



Mayor Kennedy officially re-opens Limerick Boat Club's newly-renovated clubhouse.

Limerick Boat Club surges ahead again

By LEADER REPORTER

THE MAGNIFICENT refurbished Limerick Boat Club which was officially opened at the weekend only cost the Exchequer 20 pence in the £ for the £70,000 spent on the job.

And training manager of AnCO, Mr. Gerry Ryan, revealed that plenty more organisations and associations in Limerick county, city and Tipperary are using the Community Youth Training Programme run by the company.

The total number of projects at any one time is 18 and there is a waiting list, he revealed.

Since 1870, when Limerick Boat Club was founded with a meeting in the city, there has been no major reconstruction work until the recent AnCO scheme.

Brickwork

The club, situated on the left side as motorists leave the city centre across Sarsfield Bridge, has undergone a major transformation of relating, pointing of brickwork, rewiring, new floors and new open-plan lounge and security grids.

Around £70,000 in all was spent with £30,000 coming from the Government and £40,000 from the club who had to supply the materials.

At the opening by Mayor Pat Kennedy at the weekend, Mr. Ryan explained that 55 per cent of the total cost could be recouped so that the total cost to the Exchequer was 20 pence in every pound spent.

Mayor Kennedy, who with his wife Loretta was accorded a guard of honour on arrival, said that it was a very sporting occasion.

As Admiral of the Shannon, he was delighted and honoured to perform the official opening.

He went on to give a very interesting address on the history of the club and the many famous members. It was in February 1870 that a meeting was held to start the club with Mayor William Spillane the main driving force.

Three mayors

"In fact three mayors were president during the first 10 years", he told the gathering.

That night over £50 was collected in subscriptions with a generous £10 from Mayor Spillane. It was, however, ten years later before the actual clubhouse was built, with Limerick Harbour Commissioners providing the site.

Mayor Kennedy went on to speak of the great Limerick regattas held at which 15,000 people attended to watch rowing at its best.

He praised Boat Club for the part it played in promoting rowing in the South. The club were the first to introduce eight-oar rowing and also were first with an indoor training tank. At present they had 50 oarsmen in training.

Bruce Murray, Alfie Goodwin and Jim Sheehan were among those mentioned by Mayor Kennedy for their well-known association with Boat Club.



From left: Bernie Whelan, Doon; Bernadette Galvin, Garryowen; Karen O'Flaherty, Marian Place, and P. J. Galvin, Garryowen.



From left: Reg and Joan Bennett, Revington Park; Sadie Roche, Clanmorris Avenue; Ann Hanrahan, Clancy's Strand.



A guard of honour for Mayor Kennedy and members of the committee. Included are Jim Ryan, hon. sec.; Paddy McKenna, president, and Colm O'Brien, captain, and members of the junior "C" eight.

"This is a historic night, a unique night in a city renowned for sport", said the Mayor.

The president of the club, Mr. Paddy McKenna, recalled that it was two years ago that he asked about the possibility of refurbishing the premises.

Praised

Little did he think so much could happen so fast to his club and boat house. He praised the many people associated with the work which took twelve months to complete.

These included Hugh Lynch, Tom Malone, Seamus Doyle, Phil O'Doherty, Reg Bennett, Paddy Considine, Niall O'Brien, P. J. Davin, Seamus Nestor, the Wixted brothers, Tony Tynne, other hard-working committee members, the ladies committee and Dick Roche, who is a member of the club for the past 50 years.

Mr. Roche thanked the many sponsors for making the opening night possible.

"There were times here when I wondered what was going to happen at all, would it be the Tower of Babel or the House That Jack Built", he added.

The long serving member of the club went on to single out Mr. Tom Malone of AnCO. "Without his attendance to duty we would still be going on and would have to wait until next year for the opening".

AnCO boss Mr. Ryan said that the job provided valuable work experience for young people with an average of 12 people working on the project at any one time. Forty in all worked during the 12 months on the job.

"The success or failure of such a project depends on the committee and well done to the committee here", said Mr. Ryan.

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Michael and Margaret Daly, Farranshone.



Breda O'Connor, Brookville Gardens, secretary, ladies committee (left), and Joan Broderick, New Wellington Terrace.

Continuing our cathedral tour

The most remote chapel is that of St. George. It is situated just inside the south door. In the corner of this chapel is a doorway leading to a spiral staircase which gives access to room above the chapel.

We now visit the choir stalls which date from the 15th century. They are made in the style of the "tip up" seats now so common in places of amusement, but serve so different a purpose. They are the Miseracords and are unique in this country. The reverse of the seats are beautifully carved. They are made of brown oak. They are 13 in number, and are very much admired by all lovers of the art of woodcarving.

In recent years some improvements were made which included the lowering of the floor of the church to its original level. During the excavations made in connec-

tions with this work several grave-stones were met. In fact, the whole floor was literally covered with classic towers. Red battle reared aloft its sanguine head.

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GLIMPSSES OF LIMERICK by WILLIE W. GLEESON



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By LEADER REPO

THE STATE OF the industry was descried as "deplorable" by Mr. Finn, the outgoing C of the Mid-West Branch Construction In Federation, at their general meeting.

Output, he said, was per cent in a few years an help matters that a b helpless outlook was pre

According to Mr. Finn of 48,000 building work now unemployed in at several thousands in providers and material turers.

Blighting

"The tragic and blighting of the hopes of apprentices and students gan learning their trade third-level studies a few and now, when finished their qualifications and t are not needed-is to say massive waste of the b resources", continued going chairman.

Side by side with unemployment in the in added, were a few star that proved that necessa in Ireland was far from

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"2. For the Irish advance to the number per 1,000 of the popul the people of Engla which is still low b standards, they would additional 400,000 more right now. We should h cent more dwellings in catch up with the more EEC countries.

"3. As regards indu commercial building, a exist as our country h reached an adequate lev industry or commerce"



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