

## GREYHOUNDS LIMERICK GREYHOUND STADIUM

# Greyhound Stadium is ready to open its doors

Jerome O'Connell

LIMERICK'S new €18 million state-of-the-art Greyhound Stadium will open its doors this Friday night.

Years of waiting and disappointment will come to an end when the traps come up for the opening race which is timed for 7.45pm. There will be a 12-race card on Friday and racegoers will also be able to enjoy a giant screen which will show the Republic of Ireland European Championship qualifier against Russia.

The new stadium, on Limerick's Dock Road, is located on the old racecourse site at Greenpark will create 100 permanent jobs and will host over 1,750 races a year and have a capacity of 2,900.

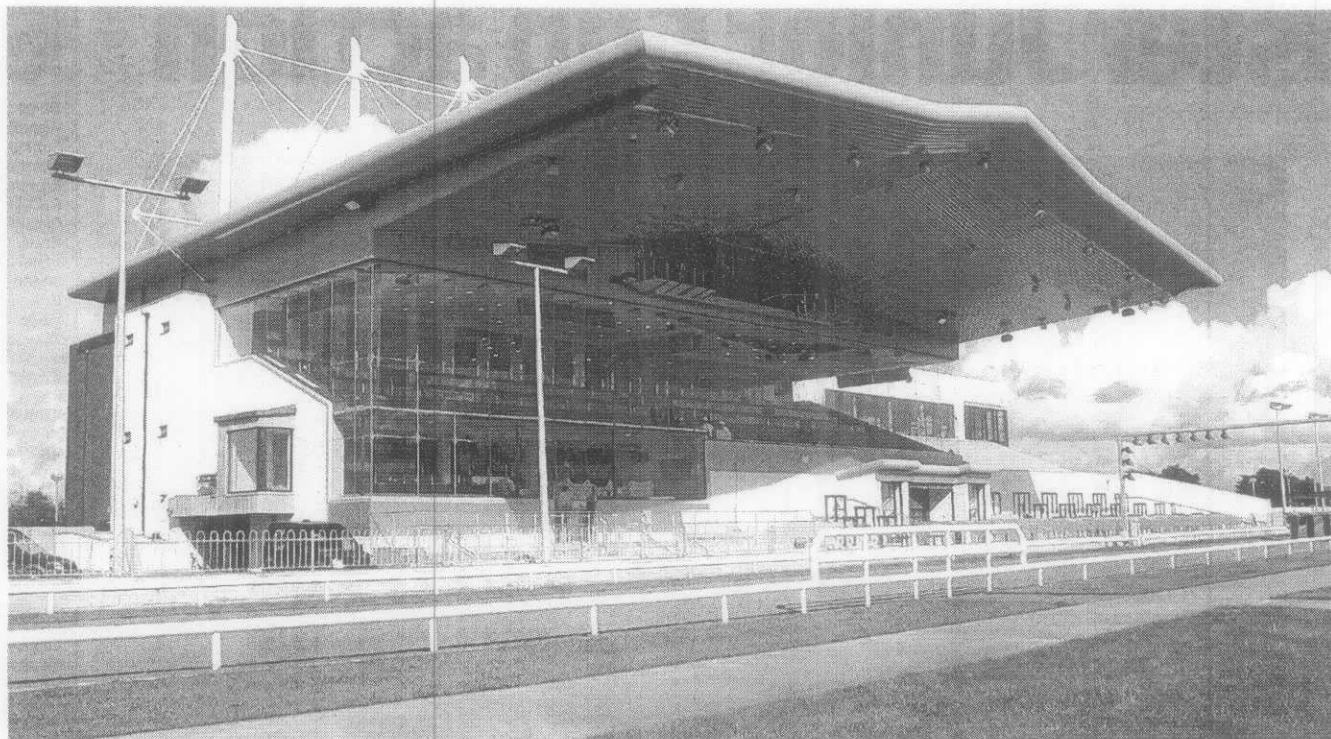
The state-of-the-art facility will feature a main stand with viewing and dining areas as well as four bars.

The stadium will boast a 190 seat restaurant, private hospitality suites and gallery bars.

The restaurant, and both corporate suites, with a total of 80 covers, are fully booked for this Friday's first night of racing.

The general admission charge to the stadium is €10, with a 50 per cent reduction for OAP's and students. Turnstiles will open at 6.30pm.

There are to be two race



The €18 million state of the art Limerick Greyhound Stadium will open for business on Friday night

MIKE COWHEY

meetings each week at Limerick from this Friday.

Aside from the normal Friday and Saturday night, there will also be three extra Thursday meetings in the run-in to Christmas - December 2, December 9, December 16.

It is planned to run a bus service from the Market's Field

to the new stadium on race nights while there is secured car parking facilities for 450 vehicles at Greenpark, free of charge.

"October 8 is really a trial run to allow staff and patrons become accustomed to our new surroundings - the official opening is scheduled for Octo-

ber 22, when we will have a special entertainment programme on offer," said Sales, Commercial & Operations Manager to the Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Declan O'Halloran.

"The place is looking great with all the major ground works completed and now it is

just a case of applying the finished touches, such as the trimming of the carpets and touching up bits of paint."

Irish Greyhound Board Chief Executive Adrian Neill said: "The stadium will have a capacity attendance of 2,900, putting it among the top rank of greyhound racing stadia on

an international scale. It will boast an impressive restaurant, private hospitality suites and gallery bars, all of which will be a significant attraction for people in the Mid-West region."

Speaking about the new facilities, Orla Strumble, Head of Marketing with the Irish Greyhound Board, stated: "The state of the art viewing facilities as well as new catering and corporate entertainment facilities will be vast improvements for the thousands of fans of the sport who will be flocking to the new stadium come October and we have already been inundated with bookings and enquiries for fundraisers and corporate events in the new facility."

"The restaurant is fully booked out for Friday night and we have had to offer people Saturday night instead.

"Everything is in place for a successful weekend and we're thrilled that all the hard work is finally beginning to pay off.

"We're really looking forward to a great first weekend and it will be a practice run for official opening on Friday October 22."

For more information, check the Irish Greyhound Board website [www.igb.ie](http://www.igb.ie) or call 1890 269 969 for restaurant and group bookings.

## Regional Coursing Club

The Regional Coursing meeting will be held in Clarina by kind permission of Mr Donie

v Regansrock Hawk, Givemeareason v Dove Mountain, Freemount Grove v East Henry,

Confident Myrtle, Delightful Marks, Mohall Moll, Cool River.

May and most recently in Blarney at the Munster Half Marathon we were all hoping

while the mens team will hope to continue to improve spearheaded by the 2010 Novice