

42  HAVE YOUR SAY! GO TO WWW.LIMERICKLEADER.IE TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE MOMENT**TOP 10 MEMORABLE SPORTING MOMENTS****When Limerick United went****THE YEAR**
1980**THE MOMENT**

Des Kennedy puts Limerick in front against Real Madrid in the European Cup

HOW TO VOTE FOR THIS MOMENTIt couldn't be easier - just log on to our website, www.limerickleader.ie. You'll find the poll in the sports section. You can vote once on each separate device you use to access the site (phone, laptop etc)

THE 1979-80 season was the first time in 20 years that the League of Ireland title had been won by Limerick.

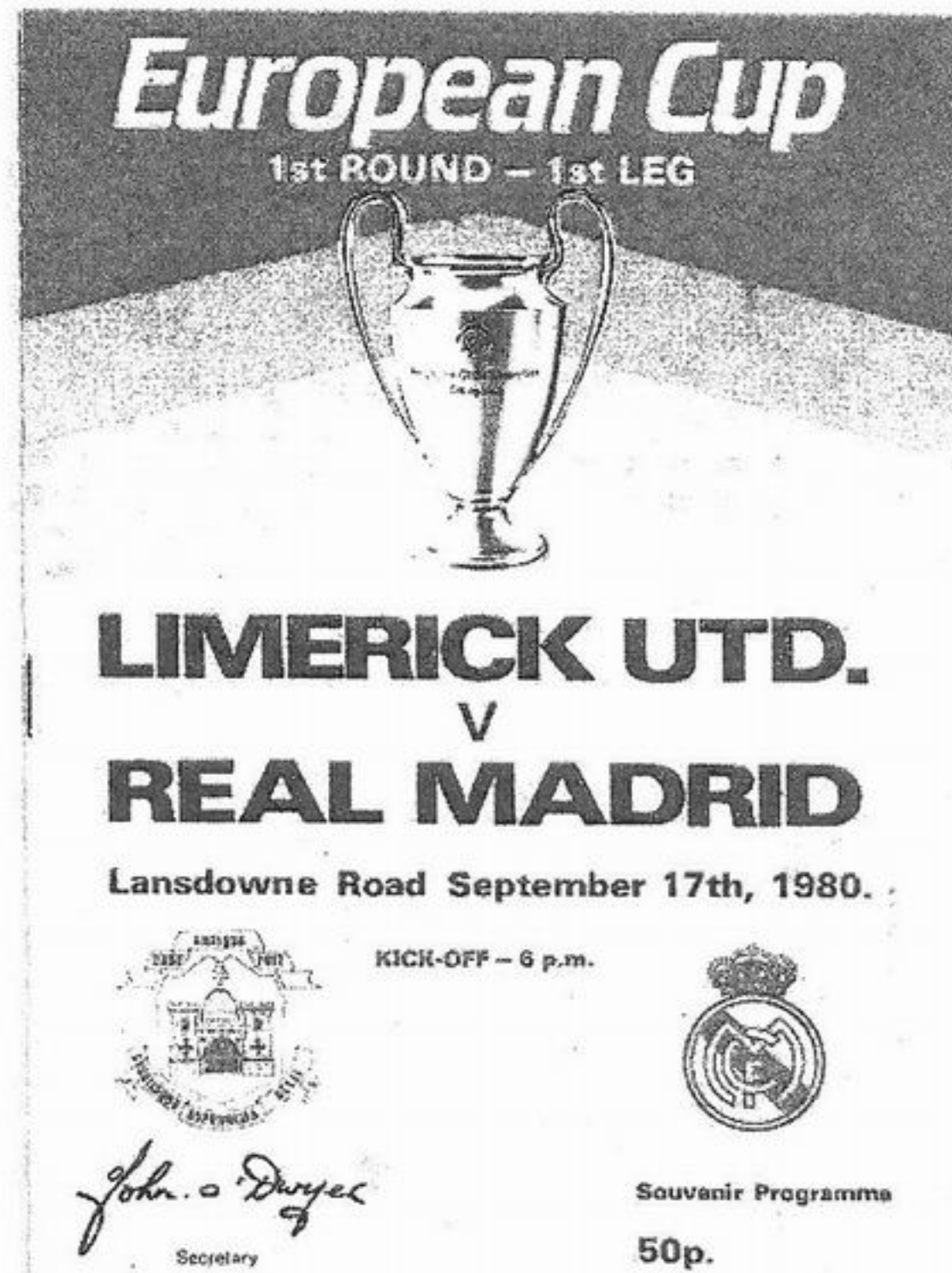
The draw for the 1980-1981 European Cup was the stuff of dreams from a Limerick perspective. Eoin Hand's 'Blues' were pitted against Spanish and European aristocrats Real Madrid.

The home leg against six-time Champions of Europe, Real was played in September 17, 1980 at Lansdowne Road.

Alas, the switching of the game to the Dublin 4 venue resulted in a paltry attendance witnessing one of Limerick's best ever European performances.

The brave Blues suffered an unfortunate 2-1 defeat to mighty Madrid.

Real, containing 11 players of



Souvenir: The programme from the first leg of the famous 1980 tie, played at Lansdowne Road in Dublin, cost 50p

international class, were certainly made fight all the way, and after Johnny Matthews had a 'goal' disallowed, Des Kennedy

put Limerick into a shock lead in the second half.

The shock of the season looked possible until Real were awarded a controversial penalty from which the visitors scored.

A late winner gave the Spanish champions a hollow victory.

Appearing in the Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid in front of 60,000 fans for the second leg on October 1, was an experience that the Limerick players will not forget easily.

Although two goals down after five minutes of play, the Blues rallied and Des Kennedy hit the Madrid net for the second time in two games. What a feat!

However, the power, skill and sheer brilliance of the Real

side was too much for Limerick's part-timers, who succumbed 5-1.

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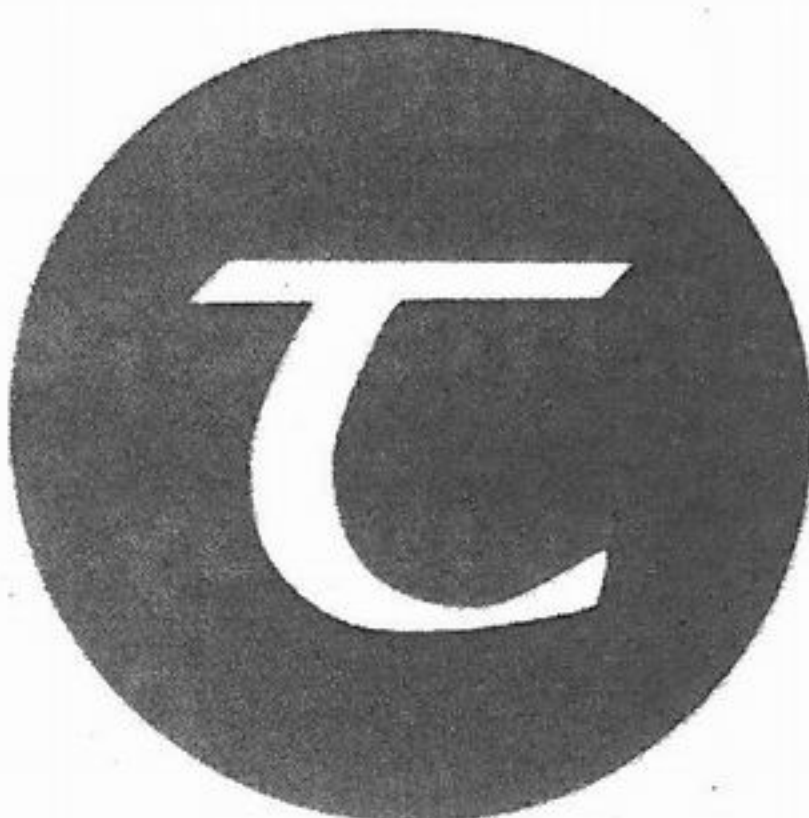
TOP 10 MEMORABLE SPORTING MOMENTS

-0 up against mighty Real



In the 1979-80 season, Eoin Hand's first season in management, Limerick United won the League of Ireland title, their reward was a first-round tie against Real Madrid in the 1980 European Cup. Pictured in Madrid were, back row (l-r): Pat Nolan, Gerry Duggan, Des Kennedy, Brendan Storan, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Eoin Hand, Tony Meaney, Mick O'Donnell, Gary Hulmes. Front row (l-r): Francis Brosnahan, Johnny Matthews, Joe O'Mahony, Tony Morris, Jimmy Nodwell, Mick Ryan and Johnny Walsh PICTURE TAKEN FROM FIRST HAND - MY LIFE AND IRISH FOOTBALL BY EOIN HAND WITH JARED BROWN

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