

# T&OPINION

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WRITE THE EDITOR, LIMERICK LEADER, 54 O'CONNELL STREET, LIMERICK ▷ E-MAIL LETTERS@LIMERICKLEADER.IE ▷ FAX 061-401424

### Limerick hurling needs unity for a way forward

THERE is universal welcome in the GAA fraternity of our county for the Independent Appointments Committee to select the 2011 Limerick senior hurling manager.

The County Board and its sub-committee deserve praise for their imaginative choice and the chosen trio our thanks for accepting this difficult challenge.

They embark on their task against what Jerome O'Connell calls, in his informative piece on the recent history of Limerick senior hurling managers, a "decade of discontent".

It would be very helpful for the future of Limerick hurling if the 2011 hurling manager and his management team, and also everyone else involved, were to keep in mind some of the lessons to be learned from that sad decade, a decade that had begun with so much promise. May I respectfully suggest a few of them.

I greatly admire those Limerick hurlers who are proud to wear the Limerick jersey and obey the necessary rules and regulations. Such respect has to go both ways, of course.

I also greatly admire and respect the voluntary officers of the County Board who, like the voluntary officers and workers of the clubs who elect them, work sincerely to the best of their ability to promote our Gaelic games, often at great personal cost to themselves and their families.

Because players, managers and officers are only human, mistakes will inevitably be made. When they happen, let them be humbly, honestly acknowledged and apologised for. Let the apologies be accepted, the mistakes corrected, and the work in hand continued with a bond of unity that has been strengthened by the harmonious reconciliation.

Your esteemed paper records such an apology from the chairman of the County Board for whatever mistakes he made and will make.

Every one who knows the chairman, Liam Lenihan, knows that he is a thorough gentleman, who gives all of his spare time selflessly and freely to promote the interests of Limerick GAA. That humble, honest apology is just what one would expect from him.

What about the parties on the other side of the dispute, the rebels from the 2009 panel of senior hurlers?

They certainly made a mighty big mistake when they organised a combined refusal to negotiate with management, unless and until Justin was sacked. It was this showing of player-power arrogance that got the clubs' backs up against them. Rightly so!

No one believes such player-power arrogance appeared for the first and only time at the end of the 2009 season. After Richie Benis was not reappointed at the end of the 2008 season he publicly declared that had he been



The legendary Mick Mackey proudly carrying the Liam MacCarthy Cup, below, and mighty Eamonn Grimes, above, lifting the same trophy in 1973 after a 33-year drought. Reader Reg Hanrahan would dearly love to see another Limerick captain raise the McCarthy Cup above his head and offers some words of advice to help resolve the current problems

reappointed he would have dropped a number of players for disciplinary reasons.

There was no outcry for Justin's sacking until he and his management team did just that: took pruning action on the panel in the light of their first year's experience with them. The "strike" followed. This time, the Board's executive resisted the players' demands.

As Justin said to your own, insightful, courageous Martin Kiely in a Morning Ireland interview on Radio 1 during the week before the last Offaly match on July 10, he could have carried on, leaving things as they were at the end of his first year. However he said that he loves hurling too much to do the easy, comfortable thing. He wanted to do for Limerick hurling what he, his management team, and a majority of clubs knew needed to be done: establish a fresh, new, healthier culture of Limerick senior hurling.

He succeeded. He formed a harmonious unity amongst all the players, who "did not

give an ounce of trouble", were "one happy family", respectful to their management who in turn were respectful to the County Board.

The fruit of such harmonious unity from top to bottom in Limerick GAA, was continuous growth in improved performances, culminating in an excellent performance in their final match on July 10.

If some of the rebel 2009 panel of hurlers are invited by the 2011 management team to link up with the members of the 2010 panel, it is to be hoped that they will have learned from their mistakes and blend in peacefully and harmoniously with the players who served Limerick hurling so nobly and well in 2010, and respect the authority of the management team which the clubs of the county will have democratically put in charge of them. No more undue player-power, please; unity, hard work and respect instead.

REG HANRAHAN  
A LONG-TIME LIMERICK HURLING SUPPORTER



### Report on trafficking highlighted sex abuse

I WOULD like to applaud the Limerick Leader for Petula Martyn's story headlined "Seven Limerick brothels shut since start of year as gardai highlight trafficking concerns".

I also wish to congratulate her on bringing this to the attention of the Limerick people.

People, and that is primarily men, have to realise that they are the reason women are being subjugated, continually raped and assaulted.

Demand is at the core of trafficking. Markets meet demand. It is the one in Irish 15 men who think that it is okay to pay for sex that stokes this demand for women's bodies and flesh as a commodity.

Such men have to consider the consequences of their actions. Trafficked women and children who are being forced to meet

### Looking for relatives of George Henry Harris

MY grandmother was born in about 1883 and brought up in Limerick - at 28 Henry Street. Her name was Daisy Sarah Wylde. She was one of six children. Daisy and my grandfather, George Henry Harris, moved to live in Wales when they had been married about 10 years, when my father was just a baby, and they had both died before I was born.

If any Limerick Leader readers think you are part of my family - and I am part of yours - I would love to hear from you. My contact details are below.

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### Bruree boy Dev still

Just beyond sweet Bruree, there's a cottage that's dear to me

Down the shady road that leads to Athlaccra.

This cottage in Knockmore, recalls great days of yore

For 'twas the cottage home of DeValera.

With his pencil books and rule, to Bruree he went to school

And later on he went to Charleville.

Then he went away to college and left the little village,

And south Limerick that he loved so well.

Dev was in the Easter rising, and that was not surprising

For he longed to see old Limerick free.

Like Pearse at the GPO, at Boland's Mills Dev faced the foe

And struck a blow for liberty.

It is only true to state that the men of '16 were great

And should never ever be forgotten.

A decision could be reached in the future.

When you come to sweet Bruree, the DeValera cottage to see

Turn down the shady road towards Athlaccra.

It's in the townland of Knockmore, that cottage with history's store

On the great and famous DeValera.

Who went to school in Bruree, and who fought for Ireland free

So that the Irish government would be in command.

Then as the leader of Fianna Fáil, he was elected to the Dáil

And he became the President of Ireland.

DAVID O'RIORDAN  
BRUREE, CO LIMERICK

Croom couple who

moved to Australia