

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Thérèse McIntyre
Date of Interview	1 Sept. 2010
Location	Interviewee's home
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tom Nally
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1950 Home County: Galway
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: 5
Club(s)	St. Michael's
Occupation	Barber
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A
Date of Report	23 Sept. 2010
Period Covered	1960s - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Galway
Key Themes	Childhood, Earliest Memories, Playing, Role of the Club in the

REFERENCE NO. GY-1-10

<p>Covered</p>	<p>Community, Family Involvement, Refereeing, Coaching, Managing, Training, Administration, Media, Economy/Economics, Facilities, Fundraising, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Emigration, Professionalism, Relationship with the Association, Role of Women, Travel, Impact on Life, Professionalism. Identity.</p>
<p>Interview Summary</p>	<p>Tom talks about his long-standing relationship with the GAA and St. Michael's Club (Galway) in particular. Growing up across the road from St. Michael's, he had an early ambition to play for the club, which he did as a youth. While neither his parents nor siblings were involved in the GAA, it did not prevent his own love of the game from developing. Later on he continued his involvement with the club at many other levels including coaching, management, and as chairman and member of the executive committee. He now enjoys a busy career as a referee of club matches at all levels. Tom talks about all aspects of his career and the continuing importance of the GAA in his life as well as that of his children. His involvement with St. Michael's and the GAA spans some 45 years.</p> <p>00:48 Earliest memories of GAA. Refers to Connacht Tribune interview. Childhood. Growing up across road from local club (St. Michael's, Galway). Development of interest in Gaelic football. Ambition to play for club. Playing career with St. Michael's (Galway). Parent's/Sibling involvement.</p> <p>02:02 Success with St. Michael's. Importance of other things besides 'success' – appreciation, enjoyment. Impact of club and playing Gaelic football on life. Length of time involved in GAA. Role as referee. Career as player. Role as coach/manager of various aged teams.</p> <p>03:03 Beginning of refereeing career and enjoyment of refereeing. Transition from coach/manager to referee. Concern for fitness as player. Responsibility of coach/manager for panel. Involvement in St. Michael's.</p> <p>04:10 Difficulties of training as referee. Maintenance of fitness through matches.</p> <p>04:33 Rule changes.</p> <p>05:05 Recent controversies with referees. 'Trial by television' with bigger games. Controversy in club games. Protection of referees. Difference between mistakes made by players and referees. Personal experience of 'bad' game. Appointment of umpires/linesmen. Importance of using 'loyal' umpires. Practice of referees bringing umpires/linesmen with</p>

	<p>them to matches.</p> <p>06:23 Changes in Gaelic football (style, etc.). More 'catch and kick'; long ball. Effects of playing changes on the sport overall. Importance of winning. 'Short-passing' game. Need for exceptional players. Efforts in training of county/club teams. Standards of Galway Senior club.</p> <p>07:44 Regret at not taking up refereeing earlier in career. Inter-county refereeing. Current refereeing career at club level.</p> <p>08:25 Attendance at club matches. Choices for supporters between different sports. Economics (ticket prices).</p> <p>09:05 Role of club/GAA in community.</p> <p>09:27 Improvement of facilities. Facilities at St. Michael's in the early days of club. Obtaining uniforms (fundraising).</p> <p>10:22 Parents' attendance/involvement. Children's involvement in GAA. Playing with son on same St. Michael's team.</p> <p>11:26 Opportunities for women in sport.</p> <p>11:51 Sons' playing careers.</p> <p>12:00 Attendance at matches in Croke Park (1960's). Going to matches with father. Train travel. Crowds at matches in Croke Park today. Difficulties in obtaining All-Ireland tickets.</p> <p>13:00 Attendance at Finals in Croke Park in the 1970s. First All-Ireland Final attended in Croke Park (Galway v. Dublin). Galway/Dublin rivalry. Attendance of matches in Croke Park. Enjoyment of All-Ireland Finals as 'neutral'. Delight of going to Croke Park.</p> <p>14:02 Spouse's involvement in GAA. Spouse's role as Treasurer of Salthill (daughters' camogie club). Conflict of children's match schedules.</p> <p>14:32 Importance of playing sport for young people today.</p> <p>15:08 Role of GAA in the future. Importance of GAA in society. Significance of retaining 'amateur' status. Economic climate and professionalism. 'No go' area. Involvement in sport for the love of the game. Immigration of players to play as 'professionals'. 'Elite' players. Australians choosing players.</p> <p>16:27 Arrival of television in the 1970s. Changing role of</p>
--	---

	<p>media in match coverage.</p> <p>17:12 Official recognition of ladies' sports by GAA. Importance of ladies' retaining own identity, but also that of GAA. Ways of increasing support for ladies' sports. Standard of ladies' sports.</p> <p>18:13 Re-cap of various roles in career. Other roles in Association.</p> <p>18:47 First Senior Championship game refereed.</p> <p>19:28 Procedure for determining capability of referee for higher level matches. (Assessment) Testing of referees. Refereeing of ladies. Importance of concentrating on one (either mens or ladies). Differences in rules (mens/ladies). Extra officials/television referees for 'big' games. Importance of being certain of decisions. Rugby system of refereeing. Changes in refereeing at various levels in terms of equipment (video, etc.). Forthcoming matches to be referee'd. Son's involvement with Barna – refereeing conflict. Importance of stepping back to allow opportunities for other referees. Recognition of referees. Importance of impartiality. Standing by decisions. Female referees.</p> <p>23:55 Role of schools in encouraging participation in GAA sports. Importance of good coaches within schools. Cooperation between schools and clubs. Importance of skills and enjoyment. Emphasis on 'winning'.</p> <p>24:52 Experiences as referee (crowd reactions).</p> <p>25:20 Shows interviewer Connacht Tribune article.</p> <p>25:35 Career as barber in Galway.</p> <p>25:50 Father's career. Parents' birthplace.</p> <p>26:37 Role of GAA in future.</p> <p>27:16 Opening of Croke Park to other codes. Fencing off of the 'Hill' in Croke Park. Tradition of 'storming the pitch' – issues of health and safety.</p> <p>28:38 St. Michael's playing in Croke Park. Intermediate All-Ireland Final: St. Michael's (Galway) v. St. Michael's (Kerry).</p> <p>28:52 Participation in Executive Committee.</p> <p>29:10 Son's change to Barna club.</p> <p>29:16 Knowledge of Irish language.</p>
--	--

REFERENCE NO. GY-1-10

	29:30 Involvement in Comortas Peil na Gaeltachta. Final thoughts.
Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 30:12
Language	English

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: Thérèse McIntyre

Date: 11 November 2011