

F.A.I. CUP WINNERS, 1970-71?



The F.A.I. Cup is now the only major trophy yet to find a resting place in Limerick. The position could very well be rectified at Dalymount Park tomorrow, when the Ala Finucane-skippered Limerick face a difficult enough examination in Drogheda. Hopes are high that the locals will oblige, and in doing so, help open a new chapter in the club's history.

Shelbourne, Bohemians and St. Patrick's have been Limerick's victims in the current Cup campaign. Only Drogheda now stand between Limerick and glory, and it would be a terrible blow to the blues loyal and success-starved supporters were they to fall at this stage of the competition. Defeat was our lot on two occasions in the mid-sixties, but somehow, I have a sneaking suspicion that Andy McEvoy and Co. will make up for those lapses at spacious Dalymount Park. And the men we are looking forward to shouldering high off the field are: Back row—Sean Byrnes, Ala Finucane, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Joe O'Mahony, Richie Hall,

Patsy Doran. Front row—Hughie Hamilton, Paddy Short, Joe Burke, Tony Meaney, Andy McEvoy and Dave Barrett. And, of course, we mustn't forget manager, Ewan Fenton. All soccer fans will join with me in wishing Limerick the best of luck.

Dublin City Cup Winners 1969-70: Although they qualified for the F.A.I. Cup final on two occasions in the mid-sixties, Limerick had to wait ten years for their next success after the League Championship found its way to the Treaty City in 1960. Limerick were faced with an almost impossible task in the Dublin City Cup, but player-



manager, Ala Finucane, inspired his colts to a tremendous victory. When one considers that such powerful clubs as Dundalk, Cork Hibs Shamrock Rovers and Waterford had to be encountered away from home, it gives some indication of the merit attached to Limerick's success story. And to make victory even sweeter, the trophy was won by practically an all local XI. Hughie Hamilton being the exception. The Limerick panel of players was: Back Row: Patsy Doran, Tony Fitzgerald, Hughie Hamilton, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Joe O'Mahony, Andy McEvoy and Tony Meaney. Front Row: Joe Burke, Vinny Quinn, Dermot

O'Donovan, Ala Finucane, Ed. O'Donovan, Pat Lawlor and Sean Byrnes. Let us hope that history will repeat itself to-morrow and that Limerick will again make it a double victory in successive years by capturing the elusive F.A.I. Cup. Twelve of the above players are still on the club's books.

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LEAGUE WINNERS: 1959-60



League Winners, 1959-60. While the Shield, Dublin City Cup and Munster Cup were important enough trophies to win it wasn't until the 1959-60 season that Limerick made a real breakthrough by taking the League Championship. Victory here also gave the club the right to contest the European Cup. In quite a remarkable League run, the champions won 15 of their 22 games, and lost the remaining seven, to give them a points total of 30. Shelbourne were Limerick's nearest rivals throughout the campaign. There was a touch of drama attached to the final series of games. Limerick, two points ahead of Shels, met St. Pat's in Dublin, while Shels were away to Evergreen Utd. (now Cork Celtic). Limerick surrendered 3-2 to Pat's in a thrill-packed encounter, but fortunately for them, Shels were beaten in Cork. Thus, Limerick were saved having to figure in a play-off for honours. And the heroes were: Back row: Ger McCarthy, Dick O'Connor, Pat Skelly, Fergus Crawford, Harry McCue, Leo

O'Reilly. Front row: Clem Dillon, George Lynam, Joe Casey, Des McNamara and Donie Wallace. Other players called upon were Eamonn O'Connor, Dick Butler, Tony Brosnihan, Sean Moloney, Eddie McCarthy, P. J. Mesinger, Ger O'Brien, Jim Murphy, John Fogarty, Denis Linnane, Mick Doyle, Jim Forde and Liam McMahon. Further honours came in the League when they were placed second in the Shield table. Joe Casey captained the side, which was managed by "Sonny" Price.

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FOOTBALL PICTORIAL

REMARKABLE RECORD

It is not often that Limerick A.F.C. figure amongst the trophy winners in League of Ireland football, but a remarkable feature is that when they do strike it rich they do so on the double. A glance through Limerick's record over the past two decades indicates that success comes to them in five year circles, and furthermore, they follow one victory with another. Limerick sampled success for the first time by winning the Shield in 1952-'53, and the following year they annexed the Munster Senior Cup. The club had to wait five years for their next triumph; the Dublin City

Cup finding its way to Limerick in 1958-'59. A year later, much the same panel of players topped the League ladder. In 1964-'65 Limerick qualified for the Cup final, only to lose to Shamrock Rovers after a replay. Twelve months later, defeat was again our lot in the Cup final. 1970 saw Ala Finucane and his men exceed all expectations in capturing the Dublin City Cup for the second time in the club's history. If history repeats itself, then Limerick will celebrate victory against Drogheda in the 1971 Cup final, at Dalymount, tomorrow.

SHIELD WINNERS: 1952-53



Shield Winners: History was made in season 1952-53 when, after 16 years in L.O.I. football, Limerick A.F.C. won their first major trophy, namely, the Shield. Willie "Blarney" Keane guided the Blues to success in his first year as manager of the club. Except for Dublin-born George Lynam, and Scot, Peter Bradley, the team was composed mainly of local talent. This was indeed an historic occasion in the annals of Limerick soccer. And the men who achieved glory were: Back Row: George Lynam, Peter Bradley, "Batey" Neilan, Sean O'Dwyer, Willie Ahern, "Bud" O'Grady. Front Row: John Neilan, Sean Cusack, Gerry O'Grady, "Beaver" Cronin and Mick Hayes. Patsy Collopy, who played a prominent part in the Shield triumph, was unavailable when this photograph was taken. It is interesting to note that

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"Batey" and John Neilan are uncles of present-day Limerick captain, Ala Finucane. Another celebrated player at the time was Sean Cusack, who won full International honours against France in Dublin. Limerick were worthy Shield winners. To mark the occasion, the great Sir Stanley Matthews travelled to the Markets Field to present the trophy to the home side.

MUNSTER SENIOR CUP WINNERS: 1954



Munster Senior Cup Winners: Following their Shield success, Limerick also enjoyed a good run in all competitions in 1954. They were more than a match for such giants as Shamrock Rvs., Drumcondra and Shelbourne, and while they failed to capture any of the major trophies, they did have the distinction of winning the Munster Senior Cup, the provincial trophy was

taken much more seriously in the '50, than it is at the present time, and it was deemed an honour to even qualify for the final stages of the competition. Limerick relied on much the same panel of players as which helped in the Shield win the previous season. Back Row: Gerry O'Grady, "Batey" Neilan, Sean O'Dwyer, "Buddy" O'Grady, Willie Ahern and Mick Hayes.

Front Row: John Neilan, Patsy Collopy, Sean Cusack, "Beaver" Cronin and John Dunne. The majority of the above players were loyal servants of the club. As a matter of interest, "Beaver" Cronin informed me recently that the players averaged about 35/- per week from football.

Under 12 League, Division I, Saturday April 17: Ballynanty Rovers v. Ballycough Rovers, Cals. Park, No. 1, at 3 p.m., referee, M. Madigan. Fairview Rangers v. Janesboro United, Cals. Park, No. 2, at 3 p.m., referee, J. Griffin. Carbalry v. Wembley Rvs. at Garryowen, 7 p.m., referee, B. Spain. Pike Rovers v. Hyde Rovers, at Garryowen, at 4.30 p.m., referee, S. Dean. Under 12, Division II, Saturday, April 17: Garryowen v. Caledonians, at Garryowen, at 3.15, referee, S. Dean. Colbert Rovers "A" v. Lansdowne Rovers, Cals. Park, No. 1, at 4.10 p.m., M. Madigan. Plassey Vale v. St. John's, Cals. Park, No. 2, at 4.15 p.m., referee, J. Griffin.

Quiet Week-End on Local Front CALS TO MASTER BALLA IN SAXONE CUP

With Limerick due to play Drogheda in the F.A.I. Cup final at Dalymount Park on Sunday, L.D.M.C. have arranged a comparatively quiet fixture list for this week-end, highlight of which is the Saxone Cup clash between Ballynanty Rvs. and Cals today. Caledonians, only one step away from their second successive F.A.I. Junior Cup final, will possibly field at full strength, which means that ace markers, O'ly McCarthy and Ger Brennan, will be in the firing line. This has been a most disappointing season for Balla, and while they invariably produce their best form in cup competitions, it is difficult to go against Vinny Prendergast and Co. on this occasion. Caledonians are doubly engaged this week-end, for the club's "B" string are scheduled to play St. Bridgid's, also in the Saxone Cup. Team captain, Mick Clancy, is confident that the "B's" will make their mark in this particular competition, and with seasoned campaigners, O'Gorman and Colbert, assisting him, they will give the St. Bridgid's defence a rough 90 minutes. Re-vitalised Janesboro Utd. could pose quite a few problems for Fairview Rangers in the Premier League. Rangers are favourites to retain their title, but they must remember that Boro' conquered Cals last week-end, and despite their lowly League position, are quite capable of doing the same to the Fairgreen side. However, with Ralph Prendergast and "Butch" Carroll showing up well in the "View's" front line, I take them to score the League challengers to yet another victory. Pike Rovers "A" still suffering from the after effects of their shock 3-1 defeat by the club's "B" string, will have to pull up their socks if they are to master Geraldines at Cals Park. The "Dines" have made rapid progress in the League over the past month, and such stars as John Ryan, Patsy Collopy and Denis Vereker could help them salvage a point from this meeting. Third Division League leaders, Southpark Rangers, have a tough nut to crack in Ballynaughty Athletic—good 3-0 winners over Charleville last week-end—and may have to settle for a division of the spoils, while the Frank Geary led Bedrock Rovers will have it difficult enough in their clash with fancied Broadville at Cals Park. Janesboro United "B" can take another step towards the Second Division League title with a win over Bedford Rovers. This has been a most frustrating season for Bedford, who are having their share of domestic problems. Francis Christie and Tom Hickey should see to it that the black and whites continue their successful run. Southill pay-one of their rare visits to Shelbourne Park to take on lively Riverside, and cannot be too complacent, for the Thomondgate boys are coming into their stride after a most inauspicious start to the League campaign. Tanyard Utd. and Tavern renew rivalry at Fairgreen Park, with the latter taken to succeed. There is an important Youth League game down for decision: Janesboro United, still smarting from that 2-0 defeat by Crosshaven, will be anxious to get back into winning groove at the expense of Ballynanty Rovers, and captain, Liam Storan, should see to it that they do just that.

DUBLIN CITY CUP WINNERS: 1958-59



Dublin City Cup Winners, 1958: In contrast to previous years, the Limerick team of 1958-'59 was infiltrated by talent from outside the city. Gerry McCarthy, Joe Casey, Eddie McCarthy and Des McNamara were the only home-based players to help in the winning of the Dublin City Cup in the year under review. With the exception of Donie Wallace—now starring with Cork Hibs—and the above-mentioned locals, the remainder of the panel hailed from Dublin. It has often been said that this was one of the best teams ever to grace the Limerick jersey. It is, perhaps, significant that the following year the club went on to capture the League Championship for the first and only time. Back row: Gerry McCarthy, Eddie McCarthy, Willie Clinton, Pat Skelly, George Lynam, Leo O'Reilly. Front row: Joe Casey, Clem Dillon, Harry McCue, Donie Wallace and Des McNamara. Limerick qualified for the final of the Dublin City Cup the hard way and there were scenes of wild enthusiasm when they returned home with the trophy after beating fancied Drumcondra 4-5 in a thrilling final in Dublin. Gerry McCarthy was later transferred to Charlton Ath. at a fee reported to be in the region of £2,000. Much of the credit for Limerick's triumph was apportioned to Dubliner, Harry McCue, known as the Gentleman of Irish Soccer,

- Previous Cup Winners
1922. St. James' Gate, 1; Shamrock Rvs., 0 (after a re-play),
1923. Alton Utd., 1; Shelbourne, 0.
1924. Athlone Town, 1; Fordsons, 0.
1925. Shamrock Rvs., 2; Shelbourne, 1.
1926. Fordsons, 3; Shamrock Rvs., 2.
1927. Drumcondra, 1; Brideville, 0 (after a re-play),
1928. Bohemians, 2; Drumcondra, 1.
1929. Shamrock Rvs., 3; Bohemians, 0 (after a re-play),
1930. Shamrock Rvs., 1; Brideville, 0.
1931. Shamrock Rvs., 1; Dundalk, 0 (after a re-play),
1932. Shamrock Rvs., 1; Dolphin, 0.
1933. Shamrock Rvs., 3; Dolphin, 0 (after a re-play),
1934. Cork, 2; St. James' Gate, 1.
1935. Bohemians, 4; Dundalk, 3.
1936. Shamrock Rvs., 2; Cork, 1.
1937. Waterford, 2; St. James' Gate, 1.
1938. St. James' Gate, 2; Dundalk, 1.
1939. Shelbourne, 1; Sligo Rvs., 0 (after a re-play),
1940. Shamrock Rvs., 3; Sligo Rvs., 0.
1941. Cork Utd., 3; Waterford, 1 (after a re-play),
1942. Dundalk, 3; Cork Utd., 1.
1943. Drumcondra, 2; Cork Utd., 1.
1944. Shamrock Rvs., 3; Shelbourne, 2.
1945. Shamrock Rvs., 1; Bohemians, 0.
1946. Drumcondra, 2; Shamrock Rvs., 1.
1947. Cork Utd., 2; Bohemians, 0 (after a re-play),
1948. Shamrock Rvs., 2; Drumcondra, 1.
1949. Dundalk, 3; Shelbourne, 0.
1950. Transport, 3; Cork Ath., 1 (after two re-plays),
1951. Cork Ath., 1; Shelbourne, 0.
1952. Dundalk, 3; Cork Ath., 0 (after a re-play),
1953. Cork Ath., 1; Evergreen Utd., 1 (after a re-play),
1954. Drumcondra, 1; St. Pat's, 0.
1955. Shamrock Rvs., 1; Drumcondra, 0.
1956. Shamrock Rvs., 3; Cork Ath., 2.
1957. Drumcondra, 2; Shamrock Rvs., 0.
1958. Dundalk, 1; Shamrock Rvs., 0.
1959. St. Patrick's Ath., 2; Waterford, 1 (after a re-play),
1960. Shelbourne, 2; Cork Hibernians, 1.
1961. St. Patrick's Ath., 2; Drumcondra, 1.
1962. Shamrock Rvs., 4; Shelbourne, 1.
1963. Shelbourne, 2; Cork Hibernians, 0.
1964. Shamrock Rvs., 1; Cork Celtic, 0 (after a re-play),
1965. Shamrock Rvs., 1; Limerick, 0 (after a re-play),
1966. Shamrock Rvs., 2; Limerick, 0.
1967. Shamrock Rvs., 3; St. Patrick's Ath., 2.
1968. Shamrock Rvs., 3; Waterford, 0.
1969. Shamrock Rvs., 4; Cork Celtic, 1 (after a re-play),
1970. Bohemians, 2; Sligo Rvs., 1 (after a re-play),
1971. Limerick 3; Drogheda 2.

Junior Soccer fixtures

- TUESDAY, 20-4-71
Pike Rvs. B v. Southill Utd., 6.15, Southill, E. Ray.
Balla Rvs. B v. Fairview B, 6.15, Shels Park.
Bedford v. Janesboro B, 6.15, Cals Park 3. T. McInerney.
C League
Telephones v. Wanderers, 6.15, Cals Park 2. P. Griffin.
Janesboro C v. Abbey, 6.15, Pearse St. D. Judge.
Youth League A
Fairview A v. Hyde Rvs., 6.15, Fairgreen, T. Meagher.
WEDNESDAY, 21-4-71
Youth League B
Janesboro B v. Fairview B, 6.15, Pearse St. J. Fitzgerald.
Plassey Vale v. Star Rvs., 6.15, Cals No. 1. M. Meagher.
Premier League
Pike Rvs. A v. Star Rvs., 6.15, Shels Park. M. Kelly.
B Youth League
Balla A v. Shels, 6.15, Cals Park 2. G. Fitzgerald.
16 League: All games to be played on Fri., April 16, 6.30 p.m.
Ballycough Rvs. v. Fairview Rangers, Cals. Park No. 1; ref. S. Browne.
St. Clements v. Ballynanty Rov., Shels. Park; T. Power.
Janesboro Utd. v. St. John's, Pearse Stadium; M. Kelly.
Wembley Rov. v. Plassey Vale, Cals. Park No. 2; M. Cosgrave.
Hyde Rvs. v. D. Savio, Cals. Park No. 3; B. Spain.
A delegate meeting will be held at Dominic Savio Boys' Club on Monday, April 19.