

# Limerick Chronicle

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Senior Soccer: Vital Meeting of Limerick A.F.C. To-Night

## TAKEOVER BID WILL BE OPPOSED

### Millionaire Seeking Full Control

by TONY PURCELL

A BID to take over the running of Limerick Soccer Club by Lord Petersham, the millionaire, and son of Lord Harrington, is likely to be strongly opposed by at least three members of the eight-member Board of Directors at to-night's meeting.

This proposed bid has ended months of speculation and could mark a new era in Limerick soccer if successful. Lord Petersham, who is well-known in the Irish racing scene as a jockey and horse owner, joined the Board of Directors of Limerick A.F.C. last October by investing some £1,000. Now he is willing to inject into the Club immediately some £15,000 with a view to signing at least two top-class players.

One of these is John Minnock, the Athlone Town out £5,000 to Athone Town for Minnock, who was inside-forward, who was signed from Charlton Athletic for £2,000. Lord Petersham is prepared to hand honoured by the League of Ireland selectors some-time ago.

When asked to comment on the takeover bid in a national evening newspaper, Mr. Michael Wallace, Chairman of Limerick A.F.C., stated: "I know nothing about it." When asked where the information came from, he remarked: "You know where it came from, Jack Tuohy." He added: "I am making no statement to the national or local Press." As I attempted to ask further questions the telephone at the other end went down.

This would seem to indicate that Lord Petersham's offer to take over the major shares of the company is not acceptable to some members of the Board.

#### RELINQUISH

Furthermore, Limerick's commendable success over league leaders, Shelbourne, at Tolka Park on Sunday, which brought to an end some dismal showings in the championship, may force them not to

relinquish their position in the Board.

Considering that the present Board of Directors is in the "red" to the tune of over £4,000, new changes in the set-up would seem inevitable. For years the Club has been hampered by lack of finance to secure first-class players. Now a wealthy businessman is coming to the Board's rescue by offering to invest a large sum of money to put the Club on a sound financial footing.

With this badly needed injection of capital, Limerick could emerge one of the leading clubs in the League of Ireland within a short time. The Club proved once again against Shelbourne last Sunday that they have the nucleus of a fine side, and by securing good players, a new-look Board of Directors could go a long way towards making Limerick the top side in the country.

As I have already stated, Lord Petersham's offer is sure to be opposed at to-night's meeting. It will be a pity if the Board reject the takeover bid which would give Limerick soccer the greatest "shot-in-the-arm" in the history of the Club.

The Limerick Board of Directors comprises: Chairman, Mr. M. K. Wallace; Mr. Jack Tuohy, Secretary; Messrs. Billy Higgins, Gerry Ridd, Jim Aherne, Michael Toomey, Ned Cussen and Viscount Petersham.

#### LEAGUE SIDE

The League of Ireland team to play Australia at Dalymount Park next Friday night week is unchanged from that which put up a magnificent display against the Scottish League at Parkhead some weeks ago. Limerick's Al Finucane and Joe O'Mahoney are included in the side. It is: Thomas (Waterford); Bryan (do.), Brennan (do.); Finucane (Limerick), Dunning (Shelbourne), O'Mahoney (Limerick); McGeough (Waterford), Minnock (Athlone Town), Lawlor (Shamrock Rovers), Hale (Waterford), Matthews (do.).

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