Discussion of the Kerry involvement in Mungret club and the friendships that arise with GAA involvement.</p> <p>00:04:40 Comments on changes he would like to see in</p>

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	Gaelic football – voices criticism of the short-passing game.
Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" 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): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Vice Chairman Limerick Football Board Chairman, Mungret St Pauls GAA
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:05:27
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Donal Fitzgibbon

Date: 7th Dec 2011