

# Greyhound stadium is on track for 2010

By EUGENE PHELAN

LIMERICK's new Greyhound Stadium costing €18 million and promising 100 permanent jobs will open in September of next year.

Work is already well under way and the Greyhound Board have appointed John Sisk as the main contractor in a job worth €10 million, while interviews for the project manager have just been completed.

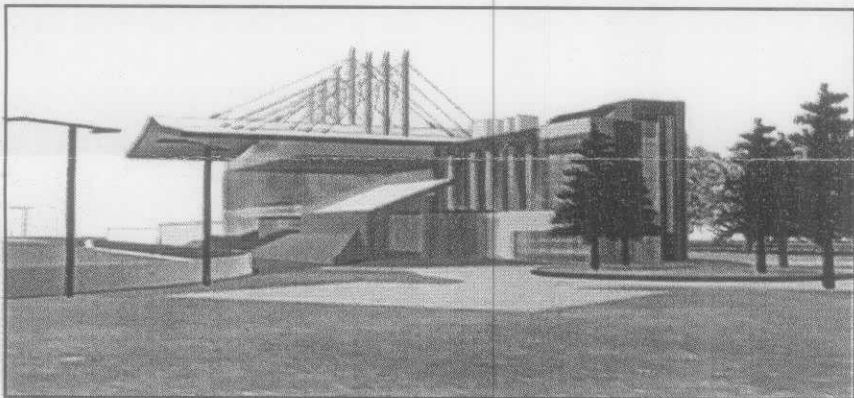
The state-of-the-art facility will be built at the former Limerick Racecourse at Greenpark and will feature a main stand with viewing and dining areas as well as a number of bars.

The new stadium will provide employment in the city for 250 jobs during the build and 100 permanent jobs upon completion.

It will host over 1,750 races a year and have a capacity attendance of 2,900, putting it among the top rank of greyhound racing stadia on an international scale. The stadium will boast an impressive 190 seat restaurant, private hospitality suites and gallery bars, all of which will be a significant attraction for people in the Mid-West region. The stadium has been designed to accommodate the latest developments in building and environmental efficiency.



Minister Willie O'Dea, with Tony McKenna, Dick O'Sullivan, Chairman IGB and Niall Healy, looking at the plans for the €18m Greyhound Track, shown below, on the Dock Road



"This project is a cornerstone of the continuing development of our sport," said Irish

Greyhound Board Chairman Dick O'Sullivan. "Our decision to proceed with the

development of the stadium is based on absolute confidence in the future of the sport and an

opportune lowering of construction costs as we have seen through this very competitive tender process."

"We are delighted to have been chosen to build such a prestige development," said Sisk Director Jim Tuohy. "Limerick is a great sporting city and we are pleased to be given the opportunity of adding another high quality city centre stadium to stand comparison with Thomond Park across the Shannon. Sisk celebrates the 150th Anniversary of its founding in Cork this year, and it is great to win what will likely be one of the biggest projects of the year in Munster."

Tony McKenna, Chairman of Limerick Greyhound Stadium & IGB Board Director welcomed the developments.

He said: "The commencement of this work demonstrates the commitment of the Irish Greyhound Board in bringing a state of the art facility to the greyhound owners and breeders of Limerick."

"It is long overdue and will be a benchmark for future developments in greyhound racing circles not only in Ireland but abroad."

"This is yet another example of the strong sporting tradition that Limerick has and the location will be ideal for visitors not only to the mid-west region, but from all over Ireland."

## Irish Dogs for the Disabled appeal for volunteers

By ALAN OWENS

AN ORGANISATION that provides guide dogs for individuals with disabilities is calling for volunteers to help with a charity collection in the coming weeks.

Irish Dogs for the Disabled are seeking volunteers to help with a collection on the weekend of June 25-27 in the Crescent Shopping Centre. They are also hoping the public will support this worthy cause.

"We are hoping people will support this fundraising drive in the Crescent Shopping Centre and we really need volunteers to help us collect that weekend," said Ciaran Kirwan, a fundraiser with the charity.

"The Government don't help us with food or vets bills and we rely completely on the public for their generous help. It costs €12,000 to fully train one of our dogs, which then goes to an adult or child with a physical disability. They do everything for them, they are fully domesticated dogs."

The dogs are known as 'assistance dogs' and make a dramatic difference in the quality of life for individuals with disabilities, according to Ger Dillon, chief executive of Irish Dogs for the Disabled.

"These dogs are trained to perform a range of tasks for a disabled person, including picking up dropped objects, retrieving items from fridges and cupboards, turning on lights, opening doors and even carrying a shopping basket," said Ger.

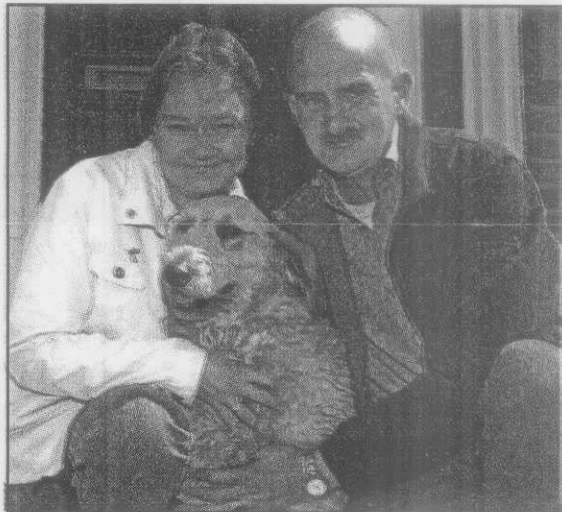
"We rely entirely on fundraising and donations to carry out our work and we would be grateful if people supported this event," he added.

Ciaran, who relies on his own guide dog 'Beth' to help him out in daily life, explained that he has been involved with the charity for nine years and would love more people to help out.

"The FCA are going to help us with the collection, as are some of the lads from the Army," explained Ciaran.

"But the more we have the merrier - we need volunteers, and we need the support of the public."

The collection in aid of Irish Dogs for the Disabled will take place over three days in Crescent Shopping Centre, from June 25-27.



Ciaran and Mary Kirwan, Barrick Hill, Woulfe Tone Street with their dog Beth (LL)

**CLLR. JIM LONG**

I sincerely thank those who voted for me on my re-election to Limerick City Council.

I will be honoured to serve you for the next 5 years.

FINE GAEL

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## Teen's suspended sentence is activated

DAVID HURLEY

A JUDGE has activated a suspended sentence, which was imposed on a sixteen-year-old boy two years ago, after he failed to engage with the probation and welfare services.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was sentenced to three years detention with the final year suspended in July 2007 after he pleaded guilty to charges relating to a shooting incident in Moyross.

The teenager, who was aged 14 at the time, was one of four defendants who appeared before the court charged with

assault causing harm and possession of a pistol-type weapon with intent to endanger life at Craeval Park Moyross on March 5, 2006.

The other three accused were each jailed for three years but the Court of Criminal Appeal subsequently lengthened those sentences. An 18-year-old man was shot in the leg during the incident, which was described in court as a "feud-related attack."

Sentencing the teenager two years ago, Judge Carroll Moran directed that he engage with the probation services following the completion of his sentence.

However during a

hearing last week he was told the defendant had not done so and the court was told that a probation report in relation to the teenager was "almost entirely negative"

Activating the suspended portion of the sentence the judge said: "Clearly he has not co-operated [with the probation services] in the interim and I have no choice but to activate the last year of the sentence, my hands are tied." The judge also directed that the identity of the teenager should not be reported in the media saying there was "no reason" for him to waive his right to anonymity.

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**Councillor GER FAHY**

087 7912022

I would like to thank the people of Limerick City South for re-electing me to Limerick City Council. I am committed to working full time on your behalf for the next 5 years.