

City Grand Prix returns to grid after 75 years



Winner of the 1935 Limerick Grand Prix finishing.

The winner, L. Fontes (Alfa-Romeo), finishing.

By Colum Coomey

IMAGINE the world's fastest cars racing down O'Connell Street up William Street out Roxboro Road down Carey's Road to Puncches Cross back up O'Connell Avenue onto the home straight of O'Connell Street!

In 1935, Limerick didn't have to imagine it, as 50,000 spectators were treated to the inaugural Limerick Grand Prix, attended by the world's greatest racing drivers.

Limerick Classic and Vintage Car Club are now set to bring some of the models of Bugatti, Maseratti, MG, Ford and Austin cars which would have competed in the race back to Limerick to complete the route this August.

"The 2.78 mile street circuit is one of only two in the world still intact, along with Monte Carlo, the home of the Monaco GP," said Colin Williams

of Limerick Classic and Vintage Car Club.

This circuit took an average around two minutes and thirty five seconds to complete, at an average speed of 65mph.

Following the success of the first event, the Limerick Grand Prix was held again in 1936, when one driver was killed, and 1938.

Club member, Martin Bourke, explained the background.

"Street races were banned in the UK at the time but not in Ireland, and the lack of racing circuits brought races to the Phoenix Park, Cork and Limerick".

This brought the World's best cars and drivers to Limerick's streets... "It wasn't just international participants, we had local entrants too, and the Doherty family in Adare entered their own special cut up saloon".

James Doherty of W.W. Doherty & Sons

Limited, spoke about his family's participation:

"My father Walter built his own car and raced it. It was DRA Doherty Racing Automobile) and it was built along the lines of the ERA English Racing Automobile), the popular car of the time".

The organisers claim that the winning Alfa Romeo 8C car of 1935 was the launch pad of the Ferrari. Martin added: "It was auctioned in 1999 in California and sold for over \$3million".

In the second Grand Prix in 1936, the 22-year old Duke of Grafton was killed on his birthday after he crashed on the first lap and his car went on fire.

The Bugatti Type 59 was saved and rebuilt by his mechanic and was auctioned in 2005 for \$1.2million.

Another famous entrant in the race was Prince Bira of Siam, who was one of the top drivers of

the time.

Martin continued: "It is well documented how the Prince travelled to Limerick and arrived at the Dunraven Arms Hotel in his Bentley".

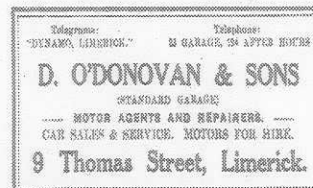
The Classic and Vintage Car Club have compiled a lot of information on the race from various sources, including posters, programmes and photographs.

Martin concluded: "We discovered sponsorship letters, posters and a locally produced programme on the Limerick Museum website. Thanks to the work of Sean Curtin, we also have some fantastic photographs".

Other sources of information include detailed articles in The Irish Motor News magazine.

Links to spectacular video footage of the 1935 and 1936 Limerick Grand Prix are available on the event website, www.limerickgrandprix.com.

The programme cover for the 1936 Limerick Grand Prix



LIMERICK • INTERNATIONAL • GRAND PRIX

BANK HOLIDAY, MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD 1936

Last year Limerick staged what was declared to be the finest "Around the House" Motor Race ever run. Again this year it will be the arena of Motorists from all parts when on August Bank Holiday it will hold its International Grand Prix.

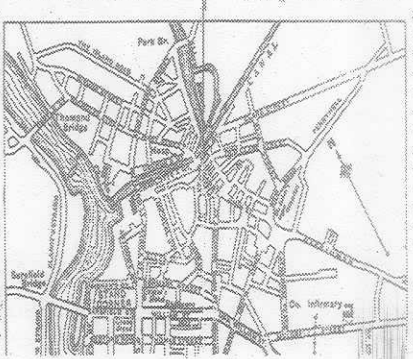
The Race is held entirely within the boundaries of the ancient City of Limerick. The length of the course is 2 1/2 miles, and is composed of non-slip concrete.

The Race is run in a clockwise direction, and drivers overtake on the left.

William Street is a fairly stiff up grade, averaging a rise of about 1 in 20, commencing with Upper William Street by a fast right-hand bend. The Upper William Street-Barrington Road Section is a much steeper

grade, a level section and is followed by a gradual down grade, getting steeper at its end, to the double right-hand corner at Puncches Cross. With the completion of the last 100 yards following Puncches Cross, which is an up grade of 1 in 20, and a very gentle rise (1 in 100) approaching The Crescent, the entire length of O'Connell Avenue-O'Connell Street, straight, consists of a level section or level section until the 100 yards before the right-hand corner into William Street is reached, when there is a very slight up grade (1 in 200), or severely distinguishable from level.

Prize money to the value of £100 is guaranteed, and in addition various cups have been donated. £250 and potential cup goes to the winner.



Law Link

Alex O'Neill Solicitors replies to one of the queries received at Lawlink@alexoneill.ie.

Can my neighbour keep my land?

Q. I have two fields at the rear of my property. Two years ago my neighbour approached me asking would I sell one of the fields to him and as part of the deal let him have the use of the other field for grazing his cattle. I agreed to do this but told him that I would require the second field at some stage in the future as I was extending my property. I approached him some months ago confirming that I required him to vacate the grazing field to which he replied that he actually owned the field. The agreement between us was most definitely that he would purchase one field and I would allow him to graze his cattle on the other until such time as I required it for extending my property. My neighbour then produced a copy of the title to his land clearly showing the second field is registered to him and he claims this is an end to the matter. Is he correct?

Dear Reader,

From what I gather there is no written agreement in relation to the selling of this field. However it would appear that owing to some form of mistake the transfer of the field you agreed to sell

also inadvertently included the field that you were allowing your neighbour to graze his cattle on.

The answer to this is fairly straight forward in that where it is proved that owing to a mistake the written contract or in this case the transfer of the property to your neighbour does not substantially represent the real intention of the parties at the time then the court has jurisdiction to rectify the agreement and/or transfer. The most important thing here is the intention of the parties at the time the agreement was entered into. If the document which transferred both fields to your neighbour does not actually reflect the true agreement between you then, albeit you may have to issue proceedings, the court will order the rectification of title on the basis that it is inequitable to allow one party take advantage of another's mistake.

The burden of proving the intention between you and your neighbour will lie with you. You must be in a position to prove what your common intention was. When having conversations in relation to this agreement to sell one field to your neighbour and let him graze the other were there any other parties privy to your conversations and did you commit anything to writing? How are the fields fenced, did you maintain the fencing on the grazing field?

Initially I suggest that you go to your neighbour and ask your neighbour to contact his solicitor in relation to the matter, to avoid long drawn out contentious proceedings that will ultimately, if you prove your case, prove very expensive for your neighbour.

You should also contact your own solicitor in relation to the matter. If the parties can come to an agreement then a simple Deed of Rectification can be signed by all parties and that will deal with the matter.

YOUR QUESTIONS

If you have a legal query that you would like answered you can email lawlink@alexoneill.ie or send your query to Alex O'Neill Solicitors, 22 Barrington Street, Limerick. The column is a reader's service and is not intended to replace professional advice. No individual correspondence will be entered into.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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Education to date: Email:
Work Experience:

To be in with a chance of winning, return a completed form to: Aileen Cherry, HSI Limerick Business School, The Crescent, Limerick by 23 July 2010. Winner will be announced on 30 July 2010.

City set to court 'grey US dollar' for visitors

Mike Dwane

LIMERICK is courting the "grey dollar" in a number of broadcasts which are geared at pensioners and due to go out in the United States in the coming days and weeks.

Loss of routes at Shannon Airport has been blamed for the disastrous fall-off in overseas visitors coming into the Shannon region. What Tourism Ireland had been expected to be a decline of 10 per cent in 2009 was running at over 25 per cent for the first nine months of the year, the worst performance in the country.



Travel editor with CBS News, Peter Greenberg, at Dromoland Castle last week

But the decision of Peter Greenberg, one of the US's most respected travel writers and broadcasters, to focus on Limerick and the Mid-West could help stop the rot, tourism chiefs hope.

Travel editor of CBS News, Mr Greenberg's reports can help make or break a destination. Last week, he broadcast his radio show from Dromoland Castle. This will expose local tourist attractions to an audience of three million people coast-to-coast who tune into the 400 radio stations to whom Greenway's programme is syndicated.

Limerick and the region will also feature in 10 videos which are being filmed this week for the AARP - the American Association of Retired Persons, which has around 40 million members.

Limerick Grand Prix's 75th anniversary this Sunday



Super model...Miss Limerick Gemma Reilly, waves off an earlier model Austin Six at the launch of the Grand Prix 75th anniversary

Grand Prix is back on the city streets

Alan Owens

LIMERICK'S city streets are to be filled with the sights and sounds of screaming engines, burnt rubber and petrol fumes as the 75th anniversary of the first Limerick Grand Prix takes place this Sunday.

Younger city residents might find it hard to believe, but Limerick staged a full international grand prix event on three separate occasions in the 1930s - 1935, '36 and '38, to be exact - consisting of a 55 lap road race through the streets of the city.

On Sunday up to 80 sports cars will take to the city streets to mark the special anniversary of the first Limerick Grand Prix, which is believed to be the only street racing circuit outside of Monte

Carlo that remains unchanged 75 years on.

The event is also to mark the 25th anniversary of the Limerick Classic and Vintage Car Club, who are involved in organising the event.

Several of the cars that featured in the 1935 race will be on display and will drive around Limerick city, organiser Colin Williams explained.

"We are following the circuit of the original race, which took place in 1935, '36 and '38," explained Mr Williams of the circuit, which begins on O'Connell Street and takes in William Street, Roxboro Road and O'Connell Avenue.

"We have some of the cars that took part in the original 1935 race, the 4th, 5th and 6th placed cars from that race, and the same car as the one that actually won it, an Alfa

Romeo," he added. As many as 35 "pre-war" sports cars, 40 "post-war" cars and a number of cars from the Limerick Classic and Vintage Car Club, will take part in the event, which will feature a number of parade laps around the city.

"The quality of the cars will be second to none - it is the kind of collection that won't have been seen together in maybe 60 or 70 years, since these cars actually raced," explained Martin Bourke of Limerick Classic and Vintage Car Club.

"It is amazing - of the original cars that took part in the race, there is probably more than half that survived and are in active use. Some of the cars are extremely valuable, and it is probably the first time in 70-odd years that some of them have been together in

the country."

The massively popular event was known as 'Around the Houses' and some of the top international racing drivers of the time, including a Prince Bira of Siam, would travel to Limerick for the race, which claimed the life of the Duke of Grafton, John Charles Fitzroy, when he was just 22 years of age.

Eoghan Prendergast, Shannon Development, said he was delighted that the Limerick Grand Prix would return to the streets of the city and encouraged "everyone to come along and lend their support".

The vintage racing cars will parade around Limerick between 9.30am and 10.30am this Sunday, and will be on display in Pery Square between 3pm and 4.30pm on Sunday afternoon.

CHRONICLE BRIEF

Crisis pregnancy funding cut in 2009

FUNDING to women experiencing crisis pregnancy was cut in Limerick last year, according to annual report of the Crisis Pregnancy Agency.

Funding for the post-natal pre-natal courses at Limerick So Services Centre on Henry Street both decreased while funding to parenting programme was slight up.

Funding to Limerick Youth Service crisis pregnancy prevention programme was dropped altogether in 2009, the report shows.

Piano debut at the Georgian House

WORKS by Chopin, John Field and contemporary composers will be performed at the Georgian House, Pery Square, during pianist Artem Belugurov's debut Irish performance this Thursday night.

The recital gets underway at 8pm. Tickets cost €10. Call 061 314 for further information.

St Brigid's NS apply for extension permit

THE board of management of St Brigid's National School, Singland, is has applied for permission to extend the school.

The single-storey structure would house two new classrooms, two special tuition rooms and one learning support room.

Hard Working Class Heroes deadline

THERE is barely a week left for local bands to apply for this year's "Hard Working Class Heroes Festival" which takes place in October in Dublin's Temple Bar Area.

The festival is seeking the best Ireland's bands to register secure a slot to play at the event.

The judging panel for applications will be made up of writers A&R and music industry people from around the globe as well as international festival programmers.

Photographers are also invited to apply. For full details see www.hwch.net.

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News

Grand Prix to roar through city after a 72-year absence

Alan Owens

EARLY morning risers in the city this Sunday are likely to be greeted by the sight of vintage racing cars roaring around Limerick, as grand prix racing returns to the city for the first time in 72 years.

The unique one-day event will see in the region of 80 vintage sports cars take to the city streets to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first Limerick Grand Prix, which took place on the August Bank Holiday weekend in 1935.

Limerick staged three full international grand prix in 1935, 1936 and 1938, consisting of a 55-lap road race, known as "Around the Houses", because of the route it took through the city.

Interestingly, Limerick is believed to be unique in that it is the only street racing circuit outside of Monte Carlo that remains unchanged 72 years on.

Some of the top international racing drivers of the

time, including a Prince Bira of Siam, travelled to Limerick for the races in the 1930s, and, the course claimed the life of the Duke of Grafton, John Charles Fitzroy, when he was 22 years of age.

This Sunday's race will also mark the 25th anniversary of the Limerick Classic and Vintage Car Club, which is involved in organising the event.

Several of the cars that featured in the original 1935 race will be on display and will drive around the city for a number of parade laps, organiser Colin Williams revealed.

"We have some of the cars that took part in the original 1935 race – the fourth, fifth and sixth placed cars from that race – and the same car as the one that actually won it, an Alfa Romeo," said Mr Williams.

"We are following the circuit of the original race," he added of the 'track', which begins on O'Connell Street and takes in William

Street, Roxboro and Careys Road and O'Connell Avenue, finishing on the city's main thoroughfare.

A number of cars from the Limerick Classic and Vintage Car Club, as well as 35 pre-war and 40 post-war cars, will take part in the event, which will feature a number of parade laps around the city.

"The quality of the cars will be second to none. It is the kind of collection that won't have been seen together in maybe 60 or 70 years, since these cars actually raced," said Martin Bourke of Limerick Classic and Vintage Car Club.

"It is amazing – of the original cars that took part in the race, there is probably more than half that have survived and are in active use. Some of the cars are extremely valuable, and it is probably the first time in 70-odd years that some of them have been together in this country," he revealed.

The vintage racing cars



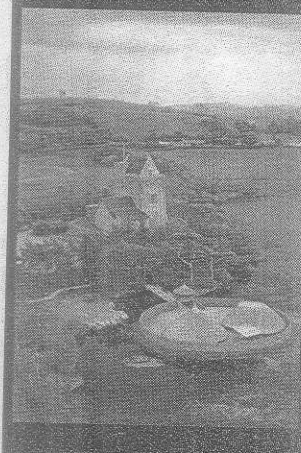
Miss Limerick, Gemma Reilly, launches the Limerick Grand Prix 75th anniversary

PICTURE: OWEN SOUTH

will parade around Limerick between 9.30am and 10.30am this Sunday, and will be on display in Pery Square between 3pm and 4.30pm that afternoon.

Loughmoe
Cragee

Sunday 1st
Ilam -



Tickets Avail-
at ww



Norma



Slow down this weekend, warn Gardai

GARDAI have issued a safety warning for the bank holiday weekend following another fatality on Limerick roads last weekend.

A 30-year-old man was killed following a collision on a minor road near Shanagolden when the motor cycle he was driving hit a wall.

He was removed by ambulance to Limerick Regional Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Gardai across the country are expecting extra volumes of traffic as people travel over the bank holiday weekend.

To date this year, 116 people have lost their lives on our roads. Gardai have asked people to exercise peer pressure on friends and family to persuade them to slow down.

Firearm recovered from south side

GARDAI have recovered a firearm during searches carried out on the south side of the city.

Roxboro Road Gardai discovered a sawn-off shot gun during a planned operation into the investigation on organised crime on Friday, July 23. The weapon was submitted for technical examination.

A man in his 20's was held under Section 30 of the Offences against the State Act, 1939 at Roxboro Garda Station and subsequently appeared at Limerick District Court.

Croom doctor rescued from Lough Derg

A CROOM based GP remains in a critical but stable condition in hospital after he was rescued from Lough Derg late on Sunday.

Dr. Michael Anketell is understood to have suffered a 'medical episode' before his 17-foot boat ran aground near Killaloe.

The RNLI lifeboat was called to the scene just before midnight following reports from a witness who spotted the vessel at Tinkers Point.

The GP was unconscious and suffering from hypothermia when he was rescued by the crew, who administered first aid and oxygen at the scene before transferring the victim to the Mid Western Regional Hospital.

Thieves target Delta Retail Park

A couple of premises were broken into in the Delta Retail Park last weekend.

The newly opened Delta Karting centre was entered by four males and a sum of money was stolen.

Thieves also entered Catering Hire and took a sum of money from a cash box.

Gardai suspect that the same people were involved in both incidents.

Roxboro Gardai are investigating a break into a domestic home in Carew Park on July 21. A Nokia mobile phone and cigarettes were taken.

Lawnmower goes missing

A Rover make lawnmower was stolen from the driveway of house in Ballysheedy. This is viewed as an opportunist type crime, with the lawnmower probably spotted from the roadway.

There has been an increase in the theft of garden equipment of late.

On last Friday, around midday, a young man was out walking his dog on Bengal Terrace, Old Cork Road, and while talking on his mobile phone, had it snapped from him by a person who had been walking behind.

Gardai once again warn people to be very careful when using their mobiles.

Limerick Grand Prix roars into action



Miss Limerick 2010
Gemma Reilly is pictured
launching the event

By Colum Coomey

LIMERICK Grand Prix will make a triumphant return this Sunday, 75 years after the chequered flag was first raised on William Street.

Four cars which competed in the original 1935, 1936 and 1938 races, have again entered.

Over 70 cars will roar back into life when they partake in a number of laps of the original circuit on Sunday morning.

Organiser Colin Williams of Limerick Classic and Vintage Car Club, confirmed they had no difficulty convincing the owners of the classic cars to bring them back to Limerick.

"We thought we'd have to twist people's arms to get them to come but the owners are delighted to get an opportunity to complete the original circuit. One said he would have cancelled his holidays to come here".

The cars that were placed 4th, 5th, 6th in 1935 will complete the circuit once again.

Over 50,000 people took to the streets of Limerick to watch the world's fastest cars racing up Williams Street out Roxboro Road down Carey's Road to Punces Cross back up O'Connell Avenue onto the home straight of O'Connell Street.

"The street circuit is one of only two in the world still intact, along with Monte Carlo, the home of the Monaco GP," said Colin.

It's not just pre-war sports and race cars on display on Sunday.... there will also be newer super cars on show to attract members of the public.

"We will have Ferraris, Maserattis and Aston Martins from the 70s, 80s and 90s", he told the Limerick Post.

All will be on display at Pery Square on Sunday, along with an exhibition of race memorabilia.

"We will have catalogues from all of the original races and an original hand painted AA sign. What we'd really love is to get stories and memories from people who might have attended the Grand Prix's in the 1930s".

John Crowe of Shannon Development, described the Grand Prix as an important inaugural event in the context of Limerick being a European City of Sport for 2011.

"It has great historical significance in the early part of the last century there was an awful lot of motor racing taking place. It's also great to tie it in with Georgian Limerick and hopefully, next year's event will be bigger and better".

The organisers thanked Shannon Development, Ruairi McDermott and Tom Cooney of Limerick City Council, and Sergeant Justin McCarthy for their support in organising the event.

The commemorative event's parade laps of the original circuit will start at 9.30am on Sunday from Pery Square.

Baggot Estate wetland set to roll

By Marie Hobbins

WORK on the development of a wetland on the Baggot Estate will commence on Wednesday, August 18, "subject to satisfactory weather conditions," according to Paul Foley, City Council.

The project will be undertaken by the Office of Public Works on behalf of the council's environment department.

"I've been told that the Wetland creation will be overseen on behalf of the council by Feidhlim Harty of FH Wetland Consultants in Ennis," said Cllr Jim Long.

He has been in close consultation with the residents of Ballinacurra and adjoining areas regarding the development on what is the largest and best preserved green lung of the city.

Recently the Baggot Estate saw an escalation of anti-social behaviour that resulted in residents being intimidated.

The estate was being used by gangs, bingeing on alcohol and establishing a strong anti-social presence that disrupted the sports clubs set up on the estate. The setting alight of fires and other disruptive behaviour also caused damage to the estate's ecological balance.

Following widespread consultation between the residents, local politicians, the Garda Síochána and City Hall officials, it was agreed that certain security measures would be implemented as a priority. A programme was drawn up to include the provision of security gates and lighting throughout the estate, CCTV and other measures agreed on between the parties involved.

A strong case was put forward that without first safeguarding and securing the estate, it would be pointless to develop a wetlands area and carry out other conservation works for the enjoyment, not just of the local population but for all of the people of Limerick.

"I'm told by Mr Foley that the 1.8 acres of wetlands will be located between the Southern Ring Road and the embankment walk of the Ballynaclough River," added Cllr Long.

Phase one of the project will include the laying of piping, new channels and the impacting of clay embankments.

The second phase will commence in mid September with further consultation with the residents, councillors, the sports clubs involved and the the gardai. Plans for walkways etc. will also be presented.

The plans stipulate that layout for the upper wetland, located in former wooded areas, has been selected to minimise tree removal, giving preference to lower elevation and sparser locations. The removal of wooded areas is not needed for the lower wetland area.

Mr Foley also confirmed that although a 600mm top-up pipe will not be installed in the initial phase of the habitat project, 12 months will be

allowed elapse to monitor water levels in the upper wetland.

"If rainfall generates sufficient volumes to maintain water levels, the top-up pipe will not be necessary," he concluded.

Money stolen from city church

UPWARDS of €200 was stolen from a city church last Saturday.

A man, wearing a white hoodie, was seen entering the property.

Cllr Joe Leddin, former mayor Kevin Kiely and Senan O'Driscoll, Ballinacurra Gaels chatting about the Anti Social behaviour in Ballinacurra Gardens and the plans for the development of a wetland.

