

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Páraic O'Connor
<b>Date of Interview</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2010
<b>Location</b>	Cooley Kicham's GAA Complex
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Andy Quinn
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1955 <b>Home County:</b> Galway and Louth
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Glennamarry National School, Co Galway
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 7 sisters; 1 brother
<b>Club(s)</b>	Cooley Kickham's GFC [Louth]
<b>Occupation</b>	
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Board of Management of local School; St Vincent de Paul

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<b>Date of Report</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1960s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Dublin, Wexford, Louth
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Earliest Memories, Childhood, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, Irish Language, Supporting, Club History, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>The interview follows Andy Quinn’s journey through the GAA in many counties, beginning with his schooldays in Galway. His early playing days shine a light on the role of teachers and clergy and underdeveloped nature of the GAA’s playing infrastructure. Quinn also sheds light on the GAA experience of rural migrants to Dublin in the 1970s. The interview follows Quinn to Wexford and onto Louth, where he eventually settled. Comparisons are made between the GAA in Louth and elsewhere and Quinn charts the beginning of his involvement with Cooley Kickhams GFC.</p> <p>00:00:05 Introduction to Andy Quinn, Chairman of Cooley Kickhams GFC. Quinn delivers a few sentences in Irish language.</p> <p>00:00:30 Born in Glinsk, a very small parish in the west of Ireland – introduced to football in national school, which had a small pitch.</p> <p>00:01:00 Mentions also a ‘Monk’s field’, owned by the Land Commission and used by farmers to graze cattle. Mentions cattle being moved off field to play football.</p> <p>00:01:40 Mentions influence of his national school teacher, a Mayo-man. Both he and the local shopkeeper had cars and took the boys to play games.</p> <p>00:02:15 Progression to school in Coláiste Seosamh in Glenamady. Talks about travel to school, the influence of one of the priest-teachers, catchment area of school in north Galway</p> <p>00:03:15 Training after school. Fr. Kilcoyne would leave players home after training, sometimes 10 in a car. Mentions that it was ‘a good car’.</p>

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	<p>00:03:40 Reference to Fr. Kilcoyne toying out for training.</p> <p>00:04:08 College football success with Coláiste Seosamh, 1973. Team included minor county players from Mayo and Roscommon. The school played in B competition, but played against St. Jarlath's in preparation.</p> <p>00:04:40 Winning Minor title with home club in 1971. Talks about the novel methods of team trainer, Michael Egan, and the facilities used for training. Mentions trainer lighting a fire in the local hall and suspending a ball from the ceiling to practice catching.</p> <p>00:05:40 Winning a championship in Roscommon in 1973, where the parish played its football.</p> <p>00:06:20 Discussion of high levels of emigration after secondary school, particularly among girls.</p> <p>00:07:04 Mentions the sadness of leaving home to go to Dublin in 1974.</p> <p>00:07:15 Played football in Phoenix Park on a Sunday morning and trained mid-week with men from every county. Discusses the scene for migrant players in Dublin, the role of work and pubs in raising awareness of games, the fact that many players would return home to play in home counties.</p> <p>00:09:17 Arriving in Dundalk at the end of 1974, transfer to Dublin and then to Wexford, where he played football in 1976 and 1977. Won a senior championship with St. Mary's, Rosslare. On that team was Liam Griffin.</p> <p>00:10:00 Mentions playing football with Mattie McDonagh and against Dermot Earley in the mid 1970s.</p> <p>00:10:54 Return to Louth in 1978, but only transferred to the county in early 1980s. Went to Geraldines, then, after moving house, to Na Piersaigh.</p> <p>00:12:00 Moved to Cooley in 1993. Invited to attend a 'cumann' meeting in the club and ended up joining. Involvement began at underage.</p> <p>00:13:25 Discusses differences in club administration and infrastructure in the various counties he was involved. Contrasts favourably the quality of pitches and dressing-rooms in Louth when he arrived to those in Galway, Roscommon or in Wexford in the 1970s.</p> <p>00:14:18 Discusses spectator interest across the various</p>
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	<p>counties.</p> <p>00:14:40 Discusses being chairman of Cooley Kickhams at a time of recession. Refers to the experiences of previous recessions and to the commitment and ambition of Cooley club members.</p> <p>00:16:25 Discusses future ambitions for Cooley Kickhams, on and off field. Stresses importance of youth development.</p> <p>00:17:20 Mentions as a major disappointment in his playing career the loss of a county final to Roscommon Gaels in 1974.</p> <p>00:18:26 Highlights of GAA involvement are recalled: winning a county minor title and Connacht colleges medal. Mentions Fr. Kilcoyne and the reward for his effort in the college.</p> <p>00:19:09 Discusses rules of Gaelic football and possible improvements that should be introduced, in particular the protection of the high catch in the middle of the field. Says that overall standards remain high and refers to increased fitness levels.</p> <p>00:20:50 Discusses the GAA approach to Irish language. Talks about efforts in club to bring people together to speak a few words and expresses optimism about its future use among young people.</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>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played between 1966 and 1987</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Club Chairperson and Committee member</p>

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<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:20:50
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed:      Páraic O'Connor

Date:      21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2010