

# New Uniforms for St. Patrick's Day Parade Limerick Pipe Band will play in its 20th year

On St. Patrick's Day the Limerick Pipe Band will play itself into its twentieth year. And the members will be resplendent in their new uniforms of tartan kilts, bottle-green hose, tartan shawl and Glengarry caps.

When the band was formed, away back in 1949/50, it was Limerick's first uniformed piping group in some 30 years. Its predecessor, the old Brian Boru Band, piped its last march in the early 1920s.

Two veteran members of the Limerick Pipe Band, Chairman

Jack McManus and Assistant Secretary Tom Moore, this week told the "Limerick Chronicle" something of the Band's early days and of its fortunes down the years.

At the Iveagh Grounds in Dublin the Band was represented in an 18st of 1954 and spectacular successes in Cork a decade later—in 1963 and 1964—were won in the quartettes. The '60s have been the palest years. For, in addition to the quartettes, the Band, under Pipe Major Joe Hall, went on to win in 1966, the Munster Novice Grade and the Novice Competition with the Limerick Festival of Sport.

In 1967, led by Pipe Major P. Ryan and Drum Major Tom Williams, they were successful in the Munster Junior.

Kenny, Jack Mitchell and Pat O'Neill filled the breach and so the idea of a new pipe band for Limerick began on the stage of the Savoy.

That year Jack McManus, an ex-army pipe major returned from England and gave the boys a hand. And on St. Patrick's Day, 1950, cheering crowds welcomed the smartly-uniformed group as they marched and played for the first time through the streets of Limerick.

The following year, under Pipe Major Jack McManus, the Band won its first trophy at Felle Luimni. It was the Seoirse Clancy Cup, presented for competition by the well-known and popular traditional violinist, Tadgh Smalle.

Subsequently, the Band competed in the Millstreet Festival and at every attempt came away with a prize.

This support has made possible the provision of new uniforms costing almost £1,000. Collections began three years ago and were brought to a successful issue under the chairmanship of Jack Lyons and, later, Peter Kennedy.

ber their names here with respect, the late treasurer, John O'Dwyer, and the first patron, Michael Kiely.

Tradition is carried down in the Band: Pipe Major in 1950 was Sean Kiely and the present Pipe Major is his son, Michael.

## Members

Present members of the Band are: Chairman, Jack McManus; Vice-Chairman, Owen Miller; Secretary, Joe Sheehy; Assistant Secretary, Tom Moore; Treasurer, Christy Robinson. Committee—Paddy Purcell, Peter Kennedy, Tommy Williams, Mickey McMahon.

Drum Major, Vincent Lyons; Assistant Drum Major, Hugh Bolger; Pipe Major, Michael Kiely; Assistant Pipe Major, Christy Leo; Pipers Ger Bugler, Pat Kennedy, Ger Cosgrave, John Styles, Paddy Ryan, Tom Moore, Sean Kiely; Drummers Joe Sheehy (leading tipper), Joe Sheehy, Noel Dillon, Ray Miller, Peter Kennedy, John Lillis, Ger Foley; Bass Drummer—Owen Miller.

On Saturday next, March 15, the Band will hold an anniversary dinner dance at the Parkway Motel. Another attraction in the near future is the Pipe Band Competition, which is run in conjunction with the Limerick Spring Festival. One of the chief workers in the preparations for the competition is a man who carries a great name in Irish music—Tom Moore.

When the gallant group march into their twentieth year on St. Patrick's Day they will merit a special round of applause. They bring colour and music wherever they go, and Limerick is proud of them.

## Competitions

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## Objective

The next objective must be a new bandroom. The accommodation for the present practice sessions at the rear of 27 Thomas Street is not adequate.

The members say: "If the Corporation allot us a site, we will build a bandroom."

Over the years the Band has lost many members through emigration, but only two through death. And we remem-

## "Thanks"

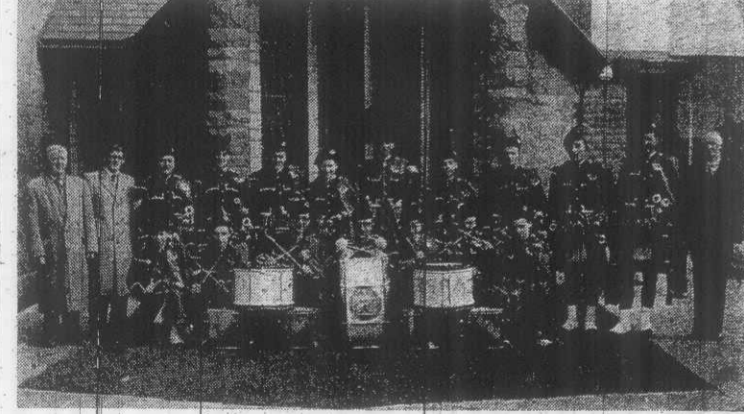
But their chief care ever since that glorious first parade some three years ago is for their native city. They have attended public functions and with their music have delighted and consoled and made happy the orphan and the hospital patient. And to the people of Limerick these pipers say "thanks for the wonderful support you have given us down through the years."

## Beginnings

Ireland's famous comedian, the late Jimmy O'Dea, didn't found the band—but he will always be associated with its beginnings. In 1949, Jimmy was playing in the Savoy Cinema and he wanted a pipe band for one of his scenes. He pipers Sean Kiely, Michael



The first Limerick Pipe Band, (standing l. to r.): Michael Kiely (RIP); Sean Kelly; John O'Dwyer (RIP); Michael Kenny; Jack Mitchell, bass drum; John McManus; Donald Hickey; Jim Bowman, chairman. In front: J. Storan; M. Frawley; and Master Mitchell, son of bass drummer, Jack Mitchell.



Pictured at the ceremony of the blessing of the drums at the Dominican Church 1961—Front row (l. r.): Jim O'Dwyer, treasurer; John Styles, piper; Frank Whelan, leading tipper; Peter Jackson, side drummer; Peter Kennedy, bass drummer; Stephen O'Donoghue, drummer; Fergus McCormack, drummer; John Lillis, drummer. Back row: Mick Frawley, piper; Jack McManus, pipe major; Paddy McGuane, piper; Matt Keegan, piper; Tom O'Callaghan, piper; Vincent Lyons, staff major; Ray Leahy, piper; Paddy Ryan, piper; Tom Moore (secretary), piper; Al Mulcahy, piper; Jack Lyons, chairman.



Members of the first Limerick Pipe Band, pictured in uniform. Front row, l. to r.: Jim Bowman, chairman; Sean Kiely, pipe major; Michael Kenny, assy pipe major; Sean Williams, drummer; John Mitchell, bass drummer; W. O'Mahony, leading tipper; Frank Whelan, drummer; the late "Sham" O'Dwyer, treasurer; Second row: Pipers, Martin Bourke; Jack McManus; Michael Kiely; P. Ahern; Back row: P. Smith, drummer; M. Kirby, piper; Bobby Hourigan, piper; Michael Frawley, piper.



Pictured on the occasion of the Novice Competition, Munster championships, 1966—Front row l.-r.: Christy Robinson (committee), Joe Hall, Pipe Major; Ger Foley (T. drummer), Andy Hussey (drummer); John "Sham" O'Dwyer (RIP), treasurer; Jack Lyons, chairman; Martin Hall, drummer; John Lillis, drummer; Tom O'Callaghan, piper; John McManus (committee). Back row: Tom Moore, piper; Peter Kennedy, bass drummer; Vincent Lyons, staff major; Paddy Ryan, piper; and Christy Leo, piper.

## SOCCER PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

If an award were to be given for the "Outstanding Manager of the Year," Wembley Rovers boss, Tony Hayden, would surely qualify as one of the more fancied candidates for the honour. In his twelve-year association with the renowned Wembley, this quiet-spoken drapery salesman has guided them to a steady flow of successes in all grades, and the fact that the "Blues" made history last season by collecting five major trophies speaks volumes for his dedication to his duties as Club Manager.

Tony Hayden's name is synonymous with local schoolboys' soccer. He has built a reputation for himself second to none and it is generally accepted that he is as shrewd a judge of a player's true potential as one could wish to find anywhere in the province. He has been known to convert recognised defenders into promising forwards and vice-versa, and it is his policy at all times to give his young charges ample opportunity to adapt themselves to the position best suited to their type of play.

Tony, who was responsible for revising St. Mary's 6th Scout Troop last year, holds strong views as to how local standards can be improved. "Togetherness is vitally important and I would suggest that both players and administrators meet once or twice each week to discuss tactics, plans, etc."

He also emphasised that there should be greater co-operation between all city clubs and that they should give their full support to decisions made by the Schoolboys' Council, "who, after all, are doing a really wonderful job in providing recreational facilities for our youth."

Tony believes that every player should be made to feel a vital cog in team plans and should be requested to help in the administrative side of things.

It is Wembley's avowed policy to groom their own talent from an early age and in this way they can build along strong lines for the future. "There is nothing more frustrating than to see clubs running around at the beginning of each season in search of players in an effort to strengthen their teams of the previous season," commented Tony.

He is proud of the fact that Wembley were the first Limerick team to play at Glental Abbey.

He is now the only club administrator in local football who was also active 10 years ago. "This might make me seem very old," he smiled, "but it must be remembered that I entered the scene as team manager at the tender age of 16."

Players to come through Tony's care included such well-known footballers as Ger Cronin, Ivan Morris, Dermot O'Donovan, Arthur O'Sullivan, Eddie Price, Niall Cusack and Anthony McManus.

Wembley's record in schoolboys' football makes most interesting reading and it would be utterly impossible to pinpoint even their more important successes in the space of our disposal.

Tony reminded me of Wembley's magnificent feat seven years ago when, under his management, they conceded only one goal in 17 outings in Under-13 grade. They are unbeaten in Under-12 football for the past three seasons, during which time they have won all trophies open to them. The only trophy that Wembley have yet to win is the Under-15 Cup. "But we aim to rectify the position in 1969," added Tony.

The "Blues" practically swept the boards last season when they won five Leagues out of a possible six. That is a record which is unlikely to be bettered in the immediate future.

Wembley are one of the most adventurous clubs in Ireland. They are always open to suggestions and whenever they are offered an attractive game



Tony Hayden (Wembley Rvs.).

happy to provide the opposite. They are known to encourage new clubs to local football and often "loan" some of their most promising players to such clubs to help them get over the teething troubles.

Tony was responsible for the "Blues" most successful ever a-side competition, which was held in the off-season, and the result was that over 200 young boys in the age-group 9 to 11 approached Wembley for help to enable them to compete in cup and league soccer.

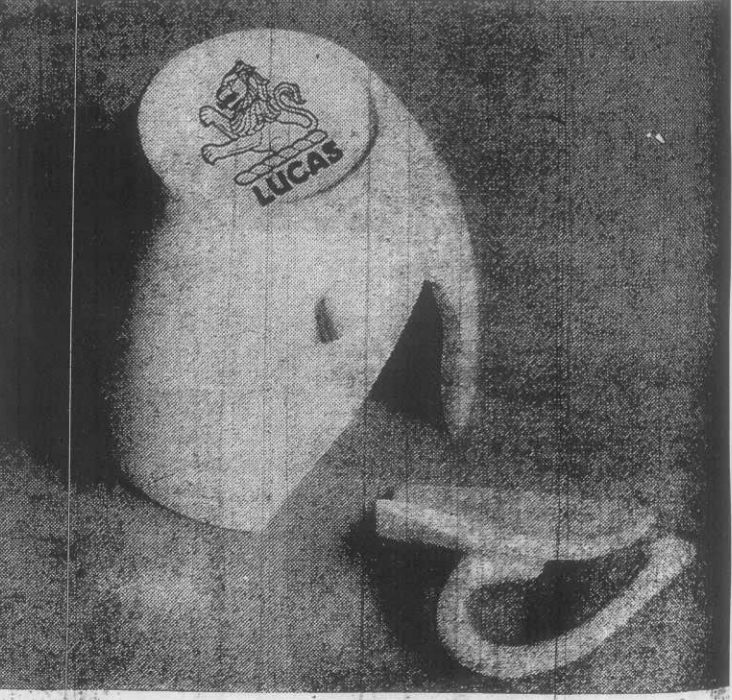
"We have always maintained a very high standard," said the Wembley club manager "and rarely, if ever, do we have players cautioned by referees."

And what of the future? "We have some very promising young talent coming along the line and it is safe to assume that we will be hunting for more trophies this season. Of course, it is our ambition to win the Evans Cup."

Tony would like to see the United, Prospect, Pike Row and Rathbane come back to schoolboys' football again. He has the highest regard for John's, Janesboro, Hyde and Fairview, "all of whom can be relied upon to play attractive football."

Wembley are in the happy position that they have a reliable Committee, and administrators Ned Whelan, Mick O'Sullivan and John Griffin have shared in many of the triumphs.

Soccer has always been Tony's favourite sport and in the summer months he usually plays the Inter-Firm Leagues at Todds. He is also a well-known member of Limerick's Golf Basketball Club and was chosen to play for his county on the occasions.



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