

GAA Oral History Project Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Eddie Nangle
Date of Interview	19 th Dec 2011
Location	Interviewee's Home in Bunclody, Co. Wexford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Rory Kinsella
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1954 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: CBS, Gorey, Co. Wexford. Secondary: CBS, Gorey, Co. Wexford Third Level: National College of Physical Education, Limerick
Family	Siblings: 1 sister & 3 brothers Current Family if Different: 2 sons
Club(s)	Naomh Eanna GAA Club [Wexford] Bunclody GAA Club [Wexford]
Occupation	PE Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Teacher [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	19 th Dec 2011
Period Covered	1965 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Dublin, Carlow, Kerry, Limerick, Roscommon, Laois, Offaly, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Galway, England, Great Britain, Australia, Australasia
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Retirement, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Born into the Wexford of the 1950s and into a family that was 'steeped' in the GAA, Rory Kinsella tells of his early involvement with Gaelic games in school, at home and travelling to games to watch his brothers play. Among the first group of students to emerge from the then National College of Physical Education in Limerick, Kinsella subsequently taught in Whitehall and Bunclody and documents his input into school teams in both locations and the development of his coaching philosophy under the influence of a fellow teacher and Christian Brother at St. Aidan's, Whitehall. A hurler and footballer at club and county level (who didn't retire until his mid 40s) Kinsella sheds valuable light on the sporting scene in the Gorey of his childhood. He moved to Bunclody to work and live in the early 1980s and offers an insight into the impact of emigration on the area over the course of that decade and, subsequently, during the recession that followed Ireland's economic collapse in 2008. Kinsella discusses the facilities and finances of the Bunclody club and plans for future improvements. However, he also reflects on his involvement – as a selector and manager – with the Wexford senior hurlers during the mid to late 1990s and considers the teams – and players - at local and national level that have made the biggest impression on him.</p> <p>00:00:10 Interviewee is introduced as a former county player and selector and club 'involver'.</p> <p>00:00:37 Mentions that he was born at home in Gorey in 1954.</p> <p>00:00:45 Family background: his father from Gorey was a teacher and his mother was from Connemara.</p> <p>00:01:24 Mentions that he is the youngest of five children,</p>

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	<p>with three brothers and a sister.</p> <p>00:01:38 Refers to growing up in Gorey and subsequently travelling to Twickenham in England to attend college on a PE scholarship before returning complete college in Limerick (National College of Physical Education).</p> <p>00:02:10 Refers to various schools he has working in – St. Aidan’s CBS in Whitehall and then FCJ Bunclody. Now retired.</p> <p>00:03:00 Earliest memories: playing in town’s league, being taught by his brother in law, trying to get into ‘top 30’ in school.</p> <p>00:03:55 Playing hurling in the backyard with brother, learning skills.</p> <p>00:04:30 Beginning of involvement with club at under 14; playing with Gorey CBS and the difficulty of fielding school teams.</p> <p>00:05:35 Refers to the influence of Brother Ryan on Gaelic games in the school.</p> <p>00:05:42 Describes family as ‘steeped in GAA’ – mentions that father had taught in Bunclody in the 1930s and his involvement with a team called the Bunclody Insurgents.</p> <p>00:06:45 Discusses the club scene in Gorey when he was growing up. Refers to the waning of Wolf Tones club and his involvement in setting up Naomh Eanna. Mentions that he was club secretary at 16, his father was club president. Mentions his brothers’ involvement with various clubs.</p> <p>00:08:15 Mentions that his uncle was ‘a mad GAA supporter.’</p> <p>00:08:33 Refers to involvement in gaelic football, to playing minor football for county for three years and to playing at senior level for the county.</p> <p>00:09:20 GAA orientation of family and attendance at games. Mentions his brother Mick’s achievement with St. Peter’s and Wexford and following him.</p> <p>00:10:04 Talks about the progress of Naomh Eanna club in 1970s, including winning Intermediate title in 1974. Refers to club going senior, playing against Buffers Alley and marking his brother, Mick.</p> <p>00:10:30 Refers to efforts to Buffers Alley’s efforts to attract</p>
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	<p>his other brothers to their club.</p> <p>00:10:50 Comments on the focus on sport during summers.</p> <p>00:11:15 Mentions refusing a request to play for Galway in the United States by a college-mate, Seán Silke, in the early 1970s.</p> <p>00:12:10 Discusses relative influence of school and club on his GAA involvement.</p> <p>00:12:50 Playing football and hurling for Wexford and the regret at not being involved in 1976 and 1977 – comments on his belief in a bias towards St. Peter's players.</p> <p>00:13:45 Discusses his two sons' involvement with the GAA – with club and county, in football and hurling. Talks about one son's suspension for a year after 'brushing' off a referee in a game.</p> <p>00:16:45 Mentions transferring to Whitehall for a year when teaching in St. Aidan's.</p> <p>00:17:34 Returning to Wexford and playing with Gorey before transferring to Bunclody, where he has been involved since 1982. Notes that in 1993 he was club chairman, trainer and player. Charts the club's subsequent achievements and his links with them.</p> <p>00:19:19 Talks about underage involvement with Naomh Eanna and what he learned. Comments on the running of competitions on a district basis and the rivalries that were created.</p> <p>00:20:30 Continues discussion of Naomh Eanna, its record at adult level and its place within the Gorey community. Remarks on the strength of local competition from soccer in Gorey and the impact it had on GAA.</p> <p>00:22:18 Refers to existing relationship between soccer and the GAA in Bunclody, the level of co-operation between them and the lack of crossover in players.</p> <p>00:22:55 Talks about the sacrifices made to play with Naomh Eanna in Gorey and travelling by motorbike from Dublin to Gorey for training.</p> <p>00:23:50 Impact of wider community developments on club – reference to emigration and its impact on Bunclody GAA in the 1980s and again between 2009 and 2011. Reflects on the changeover in team and panel in the space of a year and</p>
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	<p>the destinations for which players have left....America, England and Australia – comments on links between Bunclody with building industry.</p> <p>00:25:54 Contrasts the impact of emigration on Bunclody with that on Gorey.</p> <p>00:27:05 Reflects on the reasons for players emigrating and suggests that not everyone had to leave and hopes that some will return.</p> <p>00:27:30 Discusses the facilities available in Bunclody – 3 pitches and 2 with floodlights – and plans for the future development.</p> <p>00:28:00 Mentions his involvement on Finance Committee and the absence of debt on pitches. Remarks that all pitch development was paid for in 3 years. Discusses the quality of people involved in Finance committee and the effort put into the ‘Model County draw’ – refers to the proceeds/amounts that flow from draw.</p> <p>00:30:12 Describes club as a ‘small business’ and refers to the costs involved and the range of sports organised – hurling, gaelic football, camogie, ladies football. Refers also to handball in the area.</p> <p>00:30:50 Reflects on people, himself included, who came into the Bunclody area and got involved with club. Emphasises the absence of any big influx of players.</p> <p>00:31:50 Talks about the influx of people from Dublin to live in Bunclody and the impact on schools in the area.</p> <p>00:32:35 GAA heroes growing up – refers to contemporaries like Tony Doran, Martin Quigley and his brother, Seánie.</p> <p>00:33:30 Talks about his college days in London and Limerick and playing football with Kerry Mickey O’Sullivan etc. Mentions that he was in the first year to emerge from Limerick and refers to the quality of players available.</p> <p>00:35:10 Influence of Br. Coffey in St. Aidan’s CBS on his coaching career. Refers to the success they had in football and hurling and to some of the players, the Crowley brothers and Paul Clarke.</p> <p>00:36:18 Describes Br. Coffey as ‘meticulous’ in his preparation of teams and outlines his ongoing contact with him. Mentions also the tough reputation of the principal at the time and recalls his involvement in an incident with soccer</p>
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	<p>player, Liam Brady.</p> <p>00:38:34 Arriving in FCJ Bunclody and efforts of principal to raise profile of Gaelic games in school. Outlines success enjoyed, including a 5 in a row Leinster titles in camogie.</p> <p>00:40:20 Talks about winning All-Ireland colleges in 1986 and other successes.</p> <p>00:41:00 Discusses the big Club rivals when he was with Naomh Eanna, including Castletown, Ferns, Pat's.</p> <p>00:41:50 Discusses club rivals when playing Bunclody, including Duffry Rovers. Talks about Bunclody winning two senior football titles in the 1980s, but appeared in a semi-final or final every year for 12 years.</p> <p>00:43:00 Balancing GAA commitments with family life: mentions absence of wife's background in the GAA.</p> <p>00:43:30 Reflects on career and retirement as a player, aged 44. Mentions playing with his son and tells story of wife watching his last game.</p> <p>00:45:45 Mentions that he kept fit playing other games – refers to playing hockey for Aer Lingus and Wexford and Carlow. Refers to playing against Martin Storey in hockey and to other GAA players involved while still playing inter-county Gaelic games.</p> <p>00:47:50 Lists administrative roles held and discusses becoming involved as a selector with Bunclody.</p> <p>00:48:30 Discusses the emphasis on football over hurling Bunclody and accusations that he attempted to reverse this priority.</p> <p>00:48:50 Mentions existing difficulties in returning club to senior football or hurling status.</p> <p>00:49:43 First involvement with county team as selector – mentions that he was minor football selector c. Mid 1980s.</p> <p>00:50:20 Request from Liam Griffin to become selector and coach with Wexford senior hurlers in 1995.</p> <p>00:50:38 Reflects on the All-Ireland winning year of 1996.</p> <p>00:51:03 Taking over as manager from Liam Griffin – winning the Leinster title in 1997 and losing All-Ireland semi-final.</p>
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	<p>00:52:05 Disappointment of 1998 season – refers to loss of key players and to Offaly in championship. Mentions the impact of the defeat had on him and tells the story of how the season developed.</p> <p>00:55:00 Discusses the 1999 season the ‘loyalty’ he showed to the older Wexford players. Reflects on what had been achieved in the previous years and its impact on county. Refers also to the pleasure in having past pupils involved in 1996.</p> <p>00:57:05 Remarks on pleasure in being back involved with Wexford senior team and recounts his most recent experiences in management with various club teams.</p> <p>00:58:20 Discusses his work as a PE teacher and the GAA orientation of the schools in which he worked. Talks about his involvement with school teams and teams and players he has been associated with.</p> <p>01:00:45 Colleges success: winning a football All-Ireland in 1985, Camogie in 1993 and hurling in the late 2000s. Talks about the advantage of having pitches in the school and the commitment of the children.</p> <p>01:02:04 Highlights of selectorial career – refers to wins in club and in school, including a breakthrough hurling victory over Ballyfin.</p> <p>01:03:45 Recalls controversy over securing a player for schools hurling game who was on the Carlow senior football team – talks about taking the matter up with the GAA president.</p> <p>01:05:00 GAA highlights – discusses 1996 All-Ireland win and Leinster final win in 1997. Talks about the qualities of hurler Liam Dunne and the influence of Damien Fitzhenry.</p> <p>01:07:30 Recalls the ‘joy’ that was brought to county in the mid 1990s.</p> <p>01:08:25 GAA low point: losing to Offaly in Leinster in 1998. Refers also to recent club defeats.</p> <p>01:09:07 Outlines sporting philosophy and the importance of giving all.</p> <p>01:09:50 Reflects on the strength of Buffers Alley in the 1970s and Oulart in the mid to late 2000s.</p> <p>01:10:30 Remarks on the damage to reputations caused by</p>
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	<p>the reshowing of old games.</p> <p>01:11:09 Comments on the strength in football of Duffy Rovers in the 1980s and 90s and the reasons for it.</p> <p>01:11:50 Best county football team – reflects on the Kerry team and players of the 1970s. Talks about enduring friendships, including with Jimmy Deenihan.</p> <p>01:13:17 GAA hero: recalls being in hospital as a teenager and the ‘privilege’ being beside Tim Flood. Mentions also the Dorans and Quigley and his own family.</p> <p>01:14:41 Anticipates his future involvement in the GAA and his willingness to help out at any age and any code.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>1 U14 Wexford hurling title; 1 Junior Football Wexford title 1 Juv. Wexford hurling title; 1 Wexford Junior hurling title; 1 U-21 Wexford Hurling title; 2 Wexford Intermediate titles; 1 U-21 Leinster hurling titles; 1 Oireachtas medal; 1 All-Star Nomination (1978)</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Secretary of Naomh Eanna; Club Chairman & Secretary, Bunclody; Trainer, selector and manager for various Bunclody teams; Manged Wexford Camogie team. Bord na nÓg Chairman; Wexford senior hurling team manager and coach and various times.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 01:15:50</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

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To be filled in by Interviewer:

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the GAA Oral History Project on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the GAA Oral History Project the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: Eddie Nangle

Date: 19th Dec 2011