

The new
**LIMERICK
LEADER**

telephone
number is:

SWITCHBOARD:

214500

LEADERSPORT

Acting Sports Editor: **AIDAN CORR (061) 214512**

**LIMERICK
LEADER**

FAX NO:

(061)

314804

MONDAY, MAY 29 2006.

Thomond unveiled

By **COLM KINSELLA**

THE curtain came down on Munster's unforgettable rugby season with a facile 37-8 Celtic League victory over Cardiff at Thomond Park on Saturday last.

A near capacity attendance enjoyed the carnival atmosphere as the European Cup winners secured third place in the League table with a bonus point win over 'the Blues'.

Man of the Match John Kelly, who was later forced to leave the pitch with a shoulder injury, scored a brace of tries, while Federico Pucciariello, Mossie Lawlor and Trevor Halstead also crossed for touchdowns.

The evening was tinged with sadness as the game marked the final appearances of Rob Henderson, Paul Burke, Mike

Prendergast, Trevor Hogan and Stephen Keogh in the Munster jersey.

Long-serving centre Mike Mullins is also returning to New Zealand to take up a coaching role with NPC side, North Otago.

Flanker Alan Quinlan, playing his first full game in seven months, produced an excellent display.

Quinlan is hoping to be included in Ireland's tour to New Zealand and Australia next month.

"I enjoyed the game. But it was my first time to play 80 minutes for a long time," Quinlan said afterwards.

"I got a bit more confidence back in the knee as it wore on.

"It has been a really hard season for me yet again missing out on most of the big Munster games and the chance to get back into the Irish side.

"I dug in there, trained really hard and I got great support from all the medical team.

"I count myself very lucky to get back in and play a part in the Heineken Cup final. It was fantastic for me.

"It is a huge challenge to go to New Zealand. But everyone wants to play against the best."

The Irish squad is based in Limerick this week continuing their preparations for the tour.

Ireland face the All-Blacks in the first Test on Saturday, June 10.

Meanwhile, details of the €40 million re-development of Thomond Park were revealed on Friday evening last.

The project will see the capacity of the stadium increased to 26,000, with the erection of two new stands adjacent to the existing main pitch.

Seating capacity at the stadium will be 15,000, with the terraces able to cater for a further 11,000 fans.

A planning application for the new-look stadium is expected to be lodged this July.

It is hoped that work on the project will commence early next year.

The re-developed stadium is expected to re-open in the autumn of 2008.



An artists impression of the redeveloped Thomond Park

John Lester back for

MOTORZONE



An artists impression of the new look Thomond Park

New look €40million Thomond Park unveiled

A redeveloped 26,000 capacity Thomond Park has been unveiled as the new home of Munster rugby.

The design has been created by Murray O'Laoire Architects of Limerick and Stadia Architects AFL and provides for a 26,000 capacity at one of Ireland's most famous rugby grounds, at the cost of €40 million.

It is envisaged that planning application will be lodged by July, 2006 and it is hoped that the re-development programme can commence early in 2007.

Completion is anticipated in 18 months, for a scheduled re-opening in Autumn, 2008.

The principal elements of the project will see the erection of two new stands adjacent to the existing main pitch, offering a seating capacity for 15,000 and terrace capacity of 11,000.

Pat Whelan, Chairman of the Thomond Park Re-Development Committee said: "We are delighted to unveil the new look concept for the re-development of Thomond Park. It represents a major project for Munster and Irish rugby. It is a significant addition to the sporting infrastructure of Limerick City and one which suitably complements Munster's proud image as one of the best supported teams anywhere in the game of rugby."

Ken Lyons, President of the Munster Branch IRFU, said: "There are very few rugby followers in the World who are not aware of the history and great traditions associated with rugby at Thomond Park. This wonderful re-development project is entirely fitting, more so in view of Munster's magnificent Heineken European Cup victory last weekend, so that greater capacities in superior levels of comfort can be accommodated."

The Thomond Park ground, at

which in 11 years of European Cup competition Munster remain unbeaten and renowned also for Munster's historic defeat of the touring All Blacks in 1978, was the unanimously favoured venue chosen by the Development Committee, following its consideration of the draft feasibility study conducted by ARUP Consulting Engineers into a number of sites in the Limerick area.

The Development Committee expressed its gratitude to the residents of Knockalisheen Road, without whose co-operation the Thomond Park project might have been jeopardised. The Thomond Park Re-Development Committee also acknowledged the support of Limerick City Council and the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism, through Minister John O'Donoghue.

Speaking on behalf of AFL Architects, Richard Leng, Chairman, said: "The redesign of Thomond Park creates an

opportunity to provide state of the art facilities for spectators, supporters and players in an environment where the unique atmosphere of Munster Rugby will be retained and intensified. Two sweeping arches of the new stands will ultimately become an image that everyone will associate with this famous rugby ground. New stands will also include new changing rooms for players, medical suite, executive boxes, banqueting facilities, club accommodation and supporters' bars."

Hugh Murray of Murray O'Laoire Architects, Limerick, said: "The new Thomond Park stands will enhance the legendary intensity of the 'Munster Experience' by housing 15,000 fans as close to the pitch as possible and with great views of the action. They will be a powerful icon of the home of Munster rugby for future generations and their distinctive curved forms will stand out as a proud new city landmark."

LIMERICK corner back Mark Foley has been honoured with the OPEL Player of the Month award for April in Hurling.

The announcement was made this Tuesday at the Fitzwilliam Hotel in St Stephens Green, Dublin. This is the Inaugural Award and launches Opel's sponsorship of the Monthly Gaelic Player's Awards in conjunction with the Gaelic Players Association for the rest of the season.

Louth's Martin Farrell got the football award.

Hurling judging panel chairman Donal O'Grady outlined the reasons behind Mark Foley's Award.

"Limerick's unbeaten league run might have come a cropper against Kilkenny, but it was through no fault of Mark Foley's outstanding corner-back play. His experience was vital in their

game, he was rock solid over Waterford and battling semi-final of Clare. Despite picking up an injury, he gave all in the final against Cork All-Ireland winners.

Dave Sheeran Managing Director Opel Ireland said.

"Opel is delighted to congratulate Martin Mark as the first recipient of an Opel Player of the Month Award. Our support of the Awards is all about celebrating the effort of players who give so much of their time to represent their county who bring pleasure and pride to so many in so. We look forward to celebrating many more achievements in coming months."

Chief Executive of GPA Dessie Farrell reiterated the sentiment the day.

"These awards recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals throughout the season and it is great to

Commodore success in

A CAPACITY attendance at Foynes Yacht Club last Sunday for Commodores Day ensured that it is one of the best events on the racing calendar at the Shannon Estuary based yacht club.

The weather was very favourable on the day—no rain and a nice breeze put smiling faces on all who attended—it was described by club members and the public as a 'very special day' for everybody to enjoy.

Quite a number of interesting features were added this year to make it musical and colourful—a bouncy castle, for the younger generation, three different races for all the classes, and music which was provided in the clubhouse, gave great pleasure to the participants and spectators.

Commodore Pat Finucane was delighted day went well, and thanked all who participated and helped in any way with the annual fixture.

Friends, sponsors and families were entertained with the racing that took place and a very large number of yachts took to the water with brightly coloured burgees and bunting add sparkle to all the activities.

A magnificent lunch was served up to the sailors and the public after the racing, which was well prepared and organised by the committee.

Spectators took vantage points above the clubhouse, on the lawn and on the road to see the flotilla of yachts sailing gracefully in the light north-westerly breeze down the estuary to round their bay before coming back to the finish line.

Glin publican, Conway took the 1



Commodore Pat Finucane, left presents the Paddy Reidy Cup to John Conway, right, skipper of Golden Kopper, who won class 1. Also in the picture, centre is Liam Madden, vice-commodore



Kieran Reidy, who skippered the yacht Sea Otter, where he won the Founder Members trophy in the class 2 race last Sunday at Commodores Day. He is seen here receiving the trophy from Commodore Finucane (right). Also photographed is vice-commodore, Liam Madden, centre



Vincent McCormac Chevrons on Conn Michael Synnott M centre is vice-comr

Lx: LIMERICK LEADER, CITY EDITION
3RD JUNE, 2006
PAGE 11

3-2
LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE

ANGER AS IRFU IS ASKED TO PAY UP

By **BARRY DUGGAN**

TWELVE families who have sold their houses to allow for the redevelopment of Thomond Park cannot buy new homes as they claim they have not received a cent from the IRFU.

With the houses due to be demolished, the people living in the shadow of Thomond Park say they cannot afford to buy new homes while they await payment by the IRFU for their old homes at Knockalisheen Road.

The IRFU have paid an average of €300,000 for each of the 12 houses.

Three separate residents said nobody in the area has received a cent from the IRFU or their solicitors yet despite several agreements.

"First they told us we would have the cash on May 1, then June 1. It is now the middle of July and we have not received a thing yet.

"We have to be gone from here by October. People are losing out on houses as they cannot even afford to pay the deposits. The IRFU know this but will still not give us a single cent," said a resident at the soon to be demolished "banana block".

Another resident said: "We are only being fobbed off by everyone. We were told there was a problem with a grass margin at the front of the houses between the developers and City Hall. However, that has nothing to do with us

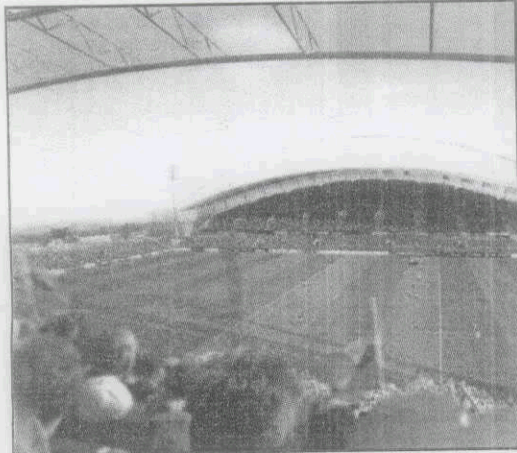
so why should they hold our payment back. We have signed the deeds of the houses over to them."

The residents said they had already picked out homes to move to but have now lost out as they cannot put down a deposit to secure them.

"I was told by my solicitor that I would have to get a mortgage otherwise I would not be able to secure the house I picked out. That is not on and it is no way to treat us," said the irate resident.

Developers behind the €40m project were contacted but no comment on the issue was forthcoming.

Development plans for Thomond Park are expected to involve turning the pitch 90 degrees, knocking the existing structures and building a 26,000 capacity facility with seating for 15,000, including 15 corporate boxes with new east and west stands.

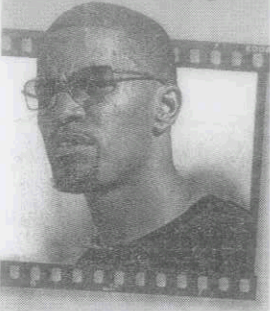


The new look Thomond Park

No room at the inn for

Cinema Ticket OFFER INSIDE

See *Timeout Cinema* with Donal O'Regan



question mark loomed over which flights will travel from the airport to the UK following a terrorist alert on British flights.

Limerick passengers are being warned to check with their airline to find out if their flights are going ahead after numerous scheduled flights to and from the UK were cancelled.

Two early morning Aer Lingus flights to Heathrow were aborted along with Ryanair flights from Shannon to Prestwick and Liverpool. An incoming flight from Liverpool was also called off.

"We are operating on a wait and see policy at the moment," said Shannon spokeswoman Claire



Stranded at Shannon: Chris, Luke and Liam Brennan from Liverpool await their fate as crowds queue for flights.

McEnery. "We are urging all passengers to check with their airline directly to get the most up-to-date information before arriving to the airport. We hope that the situation will improve as the day goes on but we are awaiting confirmation from airlines on what flights

are going to go ahead." The heightening security levels come after Scotland Yard announced a covert operation had disrupted an alleged plot to explode bombs in hand luggage onboard aircraft in mid-flight. It suggested this was particularly aimed at

planes flying between the UK and the US. The UK terrorism threat level was upgraded to critical, warning that an attack is highly likely. Anti-terrorism police arrested around 21 people in London and other parts of the country.

All UK airports experienced further security restrictions and all passengers on flights leaving Britain were being searched by hand and their footwear is being X-rayed. All transatlantic flights to and from Shannon, however, were due to go

ahead but officials at the airport warned passengers to expect delays on most flights. One family caught up in the disruption were the Brennans from Liverpool who had just arrived at Shannon Airport this Thursday afternoon to discover that their

Ryanair flight to Merseyside had been cancelled. "Our flight was due to go out at 1.30pm but we just found out two minutes ago that it has been cancelled. It is frustrating because I have work in the morning and now I don't know where I am going to be," said Chris.

Pictures: OWEN SOUTH

He and his two sons, Luke 17 and Liam 13, had been holidaying in the Limerick region. "We are hoping that we will get a flight out some time this evening. It's a bit annoying having to wait around but once we get home safe we will be happy," concluded Chris.

QUALITY FURNITURE AT REALISTIC PRICES

PROBABLY THE BEST FURNITURE SHOP AROUND

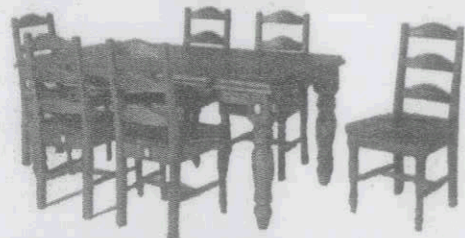
FAMILY RUN BUSINESS WITH 20 YRS EXPERIENCE. ASSURES YOU PERSONAL ATTENTION



MURROE
OPEN 6 DAYS
Sunday 2-5.
Closed Mondays
FREE DELIVERY
Ph. 061-386319



LEATHER BEDS 4'6" only left
Only €369
Save €100



Come & Visit our 10,000 Square Foot Showroom

YOU WILL BE SURPRISED



FULL RANGE OF PINE FURNITURE IN STOCK

www.glenviewfurniture.com

WELL WORTH A VISIT IF YOU WANT SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT

Residents 'getting into serious debt awaiting Thomond cash'

By CLODAGH O'LEARY

HOMEOWNERS in Knockalisheen Road are facing a race against time as they wait for the IRFU to pay up for their houses at the centre of plans for Thomond Park's redevelopment.

This Thursday the Limerick Leader spoke to several angry residents who say they are getting into serious debt while they wait for the cash to come through.

Resident Christopher Keane has been living in his house with wife Rose for 53 years. He borrowed €25,000 for a deposit on a house on Shelbourne Road, and if he does not have the rest of the money by September 24 next, the house will be put back on the market.

"To be honest with

you, I never wanted to sell my house. I love it here. We have a fine back and a lovely stretch at the front, but I didn't want it to be said that I was stopping any development," said Mr Keane.

"We are being black-guarded by the IRFU at the moment," he claimed. "We signed a contract in May saying we wouldn't sell our houses to anyone else, and we were told then we would have the money within seven days. Then it was June, then mid-July, and here we are in August without a cent, and a good lot of us in debt. This is costing us now, and it is not on," an angry Mr Keane commented.

The contracts signed by the residents on May 1 state that they must leave their homes by October

31 next.

Resident William McCarthy is currently paying two mortgages—one on his Knockalisheen house and the other on his new house in Ballynanty. He had to borrow money from a number of different sources to buy the second house outright.

"I am a taxi-driver, but I have been out of work since June gutting our new house so that we can move into it as soon as possible. We are living off borrowed money, and the stress of this is unreal," he said.

"It is affecting my health. We just want an end to this," he added.

A woman resident who did not wish to be named fears that she will lose her new house in County Limerick.

"If we don't have the

rest of the money by next month, we will lose that house. We are so frustrated. It is taking too long. We are being treated like second class citizens and it is just not good enough," she said.

Other residents told me that they have lost out on several houses while they wait for the money.

"Our life is being put on hold and it is not fair," said one man.

Ken Lyons of the Thomond Park Development Committee said this Thursday the money is in the bank waiting for Knockalisheen residents.

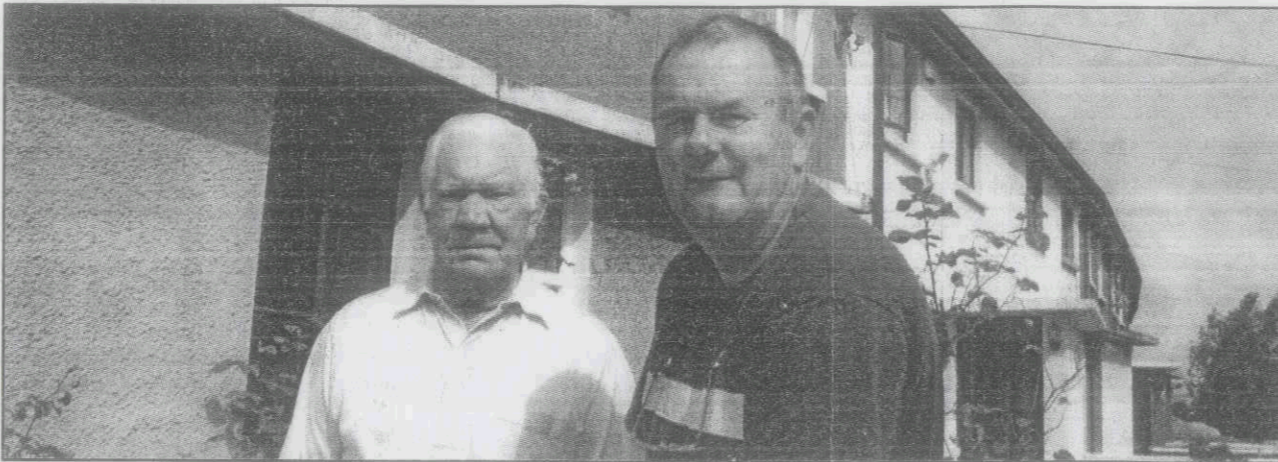
Last month, the IRFU sold 1,250 10-year Thomond tickets raising a reported €6.25m to cover the cost of purchasing the houses and associated costs.

"The IRFU's solicitor

Michael Sherry has been instructed to release the money when his office receives all the required paperwork. The money is sitting in the bank. We want to give it out, we would be delighted to give it out," said Mr Lyons.

"If there are any residents who genuinely feel they have been unduly delayed, they can write to me at Thomond Park, and we will look into it."

Development plans for Thomond Park were lodged with the City Council last month. The plans will see the existing west stand and west terrace and numbers 1 to 28 Knockalisheen Road knocked to build a 26,000 capacity stadium with seating for 15,000, including 15 corporate boxes with new east and west stands.



Waiting: residents of Knockalisheen Road, Ballynanty, Christopher Keane and William McCarthy

Picture: OWEN SOUTH

SALE HALF-PRICE AND LESS

LEAVYS

SHOES

113 O'CONNELL STREET, LIMERICK
15 WILLIAM STREET, LIMERICK

EX: KERRYICK LATERAL
12th August, 2006
PAGE 1

IN A SUDDEEN A SHOCK

RDRE McGRATH

ULAR Limerick
ho was to play a
esterday with his
ed suddenly on
ght in his sleep.

ity of Knockainey are in shock
death of 28-year-old Willie
may have died from Sudden
ndrome.
n was carried out at the Mid-
ial Hospital yesterday.
who lived in Ragumas in the
kainey worked for Buckley's
lers on the Ballysimon Road.

He was due to play—alongside his twin brother Donncha—in a relegation play off against Dromin/Athlacca yesterday.

The game was postponed and there was a minute's silence at all games in the County Championship as a mark of respect.

Mr O'Brien followed in the foot steps of his brother Michael to play in full-back position with Knockainey. He wore the jersey with pride and always played with passion, said club chairman, John McNamara.

"He wore the Number 3 jersey with pride, he was a great player and was always had the respect of his fellow players. He was a very strong player and was great to catch and clear the ball," said Mr McNamara.

"He was a great friend and you could always rely on him. I got to know him exceptionally well in his role as assistant treasurer and he was as good as collecting money for the club

as he was at playing. He provided a great link between officers and players" he said.

Mr O'Brien won an All Ireland Intermediate Hurling medal with Limerick in 1998 when they beat Kilkenny in the final and won a County Intermediate with Knockainey in 2002.

He also won an All Ireland B Schools Colleges medal during his school days with De la Salle in Hospital.

Mr O'Brien is survived by his parents Anne and Denis, daughter Keeva; girlfriend Lisa; brothers Donncha, Mike and Seamus, and his sisters Breda, Margaret and Anne-Marie

The removal will take place from O'Leary's Funeral Home, Hospital, this evening at 8pm to St Mary's Church, Knockainey.

Requiem Mass will take place tomorrow at 11am and burial will take place afterwards in the adjoining cemetery.



erchange Power anges

as widespread problem
nd throughout the country."
er- "Like many Limerick
cm people I travel across this
rn dangerous junction regularly
ks and I am appalled at
the danger which it represents
to motorists.
ill "Since it was built two
he years ago, I have personally
er- witnessed some very
to near misses at each of the
s a four junctions. Some of
in this was due to driver
il's error but clearly the
The design of these junctions
1 a at the outset represents
ute very poor planning. I have
ach made a formal submission
uld to Limerick County
the Council requesting the
eo- provision of slip-roads on
ght and off the N7/N24 inter-
a change," said Deputy
Power.

No sign of IRFU cash without a signature

By CLODAGH O'LEARY

THE IRFU confirmed this Monday that Knockalisheen Road residents will be paid for their houses—central to the redevelopment of Thomond Park—as soon as they sign off on all the legal documents.

A spokesman for IRFU told the Leader that a second round of contracts were sent to the occupants of the area, known locally as the "Banana Block", last week.

"The issue right now is that residents must, if they have not already, check off on all the legal documents required. Once they do so, the monies will be made available to them," the spokesman said.

"This is due process, which takes time. We do want to bring this matter to a close, and as soon as the formalities are out of the way, the money will be paid over."

Residents signed a contract of intent on May 1 last, and claim they were told they would be paid within a week.

It is understood that each house was bought for an average of €300,000 and the IRFU have sold 1,250 10-year Thomond tickets raising a reported €6.25m to



Still waiting . . . residents Christopher Keane and William McCarthy (LL)

cover the cost of purchasing the houses and associated costs.

Resident Christopher Keane said: "We signed a contract in May saying we wouldn't sell our houses to anyone else, and we were told then we would have the money within seven days. Then it was June, then mid-July, and here we are in August without a cent, and a good lot of us in debt. This is costing us now, and it is not on."

While they wait for the

money to come through, several residents have gotten into debt, with some households taking out second mortgages.

Others have borrowed to come up with deposits for new houses, like Mr Keane and one resident said this Monday: "We just do not know what to do, we have not heard anything from the IRFU. There is a lot of confusion around. We hear one story one day, and another the next day. It is hard to believe what you hear after a while."

fx: LIMERICK LEADER
14th August, 2006
PAGE 1

AUGUST 30, 2006

rdai are also reports of a ting on the ad at 5.30pm ning. A man, o have made a t the pillion a motorcycle xboro gardai ouse-to-house onday night.

Rugby club's concern over €40m plans

By MIKE DWANE

A CITY rugby club whose money-spinning bar/clubhouse faces demolition as part of the €40 million redevelopment of Thomond Park has expressed "concern" over the plans.

The famous ground has been home to UL/Bohemians for over half a century and while they are "very much in favour" of the project, honorary secretary David Fitzgerald says the club has concerns, "regarding the details."

One of the two stands identified for demolition is home to the UL/Bohs clubhouse, which generates significant revenue on big match days. And while the plans detail bars, hospitality suites and corporate boxes, there is no specific



Thomond's €40m plan

reference to the UL/Bohemians club or clubhouse.

The Shannon RFC bar is located away from the stands due to be demolished.

"The proposed development in its current form does not make provision for UL/Bohemians Rugby Club. It is essential that these concerns are addressed in order to protect the future of the club and its young players," Mr Fitzgerald writes, in one of three submissions received by the planning depart-

ment at City Hall ahead of the deadline.

When contacted by the Limerick Leader, Mr Fitzgerald said he expected "ongoing consultations"

with the Munster branch of the IRFU regarding the plans.

He said there were up to 400 schoolboys on the club's books.

"My understanding is that they don't intend closing the pitch while the work is going on. Hopefully, we'll still be able to play there but you never know until they start tearing down the stands," he said.

The Munster Branch was contacted for comment but had not replied at the time of going to press.

REAL
any Main
te Menu
of equal
ee.
ily

BILLS
RANT

THURSDAY
61 322700
other offer:

Today's weather

MOSTLY dry at first with rain spreading eastwards in the afternoon, becoming heavy at times. Becoming mild and humid with maximum daytime temperatures of 17 to 20 degrees Celsius. Fresh south to south-easterly winds prevailing. Slight chance of thundery showers in the evening and remaining overcast into the early hours of Thursday morning. Lowest overnight temperatures of 11 to 15 degrees Celsius. Pollen count low. Solar UV Index low.

M **AS** *Aertel page 322*

THURSDAY, 31st AUGUST & continues all week
THE CLASSIC HORROR MOVIE — NOW MORE FRIGHTENING THAN EVER!
NICHOLAS CAGE IN
THE WICKER MAN

CASTLETROY SHOPPING CENTRE,
BOOKING LINE (061) 330036
INTERNET BOOKING -
www.stormlimerick.com

FROM FRIDAY 25th TO THURSDAY 31st AUGUST

<p>filmed in ONT</p> <p>8.50pm</p> <p>1/SAT. 15A</p> <p>SEVERANCE</p> <p>Daily at 9.30pm LATE SHOWS FRI/SAT. 11.40pm</p>	<p>JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE</p> <p>Daily at 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.00pm & 9.10pm</p> <p>LATE SHOWS FRI/SAT. 11.20pm</p>	<p>SNAKES ON A PLANE</p> <p>Daily 3.30pm, 6.10pm & 8.40pm EXTRA SHOWS SAT/SUN 1.00pm LATE SHOWS FRI/SAT. 11.10pm</p>	<p>MONSTER HOUSE PG</p> <p>Daily at 1.50pm EXTRA SHOWS SAT/SUN 11.40am</p> <p>CARS</p> <p>Daily at 1.20pm & 4.00pm</p>	<p>HARSH TIMES</p> <p>Daily at 6.45pm LATE SHOWS FRI/SAT. 11.50pm</p>
--	---	---	--	--

Will Thomond Park lose its magic after it's redeveloped?

THERE was widespread relief amongst rugby fans earlier this year when it was confirmed that Thomond Park was to remain the home of Munster Rugby.

There had been genuine fears that consulting engineers, ARUP, would not be able to quantify or measure the magic of one of world rugby's most famous stadiums.

A number of other greenfield sites in Limerick were examined as possible locations for the proposed new stadium.

As negotiations stalled between the IRFU and 13 householders on Knocklisheen Road long shadows of doubt hung over the future of Thomond Park.

Those shadows were lifted in March when residents of the so called "Banana Block" confirmed they had signed agreements, which prevented them from selling their homes to anyone else.

In May it was confirmed that ARUP had in fact recommended the redevelopment of Thomond Park and since then the houses have been acquired by the IRFU.

Detailed plans were unveiled following May's Heineken Cup Success and speaking at the launch of the plans the then president of the Munster Branch, Ken Lyons said: "There are very few rugby followers in the world who are not aware of the history and great traditions associated with rugby at Thomond Park. This wonderful re-development project is entirely fitting, so that greater capacities and superior levels of comfort can be accommodated."

Those backing the project are adamant that the unique atmosphere of the current stadium can be maintained.

There is no doubt that Thomond Park holds a special place in rugby circles due to its unique history and atmosphere.

It is the venue where Munster celebrated their legendary 12-0 victory over the All Blacks in 1978 and it was the venue of the so called "Miracle Match" in 2003 when Munster beat Gloucester by 33 points to 6.

The Stadium is famed for its noise and intensity during play and for the complete silence when players are kicking for goal.

According to the plans for the redevelopment two new stands will be constructed by Autumn 2008 increasing the capacity to 26,000.

The South Terrace and the North Terrace will not be changed and it is envisaged the terraces in front of the new East and West stands will replicate the proximity of the existing East terrace which is better known as the "Popular side".

While everyone has welcomed the state-of-the-art proposals concerns remain that the famous atmosphere of Thomond Park may be lost forever.

The change is perhaps similar to that which Arsenal in soccer's Premiership have been faced with over the past few months. For over a hundred years Highbury in North London was the club's very own fortress. The Emirates Stadium may be state-of-the-art but it's

no Highbury.

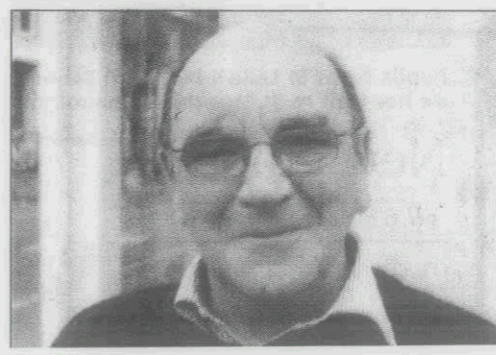
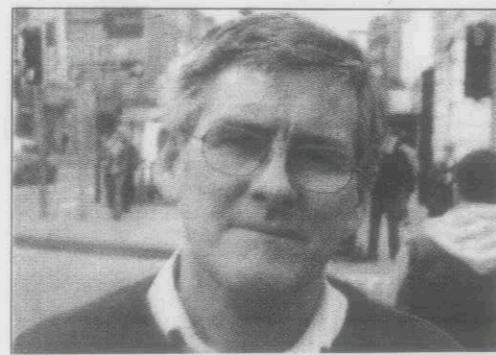
Richard Leng, Chairman of AFL Architects is on record as saying: The redesign of Thomond Park creates an opportunity to provide state of the art facilities for spectators, supporters and players in an environment where the unique atmosphere of Munster Rugby will be retained and intensified. Two sweeping arches of the new stands will ultimately become an image that everyone will associate with this famous rugby ground."

Hugh Murray of Murray O'Laoire Architects, insists: "The new Thomond Park stands will enhance the legendary intensity of the 'Munster experience' by housing 15,000 fans as close to the pitch as possible and with great views of the action. They will be a powerful icon of the home of Munster Rugby for future generations and their distinctive curved forms will stand out as a proud new city landmark."

Despite last weekend's loss to Edinburgh in the Magners League, Munster remain undefeated at Thomond Park in the Heineken European Cup. This season, Leicester, Cardiff and Bourgoin will try to succeed where all before them have failed. If Munster can get over these hurdles then the existing Thomond Park will have a permanent record of zero losses in Europe's premier club competition. The big question then looms large. Will the new Thomond Park enjoy the same success?



As Munster face into their final season of Heineken Cup rugby at the existing Thomond Park **CLODAGH O'LEARY** asks the people of Limerick if its unique atmosphere can be maintained while **DAVID HURLEY** examines the plans for its redevelopment



Limerick Leader
 21st October, 2006
 Page 4

club security manager Brian Fitzgerald.

Anthony Kelly 49, of Cragg House, Killrush, County Clare, was brought before Limerick

Court on October 31, that Det Sgt Seamus Nolan had said the book of evidence would be ready in three weeks time.

"The fact is my client has no idea of the evidence being laid against him and it

ence was not ready in two weeks he would require the attendance of somebody "actively involved in compiling the book of evidence."

He remanded Mr Kelly in continuing custody until December 5.

Anthony Kelly

Tenants ordered to quit ahead of Thomond deal

By MIKE DWANE

LIMERICK City Council has served notice to quit on three tenants whose homes are earmarked for demolition to accommodate the redevelopment of Thomond Park.

Though the tenants concerned, who live at Knockalisheen Road, Ballynanty, have been offered alternative accommodation locally, it is understood they are holding out for a compensation package for relocation expenses and disturbance from the IRFU.

While former mayor, Cllr John Cronin, Fianna Fáil, criticised the Council's approach in serving notice to quit, another political source claimed Limerick City Council had been "more than reasonable in trying to bring the matter to a successful conclusion."

Paul Foley, of the housing department in Limerick City Council, confirmed City Hall "has been in discussions with the three tenants in Council-owned houses at Knockalisheen Road since early 2006."

"Very extensive efforts have been made to address the issues concerned. Limerick City Council has offered alternative accommodation to the three tenants very close to Knockalisheen Road and has committed to modernising the alternative accommodation to the highest possible standards."

"However, unfortunately agreement has not been



Houses on Knockalisheen Road, Ballynanty, behind Thomond Park

reached in relation to relocation," Mr Foley continued.

"Limerick City Council at this stage has very little option except to secure its properties through the legal route."

The Limerick Leader

understands that the three alternative locations offered are at Shanabooley Road, Ballygrennan Road and further along Knockalisheen Road.

Cllr Cronin, however, has criticised the decision to serve notice to quit by mid-

December as "the wrong approach to take."

He said he would be "shocked if any judge would go against them as they never caused any trouble as tenants," pointing out some had been there for over 30 years.

"There are plenty of other candidates for eviction around the city that aren't being moved against," Cllr Cronin said.

But another political source this week commented the Council had "approached it in the cor-

rect way but are being frustrated."

A decision on planning for the €40 million stadium is due in early December and should permission be granted, work is expected to get underway in early 2007.

EX: LIMERICK LEADER
18 TH NOVEMBER, 2006
PAGE 1