

A Limerickman's Diary

By **OBSERVER**

Peter Lawless at helm for LBC Centenary

MR. PETER LAWLESS, a well-known sportsman and businessman, is the new President of Limerick Boat Club. He takes office for the centenary year, 1970, of this great sporting institution, and plans are already in hand to make the anniversary the most notable in the club's long and eventful history.

Peter, who takes over from the outgoing president, Mr. Jack O'Connor, has an outstanding record as an oarsman, rugby player and yachtsman.

In his first season in the Boat Club, 1941, he rowed in two notable crews, the maiden eight and four, which were coxed to victory in the Quin Cup and Cleeve Cup by Michael Roberts. With him in the eight were Ralph McMahon, P. Greene, C. J. O'Connor, P. J. Moroney, J. Lynn, J. Corbett and J. Turpin (stk.).

The following year he advanced to the junior eight which had for crew: Sam Hall (stk.), Jack Cantrell, Paddy Moroney, Jack Lynn, Charlie O'Connor, Paddy Greene, Jim Gavin and (in Limerick) Ralph McMahon. With Brendan Hanrahan at the rudder lines, they rowed unbeaten throughout the season in eights and fours.

Senior

His winnings in senior ranks began in 1946 when he got his place in a crew that had already in the previous season been successful in the Shannon Rowing Club Challenge Cup, and were now successful in this event for the second year. They were Donat Costelloe (stroke), Paddy Anderson, Paddy Greene, Dick Naughton, Cyril Galbraith, John L. O'Sullivan and Sammy Hall (bow) with Brendan Hanrahan cox.

He continued in senior ranks until 1949, winning two Shannon Rowing Club Challenge Cups, the senior eight events in Galway and Killaloe, and was piped in Cork by two feet for the Leander Cup in 1948.

He has a long executive history in the club — committee man in 1945, vice-captain, 1946; captain, 1947, and, for the past three or four years, vice-president.

Rugby

Peter played schools rugby with St. Munchin's College, and in



the season 1951-52 with Garryowen won a senior cup medal. In 1955 he won the Junior Cup

and has the unusual record of winning senior and junior cups with the same club.

One of his crew mates, Tom Reid, also partnered him in rugby, and other notables on the field were Gordon Wood and — "two of the greatest I ever played with" — Brendan Morgan and Sean McNamara.

Peter took part in one of the first tours to Lourdes with Garryowen in the early 1950's. Five or six years ago he was elected vice-president of Garryowen R.F.C.

Yachting

A well-known yachtsman, he has been sailing since 1941. In 1964, with Mr. Gerry O'Sullivan of Tralee, another well known sailor, he did a 17-day circumnavigation of Ireland.

His present boat, the Mocave, is an Essegade-class yacht of 5 tons, which he bought at the Glasgow Boat Show. With his wife, Mona, and Mr. Michael Morgan as crew, he sailed it from Milford Haven to Ireland.

He is a founder member of Foynes Yacht Club.

Peter's wife is the former Miss Mona Kavanagh of Limerick. Her father, the late Frank Kavanagh, was a past president and captain of Castle-troy Golf Club, and her mother, Mrs. Monica Kavanagh was a well known actress with the College Players.

Peter's brother, Pat, who is co-proprietor with him of Messrs. Lawless Brothers Ltd., furniture manufacturers, Courtbrack, is also a well-known yachtsman and former oarsman. His sister, Betty, is a prominent Limerick amateur actress.

Peter told me he is looking forward, with the officers, committee and members of Limerick Boat Club, to making the centenary year one of the memorable in the history of the club. One of the proposed events is a special regatta fixture under IARU rules, which may be held next May.

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