

L.B.C. CENTENARY

WE'LL ROWED, LIMERICK!

(By "ASPIRANT")

"Shannon may have the style, boys, Athlunkard may have it, too; But for sheer guts and courage, Give me a Boat Club crew."

SO goes the traditional Limerick Boat Club version of the Eton Boat Song, beloved of oarsmen. No doubt, it will be sung with particular gusto and nostalgia this week-end as "Boat Club" celebrate their hundredth year in rowing.

And as their song says, it must have taken a lot of guts and courage to reach that one hundredth milestone. May we join with sportsmen everywhere in congratulating Limerick Boat Club on their great achievement.

Limerick Boat Club now becomes not alone the oldest active rowing club in the city, but the oldest active sporting organization as well.

Few seasons have passed, since 1870 to the present day, that Limerick have not recorded a win of some sort at Irish regattas. Their golden age was probably in the twenties, with several Leander wins, highlighted by the I.A.R.U. Senior Eight's Championship victory in 1927.

Always a progressive club, Limerick was the first locally to instal an indoor training tank. In recent years they have had some top-class coaches brought specially over here from England.

A BOAT CLUB FORTE Many commercial rowing clubs, founded long after Limerick B.C., have succumbed under modern influences. An interested rowing membership has always been one of "Boat Clubs" fortes and is one of the main reasons why they are happily celebrating their centenary in the sport.

The centenary of any club or organisation is a nostalgic time. The centenary of a rowing club in a sport so conducive to friendships and memories is particularly so, and no doubt many a race and incident will be recalled by staunch "Boat Club" members this week. Again, let us congratulate Limerick on attaining their centenary, brimful of history and achievements, and may the grand old sport continue to flourish in the club for another hundred years—at least!

The Regatta What more fitting way to celebrate a centenary of a rowing club than a regatta? Limerick B.C., as mentioned, initiated the first Limerick Regatta, and it is, indeed, fitting that to-morrow's fixture will be the first ever of its kind under I.A.R.U. Rules.

Timed to start at 12.40 p.m., the Centenary Regatta will feature a special senior eight's race, in which all the leading champions...

LIMERICK JUNCTION RACES On Thursday, May 21st, in connection with above races Cheap Day Excursion tickets (Standard Class) will be issued for travel by train as follows:

Depart Limerick 16.31-8.9 Limerick Junction arr. 16.31-8.9 Return train from Limerick Junction at 19.00

THE DRAW 12.40 Junior Schools Fours (Heat B), 12.55 Senior Schools Eights, 1.15 Junior Schools Fours (Heat A).

Have you seen... OUR LARGE SELECTION OF TENNIS RACQUETS, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR, ETC. Limerick Sports Store

- 1.35 Junior Eights, 1.45 Senior Fours, 2.15 Maiden Fours, 2.25 Junior Schools Eights, 2.45 Senior Schools Fours, 3.20 Junior Schools Fours (Heat B), 3.35 Maiden Eights, 3.55 Junior Fours, 4.15 Colt Eights.

- Waterford, 3, Neptune B; 4, Neptune A; 5, U.C.G.; 6, U.C.D., 7, Methodist College; 8, L.B.C. 2.35 Junior Schools Eights, 1, St. Joseph's; 2, Galway; 3, St. Munchin's; 4, L.B.C.; 5, Marist College; 6, A.B.C.; 7, Bann; 8, S.M.R.C. 2.45 Senior Schools Fours—4, St. Joseph's; 5, Methodist College. 3.00 Senior Eights, 2, D.U.R.C.; 3, U.C.D.; 4, Q.U.B.C.; 5, Garda; 6, S.M.R.C. 3.20 Junior Schools Fours (Final) 3, winners, Heat A; 4, winners, Heat B; 5, 2nd, Heat A; 6, 2nd, Heat B. 3.35 Maiden Eights, 1, U.C.D. B; 2, Neptune; 3, U.C.D. A; 4, Athlone; 5, L.B.C.; 6, D.U.B.C.; 7, U.C.G.; 8, Shandon. 3.55 Junior Fours, 1, S.M.R.C.; 2, U.C.D.; 3, Waterford; 4, A.B.C.; 5, Galway; 6, Garda B; 7, D.U.R.C.; 8, Garda A. 4.15 Colt Eights, 1, Waterford; 2, St. Ignatius; 3, A.B.C.; 4, St. Munchin's; 5, Askeaton; 6, St. Michael's; 7, L.B.C.

Golf: Why Not a "Pros." v. Amateur Match?

Limerick Pair Can Win at Killarney Nevin and Morris have class to triumph by CHARLIE MULQUEEN

A MATCH between the Irish Amateur international team and the top 12 professionals in the country. No, I am not announcing a new attraction on the golfing programme. But what a nice thought it is; the scoring and shotmaking, I have no doubt, would satisfy the requirements of the most difficult customer.

My own view is that the amateurs would not have a chance. One might well say why should the pros be extended? After all, they are paid to play the game. Yet, I feel that they are not given anything like the credit that they are entitled to in this country.

Take last week's Carroll's Irish Match-Play Championship at Mullingar. The pair on this lovely midlands course is 72 and he is 36 holes stroke qualifying round this target, especially with the big ball on a sudden course, was very difficult to match, not to mind better.

Yet, the 16 qualifiers brought in 36 hole aggregates of 147 (3 over par), and one of them, Mick Murphy, failed to get in after a play-off.

And the scoring in the match-play stages got even better. Hugh Jackson was six under fours in his 4 3/4 semi-final victory over Tommy Halpin.

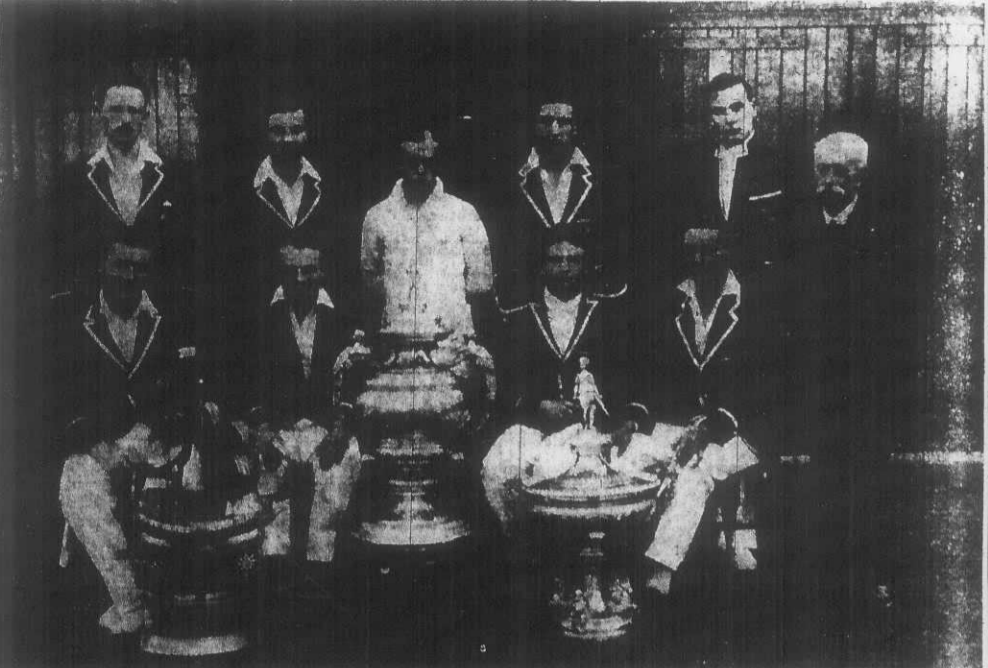
The "pros" deserve much greater credit than they receive; the team I give hereunder would give an excellent account of itself against the pick of the "amateurs" in England, Scotland and Wales, and would surely prove much too good for our amateurs.

Our top 12 professionals in my mind are: Christy O'Connor (Royal Dublin), Paddy Skerritt (St. Anne's), Hugh Jackson (Knockbracken Golf Centre), Jimmy Kinsella (Castle), Hugh Boyle (John Jacobs Golf Centre), Jimmy Martin (unattached), Nicky Lynch (Sutton), Mick Murphy (Royal Dublin), Paddy McGuirk (Co. Louth), Tommy Halpin, (Nash), Sean Hunt (Sutton), Christy Greene (Miltown).

And left out are players of the quality of Jimmy Henderson, Ernie Jones, Norman Drew, Eddie Pollard, Paul Leonard, Billy Kinsella, David Carson, David Jones and Christy O'Connor, Jr.

ST. MARY'S R.F.C. The annual general meeting of the above club will take place in the club premises, on Thursday, May 21, at 8 p.m. sharp. Members and intending members are requested to attend. J. BYRNES, Hon. Secretary (16-18-200)

Printed and published at Office 84 O'Connell Street Limerick by the proprietors. The Limerick Leader is circulated in the City and Counties of Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Cork, Kerry, Galway, Transmittable through post in Great Britain and Ireland at newspaper rate of postage, and at magazine rate of postage to Canada and Newfoundland printed in Ireland



A memory of the past... Limerick Boat Club, winners of I.A.R.U. Senior Eight's Championship, Leander and Shannon Rowing Challenge Cup, in 1927. Left to right (back-row)—K. I. Ray, W. W. Stokes, W. L. O'Donnell (cox), J. M. Harkness, M. Maguire, B. Murray (coach). L. to r. (front-row)—W. F. Tracey, T. E. O'Donnell (stk.), J. Ewart, J. Stern. The five surviving members of this, Boat Club's most famous crew (T. E. O'Donnell, W. W. Stokes, J. M. Harkness, J. Ewart, W. F. Tracey), have presented magnificent prizes for the senior eights race at the Centenary Regatta.

An Outline History

The highlight of one hundred years existence of Limerick Boat Club is contained in the following outline history: On the evening of February 3, 1870, a meeting in the reading room of the Athenaeum was convened by T. H. Kenny and N. A. Brophy, solicitor, for the purpose of establishing Limerick Boat Club.

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It was decided to ask the Harbour Board to grant a site for a boathouse. A subscription list was opened and over 150 was at once subscribed, including the generous sum of £10, exclusive of the club subscription of £2-0-0 from the Mayor.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE The officers of the club elected at the meeting were: President, William Spillane; Vice-Presidents, James Barry, J.P., and James Barry; Captain, Capt. Furnell; Hon. Treasurer, N. A. Brophy; Hon. Secretary, A. C. Wallace, solicitor.

FOUNDATION STONE Mayor Spillane laid the foundation stone on April 14th and within the year the boathouse and slip were erected. Ten boats consisting of an out-rigger four, two racing banked fours, a light four-oared gondola, two practice pairs and four family boats were at the members' disposal. The club instituted two regattas in 1870, one of a local character, the funds of which were generously contributed by the club alone, and the other a public regatta to which it donated a magnificent trophy, the Limerick City Challenge Cup.

BRUCE MURRAY Woven into the tradition of the club is the name of Bruce Murray, oarsman, coach and President, who succeeded W. G. Robinson, I.L.B., as Secretary in 1882, and continued in that office for over half-a-century. Three years after his appointment the new clubhouse was erected on the site of the original boathouse.

SENIOR UNION CUP, 1927 Bruce's crowning year of achievement was 1927, when the senior eight (Ewart, Stearn, Stokes, Harkness, Rea, McGuire, Tracey, T. E. O'Donnell (stk.)) W. L. O'Donnell (cox) won the coveted I.A.R.U. Senior Championship of Ireland. The winning sequence continued in 1928 when the 10 races won at Cork, Galway and Limerick broke all previous club records. In 1949, under the captaincy of Jim O'Neill, the club again won 16 trophies.

REVIVED Forerunner of the Irish Amateur Rowing Union, the Irish Amateur Rowing Association had Limerick Boat Club as one of its founders in 1883. L.B.C., however, in common with some other clubs, regarded the practice of awarding money prizes as repugnant to the sport and seceded from the Association. Consequently, no regatta was held in Limerick for several years. The Annual Regatta was revived in 1897 and the club drew first blood by winning the Murphy Cup. The following year the course was bought, and the regatta was held in 1899 and gave a tremendous stimulus to the sport.

TRAINER A. A. Stewart, who came from London to take over the reins in 1901, died shortly after his arrival in Limerick, in recognition of the kindness and attention of the club to his father in his last illness, Robert Stewart presented a very handsome silver challenge cup for scullers. Another of the club's magnificent sculling trophies is the Captain's Prize, presented by Mr. T. E. O'Donnell, solicitor.

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The club likewise introduced eight-oared rowing into the South of Ireland, and in 1877 an L.B.C. crew won the first eight-oared race rowed at a public regatta South of Dublin, defeating a crew from Dublin University Boat Club. Limerick's crew consisted of W. Brown, C. Wickham, B. Gibson, M. Nauland, G. Bogan, J. Donnellan, J. Myles, B. Murray (stk.), J. Nauland (cox).

A LAW SUIT The small house built on the pier in 1870 was just long enough to accommodate a four-oared racing boat and provide a diminutive dressing room. This was all the accommodation available to the members until 1872, when a boathouse was built on the site of the present one. Its construction, however, was faulty, and the committee, declining to pay the contractor in full, a law suit followed. The day it was heard in court, a severe gale lifted the roof on to the bridge and damaged the walls and some of the boats. The committee gained their case, and the present boathouse was built the following spring.

THE LIST OF MEMBERS, numbered 84 in 1870. The last two original members, T. H. Kenny and Archibald Murray, died in 1927.

THE LEADER CUP was last won for L.B.C. in 1930 by another great crew: V. O'Donovan, M. Costello, M. Hogan, H. Keogh.

THE CLUB takes an active interest in the promotion of school rowing, the Bruce Murray Cup being presented for schools competition in Limerick, which have used the facilities of the club for training and practice. The club has also presented the M. J. O'Donnell Technical Institute, V.M.S. School and Ard Scoil Rís.

THE CLUB enters on its centenary in sport with a magnificent range of new equipment and an elaborate set of plans for better facilities for its oarsmen, including new changing rooms, and has been ordered well for the youth of Limerick, and its ambition now is to see this centenary year as a fitting tribute to the club's 100 years that lie ahead.

An account of Limerick B.C.'s first two regattas of June and August, 1870, taken from the files of the "Limerick Chronicle" of that year, will appear in to-morrow's "Chronicle".



The Limerick team who beat Waterford in the Munster Senior Football C'Ship, at Dungarvan.