

JUST OVER 16 months
ago four young Limerick lads got together and formed a pop group, the Embers.

Three weeks ago they went to London where they got an audition with a top recording outfit.

They were told that they will be returning to the recording studios sometime in June to record their first, long-awaited single.

The disc company have 16 original songs written by the boys in the group.

And one of these will be their single.

I have heard the Embers play numerous times. They are extremely good.

Great

Denis Allen (guitar) is a great young musician and his kind of sing-along songs range from Simon and Garfunkel to the Beatles.

Brendan Frawley is a very talented young organist. He also sings some nice songs.

Bobby O'Driscoll (bass), an accomplished musician, has always loved all kinds of music. He told me recently that he was very happy with the Embers.

Tom Frost (drums) is a well-known Limerick lad. His drumming style is reminiscent of Ringo Star.

It's in full colour

One of the most imaginative, colourful and value-for-money LP sleeves ever let loose in an industry well used to imaginative, colourful and value-for-money LP sleeves is soon to be aimed by Pye Records at an already excited, suspecting and football-mad public.

The LP inside the aforesaid sleeve is also destined to make its mark on the current record scene. Has already made its mark on the record scene, to be more accurate.

For it features the newest Super Group—England's World Cup squad, led by captain Bobby Moore, singing such happy singalong numbers as "Sugar, Sugar," "Congratulations," "Puppet On A String," and—what else?—"There'll Always Be An England."

And just to show that the L.P. title, "The World Beaters Sing The World Beaters," was chosen wisely, there is news that one of the tracks, "Back Home," already released as a single, is rocketing up the Hit Parade and is in the Top Ten. In one morning alone, in fact, this week it notched up sales of 26,000 to make it one of the 1970's biggest, fastest sellers.

So what of the imaginative, colourful and money-for-value LP sleeve? Well, to start with—and to be different—this album sleeve is round. Shaped like, looks like—a football. Again, what else?

Both sides of the "football" carries the autographs of the England squad. One side sports the Union Jack, the other shows an impressive colour picture of the World Cup itself.

The other all-colour pages of the sleeve include goal-front action shots, a triumphant Bobby

Matty and John were members of the original band along with Willie, Joe and John Brown. They are a group worth listening to.



The Willows.

THE WILLOWS AREN'T WEEPING

JUST TWO weeks on the road... and already they have dates booked for the coming weeks. They will be touring around the countryside to marquees and festivals.

They are, of course, the Willows—from Limerick—Mary, Marie and Joe.

I suppose the most familiar face among the three is Joe's.

He played and sang with the Raken Ramblers when they were at the height of their power.

During the week I spoke to Joe, founder of the Willows.

It is no joke trying to get a group going, but I think we are completely different," he said.

We are not a ballad group or a pop group. I don't know what you would call us, but the kind of stuff we sing and play is Simon and Garfunkel, The Seekers and Peter, Paul

and Mary.

"I think there is an opening for this kind of style and I hope we can start it off again."

Cabaret

The Willows played in the cabaret in the Parkway Motel recently. They got a tremendous reception.

One song that I think they really did very well was "Morning Town Ride" by the Seekers.

With Joe on guitar and Mary and Marie on vocals I think they can't go wrong.

Here's wishing them the best of luck.

LIMERICK'S TOP 20

- 1 Gimme Dat Ding Pipkins
- 2 Spirit In The Sky Norman Greenbaum
- 3 Never Had A Dream Come Through Steve Wonder