

GREYHOUNDS

LIMERICK GREYHOUND STADIUM

Mohane Eile makes history at Limerick track

Jerome O'Connell

THE honour of being the first ever winner in the new €18 million Limerick Greyhound Stadium went to Mohane Eile.

Owned by Patrick Davern, the 9/4 winner of the Welcome To Our New Limerick Stadium A2 525 clocked what was the first track record 28.96 to win by half a length after leading from the traps.

Second home was Tandem Bar for Meelick's Dan Flynn and the Bad Ass syndicate and trainer Denis O'Malley with Peter Peppers in third for Lindsay Cregan of Croom.

"It's brilliant and I just hope that this is the first of many," said a delighted Patrick Davern after the race as the celebrations started for connections from the Knockainey-Bruff area.

"I'm no stranger to the dogs and I had plenty winners in the Markets Fields and I hope its continues here," said Davern.

"There was plenty excitement coming to the line because they were starting to gang up on him but he stuck it out to the end - in the present environment its always nice to have a winner."

Looking around at the impressive new surrounds, Davern gave the new stadium a definite thumbs up.

"I think this is absolutely fantastic - it is state-of-the-art. We should all be so proud to have something like this in Limerick."

"Its brilliant - we spent so many wet and windy nights in the Markets Field with the wind blowing into the open stand we could never even imagine that we would get to the stage where we would have a facility like this. Its the lap of luxury really," said Davern before he heading off to celebrate his historic win.

The new stadium, on Limerick's Dock Road, is located on the old race-



Friday night's card at the Greyhound Stadium attracted a bumper crowd

Adrian Butler

course 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 features a main stand with viewing and dining

areas as well as four bars.

The stadium boasts a 190-seat restaurant, private hospitality suites and gallery bars.

The general admission charge to the stadium is €10 with a 50 per cent

reduction for OAP's and students and there are to be two race meetings each week.

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.

Such was the crowd on opening night that there were queues onto the Dock Road from early evening and the car park was full from well before racing forcing patrons to find parking across the road in the industrial estate.

Aside from that issue, all was mostly positive from the racegoers. One gripe on the tongues of most was the poor visibility in front of the main stand, but this will only be an issue of night's of capacity crowds.

Addressing the large crowd Dick O'Sullivan, chairman of the Irish Greyhound Board said that "the long awaited day has finally arrived."

"Many of you doubted that it would ever happen but I am sure you will agree it was worth waiting for - you know have a stadium in Limerick that is world class and you deserve it," said O'Sullivan.

"I have no doubt that this facility will play a huge role in the future social life of the Mid West and in the sports mad city of Limerick."

The IGB chairman paid tribute to main contractors John Sisk & Company, who delivered the track "on time and under budget".

"One of the most satisfying aspects of our industry is the millions that are collected annually for fund-raising charities and needy causes and I know this will happen in Limerick. We will never dig ourselves out of economic woes unless we pull together and support one another and put a smile back on our faces. A night at the dogs is the recipe for a bit of fun, a laugh with good people and where better than in this beautiful track," said the IGB chairman.

Twelve race card attracted a capacity crowd on Friday night

Jerome O'Connell

OCTOBER 8 will always be a night to remember as the traps went up for the first time in the new Limerick Stadium.

In total there were 12 races on the card, which attracted a capacity crowd to the Greenpark venue off the Dock Road.

The Irish International Rules squad were based in Limerick for a training weekend and were guests of honour.

The sixth race was the International Rules Team 2010 Open 750 and Cook Model won for the Tournafulla based Cool Running syndicate. Trained by Chris Houlihan the winners' time was 41.93 with three and a half lengths back to Mustand Johnny for Patsy Byrne and Patrick Collins.

Oola's Martin Harding won the A4 525 with Lift Me Up in 29.64 with Bringthemhome just beaten into second for Terry Corden of Tipp Town.

Kilmallock's Patrick Sheehy won the A6 525 with Bredas Pearl. The winning time was 29.34, with Rathdomin Flash just beaten on the line for Aidan Bennett.

Michael Purtill of Croom won the A1 525 with Tarbrook Honcho. In 29.29 the winner had three lengths to spare on Good Operator for Maurice Sheehan of Templeglantine.

Bruff's Michael McAuliffe won the A5 525 by seven and a half lengths in 29.10. Capamore pair Patrick Maher and Nigel Ray were second with Noelys Star.

Another local winner was Tom Fitzgerald with Ocean Crash claiming the A1/A2 525 by seven lengths in 28.69. Beaten into second place was Power Spin for Catherine O'Sullivan and trainer Owen McKenna.

The Open 525 went to Joey JoJo Junior for William Quirke and the Deeogee syndicate of

Templeglantine. Trained by Patrick Guilfoyle, the winner had an impressive time of 28.35, which was the new track record at the end of the opening night.

Also on the card were two sets of semi-finals.

In the semi-finals of the Pa Wilmott Bookmaker A1 575 both heat winners clocked 31.74. Abbeyfeale's Moran and Helena McMahon won the first semi-final with Cowboys Creek. Second was Admiral Coal for Darren McCoy of Newcastle West, with Money Go Easy third for Patrick Noonan and trainer Bernard Coffey.

The second semi-final went the way of Headleys Frisky for Nick Cotter of Knocknagoshel. Second was Rathorpe Texas for Martin Kelly of Tubber with Walk The Plank in third for Rathkeale's Joe Williams.

Fastest in the semi-finals of the David Pearl A0 550 was Monlesa Alsatian for Jams

Hayden of Carlow in 29.79. Second was Skywalker Gold for Raymond Patterson and third was Ballyhannon for Seamus Duggan of Ennis.

The second semi-final went to Bua Dearg for Rathkeale's Paul Dillon. Second was Bling Buzz for Aine Quigney and third was a second finalist for Raymond Patterson with Skywalker Queen.

The excitement of the night was boosted by the success of Croagh trainer Pa Fitzgerald in Harolds Cross. Although present in Limerick, his Melodys Royal won the

Harolds Cross Bookmakers Puppy Derby Final for Patsy Byrne and Pat Collins of Duagh, Co Kerry.

Saturday, October 9

Lisa Shine won the opening A4 525 with Cosy Crackers in 29.46. Three lengths back in second was Christy Enright with Blue-moon Rock.

The A6/A7 525 went to Mark Cronin with Woodside Fantasy winning in 29.77.

Five lengths back in second was Balliniska Katie for Thomas Quaid.

Doon's Patrick and Aoife Coffey won the S4/S5 350 with Micks Ketchup in 19.01. Second was Rodger That for James O'Dea.

The A2 550 went to Sands Of Time for Frank Casey 2 with Eastwing Flyer second for Patrick Halpin.

Mary O'Rourke won the A5 525 with Jolly Bandit in 29.44. Two lengths back in second was Michael Buckley with Peony Flash.

Anne Whelan won the A3 550 with Castleview Milly in 30.47. Just beaten into second was Kilmallock's John Porteous with Leos Excalibur.

Thomas Ryan and trainer Eddie Ryan won the A0 525 with Scarlet Danny in 29.07, while the A0 550 went to

Niamh Shine of Athea with Knockbawn Gorm in 30.51.

Elsewhere on the card were the semi-finals of the Michael and Maire Field A2 525.

Fastest was Blackies Champ in 28.99 for Edward Ryan. Second was Sporting Dame for Jerry Griffin, while third was Tenacious Dee for Cyril and Joseph Mulcahy.

The other semi-final went to Shaws Bellamy in 28.96 for Jim Armshaw. Second was So They Say for Mickey Enright, while third was Freedom Oregon.

In the semi-finals of the Michael and Theresa Enright A3 525 fastest home was Fast-away King for Liam Costelloe and Dan Flynn in 28.80. Second was Rallying Call with Chestnut Lar in third.

Fort Dream won the second semi-final for Breda Mann in 29.38. Second was Watch The Rail for Birdget O'Grady, while third was Egg Run for Dominic Lipper and Patrick O'Donohue.