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July end for Markets Field

■ Eighty years of greyhound racing at the Markets Field will end on Saturday, July 17 next

Jerome O'Connell

THE Markets Field will close its doors on July 17.

The Irish Greyhound Board have confirmed that almost 80 years of racing at the current Limerick Greyhound Stadium will end with a special night of racing in mid-July.

With the new multi-million euro stadium on the Dock Road not opening until October 8 Limerick will be without greyhound racing for over two months.

"We have worked closely with the local greyhound owners and breeders association and credit is due to them for taking the long-term view on this. The inconvenience will soon pass while the stadium will be a major success story for many decades," said Irish Greyhound Board Chief Executive Adrian Neilan.

The Irish Greyhound Board is putting on additional racing at the Kingdom Stadium in Tralee and at Galway Stadium to accommodate as best as possible those owners and trainers who would normally race at Limerick.

The main construction



work on the new stadium on the Greenpark site is now complete and the laying of the racing surface will commence in mid-July ahead of trials in early September.

The CEO explained the rea-

son behind the two months without racing.

"Of crucial importance to the opening of the new stadium is the assurance of a safe and consistent running surface for competing grey-

hounds. To ensure that all welfare needs are met in this regard the decision to move the sand from the existing Markets Field site has been taken. This will ensure that the racing surface quickly

knits and beds in and that there are no long time delays in waiting for the surface to settle as has been the case in the past when stadia opened with new racing circuits," said Neilan.

"We have experienced problems with quarry sand at Kilkenny earlier this year and we will not compromise the safety or quality of the track at Limerick.

"In order to move the sand and bed in the new track this does mean there will be a period of a little over two months when there will be no racing in the city, but it is in the best interests of the welfare of the greyhounds in the long-term.

"We must also remember the St Leger is scheduled to run in December and we have a responsibility to our owners and trainers to ensure every measure is taken to ensure the safety of their greyhounds when the new stadium opens," Neilan added.

Above: The Markets Field will close on Saturday, July 17

Na Piarsaigh are hot on the trail of first championship

Jerome O'Connell

CAHERDAVIN-based club Na Piarsaigh are back on the trail of a first-ever county senior hurling championship.

The Light Blues are one of five teams that have already booked their place in the quarter-finals of the Limerick's Live 95FM sponsored county senior hurling championship.

Coached by former Clare selector Sean Stack Na Piarsaigh were beaten in last year's final, but are keen to make amends and now have two wins from two starts. They were 1-14 to 1-8 winners over Bruff in Caherconlish last weekend.

A Kevin Ryan goal helped them to a 1-8 to 0-4 interval lead.

Ardscioil Ris Dr. Harty Cup winner Kevin Downes accounted for five points.

While the Na Piarsaigh stock is on the rise, Claughaun are one of five sides that are already out of contention.

They suffered a second successive loss when failing to Patrickswell, 2-18 to 0-9.

Although there is one round of action remaining in the group stages of the championship, the Childers Road outfit must now be content with a place in the new County Cup.

Patrickswell maintained their good start when Brian Murray scored their first half goal as they led 1-8 to 0-5 at half time.

Thomas O'Brien added their second goal ten minutes from full time.

Champions Adare remain unbeaten after two rounds of the action as they attempt to

Overhaul set to signal the end of AIL play-offs

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