

SPORTING
VIEW
Community
Games
time again

Community Games time is very much with us again, and for the past few weeks various qualifying events have been going on throughout the city and county. The importance of these "mini-Olympics" is now evident to all, even to commercial firms, and last week Limerick's "Usher" handed over a cheque for £600 to the local committee to defray the costs of the gold, silver and bronze medals.

Limerick & Usher are to be commended on their gesture, and it was interesting to note the content of their branch manager, Fergus Walsh. . . . It is worried that there might be too much competition at an early age and that youngsters could be burned out by the time they reach the age of 16".

A valid point, indeed, and we would also advocate that there be as little emphasis on the importance of winning as possible. After all, for every boy or girl who wins, countless go home without a medal. Are these not as important as the championships?

And we go along with Games chairman, Rev. Bro. Cyril, when he said. . . . "The aim of the Community Games is to foster a community spirit and love of sport among all. It endeavours to achieve its aim by involving young people in the sports of their choice through organised competition and involving itself in such community activities as are in accord with local needs".

The Limerick finals of the Community Games will be held in mid-July and the Munster finals here in August for two days. It promises to be a hectic time for all concerned.

Community Games

Rugby:
Good win
for Monlealeen

Monlealeen 16 Pts.
Newcastle 4 Pts.
In this second round tie, played at Castletroy, Monlealeen ran out deserving winners by four tries to one. Played at a fast pace, the contest proved most exciting with the visitors fully extending the locals. From the outset Monlealeen went into attack and some good forward play led to a fine try by determined Nick O'Dwyer. Newcastle fought back and only very keen tackling by Clohesy, Fincane and O'Dwyer kept Monlealeen in the lead. Nothing daunted Newcastle West and they swept back and scored a very good try by D. Cremin after some fine handling by Cusson, Reidy and Murphy. Good forward play by Fincane, Foley and O'Dwyer created an opening and flying winger, Ronan Kneafsey, scored an excellent try. In the closing minutes Peter Clohesy scored his second try to ensure victory for his team.

TEAMS:
Monlealeen: N. O'Dwyer, T. Foley, K. Fincane, P. Clohesy, J. Bermingham, M. McNamara, N. Kelly, R. Kneafsey, M. Murphy.
Newcastle West: S. Corbett, D. McMahon, D. Cusson, T. Geary, D. Cremin, A. Reidy, S. Ambrose, D. O'Connor, G. Murphy.

Hurling
skills in
Parteen

The hurling skills competitions for under-age and adult players in the Parteen G.A.A. Club's area is continuing successfully. Recent results were: Eric Quilligan, winner of the under 11 goalkeeping and puck fada; Michael Moloney, winner of under 14 goalkeeping; under 14 puck fada, Billy Deegan; adult goalkeeping was won by Johnny Prendeville; 70 yards shot (adults) was won by Gerard Sherlock.

Printed and published at Offices, 64 O'Connell Street, Limerick, by the proprietors, The Limerick Leader Ltd., and circulation in the City and Counties of Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Cork, Kerry and Galway Transmissible through post in Great Britain and Ireland at Newspaper rate of postage, and at Canada and New Zealand at Printers' rate of postage.

TENNIS IS WITH US
AGAIN!

NESTORS again have all your latest requirements in Racquets, Clothing, Shoes, Footwear, Tennis, and all Accessories. EVERYTHING FOR SPORTS!

NESTOR BROS.

28 & 33 O'CONNELL STREET, LIMERICK - Tel. 44096

MOORKENS :: MOORKENS :: MOORKENS :: MOORKENS
MOORKENS - Fox's Bow (off William St.) Limerick.

- * Full range of Squash Racquets.
- * Full range of Tennis Racquets.
- * All types of "Ammo" in stock.
- * Full range of Rode and Reels.

MOORKENS :: MOORKENS :: MOORKENS :: MOORKENS

Splendid entry for special regatta tomorrow

St. Michael's Diamond Jubilee

(BY "ASPIRANT")

THIS IS A SPECIAL year for members of St. Michael's Rowing Club. It marks the diamond jubilee of the club, which was founded in 1901, and various celebrations, the highlight of which will be a regatta tomorrow (Saturday) will be held to honour the occasion.

The "youngest" commercial club in Limerick, St. Michael's, came after Shannon, Limerick and Athlunkard. From humble beginnings in the lower Dock area it grew to become one of the most consistently successful of rowing centres, more particularly so in the last decade which could well be described as the club's most fruitful era. There has been a remarkable response from clubs all over the country for tomorrow's Regatta. Up to 100 crews will compete and there is an early start (10.30 a.m.) due to a small mid-day tide. The 19 events will have to be run off in a little over four hours, so starters will have to be fairly ruthless in getting races away on time.

The regatta committee led by such as Bill Carmody, Dermot Henihan, Pat Cunneen, Pat Tracey, Cyril and Pat Mullins, have worked extremely hard to ensure the success of the venture and during the week erected a mobile slipway near the club to help relieve possible congestion.

THE ROWING
As this is the first premier regatta of the 1976 season, there is, unfortunately, little to guide us as regards the form of crews. There is a fine entry for the premier event, the senior eights, and Trinity, following their win at Queen's and Universities Regattas last week-end, will be fancied. They also made their mark in the senior fours but strangely enough have not entered in this event to-morrow. Fourteen maiden eights are down to row, consequently there will be two heats, the first three going forward to the final (1.45 p.m.). Five local crews will compete - Athlunkard, Shannon, Limerick and St. Michael's A and B.

The most promising local crew, following the recent Head-of-the-River race, would appear to be St. Michael's junior schools eight, who will have such as Marist, Kingspark and the schools' rowing, to contend with.

Athlunkard will row their new five four, delivered last week-end and blessed by Monsignor Michael's with medals in the first time in the ladies event, and it would be nice to get off to a winning start.

WELCOME
Handsome plaques, with St. Michael's colours emblazoned on top, will be awarded to winning crews, with smaller versions as presentation prizes. A good day's rowing is looked forward to, and it should be a regatta worthy of the special occasion. There should be a great gathering of rowing men present, and in this connection the club extends its special welcome to all its members, past and present, to be with them on the day and help celebrate the 75th anniversary of old "blue and gold".

HISTORY
When Bill Carmody, President of St. Michael's, approached me some time back to write a history of the club in connection with their Diamond Jubilee, I replied in the affirmative but with some trepidation. My own records, going back some sixteen years, would be quite insufficient. But there was no need to worry. Paddy Mullins and Paddy Stapleton filled in the earlier years, so between us we record below the milestones of 75 years of the club's history. There will inevitably be some omissions and for this we apologise.

EARLY YEARS
It was in the vicinity of Corcanree, below the present Docks, that St. Michael's Rowing Club had its origins at the turn of the century. Near a playing pitch, used by the Temperance Society members for various sporting activities, stood the original Shannon Rowing Club premises. From here, St. Michael's members used set out on excursions down the Shannon in yavls and out of these aquatic activities the idea of a rowing club within the Society began to grow.

In 1901 the rowing club was founded and among those prominent in its formation was Aid. Michael Joyce. A great friend of Michael's was the Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer (a great supporter of the Temperance Society) and their reputation was well known. At one particular function a speaker, remarking on Aid. Joyce's complete involvement in St. Michael's, referred to him as a "pillar of the Society." His Lordship, replying, stated: "So he is, but I had to plaster cracks on that pillar on a few occasions!"

First captain elected was Vin Merritt and the clubhouse was the former Shannon R.C. premises. The founding committee

was: Aid. Michael Joyce, John Crowley, Joe O'Donoghue, T. O'Connor, Frank Gerry, Dan Hannon, Jack Stapleton, T. Toomey, Paddy Walsh and Dan Griffin. The first eight to leave this slip was: Henihan, Conlon, Hayes, Brinn, O'Dowd, O'Connell, McCormack, M. Hanrahan (cox). The eight did not win in that first season, but a four, rowing in the Murphy Cup at Limerick, raised the first flag for St. Michael's and they were well on their way. The four (Jim Griffin, Pat Hannon, Jack Hanrahan and Bob Quinn) also won at Dublin and Cork.

QUIN CUP
St. Michael's were now truly launched and a few years later (1906) came their first success in maiden eights when at Limerick they won the Quin Cup Rowing "No. 7" in that crew was Mick Hartney, who afterwards under that non-de-plume started the first weekly rowing column in this country in the "Leader", and who later captained the club in 1917/18.

The following years saw the Club making further progress on the water with wins in junior eights and fours and under-age fours. 1913 marked a milestone when for the first time a senior win was recorded - in the Limerick City Challenge Cup rowing "No. 7" in that crew was W. O'Brien, J. O'Neill, G. Howlett, P. O'Dwyer, P. Henihan (cox). Coach was E. O'Toole and captain was E. O'Toole and captain by name of Joe O'Halloran in 1914 the Ladies' Plate (second senior fours) was annexed at Limerick.

EARLY TWENTIES
The early twenties saw a new generation of oarsmen at St. Michael's with mentors such as Pat Henihan, John O'Dwyer, O'Connell, Ned Nealon and Tommy Hanrahan, guiding the fortunes of the club. In 1924 the first few boat was purchased and named "The Tower" and O'Brien had the honour of stroking the new craft to its first win.

A tragic incident occurred in this period when a four foundered in bad conditions off Barrington's Pier at the close of a day's scratch racing. Three of the crew reached the safety of the shore but two, McInerney and Brown, were drowned.

TALTEANN GAMES
The Taltann Games in 1928 saw St. Michael's gaining a signal honour when they won the Quin Cup in the under-age fours and gained diplomas for third place in junior eights. Responsible for these successes were men such as Joe Hanrahan, Joe Whelan, Joe McNamara, Tom Troy, Jack McCutcheon, Dick O'Halloran, Tom Keane, Paddy O'Donoghue, Jack Tobin and "Lam" Howard.

1930 was the year of the unbeaten junior eight and aboard the crew was that doyen of St. Michael's, Paddy Stapleton, still happily with us, and who gave invaluable information in the compilation of this history. The following year a senior eight was formed from the nucleus of that fine crew and in a Union Cup heat in Limerick were leading the famous Clive of the Tribes by three lengths when a couple of bad "crabs" cost them the race. The Galway crew went on to beat Shannon in the final.

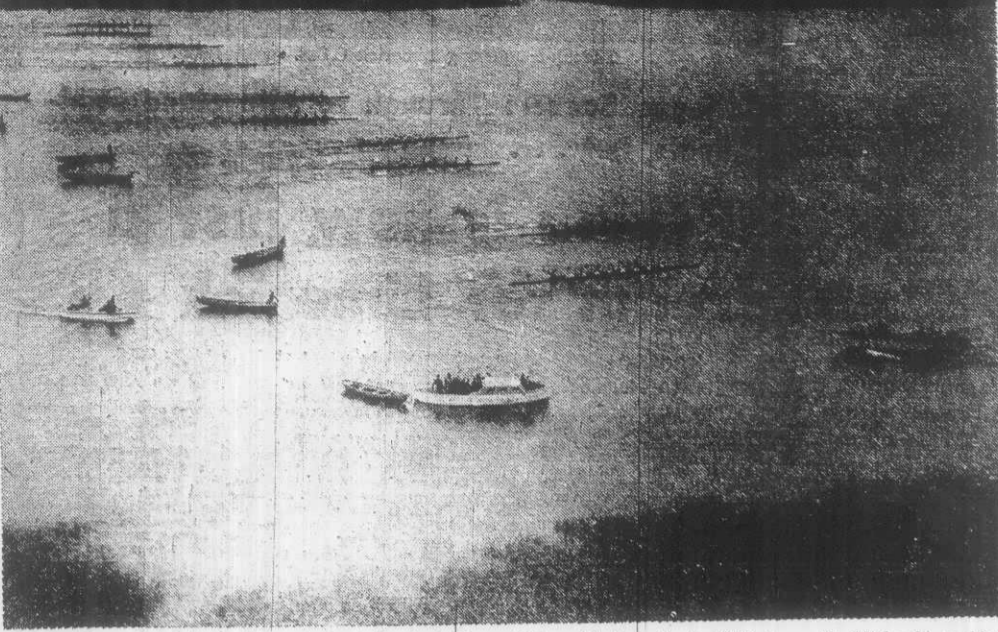
Due to the depression in the 'twenties, many of St. Michael's members had emigrated to America and had formed their own association there. They did not forget their old ties with the club and in many tangible ways showed this. In 1931 they commissioned the building of a fine eight ("Miss America") and one of their outstanding workers, Ted Forsyth, came over to cox its maiden voyage. There is a boat at present in the boathouse named after Ted. This group of exiles also presented the New York Cup in 1936, which up to recent times was competed for by local maiden fours at Limerick Regatta.

NEW PREMISES
In 1935 the clubhouse in the Docks was demolished to make way for the Docks Extension Scheme. The hospitality of Athlunkard was offered and accepted and for two happy years the crews trained out of A.B.C. They rowed for the Senior Union Cup in this period but were beaten by Trinity in the final after leading at one stage by four lengths. St. John's Boat Club (Curraghower) was also used as a base for some time.

Eventually the site for a new premises was acquired at O'Callaghan Strand and after several years hard work, which included the filling in of a large area and fund-raising campaigns (Jimmy O'Dea gave the proceeds of a midnight matinee at the Savoy) the new clubhouse was opened in 1941. Secretary at that time was Paddy Began, a position he filled with distinction for the remarkable period of 39 years!

REVIVAL
After a lean spell in the early forties, when the maiden and junior eights were second in no less than seventeen races, came a great revival in 1945. The maiden eight, stroked by Bill Carmody, went through the season unbeaten and would surely have won the Union Cup but for lack of transport. Their finest hour was at Cork when they left national champions, U.C.D., trailing. St. Michael's supporters, reinforced by other Limerick well-wishers, "took over" Cork that night and literally stopped the traffic in Patrick Street on their way to the traditional end-of-the-season wind up at the Arcadia. Some time the following day, after a journey lasting seven hours, the revellers arrived back home.

Captain in that momentous



This panoramic picture of the start of the Quin Cup at Limerick Regatta in 1950 shows St. Michael's maiden eight (second from near shore) taking the lead from Cork B.C. (near shore), A.B.C. A. Galway, Neptune, Shannon R.C., L.B.C., A.B.C. B. Lee, and going on to win. They also won at Cork, and the crew was: M. Shine, M. Fitzgerald, M. Gilligan, M. Galvin, J. O'Brien, S. Meehan, C. Hardiman, D. O'Connell (stroke) and C. Howard (cox).

year was Tommy Hanrahan. He was followed by Dick O'Halloran who had a unique record inasmuch as that for nine consecutive seasons - from 1946 to 1954 - he captained the club. He had mentors such as Dom O'Brien, Christy Kerins and Tony Foley. In 1950 another fine maiden eight appeared on the scene and recorded first-class wins at Cork and Limerick.

Christy Hardiman took over in 1955 and had a tremendous season, the club winning a record 9 races. The following year saw St. Michael's winning their first senior eights race, appropriately in the "Miss America" Hard to credit that it took so long to lay this senior eight "bogey" had left the slipway all down the years. Captain was Cyril

Mullins and the crew, winners at Galway and Limerick, was: T. Cooney, N. Kilbridge, C. Kilbridge, O'Shaughnessy, T. Bourke, T. Phayer, S. Moehan, P. Treney, M. Phelan (etc.), and that fine club wiper and cox, Paddy Egan.

FIRST WIN
These were good years at St. Michael's. Cyril Mullins was again captain in 1958 and at the end of the season had 14 trophies on display on his sideboard - thanks mainly to the efforts of a stylish under-age and junior four.

From then on up to the mid-sixties, was an era dominated by the Garda crews, particularly in the maiden and junior class, and St. Michael's along with most other commercial clubs, had a lean time of it. In 1966, the year Garda created a record by

winning all three eights championships, a useful junior four from the club had a good season. 1967 saw a revival generally in Limerick and St. Michael's contribution came from their maiden eight, stroked by Ollie Shinnors. They had some great year. Wins were recorded in every grade and the maiden and junior eights were runners-up in both championship finals.

GREATEST ERA
The club was now approaching, as will be seen, its greatest era. In 1968 the maiden eight, which was drawn from the local Garda force, won eleven races, most notable being a double at Metropolitan Regatta, the club's finest achievement in Dublin since the Taltann Games win. They also brought the Quin Cup back after a long absence.

1969 was the year the club

put it all together and as we described in it the "Leader" at the end of the season, "the year of St. Michael's." The crews took over from Garda and swept to an incredible 36 regatta wins - a local and provincial record and top Irish club of the year. Wins were recorded in every grade and the maiden and junior eights were runners-up in both championship finals.

The most abiding memory I have of that season was, from a local viewpoint, the unprecedented sight of the blue and gold coming in first in both maiden and junior eights and

CONCLUSION
So, to 1976, the year of the Diamond Jubilee, 75 years of a century of honest rowing endeavour. Like all clubs, there was the good and the bad. It was always a pleasure to see the club's history and to be invited to meet genuine and sincere rowing men. Congratulations then to St. Michael's for alone reaching another milestone in their history, and to all over the years in keeping a grand old sport of rowing.

BY CHARLIE MULQUEEN

GOLF: Ballyclough panel considerably strengthened
Jackie Harrington to play for Limerick in Irish Senior Cup

JACKIE Harrington, the Irish International from Adare, will represent Limerick Golf Club in this year's Irish Senior Cup. Harrington's presence will add considerably to Limerick's challenge for a job they have never won in their 85-year history.

Harrington, recent winner of the Castletroy Scratch Cup, is at Carlow this week-end for the annual Interprovincial Championship. Also there are Ivan Morris and Billy Rice, now Harrington's teammates at Ballyclough, and this gives a good indication of the strength of the side.

Furthermore, Jack Lynch has been in fine form recently, and with Pat Walsh and Vincent Nevin, available once again, Limerick will have a panel second to none at their disposal.

Harrington has also played for the annual Interprovincial club, Adare Manor, but their appearances have been few indeed and not for many years now, and briefly also for the Killiney club. His appearances for Limerick at Senior Cup and Barton Shield level are sure to give him the type of top-standard competition that he needs to remain among the top amateur golfers in these islands.

SHORTLY
The various Cup events will be commencing shortly. Next Saturday, May 15th, the Junior Cup gets under way at Ennis Castletroy play Lahinch and Charleville meet Killybegs, the winners to meet in the section decider later in the evening. At Castletroy, national champions, Limerick, meet Adare Manor, and Ennis play Shannon, and once again there is a group decider in the evening.

The overall area final will be played on the following Saturday, May 22nd. The Barton Shield is next to get under way. Limerick and Shannon go to Lahinch on Thursday, May 20th, and this may not be as clear cut as may at first appear, for Shannon, helped by the arrival of Leinster Interprovincial, Christy Moylan, have quite a useful squad.

The winners of this one play Castletroy, again at Lahinch, on May 27th, the same evening as Ennis and Lahinch clash at Shannon. The area final is listed for either Shannon or Limerick on Saturday, May 29th. And so to the big one - the Senior Cup - an event still to be won by a Limerick club. First into action are Castletroy and Lahinch at

Shannon on Thursday, May 27th. Depending on the result, Shannon will play either Ennis or Barton. The final will be played on Saturday, May 29th, and will be a very exciting one. The winners of the Senior Cup will be announced on Sunday, May 30th, at the Ennis Golf Club. The winners of the Barton Shield will be announced on Sunday, July 4th.

So, some splendid golf is in the offing in the coming weeks and it is hoped that more than the usual number of spectators will witness these matches. With such a large golfing public, we have expected to see a number of matches which will provide fine golf and a most enjoyable atmosphere.

Shannon Golf Club:
Day out at Ennis

Most of the Shannon team went to Ennis this week-end for the S.A.G.S. inter-team final. A total of 18 teams took part. The winner this year was S.A.G.S. Rianta, captained by Kevin Guinness with Brian O'Connell, John Shodey and Larry O'Connell. The runners-up were Limerick, captained by Vincent Nevin. The best individual shot was by Matt Duggan, and the best gross individual was by Matt Duggan.

RESULTS
Sunday, April 25:
18-hole Stroke: L. D. O'Connell, 75.
Tuesday, April 27:
12-hole fourball: J. J. O'Connell and I. McPhillips, 107.
O'Shea and P. O'Connell, 108.
Saturday, May 1:
Tankard, 18-hole Stroke: Ryan, 70. P. O'Connell, 71. gross, M. Fitzgerald.



Talteann Games winners in 1928 were St. Michael's under-age four (back row, l. to r.): T. Dwyer (capt.), J. Hanrahan, J. Whelan, T. Hanrahan (vice-capt.). Front row (l. to r.): T. Troy, C. Howard (cox), J. McNamara.