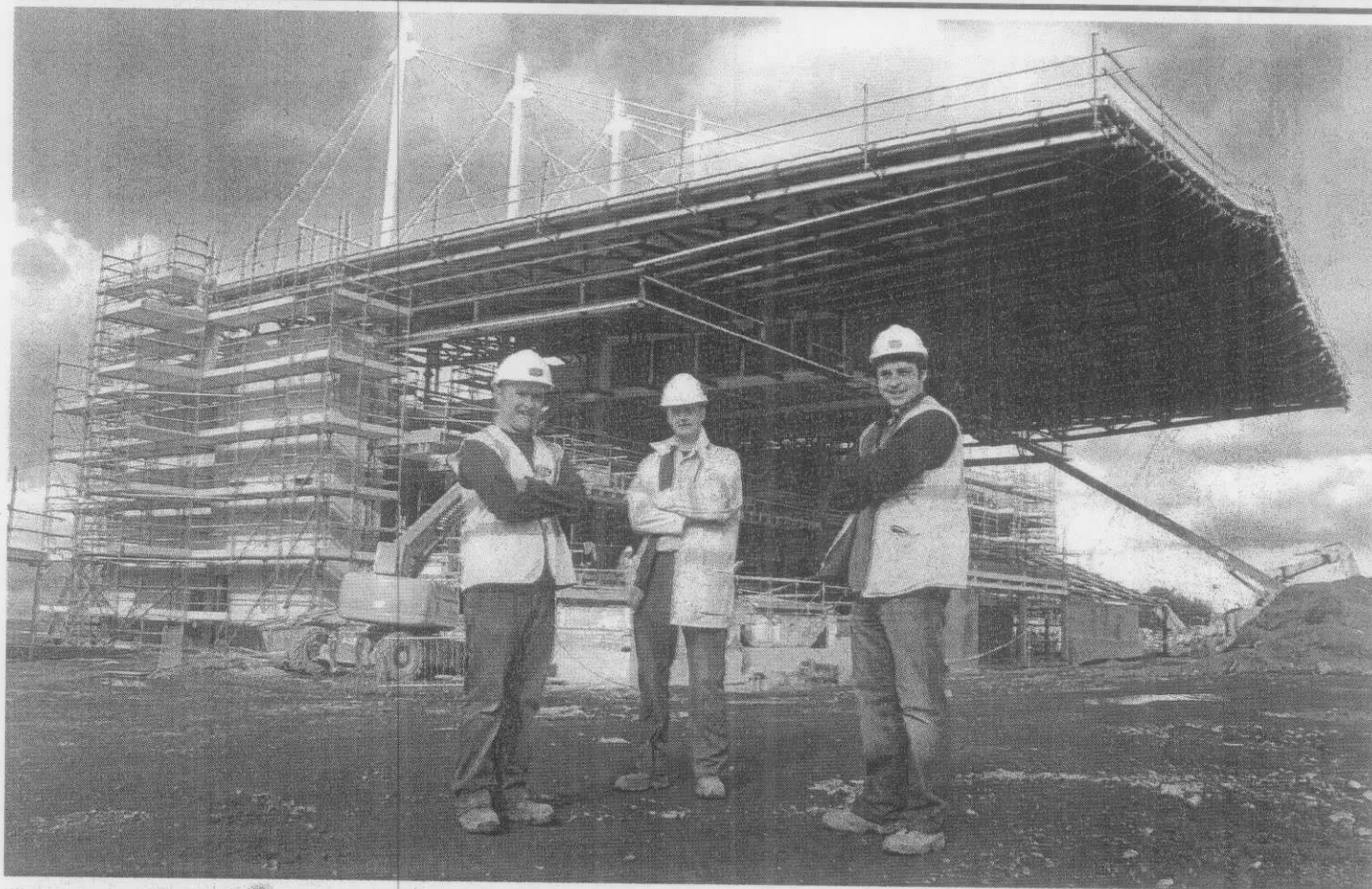


LIMERICK GREYHOUND STADIUM



Site engineers Trevor Hayes, Willie Staunton, Finton Connors pictured at Limerick Greyhound Stadium last week

Joan Crowley

Date finalised for opening of new Greyhound Stadium

Jerome O'Connell

LIMERICK'S new €18 million state-of-the-art Greyhound Stadium will be stage its first race meeting on Thursday October 7.

The building works for the new facility on the Dock Road have now entered the final six months and the completed stadium is to be handed over the Irish Greyhound Board on September 29.

At present IGB officials are tendering for a catering practise, while the appointment of a General Manager is also on the horizon.

"We will be open for booking in a few weeks on our website," said Orla Strumble, Head of Marketing at the Irish Greyhound Board, as she accompanied me on a tour of the stadium works in the past week.

"We have already had many

enquires about benefit nights and Christmas parties and hopefully we will have everything set up online in a couple of weeks once we have a catering practise in place," said Strumble.

The new stadium, on Limerick's Dock Road is located on the old racecourse site at Greenpark, promises to create 100 permanent jobs and will host over 1,750 races a year and have a capacity of 2,900. The state-of-the-art facility will feature a main stand with viewing and dining areas as well as four bars. The stadium will boast a 190 seat restaurant, private hospitality suites and gallery bars.

While work continues on the new stadium, plans are in place to mark the departure from the Markets Field.

Irish Greyhound Board officials are involved in a Sporting Her-

itage project which is currently being undertaken by Boston College, based in St Stephen's Green, Dublin.

Officials are appealing to greyhound followers and the wider sporting public to help them produce a thorough submission on the 70 plus years of Market's Field.

"The project is funded by the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism and our submission is focused on the Market's Field which is especially apt since we are moving location at the end of the year to the new Greyhound Stadium currently under construction at the Dock Road. Greyhound Racing has been carried out at The Markets Field since 1933 and we want to ensure that we leave with a full record of all our years at the same venue," explained Orla Strumble.

"We will be taking photographs of the existing property and personalities at the venue and compiling them for use for the website and for the project itself.

"I would be most obliged if anyone with old photographs of the stadium, events or presentations, etc. would permit us to copy them as part of the project and include them in the history compilation," said Strumble.

"People can contact me at orla.strumble@igb.ie or 061 448025. This may also include soccer, rugby, cycling or any other events that were held in the Market's Field that may be of historical interest," explained the Head of Marketing.

Meanwhile discussions continue between the IGB and Limerick FC regarding the sale of the Markets Field.