



Shannon Rowing Club . . . original drawings handed over. (LL)

100 years on, club receives original plans

By ARTHUR J. QUINLAN

JUST 90 years after they were drawn up, the plans of Limerick's most prominent Edwardian style building have been discovered and presented to the occupiers by the firm of architects involved.

At a pleasant ceremony at Shannon Rowing Club on Sarsfield Bridge, in the beautiful room named after the young man who drew up the contract plans, they were presented by architect, Mr. Dermot Mulligan, head of the firm of Messrs Newenham Mulligan & Associates to Mr. Tony Wallace, president of the club. Present were the club trustees and members of the committee.

By coincidence the ceremony took place exactly 100 years after the Limerick Harbour Commissioners



At the presentation of the original drawings of the Shannon Boat Club building were, from left, Brian McHugh, honorary auditor, Jerry O'Dowd, trustee, Frank Thompson, trustee, Dermot Mulligan, Mulligan & Newenham, Tony Wallace, Shannon RC president, Arthur J Quinlan, trustee, Tom Mulligan, Mulligan & Newenham, Brendan Finan, Stephan Bradshaw, committee members, Shannon RC, and Noel Clancy, honorary secretary, and trustee.

granted a shilling a year (5p) to the officers of the club to build the premises on a small parcel of land in the middle of the River Shannon where it now stands. That signing took place on November 1893. The club was founded 27 years earlier in 1866 and at the time the clubhouse was a very much less palatial premises on the east end of the docks.

A worldwide competition for a rowing club design was launched with a prize of £1,000 for the winner, which was a remarkable amount of money in those days. It was won by a young English architectural student, William Clifford Smith who came to Limerick in 1904 to see his design take shape beside Sarsfield Bridge and remained on in the city.

He later joined the firm run by Mr. Eddie Newenham which afterwards became Clifford Smith and Newenham, Architects and Civil Engineers. Both men have now passed on, but 27 years ago a Sligo-born architect, Mr. Dermot Mulligan joined the firm while Mr.

Newenham was active.

Some years ago Mr. Mulligan found this wonderful collection of tone rendered water-colour contract drawings in a box in the basement of their old premises in O'Connell Street.

Being interested in the sport, having rowed with University College, Dublin, in his student days, he brought the SRC drawings with him when he transferred offices around the corner to a modern premises on Henry Street. Again they were consigned to the basement where they remained until Noel Clancy, a former club president, who is now hon. secretary of Shannon Rowing Club, enquired after them.

On being told that the club had just opened the first Rowing Museum in the country, Mr. Mulligan and his son Tom, who is manager of the Limerick practice offered this beautiful collection of some 18 architectural drawings. He had them window mounted and gold-leaf framed with brass dedication plaques on each one.

The president of the club, Mr. Wallace thanked Mr.

Mulligan and his son for their generosity, and said that they will form a permanent exhibition in the club premises and museum which is on the second floor.

Mr. Tom Mulligan said: "As the founding partner of NMA came to Limerick in response to his success in the architectural competition, it is not surprising that the practice has continued this involvement".

Newenham Mulligan & Associates now have offices in Limerick, Dublin and London. Some of their designs include the Shannon Turbine Technologies recently opened at the Shannon World Aviation Park by An Taoiseach, Mr. Reynolds and the multi-award winning project of Shannon Aerospace. Current overseas projects include a commercial and retail development in the centre of Moscow which has a number of Limerick staff involved.

So after almost 100 years, this firm which has its origins in Limerick, has lost none of the vitality and vision that characterised the founder.

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