

# Boat Club now into top draw

By PADDY MORONEY

**LIMERICK** Boat Club, which recently ran a successful duck derby on the water between Sarsfield and Shannon Bridges, is now going in for a whole new fund-raising venture.

This time, it is a members' club draw which is being run in association with the Club Ráth Cairn\* parish development.

The total value of the draw, open to members and former members, is £150,000.

"We are hoping to get Mayor Jan O'Sullivan, down to the club for the draw," said club president Noel Malone, in an interview.

"It will be one of the biggest fund-raising events yet held, and it will be run over six months."

The star prize will be a bungalow, or £30,000 in cash, which will be drawn in October. The draw runs from May.

Limerick Boat Club is one of the best-known clubs among this country's rowing fraternity, in part because of its location on Sarsfield Bridge, along with its sister club, Shannon Rowing Club, and in part due to its great age, as Irish clubs go.

"Boat Club", as it has been more affectionately known on the water, was founded in 1870 with the generous support of the citizens of Limerick and its business community.

and the River Shannon, throughout its long history.

In recent years, Boat Club has been restructured to include and promote ladies' rowing at all levels.

The club, which operates on a voluntary basis, now proudly displays both men's and women's national singlets.

Rowing is a very expensive sport, however, and there is no State funding at individual club level.

Said a spokesman: "Our very existence depends on fundraising throughout the year, and with over 50 boys and girls rowing in the club today, it is proving increasingly difficult to provide the facilities and boats in

demand.

"We urgently require new competitive rowing craft which will ensure our survival and continue the long and proud commitment to the young people of Limerick and its environs."

The prizes on offer in May, July and September will be a car; in June it will be a mobile home, and in August it will be a conservatory. A winner can take £9,000 in cash instead. There will also be a second prize of £1,000 and a third prize of £500, each month, as well as 40 prizes of £100.

In addition, the winner of the first prize on each monthly draw, for the first

five months, can switch from the prize of that month to the first prize of any other of those five months, thus ensuring a choice of prizes.

The October prize will be a timber-framed Arklow Homes bungalow with garage, built on the winner's own site anywhere in Ireland. The second prize will be £2,000 and the third prize will be £500, with the usual 40 prizes of £100. There will also be 100 prizes, that month, of a framed colour reproduction of a hand-crafted etching of an Irish landscape by John McNulty, the internationally renowned Irish artist.

(\*Gaeltacht na Mí)