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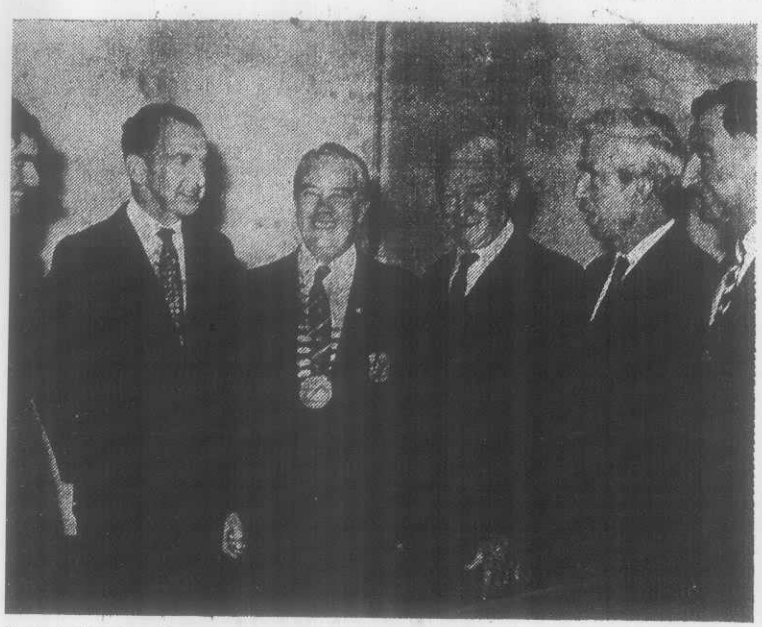

l at Athlunkard Boat Club's annual dinner, from left: Mr. Austin Reed, ıchin's College; the Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Gus O'Driscoll; Mr. Jack , president, Athlunkard Boat Club; Mr. Jack Gleazer, Hon. Member, Mr. Tom Tobin, president, St. Michael's Rowing Club, and Mr. Peter , president, Limerick Boat Club. LL photo

A.B.C.'s big plans for its club

ATHLUNKARD Boat Club's role in rowing will be restructured to cater for every sporting activity in St. Mary's parish. This was revealed by the president, Mr. Jack Cowhey, at the club's annual dinner which was held on the premises on Saturday night last.

Mr. Cowhey stated they were finding it increasingly difficult to recruit rowing members between the ages of 15 and 19 and hold them in the sport for three or four years. As an incentive to these boys to join the club, the committee had decided to provide a sports centre or athletic club to cater for table-tennis, judo, swimming, soccer, and in fact any sport in which there was an interest.

Spacious

The spacious premises and grounds of Athlunkard Boat Club would be available to groups of boys or girls who might wish to train in their favourite sports.

It was hoped that some of these young people would, through this scheme, be attracted to rowing, and that that scheme would be a valuable incentive to the recruitment of rowing members.

Mr. Cowhey said at the outset that the running of a rowing club today was no easy task, and the recruitment of rowing members was a major problem.

There were 200 paid-up members in the club, and each one was in his own way contributing to its upkeep. Considerable voluntary work was being done in the club, but if the new scheme were to succeed they would require more helpers and helpful criticism.

"I appeal to you all on behalf of the outgoing committee to give the new committee, should they adopt the scheme, all the aid in your power," he continued. "We all have a duty in this; in the present day there is a great lack of social contact, and a club like Athlunkard can provide it. We want helpers, willing helpers, and we will be particularly glad to hear from anyone with specialised knowledge in sport."

Committee

Mr. Louis Murnane, vice-president of the club, speaking to the toast of "Athlunkard Boat Club and Rowing," said the club had now for the first time a rowing committee, and from this a captain and vice-captain had been nominated for the coming season.

The committee would cater for the various grades in rowing and next season special attention would be given to the training of a championship maiden eight.

More interest in the affair of the club : needed to provide more money for the club's needs. And, if Athlunkard was not to become an old man's club, they would have to attract youth to its membership.

He continued: "A sub-committee has been formed which will cater for a soccer team in the under 10, 12, 14 and 16 grades and it is hoped that a good percentage of these lads will take up rowing." The team would compete under the name of Athlunkard Boat Club.

"We are the only club in the parish; we have spacious grounds and we want more people to use them. And above all, we must have youth in our club," he concluded.

The Mayor, Councillor Gus O'Driscoll, responding to the toast of "Our Guests," said the president, Mr. Cowhey, had announced a project that was very dear to his heart. He was glad that a move was being made to throw open the gates of Athlunkard Boat Club to the youth of the parish and city and he felt that this new approach would have a revitalising effect on sport. He regretted that the parish was not represented in every branch of the recent Community Games; he felt the introduction of rowing to the Games would give them variety and popularity.

Professional

"The new college of physical education is the envy of the country," he continued. "It will give a professional approach to sport, it will bring sport back in the city and country, and help the nation to take its place in international competition." The college would, he added, be of great help to rowing. Four Limerick boys were at present being trained in London for the college and would be back in Plassy in 1973.

Paying a tribute to the club president, he said: "Jack Cowhey has helped to bring us where we are in sport today; we could not have a finer, more dedicated man in sport."

Welcomed

Rev. Fr. Walsh, C.C., who deputised for Right Rev. Monsignor Lee, P.P., welcomed the club's decision to extend its influence in sport and said it could provide a new outlet for the youth of the parish.

Rev. Fr. Michael Kelly, president, St. Munchin's College, replying on behalf of the club, said Athlunkard had announced a very ambitious programme, and he was confident it would attract youth. However, if the programme were to succeed, it would have to be strictly supervised by dedicated people.

Mr. Jim Crowe, former president of the I.A.R.U., and a trustee of the club, welcomed the guests. They included the Mayor, Councillor Gus O'Driscoll; Mr. Steve Foley, Shannon Rowing Club; Mr. Peter Lawless, president, L.B.C.; Mr. Dick Roche, vice-president, do.; Mr. Tom Tobin, president, St. Michael's; Mr. Bertie Wixted, chairman, Limerick Citizens' Regatta; Mr. John O'Farrell, Credit Union; Mr. Phillip Dundon, Parish Council; Rev. Fr. Walsh, C.C., St. Mary's; Captain Kevin Donnelly, Harbour Master; Rev. Fr. M. Kelly, president, St. Munchin's College; Mr. Austin Reid, do.; Mr. Jack Gleazer, and the Press.

A very enjoyable social followed.

unique ıgineering peration

NIQUE engineering operation, this afternoon, licopter lifted over half a ton of concrete over ɔgland to fill a base for an electric pylon.

he first time that the ever used a helicopway.
ɔt pylon had to be soft bogland to com-10 kilovolt connection nnis and Tynagh.

was 700 yards inside ı the Ballinrane area sheen, beyond Ennis. of the very soft ucks carrying found-the site of the pylon be risked, and the ıf Irish Helicopters employed.
ɔpper" began an air-lift of the 20 tons of Readymix concrete to the site shortly after 2 p.m. today: it made 40 rans, carrying loads of over half a ton each time.

Last

The pylon involved, which will carry three high-tension conductor lines, was the last in a long line across the countryside, and its erection will enable engineers to complete the connection.

The cost of the operation, while no final figure has been arrived at, is estimated at £300 to £400.

Minister on lands for sports

ISK of land used by sports clubs, and in par-ar, golf clubs, being turned over for develop-r their owners was referred to by the Minis-ıstice, Mr. O'Malley, during the week-end.

ister was one of the Saturday's Captain's Castletroy Golf Club. 150 members and nded to pay respect tain, Mr. Jim Griffin, distinguished guests the deputy Mayor, Casey; Right Rev. aird, Bishop of Lime-

Borrowing half-million

The City Council is expected to authorise tonight, the borrow-

Hilarious satirical play

Limerick Festival of Irish Theatre enters its final week tonight with a continuation of the very successful presentation of "The Mundy Scheme" (Brian Friel) by Gemini Productions.

This first-class play provides a satirical picture of the Irish political scene . . . and a hilarious solution towards solving the problems in the West.

Ann Rowan.

The Government is facing a dire financial crisis and the solution suggested by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who arrives home after six days "galivanting around the world" is the development of the land in the West as an "international graveyard" designed for the American market. Niall Toibin as The Taoiseach; Liam Callaghan, Robert Carricksford, Robert Carlisle Snr., Edward Byrne, Dermot Crowley, Liz Davis and Ann Rowan complete a magnificent cast.

The City Theatre is well worth a visit this week.

City fire outbreak

Limerick Fire Brigade were called to an outbreak in an unoccupied store at Post Office Lane on Sunday night.

The brigade contained the blaze and prevented it from spreading to adjoining prem-

Out

Mr. Jerry Fitt, M.P., leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, has left Westminister Hospital, London, a spokesman said yesterday. Mr. Fitt was in hospital for three weeks after being admitted for tests for a suspected slipped disc.