

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	16 th Dec 2010
Location	Tony's home, near Tullow, Co. Carlow
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tony Maher. Also present Chris Murphy and Nellie Maher
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1928 Home County: Carlow
Education	Primary: Bridgadies Convent and Patrician Brothers
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters and 11 brothers Current Family if Different: Wife (Nellie); 1 son and 1 daughter
Club(s)	St Patrick's GAA, Tullow [Carlow]
Occupation	Builder, National Health Insurance, Department of Social Welfare
Parents' Occupation	National Health Insurance [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	23 rd July 2012
Period Covered	1916 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Carlow
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Tony talks about growing up during a time when there were very little GAA structures in place in Carlow. Young boys were given little encouragement at school or by the club, so they organised games themselves until they were old enough to represent the club. Tony played for the club and was also involved as an administrator and referee. He also recalls days out at Croke Park, living under the shadow of the Ban, and taking it upon himself to report on club games for local newspapers.</p> <p>00:30 (Tony) Born in 1928. What Tullow was like growing up. Shop they had. Brothers moving to England. What they did there.</p> <p>03:15 (Tony) Listening to games in the radio and playing amongst themselves afterwards.</p> <p>03:45 (Tony) Brother, Chris, secretary of the club. Being given a job to repair footballs. How he did that. Marking the field for games. Taking money at the gate.</p> <p>05:30 (Tony) GAA in Tullow in the 1930s. Players demanding an incentive to participate.</p> <p>06:30 (Tony) Dr Foley's rugby club in the area. What became of that.</p> <p>07:10 (Tony) Pitch they used when he was young. Brother Leo's involvement in school and GAA life.</p> <p>08:20 (Tony) Going to Patrician Brothers school. Martin Rustico teaching him. Football in the school. Forming their</p>

	<p>own league with the Mulhalls. Where they played.</p> <p>10:30 (Tony) Jim Butler making balls. What they were like.</p> <p>11:10 (Tony) Playing for the club. Teams they had at the time. Tournaments in Bagenalstown, Baltinglass, Rathvilly. Kildavin were Tullow's main rivals. How they travelled to tournaments. Festivities afterwards.</p> <p>13:20 (Tony) Hackettstown, Clonmore, were good.</p> <p>13:40 (Tony) Position he played in. Appointing Dan Douglas as a trainer. Who he was.</p> <p>14:40 (Tony) 'Massacre' at Dr Cullen Park.</p> <p>15:10 (Tony) What their training was like. Winning a title in 1951. Jackmans good players at the time. Underachievement. Secretary angry at a meeting. Reason for that.</p> <p>17:10 (Tony) Success in 1960s. with Kildavin. Looking for a postponement. Correspondence with county secretary Willie O'Connor.</p> <p>18:35 (Tony) Mick Mulhall, Jim Murphy, Martin Dalton and Donal McMahon involved in development of field they were using. People competing for use of the pitch. Park opened in 1966. Wexford and Carlow playing each other, as did Thurles Sarsfields and Faythe Harriers. Fundraising for the pitch. Looking for a ball from Martin O'Neill. His response.</p> <p>23:55 Success in 1959 - their first since 1916 - and celebrations afterwards. Celebrations for Under-14 success in 1950s.</p> <p>25:10 (Tony) Brother Robert helping with set of jerseys. Colours they wore.</p> <p>26:50 (Tony) Hurling starting up in 1949. How that happened. Issues with county board. Playing against Shilleleagh and Castledermot. Tough game against St Mullings. Playing Leighlinbridge in a junior final. Chance for revenge. Where they got the hurls from. Collecting money with Jack Mulhall.</p> <p>31:05 (Tony) Admiration for 1950s Wexford hurling team, Cork players Vin Twomey and Chrsity Ring.</p> <p>31:45 (Tony) Admiration for Meath footballers.</p> <p>32:25 (Tony) First trip to Croke Park in 1945. Cork playing Cavan. Jack Lynch playing with Cork.</p>
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<p>35:40 (Tony) Micheál Ó hÉihir at Croke Park. How they travelled. Where they stayed.</p> <p>38:25 (Tony) Going to an All-Ireland club final in Thurles. No need for tickets. Going to Railway Cup games. Food available at grounds.</p> <p>40:15 (Tony) Wanting to get on club committee. Being proposed in 1965 after Tom Carroll was made secretary. Getting to grips with certain duties.</p> <p>43:00 (Tony) Jim Murphy chairman when he was involved.</p> <p>43:20 (Tony) Role of GAA in community in 1950s and 1960s. Fr Murphy and Fr Seán Kelly's involvement. Brother Nicholas and Bosco involved.</p> <p>45:35 (Tony) Trouble over an illegal player in 1950s.</p> <p>47:35 (Neilie) Playing camogie in Hacketstown.</p> <p>48:00 (Tony) Getting married in 1958.</p> <p>48:40 (Tony) Deciding to report on juvenile games. Going to Coiste na nÓg meetings. How he found that. Pádraig Purcell, JD Hickey, Seán Óg Ó Ceallacháin, Paddy Downey reporters he admired. Newspapers he read. Listening to Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh on the radio.</p> <p>55:50 (Tony) Hurling in the county.</p> <p>57:10 (Chris) Industries in Tullow. Rivalry with Grange.</p> <p>50:50 (Tony) Pat Brophy coming from Donegal for a presentation.</p> <p>50:10 (Tony) Club players on the county team in the 1960s. Tullow players on the Team of the Century.</p> <p>01:02:05 (Tony) Ban in the area. Carlow playing Wicklow in Athy, playing on soccer pitch at the back and getting in trouble with Chris Moore. over it. Pat Fanning and the Ban at Congress.</p> <p>01:05:45 (Tony) Changes he has seen in the GAA over the years. Playing styles in hurling and football.</p> <p>01:06:35 (Tony) Development of Association. Croke Park committees.</p> <p>01:07:10 (Tony) Getting involved as a referee in a Kildavin game after the appointed official never showed up. Willie White asking him about an incident in the game when they</p>

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	<p>met in the pub that evening.</p> <p>01:08:50 (Tony) Getting to know the rules.</p> <p>01:14:30 (Tony) Athletics in the area.</p> <p>01:15:40 (Tony) Lack of success since the 1960s and reason for that.</p> <p>01:16:45 (Chris) Moving to Tullow from Wexford in 1980. Getting involved with the club. Success they had. Difficulty in getting players to commit.</p> <p>01:19:20 (Chris) Emigration.</p> <p>01:20:05 (Tony) Volunteers in the GAA.</p> <p>01:20:50 (Leo) Pádraig Kinnane working on ladies football at St Anne's club. Relationship between ladies club and GAA club. Where they recruit players from.</p> <p>01:22:35 (Tony) Kathleen Clarke washing club jerseys when he was younger. Who washed them in 2010.</p> <p>01:24:20 (Chris) Quality of facilities they have. Funding they got for improvements.</p> <p>01:26:35 (Tony) County final played on St Stephen's Day in 1993.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" 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>20 years playing hurling and football with St Patrick's, Tullow.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Member of St Patrick's GAA Committee, Tullow, Secretary of club in 1957 and PRO of club at one stage.</p>

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Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:27:30
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 23rd July 2012