

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	21 July 2009
Location	Kilkenny
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Donal Dalton
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1957 Home County: Kilkenny
Education	Primary: CBS Kilkenny Secondary: CBS Kilkenny
Family	Siblings: 1 brother (Michael); 4 sisters (Miriam, Angela, Teresa, Ann-Frances). Current Family if Different: Wife, Karen; 1 son, Patrick
Club(s)	Dicksboro
Occupation	Plumber
Parents' Occupation	Plumber [Father]; Cook [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A

Date of Report	16 October 2009
Period Covered	1969-2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Kilkenny
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Material Culture, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Sacrifices, Opening of Croke Park, Professionalism
Interview Summary	<p>0:00 Introduction</p> <p>0:18 Earliest memory – going to his first all-Ireland with his uncle Paddy in 1969 – driving up to the match; sitting in the Nally stand – 11 or 12 at the time.</p> <p>1:15 Playing hurling in school – street leagues – St Canice’s club and St Mary’s club joining to form Dicksboro club in the 1960s.</p> <p>2:12 Grandfather, Mick Dalton, trained the Kilkenny team for thirty four years – a hairdresser by trade – had shop in Watergate – a noted handballer – won six senior all-Ireland medals</p> <p>2:57 Strong handballing tradition in Kilkenny – Talbot’s Inch club very famous – many champions</p> <p>3:21 Life in the hairdressers – famous hurlers from the generation would meet there.</p> <p>3:56 Mick Dalton became the trainer of the Kilkenny team in 1917 – stories he heard about the time he went with the Kilkenny team to America in 1934 – organisation of the trip – stories about the meals on the boat – German ship- banquet after the first days hurling- he trained them and looked after any injuries – training very different then – players paying for themselves to get to matches.</p> <p>6:56 Mick Dalton very interested in athletics and a handballer as well – always a very active man – he also hurled – and ran 100 metres – description of Mick.</p> <p>8:19 Mick’s son Paddy Dalton became a well known handballer – won six All-Ireland senior medals and is holder of the Slater Cup – won mostly playing doubles.</p>

	<p>9:00 Mick's other son Andy Dalton went to America but also hurled for Dickboro in 1934 – his photo is in the clubhouse – then he moved to America</p> <p>9:28 Patrick his son has been a member of Dicksboro since he was 8 years old – training in James's Park – Dicksboro has a strong tradition – John Marnell from Dickboro played Minor for Kilkenny ; Michael Walsh also hurled with them (son of Ollie); Ollie Walsh played handball in the 1960s – originally from Thomastown – story about Ollie Walsh.</p> <p>11:16 His mother a Shanahan from Thomastown – hurling tradition in Thomastown.</p> <p>12:13 Stories about Mick Dalton when Donal was growing up.</p> <p>12:47 playing hurling in the Green in the terrace when he was growing up.</p> <p>13:04 Hasn't missed a Kilkenny All-Ireland since 1969 – Kilkenny and hurling – popularity of hurling – the feeling walking into Croke Park – taking his son to Croke Park.</p> <p>14:27 Changes in Croke Park over the years – his father driving up in the Fold Anglia Estate – having sandwiches and flasks of tea before and after the game– the car breaking down in Inchicore –routine the day of an All-Ireland.</p> <p>16:58 Atmosphere in Kilkenny when they are in the All-Ireland – flags and bunting out.</p> <p>17:35 Predictions for 2009 – 2009 team – new level of hurling – display of 2008 All-Ireland – Brian Cody's influence – losing the All-Ireland in 1999 against Cork – minor, U21 and intermediate teams.</p> <p>19:13 Kilkenny training sessions in Nowlan Park – picking out the team.</p> <p>20:13 Rivals in Dicksboro – three city teams – James Stephens and O'Loughlin Gaels – Ballyhale Shamrocks best team in the county.</p> <p>21:44 Great players of his time – Frank Cummins – Michael Walsh, the best goalkeeper in Kilkenny in his time – Story about Ollie and Michael Walsh.</p> <p>23:37 Players coming up along that he thinks are good – Richie Hogan – cousin of DJ who was one of the greats – crowds going to Gowran matches – Story about Henry Shefflin – current team – Tommy Walsh.</p>
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	<p>25:05 Watching Brian Cody and Christy Heffernan when they were playing.</p> <p>27:00 Dedication and commitment of current players.</p> <p>27:44 Professionalism – impact this would have on a club – importance of the club.</p> <p>28:12 Key changes in the GAA in his time – organisation more professional – Croke Park – views on opening up Croke Park to other sports.</p> <p>29:08 Playing in soccer when he was growing up – playing with his son now – sitting in Row Z in Croke Park.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</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 type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Driver</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 31:05</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 16 October 2009