

S.R.C.'s first win at Limerick raised an amusing controversy

Shannon Rowing Club entering centenary year

MEMBERS of one of Limerick's oldest sporting institutions, the Shannon Rowing Club, will meet to-night for their annual dinner, and it may come as a surprise to many of them to learn that next year will mark the centenary of the founding of their club.



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LINCOLN SWEEP CLOSES FEB. 21.

If not a year of centenaries, 1966 will, in fact, be a year of notable anniversaries, and, in addition to that we have mentioned, it will mark the 50th year of the Easter Rising, the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Christian Brothers' Schools in Sexton Street, and the bi-centenary of the "Limerick Chronicle."

All these will, no doubt, be marked in their own appropriate way, and sportsmen of all codes, particularly oarsmen, will look forward to some references in to-night's after-dinner speeches to Shannon Rowing Club's plans for 1966. Perhaps the best way the club could honour the memory of its great oarsmen who won fame for Limerick over the past hundred years would be to open its doors again to the youth of the city and for the promotion of rowing. After all, it was for that ideal that the members first banded together in 1866.

Regattas were, of course, held for many years in Limerick prior to 1866, but it is in that year that we first find mention of Shannon's crews competing as a club. It was a two-day regatta, and it poured so hard on the opening day that the band of the 7th Regiment had to pack up their instruments after the second race. Shortly afterwards we are told: "A wretched-looking man in an inebriate state subsequently leaped off the top-most yard-arm of a vessel berthed at Howley's Quay for

ner. I would leave the public, with knowledge of these facts, to decide.

A "RINGER"

The Hon. Secretary of Shannon Rowing Club, Thomas Humphries, refuted "the unjust imputation cast upon the Committee of the Shannon Rowing Club by Mr. Murray in his endeavour to explain why the 'Blonde' was beaten." "Shannon," he said, "had two courses open to them, either not to contest the race at all or buy a boat, as the gig in which they were practising, the property of a Mr. McDonnell, had been kept from the crew on three occasions. They were urged by the regatta committee to buy a boat, and so the 'Brunette' arrived in Limerick a week before the regatta.

He continued: "In fact, in the list of disadvantages submitted by Mr. Murray under which the crew of the 'Blonde' are said to have laboured, the only one which appears to be at all reasonable is their having had but two or three hours practice in the gig on the day of the race, but this applies to only two of the crew. Mr. Murray forgot to inform the public that the other two were trained pullers and had helped to win races before."

Mr. Murray also omitted to state that the crew was not composed exclusively of their own assistants, but that one of them was a crack oarsman from Cork brought to Limerick for

Shannon Rowing Club's premises, the finest of their kind in Europe, were erected in the early years of the present century. The Club will celebrate its centenary in 1966, and sportsmen of all codes will look forward to a revival of rowing in the Club, which, down through the years, has produced many famous oarsmen.

the occasion, and was not a waresman at all.

It was also directed by the committee of the Shannon Rowing Club to challenge the crew of the 'Blonde' to row against the 'Brunette' (same crews and same course) for £25 a side.

The challenge, however, was not accepted, perhaps Archibald Murray's "ringer" had to go back to his place of employment in Cork.

Shannon Rowing Club was the only organised club in Limerick in 1866. In the following year a club called the Limerick Rowing Club was founded by the Murray and their crew, in a very successful regatta had revenge on Shannon. No regattas were held in 1868 or 1869. In 1870, Limerick Boat Club was founded and from that year onward the Limerick regatta became one of the most popular fixtures of its kind in Ireland. But perhaps no regatta—not even last season's—raised such a storm of controversy as the 1866 nature!

a small sum of money, this being part of the programme." The Secretary of the Regatta, however, indignantly denied having promoted this high dive, adding: "Such half-brained ideas instead of constituting a portion of an evening's amusement should be discouraged by every possible means."

The principal race of the fixture was for gigs and the prizes were a cup (valued £10) and five commemorative medals (valued £5 each). The members of the Shannon Rowing Club crew, rowing in the "Brunette" were: Casey, F. Purcell, J. Mackey, J. Hayes (stroke), H. J. Dillon (cox). They were opposed by the "Blonde" crew, consisting of: Durnea, J. O'Leary, J. Hodkinson (stroke), J. Murray (cox).

The account of the race reads: "This formed the crack race of the evening, and considerable excitement in the result was evinced. The crews of both boats consisted of picked amateurs and we have seldom seen anything so thoroughly 'meticulous' as the manner in which the victory was competed for. The course was over three miles in length, sufficient to test the hardest sinews and speed of the rowers. The 'Brunette' came in first to the Pier and was declared the winner. This beautiful gig is decidedly in every respect second to none upon the river." It was an "all-drappers" race; the crew of the "Brunette" was made up of assistants from the establishment of Cannock, and Company, and that of the "Blonde" from Messrs. Murray and Todd.

Newspaper controversy

The race, however, did not end at the Wellesley Pier; it was continued for some days in the columns of the "Munster News" and the "Limerick Chronicle."

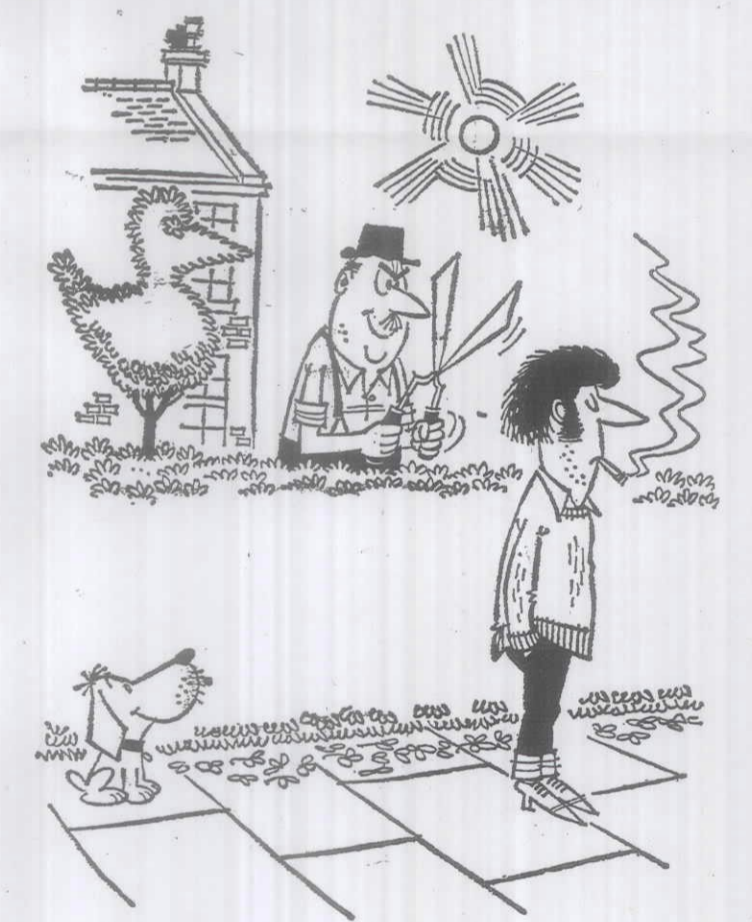
Archibald Murray, junr. wrote: "About the beginning of July, the crew of the 'Blonde' were told that they were to be opposed by Cannock, Tait and Company's crew in an open outrigger gig of the same class as their own. They were rather surprised at the offer, but learned subsequently that a first-class cutter, outrigger, and covered fore and aft, had been obtained by their competitors.

"We came to the conclusion that, though an undue advantage had been taken of us, we could not, by entering an objection, spoil the sport of the evening by having no race, but would, at any cost or inconvenience, try to obtain a boat of the same class, in which to compete with them.

"Consequently, I left for Cork on Monday morning of regatta week, where I was received in the most handsome and gentlemanlike manner by the members of the Lee Rowing Club, and the committee kindly gave me one of their racing gigs. This boat I brought home from Cork by the luggage train on Tuesday morning (regatta day), arriving in Limerick at 8 o'clock, then had her launched, and put the crews, some of whom had never entered a racing gig before, to practice in her, which in order to become at home in her, they had to continue for two or three hours.

"Thus, with a boat which, though of same class, was ten or twelve years old, and tired after the days' practice, the crew, spiritedly went to the starting point under considerable disadvantage, sooner than in any way interfere with the success of the regatta.

"Our opponents pulled their boat with great spirit and vigour, but, whether their obtaining a first-class gig to compete with us, after having previously arranged to do so in one of an inferior kind, or getting her at a time which excluded us of any possibility of obtaining one equal to her, or of having ours in sufficient time to get the necessary practice in a perfectly correct or meeting us in a perfectly fair and ingenious man-



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Television programme

- SATURDAY, NOV. 27**
- 1.55—The Hennessy Gold Cup from Newbury. (via Eurovision).
 - 2.15—Close Down.
 - 3.30—Mark Time.
 - 6.00—The Angelus.
 - 6.01—News.
 - 6.05—Sports Final.
 - 6.15—Cotton Times.
 - 6.30—The Old Curiosity Shop by Charles Dickens.
 - 7.00—The Showband Show.
 - 7.30—The Films of Ernest Lubitsch: Broken Lullaby.
 - 9.15—Shelbourne Leger from Shelbourne Park.
 - 9.45—News.
 - 10.00—The Late Late Show.
 - 11.30—Night.
 - 11.35—Late News.
 - 11.40—Close Down.

- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28**
- 1.00 p.m.—On the Land.
 - 3.00—Film.
 - 3.25—Ballad Session.
 - 3.50—Disneyland: The Hunting Instinct.
 - 4.40—Stamps with a Story.
 - 4.45—Saoirse agus Beathas.
 - 4.50—Cearnaig Na Cruinne.
 - 5.25—Amulgh Faoin Spair.
 - 5.50—Sports Results.
 - 5.55—News.
 - 6.00—The Angelus.
 - 6.01—Watch and Pray.
 - 6.15—Horizon: "O Wonder!"
 - 6.45—Club Ceilí.
 - 7.15—Back to School.
 - 7.45—Tolka Row by Maureen Lavery.
 - 8.15—Sunday Night at the Movies Dubs.
 - 10.00—News.
 - 10.15—Sports Final.
 - 10.30—Jazz "625."
 - 11.00—Nuacht.
 - 11.05—Late News.
 - 11.10—Close Down.

- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29**
- 11.15 a.m.—Teleís Scoile: Junior Physics.
 - 11.45—Close Down.
 - 5.30 p.m.—Huckleberry Hoop.
 - 5.55—Five To Six.
 - 6.00—The Angelus.
 - 6.01—Labbhair Gaelige Linn.
 - 6.15—Newsbeat.
 - 6.45—Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea.
 - 7.45—Open House.
 - 8.15—Discovery.
 - 8.45—Kitchen Present.
 - 9.45—News.
 - 10.05—Thou' Lad of Kilsalator.
 - 10.20—The Professors.
 - 10.30—Nuacht.
 - 10.35—Late News.
 - Closedown at 11.00 approx.

- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**
- 11.15—Teleís Scoile: Junior Mathematics presented by Frank Anderson.
 - 11.45—Close Down.
 - 2.15—Senior Physics presented by Frank Anderson.
 - 2.45—Close Down.
 - 5.30—Junior Concert Hall.
 - 6.00—Five To Six.
 - 6.00—The Angelus.
 - 6.01—Leargas.
 - 6.15—Newsbeat.

PSYCHIATRIC CLINICS

As from December, 1965, the following alterations in venue and day on which Psychiatric Clinics are held, will come into operation:—

CENTRE	PLACE	DAY OF MONTH
Foynes	St. Senan's Hospital	1st & 3rd Monday
Kilmallock	The Dispensary	2nd & 4th Monday
Hospital	Medical Hall	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Newcastle West	Health Centre (2 sessions)	2nd & 4th Tuesday
Limerick	Regions Hospital (Dooradoyle)	2nd & 4th Thursday
Limerick	Barrington's Hospital	1st & 3rd Monday
Limerick	St. John's Hospital	1st & 2nd Thursday
Doon	O'Dwyer's Main St.	2nd & 4th Wednesday

Clinics at Foynes, Kilmallock Hospital and Doon commence at 2.30 p.m.

Clinic at Newcastle West will be 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Limerick - Regional Hospital, Dooradoyle 2.30 p.m.

St. John's Hospital, 2.30 p.m.

Barrington's Hospital, 11 a.m.

Clinics NOT held on Church and Bank Holidays (d18c)

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HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF STANDARD CLASS FARES:

Route	1st Class	Standard Class
Limerick/Galway	20 5	12 6
Tipperary/Limerick	6 11	4 6
Tuam/Limerick	21 3	12 6
Nenagh/Ennis	14 4	8 6

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