

# ■ Accused pleads guilty to maliciously wounding a Limerick man 17 years ago

By DAVID HURLEY

A MAN was jailed for four years yesterday for his role in a fatal assault in Southill which happened over 17 years ago.

At Limerick Circuit Court Gregory Conway, 40, with an address at Fr Murray Park, Dundalk, pleaded guilty to maliciously wounding Denis Quinlivan at Palm Court, Southill on September 3, 1991. Mr Quinlivan died in hospital in November of the same year.

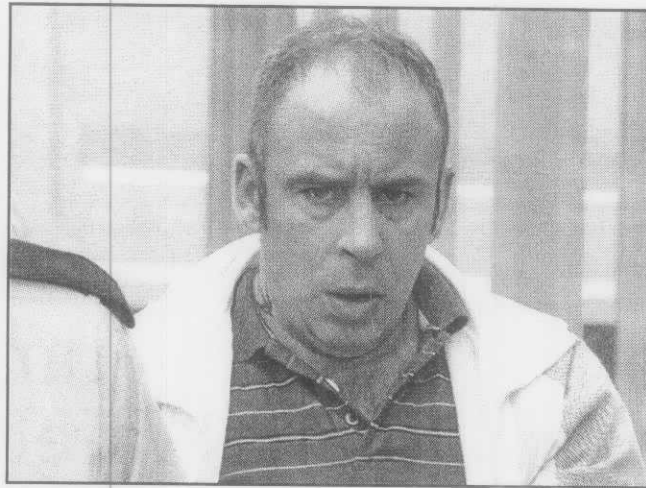
Judge Carroll Moran was told that Mr Conway, who was originally charged with the manslaughter of Mr Quinlivan, failed to appear in court in June 1992 and that he

spent more than 14 years "on the run". Detective Garda Michael Murphy, Roxboro, said he was re-arrested in June 2006 when detectives became aware he had returned to the jurisdiction.

The judge was told that Mr Conway and another man, Ger Doyle, had been drinking on the day in question and that they had kicked and punched Mr Quinlivan outside a house in the Palm Court estate, which has since been demolished.

In interviews with gardai at the time Mr Conway initially denied any involvement but later stated that he had kicked Mr Quinlivan on the ground and that he had hit him with a rock.

Mr Doyle was jailed for five



Gregory Conway at Limerick Circuit Court

years in 1992 for the manslaughter of Mr Quinlivan. John O'Sullivan BL, prosecuting, told the court the incident had taken place at a time when garda interviews were not videotaped and he conceded there would have been "certain difficulties" had the case against Mr Conway proceeded to trial.

Judge Moran was told that a number of the witnesses in the case were now deceased and that others had developed problems with their memories and he agreed with Giollaíosa O Lideadha SC, for Mr Conway, that a number of the physical exhibits had "gone missing" during the intervening years.

Mr O Lideadha said his client's guilty plea was a

"manifestation of genuine remorse and grief" and he urged Judge Moran to be as lenient as possible give the circumstances of the case.

Judge Moran commented that the case was "unique in a number of respects" but he said there were certain basic principals at play which had to be respected.

These included, he said, Mr Conway's guilty plea, the maximum sentence of five years and the fact that he had spent 14 years on the run. "If he had not absconded the difficulties would not have been there" he said. Imposing a four-year sentence the judge backdated the sentence to June 22, 2006, when Mr Conway was re-arrested after he returned to the country.

## Green light for €18m Greenpark greyhound stadium

By NICK RABBITS

UP to 100 jobs will be created at Limerick's new greyhound stadium at Greenpark when it opens in 2010.

And more than 200 workers will be employed in the stadium construction after the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) gave the go ahead yesterday for the €18m project.

Work on the stadium, first mooted in 2005, is expected to begin next March, following Limerick City Council's decision to grant planning permission, and will mean the IGB can move away from their current Limerick home in the Market's Field to the 16-acre site off the Dock Road.

IGB chief executive Adrian Neilan said the complex will be: "Right on the cutting edge of sports and leisure building and will reflect the confidence generated within our sport in recent years. It will be a long-term top class addition to the sporting tradition of which Limerick is justifiably proud."

A 500m track will be the centrepiece of the huge development – estimated to be the largest construction project in the south west next year – which also includes plans for kennel blocks, shop storage areas and office buildings including the IGB's head office – and more than 500 car parking spaces.

Fine Gael Cllr Maria Byrne described the plans for the

new stadium as "a great news story for Limerick city".

"It will give an awful lot of employment to the area. At the moment, Limerick's greyhound stadium [at the Market's Field] is not very inviting; it's a bit bleak. This new stadium will be a great asset to the people of Limerick, even those who have no interest in greyhound racing, they will go along for a night's entertainment."

And Cllr Byrne also believes that, because it is not the first time the IGB have worked on stadiums, this one will be the best ever.

"As you go through the process of building and renovating, you learn as you go,"



State of things to come: an artist's impression of how the new Limerick Greyhound Stadium will look.

she explained. As part of the permission, the developers must include a monument to mark the Pope's visit to the

area 30 years ago.

John J Casey and Company, who were in charge of the renovation of

Shelbourne Park and Harolds Cross stadiums in Dublin, have been appointed project manager for the construction of the new Limerick stadium.

Cllr Byrne said she was satisfied the project would finally get the go-ahead: "The company have been involved in negotiations for a long period of time now, and there is a lot of goodwill towards the project now."

This development represents the second time at moving away from their current Market's Field base. The IGB had initially sought to build a 3,000 capacity five-storey greyhound stadium and three-storey office block on lands near the Two Mile Inn, but the plans were declared invalid in May 2007.

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