

# News

## And they're off! Limerick track now officially open for business

Petula Martyn

THE naming of the Markets Field Bar at the new state-of-the-art Limerick Greyhound Stadium is a nod to the former, less salubrious, facility where the people of Limerick once indulged their passion for greyhound racing.

It was busy on Friday night as punters celebrated the official opening of the latest addition to Limerick's sports landscape by the Minister for Agriculture, Brendan Smith.

The new stadium stands as a monument to economic optimism. Dick O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Irish Greyhound Stadium said that the completion of the facility in the middle of the current economic hardship should prove an inspiration.

"This stadium, we feel, will be a beacon of light and hope for Limerick and the Mid-West and never was this needed more in this country.

"This stadium this week is almost sold out for the next three months - from this week, through our call centre in Thurles, we got 6,000 bookings and 1,000 of those bookings were for Limerick."

Mr O'Sullivan said that people despite, all the economic gloom, like to relax and be among friends and like to come dog racing.

More than 70,000 people are expected to pass the stiles at Greenpark next year when it will host over 1,750 races.

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-



Minister Brendan Smith cuts the tape to declare Limerick's new greyhound stadium open with from left, Danny Reilly, IGB, Minister Peter Power, Mayor Maria Byrne, Adrian Neilan IGB chief executive, Dick O'Sullivan IGB chairman, Declan O'Halloran, stadium general manager and greyhound board member Teresa Wall

PICTURE: MICHAEL COWHEY



Eoin, Mike and Oisin Enright, Kilmallock, at the opening of the new track on Friday

PICTURES: ADRIAN BUTLER



Michelle Parkinson, Kilfinane, and Grace Roche and Kara O'Sullivan, Old Cork Road, were at the track opening



Pat and Mena Fitzgerald, Caherconlish, attended the official opening of Limerick Greyhound stadium

### News in brief

#### Robert takes pool pot

ROBERT Mulcahy from Caherconlish won the Limerick Pool Association's inaugural competition, beating Paul O'Sullivan from Raheen by nine frames to six.

The first in a series of seven events scheduled for this season, the competition enjoyed an excellent turnout over the two days and a high standard of pool was on show.

Tournament director Neil Madigan was especially pleased with the turnout as players from all around Limerick city and county and Co. Clare travelled in to the tournament at The Victoria Club, Hartstonge St, Limerick.

"All participants commented to me on the quality of the tables in the club. It enabled the players to produce a very high standard of pool with many matches going the distance.

"I would also like to give special thanks to The Glen Tavern, Tom & Jerrys and The Still House for their gracious support. Congratulations to Robert Mulcahy on a fine win. Let's hope we can match the fine standard in the upcoming events."

#### Toilet talk in chambers

THE SUBJECT of toilets was back on the agenda at a council meeting in City Hall this week, where it was agreed to move a portable toilet from Arthur's Quay Park to Shelbourne Park.

Fine Gael councillor Kevin Kiely had originally suggested moving a toilet from Bedford Row to Shelbourne Park, where he suggested it might be better utilised.

Cllr Kiely said a lot of finance had been invested in Shelbourne Park between Hassett's Cross and Union Cross, yet it lacked this basic facility.

The park, primarily used for soccer matches, was reopened last year after two pitches were re-levelled and the construction of a 20 bay car park and children's area.

However, director of service Caroline Curley said there had been problems in the past with toilets in parks being vandalised, and it costs the council €45,000 per year in maintenance to have an automated toilet.

At the time, councillors expressed disbelief that it costs nearly €900 per week to operate one public toilet.

#### Craft fair in aid of school

A CRAFT Fair in aid of Catherine McAuley School, Ashbourne Avenue will be held in the school on Sunday November 14 from 11.30am to 5.30.

Paintings, timber toys and ornaments, quilts, rainwear for children, bric-a-brac, cakes, puddings, jams, and christmas decorations are just some of the items that will be on sale. Admission is just €3 and children are free.

#### Corr to talk on 'EU swindle'

JIM Corr, of successful pop group, the Corrs, will speak in Limerick on Monday, November 8, at a special event.

Part of a series of evening lectures taking place at the Loft Venue, beside the Locke Bar, Jim will be asking "What would the European Union be worth to us?"



# HOW Officially Open for Business

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More than 70,000 people are expected to pass the stiles at Greenpark next year when it will host over 1,750 races.

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 admission charge to the stadium is €10 with a 50 per cent reduction for OAPs and students and there are to be two race meetings each week.

"It really is a new facility in Limerick that people can be proud of," said general manager, Declan O'Halloran. "If we get in excess of 70,000 visiting the stadium next year, we'll be very, very happy."

The Limerick facility is considered the best of the stadia designed by architect Seamus McCloskey,



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Matt and Bernie Lyons, Patrickswell, at the official opening of Limerick Greyhound stadium



Vivienne Kennelly, Newcastle West, and Damien Harrington, Adare, at the track's official opening

and rightly so given Limerick is headquarters of the greyhound board.

"We'd like to think that the Limerick stadium is the pinnacle and as good as it gets," Mr O'Halloran said.

Minister Smith took the opportunity to pay tribute to the Limerick and Clare greyhound owners breeders whose tenacity in pursuing the development of improved facilities in Limerick never waned and indeed all the faithful punters of the region who have gallantly supported the local greyhound industry.

"Bord na gCon, led by its

chairman Mr O'Sullivan together with Limerick Greyhound Stadium, and its chairman Tony McKenna, have gone to great lengths to put in place a top of the range facility with a wide variety of packages to suit the entire spectrum from the informed follower of greyhounds to the casual punter. Quality is the byword in this stadium, it pervades every aspect of the development," said the minister who added it was up to local people to ensure it got the support that it deserved.

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Jim will be sharing his insights into the European project, arguing that Ireland is "the guinea pig for a forthcoming swindle by global financiers".

Part of a national tour, the Dundalk musician will join former oilfield executive Ian R Crane.

The event gets under way at 7pm, in the Locke Bar, with tickets costing 10, or a donation.

## Boots on Childers Road

BOOTS Ireland has opened a new store on the Childers Road in Limerick, bringing the number of Boots stores in Ireland to 56.

"We are delighted to further extend our Irish store portfolio to open a third Boots store in Limerick and look forward to offering our customers an extensive product range and excellent standards of customer care," said Richard Bradley, regional manager, Boots Ireland.

The store will be managed by Melanie O'Donohoe.

Fancy that: Laura and Tina head for Perv

Roman satirist Seneca said the decadent ancient