

Greyhound stadium out of the traps in October

By Colum Coomey

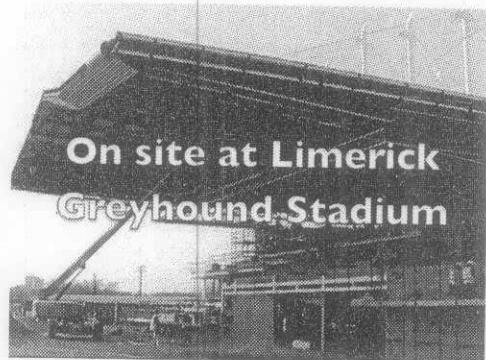
The opening of the new stadium is set to create 100 new jobs

THE Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) are already inundated with bookings for their new €15 million stadium on the site of the former Greenpark Racecourse on the Dock Road, which is set to open on October 7.

Their Head of Marketing Orla Strumble says the opening of the new stadium is set to create 100 new jobs.

"We are constantly taking calls in our sales office from people asking when they can book. We won't be officially taking bookings until the end of June but we already have people on a waiting list for Christmas and a number of benefit nights already booked in".

She said that this will be a significant improvement on



the existing Market's Field and there will also be a full view of the track from every position in the stadium.

"We will have facilities for about 2,000 people, including four bars, the main restaurant which will be a 190 seater and a fast food restaurant on the ground

floor".

Another major advancement from the IGB's perspective will be accessibility, given the stadium's new location on the Dock Road.

Orla explained: "We are excellently positioned with the new road network that will be opening up here - we will pull in customers from Clare, Kerry, Cork, Tipperary and Galway".

She also believes owners will benefit from the development of new state of the art kennels on the site, "It's very exciting for the whole region, especially for trainers and owners who have been waiting a very long time for this venture".

Marketing executive Dawn Quinn will be in charge of bookings for fundraising events at the new track.

"We will be carrying on the tradition from the Markets Field of hosting benefit nights for schools, clubs and charities - we already have 15 or 16 organisations seeking the use of the stadium for benefit nights and

we've put together a package for any charity interested in holding an evening at the track, which will combine the races with a great night's entertainment".

The stadium will also be the new home headquarters of the Irish Greyhound Board which will be moving from its current Henry Street offices.

Danny Leen who is the project manager of the site said that the development, which has employed 250 construction workers, has been a great success.

"Apart from some inclement weather late in 2009 everything has gone to plan and we are on schedule".

The new stadium is only the second in the country that has been developed on a green field site.

It will have over 500 car spaces and room for 54 trainers' vehicles.

For footage from the greyhound stadium log on to the Limerick Post Youtube channel at www.limerickpost.ie

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