

AROUND THE ROWING CLUBS

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The two sides of Limerick Boat Club

DEPENDING on how you look at it, Limerick Boat Club has two nautical sides, port and starboard. The one is engaged on rowing; the other on boat-building. For the oarsmen, the serious work is about to begin; for the boat-builders, it is drawing to a close.

This season, Limerick Boat Club has thirty-four oarsmen in training. And this week, the ceremonial launching. The Shannon sparkles brightly, down Boat Club way.

THE OARSMEN.

How are the oarsmen faring? This year, for the first time in its history, Villiers School is taking to the water. Coach is John Cambridge Pomeroy, an old Villiers boy, and one of the outstanding Boat Club oarsmen of the late 'forties. For six years he rowed with Limerick, and in the maiden class won the Head of the River for eights and the maiden trophies at Limerick, Cork, Galway and Waterford. Also successful as a junior oarsman, he rowed senior for four years and has won his credit nine cups.

For years, John has been interested in schools' rowing. Now,

more on the training of day students.

"At the moment," said John, "I am not interested in the winning of races. I think it is more important, first of all, to teach the boys how to row, properly, and to teach them at an early age. They are all very keen, and they like the sport." A few of his charges will, later on, continue their studies at Trinity. And at least two, if they are selected for D.U.B.C., will have received their early training at L.B.C.

"Villiers," he added, "are very grateful to Limerick Boat Club for the use of boats and oars, and the general facilities of the Club." And, to the Boat Club, they are very welcome.

A BIG FACTOR IN THE LIMERICK BOAT CLUB THIS YEAR IS THE ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM THE LADIES' COMMITTEE. THEY HAVE BEEN A GREAT HELP TO THE CLUB COMMITTEE IN THE PAST, AND FOR THE FUTURE THEY HAVE QUITE A NUMBER OF NEW IDEAS FOR THE RAISING OF FUNDS.

Members of the Ladies' Committee are—Mrs. Casey, Mrs. Mevra Bourke, Mrs. Roche, Mrs. Hanrahan, Mrs. O'Doherty, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Corry, Miss Bernice Keane, Mrs. O'Sullivan and Miss O'Neill.

This year's Club President is Mr. Dick Roche. A member since 1936, he has rowed, coxed and coached with considerable success. He has served on the Committee for a number of years, was elected Vice-Captain in 1945 and Captain in 1946. He has coxed 25 crews to victory. His most memorable year is 1947, when he was cox of that season's unbeaten maiden eight.

What does he think of rowing? "Last year," he said, "I was pessimistic. But this year, looking at Limerick, St. Michael's and Athlunkard, I am very optimistic. I think that rowing will come back to its rightful place again, and I think it is on the way back now."

And he does not forget to pay a tribute to his officers and committee, "who," he says, "are a great team."

The Club is fortunate in having as Captain such an experienced oarsman and sportsman as Kevin O'Sullivan. He told me that this year's crews will comprise a junior four, maiden eight two maiden fours, and for the first time 'evel, the Club's own schoolboy four. In training are twelve maidens, five schoolboys and four juniors.

"Our oarsmen," he added, "are exceptionally strong and heavy. The Head-of-the-River will be rowed for on June 6 and I am very hopeful of success."

The Club's traditional tub trials will take place this year shortly

after the Head-of-the-River. Kevin has Ray Morrissey as Vice-Captain.

This season's coxwains are Phil O'Doherty, Sean Flynn and Maurice Desmond. Coaches are the President, the Captain and Phil O'Doherty.

Rowing in this year's maiden eight is 21-year-old Scotsman Paul Flynn. A native of Motherwell, Lanarkshire, Paul is a newcomer to Limerick City and is employed as fitter with the Shannon Foundry.

"I never rowed before," he said. "There is not any rowing in my home town and before I came here I was only once or twice in a pleasure boat. Now that I know what rowing is, I just love the sport."

In all, Limerick Boat Club has 34 oarsmen in training. Not bad for a sport which, we are told, has seen its day. But, then, we don't believe everything we are told nowadays, do we?

THE BOAT-BUILDERS

And what of the boatbuilders? A television cameraman was present last Wednesday to record the launching of Mr. Gerard O'Brien-Kelly's stoutly-built gondola, which he will use for fishing and shooting in the lower Shannon. The boat was built for £16—its market value is almost twice that amount.

Gerard's co-workers, Pat Molloy and Tim Dante, have also launched a 16-foot clinker-built boat for fishing in Lough Derg. Gondolas are seen only in the

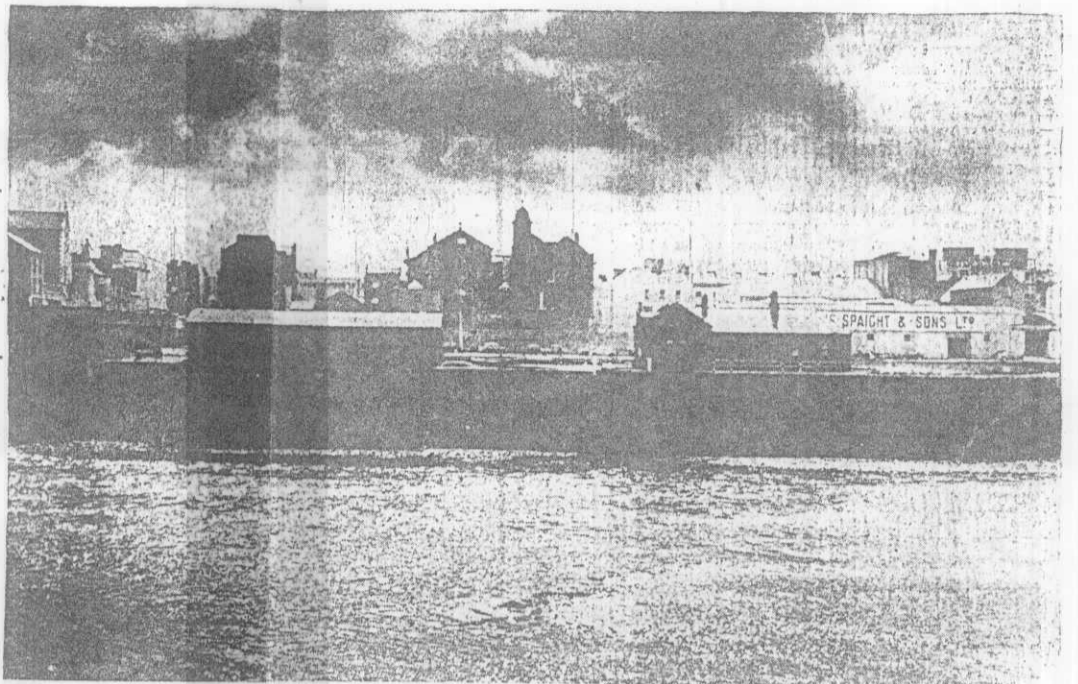
by Inspector Bailey, G.S., and Frank Larkin; two 12-foot outboard runabouts, built by Mick Vaughan, T. Gould-Geary and Tom Fitzgerald, and a 12-foot outboard plywood boat, built by William O'Brien.

But one of the most unusual boats ever constructed here, or in any other boat-building centre, is a catamaran, which Eamonn Gleeson is completing. At present there are only three or four of these boats in Ireland, but it is very probable that their numbers will greatly increase in the next few years. Eamonn told me all about it.

He decided on building a catamaran because of the boat's great speed and great stability. The design came from Ceylon and the name is a corruption of a Hindu word meaning "tied logs." It is commonly used in Ceylon, Polynesia and the Pacific coast. Its commercial construction was first undertaken in Britain in 1954 by Prout Brothers, who have now produced about 600 of them. In appearance, it resembles a conventional boat divided in two, both parts being joined together by a bridge deck.

Its peculiar design makes it very fast and very stable, and it takes a sail area of about 165 square feet. It can be sailed by a skilled operator in the roughest of weather, when a conventional boat would have to be tied up.

Eamonn's catamaran will be the first of its type seen on the lower Shannon. "It is the boat of the



construction. The mast is built of a special alloy, light but strong, is twenty-two feet high, and weighs only eighteen pounds.

A catamaran, the overall weight of which is four hundred pounds, can accommodate a captain and

THE CLASS, WHICH WAS INAUGURATED BY THE LIMERICK VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE, WILL RESUME ON OCTOBER 11. INTENDING MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO APPLY EARLY FOR ENROLMENT. "THE RE-

is being done. In rowing, boating and sailing, it has a full programme, more so, perhaps, than any other club of its kind in Ireland or elsewhere. And that's what it's there for.

At summer's end we will look forward to hearing from the boat-builders how they fared on the water and how much it was all worth while.

View of Limerick Boat Club from O'Callaghan Strand. Limerick Vocational Education Committee's boat-building course, which was held in a section of the Club boathouse, has proved very successful and popular. Among their crews, L.B.C. have a promising maiden eight in training and they expect to win the Head of the River race next Wednesday night.

THANKS

The Limerick Boat Club is very grateful to the Committee of Shannon Rowing Club for providing them with the use of the S.R.C. slipway.

L.B.C.'s slipway was so badly damaged in last winter's storms that rowing would not be possible in the Club this season but for the sporting gesture of Shannon R.C.

With the entry of Villiers to Limerick Boat Club, his ambition is realised.

Villiers' representation of thirteen is made up of T. Blennerhassett, E. Hughes, J. Doherty, J. Wheeler, Dig. Hodgins, W. West, D. Little, W. Cullen, D. Bevan, M. Daunt, Des. Hodgins, J. Gale and A. Wynnie Jones.

For E. Hughes, it will be picking up the threads of the past. Early in the 1900's his uncle rowed in L.B.C. colours. And M. Daunt will have headlines to follow also, for two of his relations rowed with Trinity. All thirteen receive their regular school athletic training, and play rugby and hockey. Two, Des. and Dig. Hodgins, are skilful horsemen, and have had distinguished performances at gymkhanas and horse show competitions.

Villiers' headmaster, Mr. Matthew Lynn, is well known as a rugby referee and as a former player. Before coming here he taught at Portora Royal Academy, Portora colours are well known in Limerick and other regatta courses throughout Ireland.

John thinks his charges are a bit on the light side, "but," he says, "we should have a handy eight." School holidays, however, will restrict competition to the Head of the River for eights and fours, and to Cork Regatta. So next year he will concentrate



Limerick and lower Shannon areas and they are specially built for use on the mud banks and foreshores.

The boat-building course will finish on June 20. Other craft which will soon be ready for launching include two 16-foot centre-board sailing boats, built

future," he told me.

It is constructed in mahogany marine plywood, and it took him one hundred and eighty working hours to complete. Built from plans, it will reach speeds of twenty knots in force six or seven winds. Each hull contains one watertight compartment, and the design is known as hard chime

Eamonn will sail his boat in the Shannon Estuary and west coast waters. Last year he developed a keen interest in boat-building.

Mr. Gerard O'Brien-Kelly's newly-launched gondola. "Test pilots" are Master Michael Murphy, Mr. Tom Corry and Mr. Joe Murphy.

crew of two with comfort.

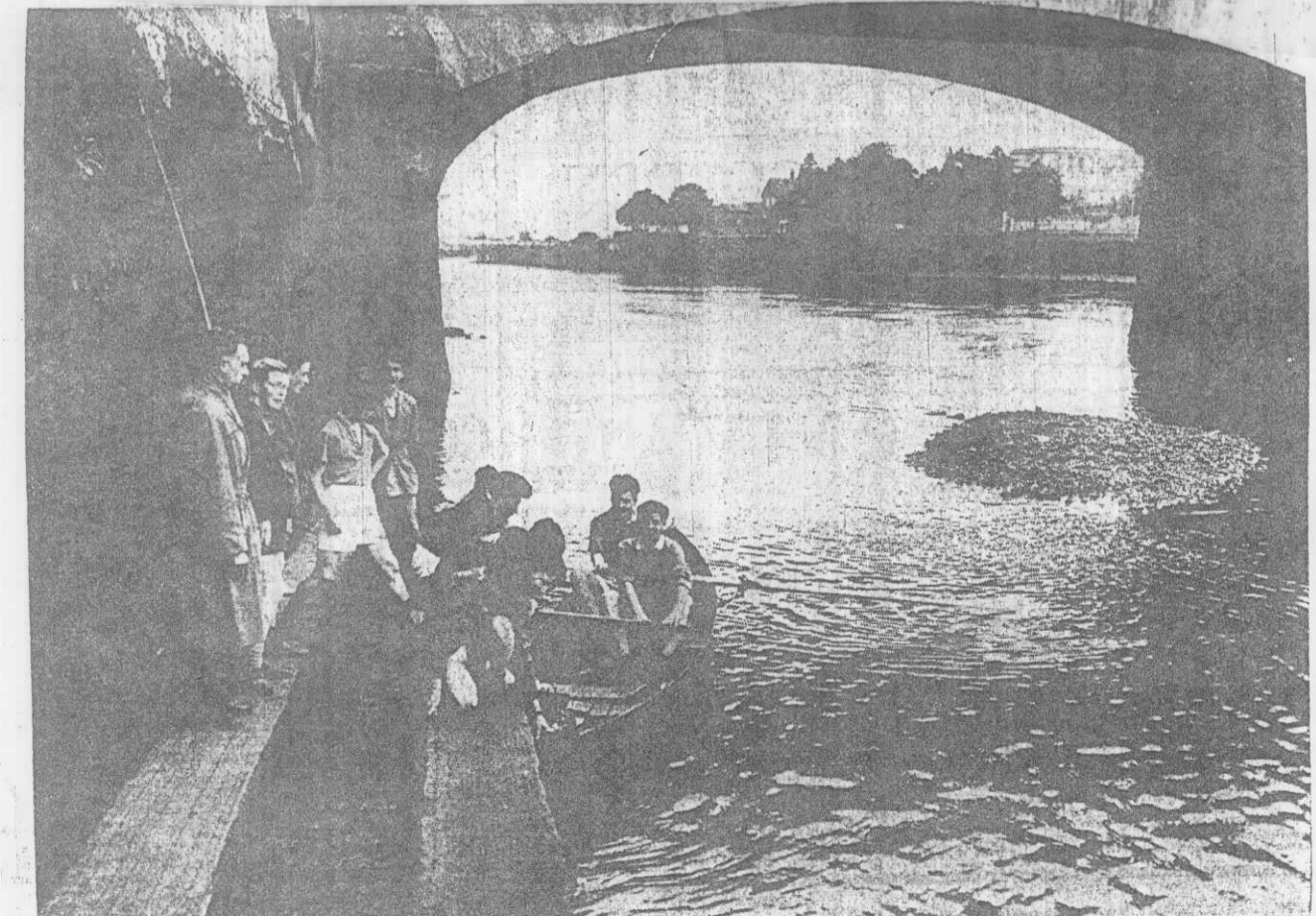
"The class is an excellent idea," he said, "and it deserves every support. Limerick is very much behind other centres, such as Dungarvan and Fenit in sailing interests. The class will do much to remedy this."

SULTS," INSTRUCTOR JOHN McINERNEY TOLD ME. "WERE GOOD. I THINK ALL THE STUDENTS DID VERY WELL." HE ADDED, "AND THEY ALL ENJOYED IT."

And, so, in the two sides of Limerick Boat Club great work



Mr. John Cambridge Pomeroy, who is training Villiers' schoolboy oarsmen.



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