

GAA Oral History Project Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Eddie Nangle
Date of Interview	7 th Dec 2011
Location	CBS, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael (Mick) Carty
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1953 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Tara Hill NS, Gorey, Co. Wexford Secondary: CBS, Gorey, Co. Wexford Third Level: UCD
Family	Siblings: 6 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 2 daughters & 1 son
Club(s)	Castletown GAA Club [Wexford]; UCD GAA Club [Dublin]
Occupation	Deputy Principal, CBS, Enniscorthy.
Parents' Occupation	Farming
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Courtown Golf Club,

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Date of Report	7 th Dec 2011
Period Covered	1960 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Dublin, Kerry, Roscommon, Kildare, Offaly, Cavan, Waterford, Antrim, Americas
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Mick Carty, a former Castletown and Wexford senior footballer, begins the interview by discussing his earliest memories of the GAA, which centre of listening to Michael O’Hehir match commentaries on the radio in the family home. His family background in the GAA is set out, as is the place that Gaelic games – football in particular – played in the social life of his youth. Carty offers interesting insights into the modes of transport used to travel to games and discusses his introduction to playing Gaelic games in school, and with his club, Castletown. Carty explores the relationship between football and hurling in Castletown from the 1960s onwards, and charts how the club has evolved in terms of collaboration between the two games; the development of facilities; and the population influx which attended the so-called ‘Celtic tiger’.</p> <p>Carty also discusses his involvement with Wexford underage county teams and his involvement at senior football level with club and county throughout the 1970s and early 80s. He talks about those he played with and against, as well his experience with UCD in the 1970s, winning Sigerson and All-Ireland medals. Carty discusses his transition from student to teacher: he talks about his return to Wexford to teach at St. Mary’s CBS, Enniscorthy and the growing place that sport - gaelic games in particular – has occupied in the life of the school. Carty also reflects on his involvement in administrative and mentoring roles with club and county. Finally, the interview concludes with recollections of the highs and lows of his GAA experiences and a look towards possible future involvement.</p>

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	<p>00:00:10 Mick Carty is introduced as a former Wexford county footballer.</p> <p>00:00:30 Born just outside Gorey, Co. Wexford in October 1953. Parents from farming background.</p> <p>00:00:45 Mentions that he was one of ten children and that one boy died at early age. Of the nine surviving children, there are seven boys and two girls.</p> <p>00:01:18 Mentions growing up between Gorey and Tara Hill and now residing in Gorey, approx a mile and half from where he was born.</p> <p>00:01:40 Earliest memories of the GAA: recalls 1962 All-Ireland hurling final (Wexford V Tipperary) and listening to Michael O'Hehir. Tells story of the 1964 All-Ireland final and breaking a window in house during a half-time kick-about.</p> <p>00:03:00 Talks about introduction to Gaelic games through school in Tara Hill, the under 14 Nicky Rackard league and the absence of underage football in his club, Castletown.</p> <p>00:03:40 Discusses father's involvement as a footballer with Tara Rocks, winning a county title. Mentions an Uncle who would have played on same team as his father. Mentions also a grand-uncle who may have been involved, and the history of football in the area.</p> <p>00:05:50 GAA, football in particular, as part of family life and how it fitted into the routine of work and leisure. Refers to influence of brothers who went before him and different modes of transport used to get to games.</p> <p>00:06:14 Talks about the nature of his brothers involvement with the GAA.</p> <p>00:06:38 Discusses the beginnings of his involvement with club teams and refers to playing record with school and club.</p> <p>00:08:40 Discusses travelling to matches and modes of transport used. Refers to use of tractor and trailer or walking. Also mentions the difficulty of sourcing transport to matches that were a distance from home in the early 1960s. Tells story of travelling to game in back of van in Enniscorthy and visit to pubs on the way home.</p> <p>00:10:38 Reflects on the primacy of football in his young life and attitude of his father.</p> <p>00:11:15 Discusses attendance at Secondary school, CBS in</p>
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	<p>Gorey, and involvement in football and hurling.</p> <p>00:12:27 Discusses the origins of Castletown, its early emphasis on football and the emergence of Liam Mellowes to cater for hurling in the 1960s. Refers to some of the players who played with both.</p> <p>00:13:35 Reflects on underage success with Castletown club, winning under 21 championship in 1968.</p> <p>00:14:30 Recalls making minor debut with Wexford in 1969, the games played, being dropped from panel for All-Ireland semi-final and how he was informed. Mentions that future soccer star, Martin O'Neill, was on Derry team that Wexford faced in semi-final.</p> <p>00:17:07 Discusses the role of the club in the community, past and present. Recalls Castletown's status in county football in the 1960s and local expectations. Refers to absence of pitch or facilities and reliance on local farmers and contrasts that situation with the facilities developed by the club since.</p> <p>00:18:40 Mentions the various fundraising efforts undertaken to fund development.</p> <p>00:19:20 Comments that emigration didn't impact upon club during his playing days.</p> <p>00:20:00 Discusses the impact of 'Celtic Tiger' influx on Castletown. Mentions transformation of area and how this has fed through to club in terms of participation and the work of club. Refers also to amalgamation of Castletown with Liam Mellowes.</p> <p>00:21:50 Reflects on clerical influence on club, especially that of Fr. Sean Kitt, who was related to well-known Galway political family. Mentions also influence of Fr. Qualter, a Kerryman, and the nature of his involvement with teams in the 1960s. Mentions also. Fr. Moloney. The subsequent fall-off in clerical involvement is discussed as is the changing organisation of church in the wider area.</p> <p>00:24:33 Discusses the profile of football in Castletown the 1960s and 70s and the reasons for it.</p> <p>00:26:00 Comments on his own involvement with Castletown teams during the early 1970s.</p> <p>00:26:40 Reflects on the importance of certain families to the Castletown story and the 'stability' they brought to matters.</p>
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	<p>Refers to influence upon him of Andy Merrigan, Oliver Cullen, Larry Shaughnessy and Tommy Molloy. Refers to the life lessons that sport can bring.</p> <p>00:28:40 Reflects on his ambitions as a footballer to play with county and the relative strength of football at the time.</p> <p>00:29:30 Recalls Castletown's rivalry with Ballyhogue in late 1960s and early 1970s.</p> <p>00:30:55 Discusses playing for Wexford county teams, minor football and hurling and under 21 football, late 1960s and early 1970s.</p> <p>00:32:25 Mentions names of players he played alongside for Wexford.</p> <p>00:33:00 Revisits Castletown- Ballyhogue rivalry and alludes again to the physical nature of it.</p> <p>00:34:00 Discusses move onto county senior football team in 1971/72 National League. Recalls travelling to play Waterford and lack of facilities available – tells of changing in the 'boots' of cars and absence of showers. Tells also of playing against Roscommon the league and the football lessons learned.</p> <p>00:35:55 Mentions ending senior inter-county football career in 1983 and discusses the various positions he played.</p> <p>00:36:44 Reflects on memorable games with Wexford – recalls playing Dublin in Leinster championship in Croke Park in 1974 and again in 1975, 1976 and 1977.</p> <p>00:38:26 Mentions the names of some of the players he played alongside with Wexford in the 1970s – Liam Farrelly, Mick Caulfield, Tom Foley, Martin Quigley, Gary Byrne. Comments on the quality of the Wexford football team of the 1970s and the difficulty of breaking a breakthrough.</p> <p>00:39:51 Discusses some of the players he played against – Willie Bryan, Brian Mullins, Joe Cassells, Jimmy Keaveney.</p> <p>00:40:25 Talks about failure to make breakthrough and the strengthening of football in the late 1970s and early 1980s – mentions quality of players like George O'Connor, better known as a hurler.</p> <p>00:41:45 Talks about hurlers who were prominent in football and reflects on the changing demands on the dual player. Comments also on the overlap of talents and criticises the choices that many young players are been forced to make.</p>
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	<p>00:43:40 Talks about entry into UCD in 1972 and the quality of players in the college at the time – Jackie Walsh, Ogie Moran and John O’Keeffe of Kerry; Pat O’Neill and Pat Duggan of Dublin; Ian O’Donoghue of Kildare; John P. Keane of Mayo; Ollie Liddy of Cavan; Gerry McEntee and Colm O’Rourke of Meath; Tom Hunt from Waterford in goal etc. Mentions the role of Eugene McGee as a manager.</p> <p>00:45:55 Mentions winning five Sigerson Cup medals.</p> <p>00:46:07 Discusses being a member of UCD’s Dublin championship team in 1973 and 1974. Mentions playing for Castletown against UCD in 1973 Leinster club championship and his subsequent involvement with UCD – as captain – in 1974 and ’75.</p> <p>00:51:00 Tells story of 1975 Sigerson Cup final against a QUB-St. Mary’s Training college selection in Belfast ‘at the height of troubles’. Mentions Unionist strike and difficulty of returning from the north.</p> <p>00:52:45 Sporting life in UCD and striking a balance with studies. Mentions the place of ‘training’ and ‘football’ and tells of stories of playing 3 to 4 games in a weekend.</p> <p>00:54:47 Mentions selection for All-Star trip to United States in 1978.</p> <p>00:55:43 Tells of spending summers of 1976 and 1977 in Chicago, working and playing football.</p> <p>00:56:00 Comments on GAA’s influence on life and how it ‘opens doors’.</p> <p>00:56:10 Discusses enduring relationships with ex-UCD players.</p> <p>00:57:26 Playing with club after conclusion of inter-county career. Talks about retirement, injuries and ongoing physical problems.</p> <p>00:58:45 Talks about the difficulty of dealing with retirement and life as a spectator.</p> <p>00:59:53 Discusses his involvement with school teams. Mentions starting work as a teacher in 1976 in Dublin and becoming involved with school soccer team, starting up a Gaelic football team and getting to Croke Park. Talks about decision to return to Wexford to take up post at St Mary’s CBS, Enniscorthy in 1980.</p>
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	<p>01:02:19 Reflects on tradition of GAA in school and the job of harnessing playing talent. Discusses the beginning of his involvement with school teams, the support of other teachers and the success enjoyed – including three senior All-Irelands and provincial titles in football and hurling. Talks about some of the other teams played against and the players they had – including Pat O’Neill, Adrian Ronan and DJ Carey with St. Kieran’s in Kilkenny.</p> <p>01:05:40 General comments about the profile of sport in St. Mary’s CBS. Mentions increase in number of PE teachers and student population and the determination to cater for all sporting interests – golf, soccer, rugby, equestrian sports, hurling, gaelic football.</p> <p>01:06:30 Discusses his involvement in management with the Castletown club and his decision to ‘step aside’ when nephews became involved.</p> <p>01:08:18 Mentions serving as chairman of county football board and what the work involved, including the appointment of managers etc. Mentions the appointment of JJ Barrett from Kerry and his influence on football in county.</p> <p>01:09:55 Recalls Barrett’s suspension after striking a referee and stepping in as a selector.</p> <p>01:10:52 Outstanding GAA memories: recalls winning 1981 county championship against Bunclody and explains why it brought him satisfaction. Recalls also 1979 county championship victory and beating Starlights from Enniscorthy. Recalls also captaining UCD to Sigerson and All-Ireland club titles – refers to Andy Merrigan and receiving a trophy named in his honour.</p> <p>01:13:05 Discusses playing alongside Andy Merrigan and his qualities as a footballer. Talks about leaving Merrigan cup with the Merrigan family for the year.</p> <p>01:13:44 Worst GAA memories: recalls getting injured playing against Buffers Alley in Gorey in 1977 or 1978. Recalls also 1973 all-Ireland under 21 hurling final and being beaten by Cork.</p> <p>01:16:00 Discusses the Kerry football team of the 1970s and 80s and comments on Dublin of the 1970s, Down of the 60s and Meath in the late ‘80s.</p> <p>01:16:48 Comments on the record of Duffry Rovers in winning 7 county championships in a row; reflects on the influence of</p>
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	<p>having large families in a club and its effect on club spirit.</p> <p>01:18:14 Mentions his brothers involvement at senior level with Castletown and playing alongside one brother for county.</p> <p>01:19:00 Tells story of one occasion when all 7 brothers played together against 7 brothers from another club – part of a Macra na Feirme competition.</p> <p>01:21:30 Anticipates his future GAA involvement in school and with club.</p> <p>01:22:22 Comments on importance of GAA to life and the involvement of children in sport. Talks about other sports he's involved with and his enjoyment of being an 'impartial' spectator at Gaelic games.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from 1965-1992</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>County Football Committee & Selector</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:24:27</p>
<p>Language</p>	<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: 7th Dec 2011