

# RUGBY IN LIMERICK-

FEATURING — 1895 and 1896

IT IS said that a Limerickman has three loves in his life, his family, his rugby, and his pint if stout.

While he will fanatically support his club, he can be warm and generous when visitors play at Thomond Park, as proved when the All-Blacks and Rumanian's played there.

He appreciates good rugby, and Thomond Park is one of the very few grounds left where you get absolute silence when a place kick is being taken.

And long may it remain so.

Again, when rugby men get together after a match,

and Mr. Flynn, Cruises Royal Hotel, were designated trustees of the cup. The final this year would be played on the Transfield Circus Great Gala Day, prior to the Circus setting out on their annual Grand Tour of Ireland. Garryowen beat L.P.Y.M.A. 8pts. to 3pts. in the Semi-Final of the Munster Challenge Cup.

**TEAMS**

**Garryowen:**

P. Swain, J. O'Connor, T. O'Connor, Crowe, Roche, R. Lynch, Power, Kelly, Slade, McMahon, Fitzgerald, T. Lynch, J. Egan, Oakes, Murphy.

**L.P.Y.M.A.:**

McCullough, Myles, Moore,

**Football Team in Munster'**

**J. Buckner (captain)**  
Star F.C.

THIS LETTER HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT AS Lansdowne agreed to re-fix the match. Star were out of luck, however as Lansdowne won by one try to nil.

**FINAL**

**Pirates ..... 5:**  
**Lansdowne ..... Nil**

Pirates proved too strong for Lansdowne, scoring 1 goal to nil. Pirates adapted to the conditions best, and their forwards came out on top. J. Cronin, try, converted by J. Burke, were the scorers.

Mr. Transfield presented the cup to the winning captain.

**TEAMS**

**Pirates:** McMahon, Morrissy, Noonan, T. Lynch, D. O'Gorman, M. Lynch, J. Cronin, Browne, J. Burke, Cronin, Barry, Parker, Kane, O'Brien, Hayes.

**Lansdowne:** H. Coll, P. Hannan, Lynch, Bowles, F. O'Shea, Mannix, Kelly, Roche, Davis, O'Neill, Crowe, Bennett, O'Mahony, J. Hannon, Gleeson.

**MUNSTER CHALLENGE CUP FINAL 1895**

Garryowen beat Cork County F.C. in the Final played in Cork. Garryowen were winning the Cup for the seventh year in a row. The final brought the curtain down on the 1894-'95 season. November 1895, Limerick v. Tipperary. This would be



Limerick County Rugby Football Club 1887, Munster Cup area winners. Back row, l.to.r.: Plummer, McNamara, Moore, Pierce, Costelloe, de Courcy. Centre: Enright, Barnett, W. L. Stokes (capt.), Hurley, Morton, Ewart (umpire). Front: Hosford, Murphy, Tobin, Riordan.

**"PITCH AND TOSS"**

Two Youths were fined 1s.-0d. each, and costs, when they were found guilty of playing Pitch and Toss.

the discussion invariably turns to great games, players and clubs of the past.

What was it really like in those days gone by?

Limerick, March 1895, a man's made-to-measure suit cost 22s.-9d.; Pair of Boots 8s.-11d.; 1lb Butter 1s.-0d.; 2lb Pot of Jam 5d.; Tin of Salmon 6d.; Ton of Coal 14s.-6d.; Quart of Whiskey 5s.-0d.; Watch and Chain 10s.-6d.; Grand Piano £16-16-0; and the Waterford and Limerick Western Railways were advertising a return fare from Limerick to Killaloe for 1s.-0d.; Garryowen (holders) beat Rockwell College, and L.P.Y.M.A. beat Clanwilliam in the first round of the Munster Challenge Cup.

Browing, Graham, White, Creswell, M. Jordan, Cromer, Angley, King, Ball, Scales, Shine, B. Jordan.

**TRANSFIELD CUP**

The Semi-Final of the Transfield Cup will be as follows, Pirates v. Shannon, Lansdowne v. Star. Pirates beat Shannon 12pts. to 3pts. Lansdowne received a walk-over as Star F.C. failed to turn up at the appointed time. The Star Club were not too happy about the situation and a few days later the following letter appeared in the local paper.

**"rabies"**

A dog, suffering from "Rabies" bit two children at Georges Street. The dog was shot by the police.

**CHALLENGE**

"Owing to the unsportsman like attitude taken up by the Lansdowne F.C. in holding out to have the Semi-Final of the Transfield Cup played on Wednesday 24th, after being assured that we would not be in a position to put a team on the field that day, we were compelled to give them a walk-over, but we now challenge them to play and Sunday to be mutually agreed upon. We are open to play and Bona Fide Junior

the first time ever a match would be played between two counties, the Tipperary team being selected from Rockwell, College and Clanwilliam, Limerick from the two local clubs, L.P.Y.M.A. and Garryowen.

**TYLER CUP**

Mr. F. P. Hook, branch president, made the draw for the Tyler Cup, the age limit for this competition is under 18 years. Entrance fee for

each team, 10s.-0d.

The following teams were entered: Leahy's School, Villiers, Kiely's Academy, Shannon, Crescent College, Intermediate, Lansdowne, Brodricks Academy, Pirates, Sexton Street Rovers, Young Munster, Clare Street Academy, St. Munchins.

The draw for the Munster Challenge Cup was:

Cork County v. Queens College, Cork.

Garryowen v. L.P.Y.M.A. Rockwell College, a bye.

Tipperary beat Limerick 5pts. to 3pts. and the following team was selected to represent North Munster v. Cork.

J. Ryan (Rockwell), J. O'Connor, T. O'Connor (Garryowen), E. Stockes (L.P.Y.M.A.), J. McGrath (Clanwilliam), R. Lynch (Garryowen), T. Duane (Clanwilliam), M. Egan (capt.), M. Kelly, M. Fitzgerald, H. McMahon (Garryowen), J. Ryan, E. Cleary, R. Healy (Rockwell), W. Ryan (Clanwilliam).

The Tyler Cup was providing many exciting matches played at Mack's Field, Circular Road. The following were selected to represent



The Shamrock side of 1907, winners of the Transfield Cup. Back row, left to right: T. Connell (president), P. McCarthy, D. Gleeson, B. Waddaws, J. Heffernan, T. Hogan, P. Kirby, treasurer. Centre: L. Bryan, T. Connell, P. Hurley (capt.), P. Connell, J. Brennan, J. Vokes.



Garryowen Rugby Football Club, winners of the Munster Senior Cup 1890-'91. Back row, l. to r.: T. A. Fogarty (umpire), J. Murnane, C. Ross, J. Fogarty, H. McMahon, W. Swain, P. Hartney, J. J. Prendergast, F. P. Hook (president). Centre: M. Kelly, R. Lynch, T. F. Peel (vice-president), J. McCauley (capt.), J. M. O'Sullivan, M. O'Connor, T. McMahon. Front: P. Stapleton, G. S. Collopy. The reader should note that there is only one other plaque on the base of the Munster Cup.

their clubs in the competition.

**Shannon:** J. Hanrahan, M. Reid, McNamara, Bourke, Gubbins, O'Connor (capt.), Lauiff, Byrnes, M. Hanrahan, J. Reid, Cussen, B. Hanrahan, Bernard, Frawley, Slattery.

**Kiely's Academy:** J. F. Hayes, M. Hogan, J. Bentley, J. Condon, J. O'Neill, B. Dowling, P. Power, T. Ryan, P. Moran (capt.), J. Harding, R. Price, M. Lyons, C. J. Waters, R. Carroll, T. Bush.

**Leamy's School:** McDermott, Hurley, Trehy, Walsh, Malone, Huggan (capt), Cronin, Carr, O'Keefe, O'Connor, Burke, Brazier, Cronin, O'Donnell, Heffernan.

**Clare Street Academy:** C. O'Neill, P. O'Brien, W. Bourke, P. Nunan, Sullivan, Franklin, Close, Dowling, O'Brien, Connery, Cusack, McInerney, Lawler, Homes, Whelan.

January 3rd, 1896, was to be a red letter day for Limerick. The Leinster Cup holders, Dublin University, were coming to Limerick for the first time to play Garryowen. This created great excitement in the city. The Garryowen committee mindful of the high position the visitors held in rugby circles appealed to their supporters in the local paper.

**LIMERICK TROPHY CENTRE LIMITED**

All types of

**SPORTS TROPHIES  
CUSTOM BUILT**

**GOLFERS NOTE**

We also specialise in repairs to golf equipment

**DOMINICK STREET  
LIMERICK**

TELEPHONE (061) 40885



# IN DAYS GONE BY

## THE STAR OF ERIN CIRCUS. APRIL 1895

Mr. T. Cooney opens his Circus at the Market's Field. He will place before the public a most recherche bill of fare. No one should miss paying a visit to the Circus and encourage a popular fellow citizen in his new venture.

### FIELD ETIQUETTE

"During tomorrow's game, the committee of the Garryowen F. C. would earnestly request the spectators — whose feelings, at times, get somewhat the better of them — especially when a score is cast against the local team — to endeavour to keep their enthusiasm a little under control, more particularly when it shows itself in the form of groaning and hooting the visitors. Complaints have been made about this, and no doubt it is a discredit to our spirit if fair play. If not checked, it will put a stain on Garryowen's hospitality".

A packed Market's Field saw Garryowen beat Trinity

them repeated applause from the large crowd.

Young Munster .....13  
Crescent College .....6

### TRANSFIELD CUP SEMI-FINALS

Shamrock's beat Young Irelands 9pts. to nil.

**For Young Irelands:** O'Shea, Thornhill, McGuire, Guinnane, Mulqueen, Manix, Cooney, Fox, were best.

Galway Town winners of the Connacht Cup challenged Garryowen. The game was played at the Market's Field and the home team won 13pts. to nil. It was suggested in the local press that, as Garryowen had beaten the Leinster and Connacht Cup win-



YOUNG MUNSTER R.F.C., WINNERS TRANSFIELD CUP 1905-1906  
Back; l to r.: M. Gilligan, P. O'Connor, F. O'Connor. Second row: J. McConkey (president), J. C. Keyes, P. Ryan, J. Leahy, M. J. Keyes, R. O'Halloran, T. Ryan, J. Howard. Seated: P. J. Flavin, J. Brennan, S. C. Evans, E. A. McConkey (capt.), M. Heffernan, W. McDonagh, J. Riordan (sec.). Front: J. Grant, J. J. Power.

## LIMERICK ANATEUR ATHLETIC CLUB

The above Club will hold their usual Club Runs during the season from next month, starting from Tait's Clock.

5pts. to nil. Peel (try), T. O'Connor (conv.), during which the crowd behaved impeccably.

### TYLER CUP SEMI-FINALS

The Semi-Finals of the above was played at the Market's Field. The following were the results:

Young Munster .....9  
Leamy's .....Nil  
Crescent College .....8  
Villiers .....Nil

### TYLER CUP FINAL 1896

The Final, played at the Market's Field, created an unusual amount of interest, and the tactics displayed by the Minors was very satisfactory. The passing of the Young Munster lads won for

ners, a match should be arranged with the Ulster Cup winners for the Championship of Ireland. The Ulster Cup winners were not interested and the match did not take place. In the Munster Senior Cup Garryowen beat L.P.Y.M.A., Cork County beat Queens College. The Semi-Final Garryowen beat Rockwell 9pts. to nil.

### TRANSFIELD CUP FINAL 1896

Shamrocks F. C. ....6  
Pirates F. C. ....Nil

Shamrock's F. C. which was revived this year after a lapse of two years, proved too strong for Pirates in the Final of the Junior Cup. Full of exciting thrills in its entire passage, the quick breaking forwards completely rattled

the Pirates defence. In the end the better team won. Scorers: W. Quane (try), T. O'Neill (pen).

**Team: Shamrock's:** T. O'Neill, W. Quane, J. O'Reilly, P. Barrett, W. Hobbs, M. Treahy, J. Dalton, T. Barrett, J. Hannan, M. O'Halloran, M. Bennett, P. Buckner, T. Handrahan, M. Daly, J. Barrett.

THE Shamrock F. C. will hold their victory Dinner at the Gaiety Club, Patrick Street. The Cup will be in attendance, and the presentation of medals will take place. "I have no doubt that toasts, songs and speech-making will be indulged in. The drowning of the "Shamrock" will receive ample justice at the hands of the Trans-

field Cup Winners of 1896," said the local scribe at the time.

### WATERFORD, LIMERICK AND WESTERN RAILWAYS

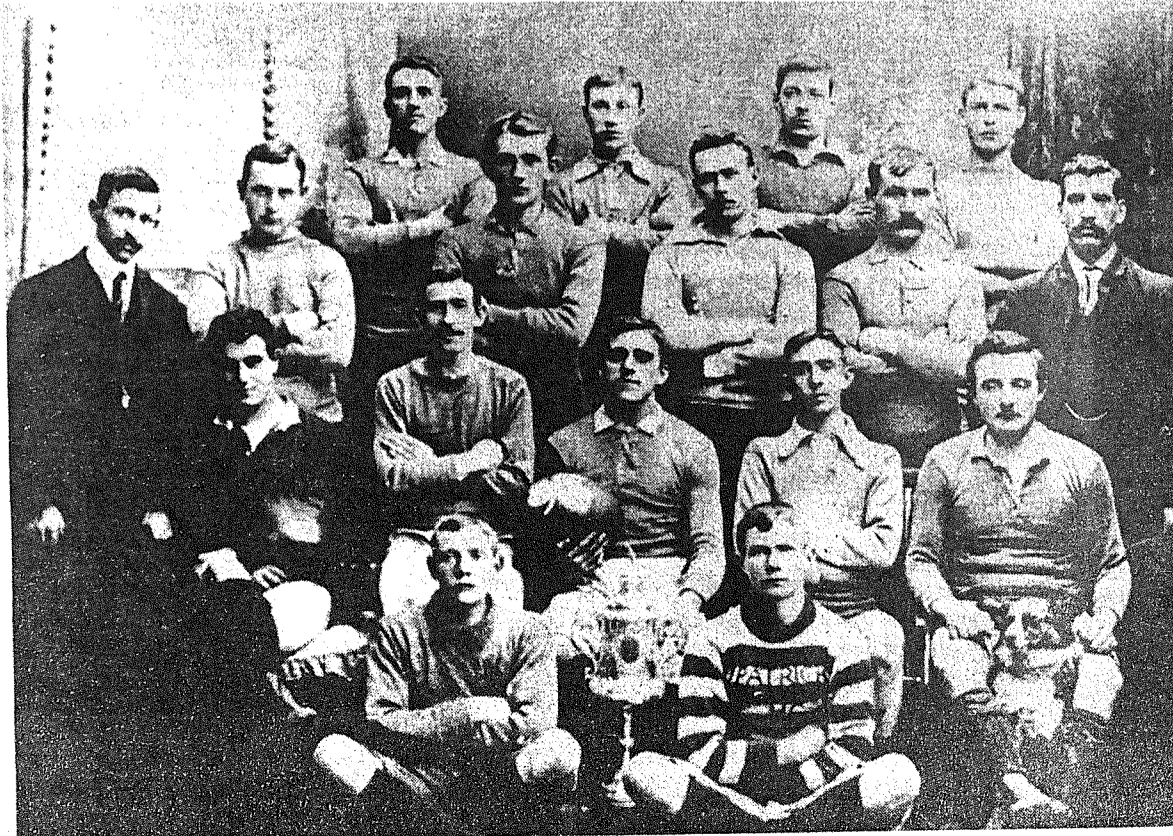
A match was played between apprentices connected with the wood-work and the iron-work departments of the local Railway. Known as the "Timbermen" and "Ironmen". The match ended in a draw and will be replayed. It would be well if the teams came on the field in proper dress and thus save a number of waistcoats and shirts being torn.

Treaty F. C. beat Ramblers F. C. in a challenge game for a set of medals.

Treaty: Hassett, Cooney, Nunan, Gubbins, Gilligan,

### LAWN TENNIS

The Lawn Tennis season will open on Monday next at the Clubs Grounds, Circular Road. The Band of the Royal Irish Regiment will attend. Tea will be served by Mrs. Kennedy.



Shamrocks Rugby Football Club, winners of the Transfield Cup 1903. Note the player sitting front right, is wearing a jersey with the inscription "St. Patrick's Hurling Club." Shamrocks also won the cup in 1904 and 1907.

### BILLARD CONTEST

The contest between St. Michaels Tempérance Society and the Catholic Literally Institute ended with the following scores: St. Michaels 4,573 — Institute 4,506. St. Michaels won by 67 points.

### COMMERCIAL BICYCLE CLUB

Before 2,000 spectators, Commercial B. C. opened their season with a 13 mile Handicap. 1st. T. O'Donnell: 2nd. W. H. Walpole: 3rd. T. G. Wilson: 4th. E. F. Conyers.

### THANKS . . .

THE author wishes to thank Messrs. Tony and Noel Clohessy, Tanyard Inn, Mulgrave St.; Mr. Mick Quane, Bell Tavern, Broad St., and Mr. Joseph O'Shaughnessy, Parteen for lending these fabulous pictures.

Franklin, McCormack, Lawler (capt), Piggott, Bernard, Hogan, Whelan, Sullivan, Hartrey, McInerney.

### MUNSTER CHALLENGE CUP FINAL 1896

Garryowen .....18  
Cork County F. C. ....Nil

Garryowen won the Munster Cup for the eighth year in succession. Played at the Market's Field before a large and enthusiastic gathering of supporters. Prior to the game rugby lovers were entertained by the band of the Boys Industrial School. Garryowen

had an easier than expected win as the Cork boys did not live up to their pre-match reputation. J. O'Connor (4 tries), Power (try), T. O'Connor (penalty), were the scorers.

**Garryowen:** T. O'Connor, Peel, J. Lynch, J. O'Connor, Crowe, Power, R. Lynch, M. Egan, J. Egan, McMahon, Hazlett, Murphy, Kelly, Gale, Fitzgerald.

**SO ENDED the 1896 season. Has rugby football changed much now, from when it was played in . . . Days Gone By.**

### MURPHY CUP

Coonagh beat St. Patricks F. C. in the Final of the Murphy Cup. St. Patricks objected to Coonagh for playing illegal players. The match will be re-played.

### LONG KICK COMPETITION

M. Guirey (Limerick Commercials) with a kick of 65½ yards, beat J. Buckley (Wm. O'Brien's), 62½ yards in the final of the long kick competition to win the gold medal.

Compiled and written by Michael O'Flaherty

### ST. PATRICK'S F.C. MAY 1895

A new club has started in Park under the above name and will join the Association without delay. They will play their first match against Castleconnell Emmets.

## BRIDGE 1

North

S. 75  
H. 76  
D. JW54  
C. A1098

West

S. Q10863  
H. J854  
D. A9  
C. 53

East

S. J94  
H. Q1093  
D. 832  
C. K62

South

S. AK 2  
H. K2  
D. KQ76  
C. QJ74

Contract: 3 N.T by South. Lead: S. 6

THIS hand shows that textbook do occur in real life. It was dealt in the Teams Competition of Ballyunion Congress. The popular contract was three no trumps by South and West usually led his fourth-highest spade—the six.

At one table South East's knave and took the losing club finesse. East returned the nine of spades and South ducked. When South won the third round of spades he played on diamonds. West, however, won with his ace and cashed two spade tricks to beat the contract by one trick.

If South had been a textbook reader he surely would have avoided defeat. He would have played on diamonds before clubs. West can win his ace and play a spade but South ducks this, wins the next spade and takes the club finesse knowing that nothing can go wrong if West has made a normal opening lead. If East wins and has a spade left this means that the defenders began with four spades each while if East, as in this hand, has no spade left South will have only three losers.

In this hand West was obviously the danger hand and East the safe hand. The principle involved is well known. When you may have to lose the lead twice you should try to ensure that you lose the lead to the safe hand last.