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SENIOR SOCCER: Fitzpatrick and Hall dissatisfied

TROUBLE AGAIN FOR LIMERICK

DISSENSION has flared once again within the ranks of Limerick soccer club. After the mid-Summer Board wranglings trouble has now flared over finance and the alleged offer by a Director to pay extra money to two players. This has angered others who signed on being told that no increases would be given to any player on last year's rate.

The latest trouble has blown up because a member of the Board told two players, Sean Byrnes and Tony Meaney—they held out until the last possible minute before signing, which they did on the Saturday before the Athlone match—that he would pay them the extra amount they were seeking out of his own pocket.

Goalie Kevin Fitzpatrick, one of Limerick's most loyal and outstanding clubmen for the past ten years, took grave umbrage at this. He had been first to re-sign and did so without question but on the clear understanding that no player would receive anything more than had been paid last season but that the same rates as paid last season would be given.

Fitzpatrick signed on that understanding and was happy to again have his contract drawn up and completed. He did so in the firm belief that no member of the team would be getting extra wages.

SAW "RED"

When last week he became aware that a director had told the two players that he would pay them the extra money they were seeking out of his own pocket to get them to play, he saw "red," and left a training session in protest. He did not train any further that week, but did, after considerable thought, play against Waterford.

Lest any supporter might be malicious-minded enough to even infer that Fitzpatrick deliberately allowed even one shot to pass him, I can assure him that Fitzpatrick did nothing of the kind. After ten years of staunch service no player would contemplate such a thing, and Fitzpatrick certainly did not, or would not.

His point is that he had been told that no player would be given anything more than he received last season. He resigned on that clear understanding, but he now is most angry that others should get more, when he agreed to accept last season's terms on being

told that the same would apply to everybody else.

NOT PRESENT

Fitzpatrick took his case to the Board. It was a meeting at which the Director who is supposed to have made the extra payment promise was not present. The other Board members told Fitzpatrick that as far as they were concerned the players had re-signed and were not getting—from the club—one penny more than they got last season.

But Fitzpatrick is adamant that all should be similarly treated. However he will play against Cork Celtic at Turner's Cross on Sunday (6.30 p.m.) but he intends to have the matter fully thrashed out and with club President Lord Petersham present when he returns from his trip abroad.

Richie Hall, too, I understand, is playing under protest and feels similarly to Fitzpatrick but he, too, will play against Celtic.

PANEL

Caretaker Player-Manager, Al Finucane will pick Sunday's team from a panel of players. All are reported to be available



Limerick manager, Al Finucane, has his problems facing Sunday's away game against Cork Celtic.

though Shay Doyle has not yet re-signed. He is anxious to play with a Dublin club as he feels there is too much travelling involved in playing with Limerick.



Kevin Fitzpatrick, in the Limerick goal against Cork Celtic.



Limerick back four defender, Ritchie Hall.

RUGBY: Attractive programme for opening week-end

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