

# St. Michael's swing together

ST. MICHAEL'S Rowing Club made local history this season when becoming the first Limerick club to win three IARU championships in the one year, namely the intermediate and junior eights and junior fours.

This outstanding achievement was celebrated in fitting manner on Friday night last when at the Greenhills Hotel the victorious crews were feted by a capacity attendance that included the Mayor, Senator Jan O'Sullivan, Dermot Henihan, IARU president, and happily coach of the championship-winning intermediate eight; presidents of the all the local rowing clubs: Tony Wallace

Shannon; Noel Malone Limerick; John Meehan, Athlunkard, and Brian Corbett, Castleconnell, and their wives; members, parents and friends of the oarsmen.

In an atmosphere that understandably was one of high elation, the President of St. Michael's, Christy Moloney, paid fitting tribute to the winning crews, to the captain, John Fitzgerald, and the junior coaches, Justin Sherin and Pat McInerney, whom, he said, inspired their charges into believing in their ability to win the championships at Portora. "That they succeeded beyond measure is now history and the fours win, added to the eights, made it a fabulous double.

"We have some great workers in St. Michael's just mentioning a few, Willie Carmody, Pat Leahy, Pat Cronin and Paddy Cooney of the Development

Committee."

He thanked Jan O'Sullivan for the wonderful mayoral reception she had accorded to the club. "All sections of the sporting club are doing well: the snooker section has now attained national ranking and as the table tennis.

The Mayor, Senator Jan O'Sullivan, said she was delighted to have hosted the reception at the Civic Centre to honour the marvellous achievement of St. Michael's throughout the year. "Limerick has become known as the rugby capital of the the country, it should also be known as the rowing capital as well." Remarking that she had hosted a reception during the week for officials of the Board of Works, during which a crew emerged from the arches of Sarsfield Bridge while they were viewing the river, she said: "I don't know which club organised it, but the timing was perfect!"

Tony Tynne, regatta chairman, said: "This is the greatest year in the history of St. Michael's. To win one championships is a great achievement, to win two is unbelievable, but to bring off three is a miracle."

He paid tribute to all concerned and added: "We musn't forget the men that laid the foundations for these successes in days past, such as Willie Carmody, Paddy Treacy, Frank O'Mahony, all of whom I am glad to see present. There were many others such as the late Paddy Stapleton, John Drake, Joe Whelan.

Dermot Henihan, said he was immensely proud to be IARU president on such a momentous year for St. Michael's. "Not alone on Irish waters but in Vichy in France and Strathclyde in Scotland did we see St. Michael's oarsmen do us proud. Carlow Regatta was a stepping stone for the intermediates

when they beat UCD at senior level. Limerick Regatta saw the potential of the junior eight coming to the top." He mentioned such as Justin Sherin, Pat McInerney, Leonard Smalle and Tom Larkin for the contributions to the great victories. "The future of the club looks assured when you see such as the quadruple sculls, winners at the Fermoy Sprint Championships, coming on stream."

Pat Fitzgerald said it was a great privilege to be captain of St. Michael's in such a remarkable year. He congratulated the crews and coaches on their great achievements. "I have the unenviable task of naming the clubman of the year, there were so many people contributed. However, Pat McInerney, for his great work despite many other commitments, wins the award."

To a standing ovation "Pa Mac" as he is affectionately known, and coach with Justin Sherin of the juniors, accepted the award. "This is great honour which I received once before in 1981 when Niall Aherne was captain. Great teamwork was one of the recipes of this tremendous year. Let us use it as a stepping stone to the annexation of "The Big Pot" (senior eights championship) the crew of which I was a member was so cruelly robbed of by two feet in 1984. We hope for continued support of the weekly lotto draw which is bringing badly needed finance to the club."

Brian Richardson, a member of the winning junior eight and an outstanding PRO for the club, made a presentation, on behalf of the oarsmen, to Pat Fitzgerald, captain. Pat Leahy was awarded "Supporter of the Year" title.



At the St Michael's Boat Club annual dinner were, Willie Carmody, president, Shannon, Rowing Club, Christy Maloney, president, St Michael's, Mayor O'Sullivan, Noel Malone, president, Limerick Boat Club, Frank O'Mahony, vice-president, St Michael's, and Tony Tynne, chairman, Limerick regatta.



Marie Power, Ennis Road, Kathleen Reynolds, Shannon, Ellen Kirwin, Dublin Road, Carmel Dawson, Garryowen, Eleanor Fahy, Dublin Road, ad Ann Bowen, Dublin Road, at the dinner. ....



Enjoying the night were, Brenda Carmody, Marian Moloney, Brenda Duhan, Mayor O'Sullivan, Maura O'Mahony, Siobhan Malone and Peach Wallace.



Sam Lynch, Robert Le Gear, Jonathon Hayes, Pat Fitzgerald, captain, Joe Cantillon and John Goodman with Mayor O'Sullivan at the dinner. (LL)



David Smalle, Claudia Coppola and Jean and John Smalle at the dinner.