

RTING
EW
junior
er
on
5 off

SOCCER: LIMERICK PLAN FOR NEW SEASON

Directors tell of their financial situation

Supporter clears off debt

'Leader' Exclusive by John O'Shaughnessy

The Limerick A.F.C. board of directors met supporters of the club at the Savoy on this Thursday evening, and pulled no punches in relation to their present financial position.

A frank and most informative discussion took place.

Chairman, Mr. Billy Higgins, disclosed that the blues had very little cash in the kitty and that the purpose of the meeting was to form a management committee to help raise funds.

He explained that if they hadn't sold the controversial mini-bus which the Supporters Club presented to them they may have had to go into liquidation.

But Mr. Higgins added that they were now turning over a new leaf, and that with an efficient management committee they could view the future with confidence.

In outlining the club's financial position, Mr. David Coughlan, hon. secretary and hon. treasurer, remarked that the purpose of forming such a committee was to ease the financial strain.

"Such a committee," he said, "could reduce expenses by their acting as stewards and stilesmen on match days and thus helping to save the club upwards of £600 per year."

Mr. Coughlan admitted that they could never hope to make Limerick A.F.C. pay its way by depending on "gate" returns only.

"The only way most L.O.I. clubs can survive is to unearth a young player now and again and then transfer him," he commented.

At this juncture, life-long supporter, Jim Leddin, interjected and offered to lighten the club's financial problem by personally clearing the debt due to the Supporters Club members by Limerick A.F.C. following the mini-bus saga.

A sum of £600 was mentioned.

Mr. Leddin's generous gesture was accepted by the board, who offered to reimburse him as soon as they were in a position to do so. Mr. Higgins looked upon this as the ideal opportunity to reveal more good news.

NEGOTIATING

"I am negotiating with an American business concern to sponsor the club for approximately £3,000 per annum," he said, enthusiastically.

The meeting was then informed that a director had earlier that day handed over a cheque from his own pocket to Fairview Rangers for the services of ace striker, Ger Duggan.

Money was the main topic of conversation, but a proposal from Mr. Brendan Brophy that a whip around be made amongst those fans present didn't receive much support.

Anyway, it was a bad night of the week for a collection.

Mr. Higgins was quick to praise the now defunct Supporters Club for their magnificent work over the last few years. He softened the blow by saying that a management committee might be more beneficial at this stage, but he welcomed members of the old Supporters Club on the proposed new body.

"We need money . . . and fast," he added. The chairman made no secret that members of the board had to dig deep

the last few years to keep the club functioning.

Towards the end of last season Lord Petersham gave them £750. "Only for that we could have been sunk", said Billy.

It was pointed out by the board that they couldn't hope to go into the transfer market until such time as money was made available to them.

It was hinted that they would concentrate on developing local talent . . . for the moment anyway.

FUND RAISING

Cllr. Michael Crowe came up with a novel fund raising campaign and this will be discussed fully at the next board meeting. If his idea is launched it could benefit the club enormously.

Mr. Brendan Brophy suggested that the new Management Committee should not be formed for another week at least when more people might

become interested.

It was agreed to have a second meeting at the Savoy on next Thursday at 8 p.m.

All those interested in the welfare of the club are invited to attend.

Special emphasis is to be put on the sale of season tickets which can be purchased at the Markets Field on next Sunday. To facilitate supporters, these can be paid for in instalments at the kiosk at the Markets Field.

The only disappointing news for supporters was that admission prices at Headquarters are to be brought into line with other L.O.I. clubs.

The new admission prices are 40p and 30p (children 10p).

SEASON TICKETS

Season tickets are priced as £5 (men); £4 (ladies) and £3 (juveniles).

Other news is that Mr. Harry Gibson-Steele has been co-opted to the board of direc-

tors. Harry, an ex-President of the L.O.I., will now represent Limerick on the League, with Mr. Michael Webb being their representative on the F.A.I.

Limerick are to pin their hopes on last season's panel, all of whom have re-signed, except Tony Meaney, who is on the transfer list.

Promising newcomers signed include Vincent Grey (Caledonians) and Ger Duggan (Fairview).

A minute's silence was observed in memory of the late Jack Tuohy. The club are planning to commemorate his memory in a suitable way.

Directors present at Thursday's meeting were: Messrs. Ned Cussen, Michael Webb, Billy Higgins, Michael Burke and Dave Coughlan, hon. sec. and hon. treasurer.

Upwards of 30 supporters attended.

All-Ireland final team

Ruth picked, but probably for last time!

BY CORMAC LIDDY

MATT RUTH, the 28-year-old Kilkenny-born Christian Brother, has won his place on Limerick's team for the All-Ireland hurling final against Kilkenny on Sunday week and irrespective of how he plays it will probably be his last game for Limerick.

Bro. Ruth is to pursue his studies at Drimnagh Castle in Dublin and will leave Limerick within a short time.

His selection for the biggest game of his life is compensation for the ill-luck which probably cost him his place in last year's winning side. It will be remembered that when Limerick met Kilkenny in a football game at the Ennis Road Grounds that Kilkenny were short and a friend suggested that he turn out. He rushed away for his gear and went on to play for Kilkenny. He presumed that because Kilkenny had not a full team that Limerick had been awarded the points and that the sides were playing a friendly. But it transpired that it was a League game, and as Ruth was by then a member of the Limerick panel he had automatically disqualified himself.

That football outing made Ruth ineligible for Limerick and he had to content himself with sharing in last year's great win from the sidelines.

But now he gets his big chance . . . and against his native county at that.

Born in Ballyragget, County Kilkenny, Ruth first played with his local St. Patrick's Club, but it was not until he went to Clonmel as a Brother that he gained prominence as a Gaelic games player. He played with Commercials and St. Mary's in Clonmel and in 1971 he won an All-Ireland intermediate medal with Tipperary hurlers.

But now the All-Ireland final will probably be his last game for Limerick. Living as he will in Dublin and being a native of Kilkenny he would not have any entitlement to play for Limerick.

"Although normally I would be hoping for a Kilkenny win I can assure all Limerick sup-

porters to help the side to another great win on Sunday week," he said.

Bro. Ruth gets the place of Fr. Paudie Fitzmaurice compared to the side which began the Munster final but this is the only change.

INJURY

Pat Hartigan is making steady progress from his shoulder injury, and he is able to use a hurley again, although his follow-through is still affected.

But the news about corner-forward, Frankie Nolan, is not so encouraging. He had recovered sufficiently from his Munster final injuries to begin training, but he suffered a new injury

—to his thigh—during the week and had to stop training.

"It is very disappointing, but I am still hoping to be fit in time," he told me.

TEAM

The Limerick team for the All-Ireland final will be: Seamus Horgan, Willie Moore, Pat Hartigan, Jim O'Brien, Tom Ryan, Eamonn Cregan, Sean Foley (capt.), Eamonn Grimes, Bernie Hartigan, Joe McKenna, Richie Bennis, Matt Ruth, Liam O'Donoghue, Eamonn Rea and Frank Nolan.

Subs: Pat Kelly, Jim O'Donnell, Phil Bennis, Willie Conway, Paudie Fitzmaurice and Mike Lunden.

Limerick's fixtures for season

Hibs visit Markets Field on Sunday

LIMERICK commence the new season on Sunday next when they meet Cork Hibernians in the semi-final of the Munster Cup. Hibernians beat Munster Senior League club Tramore Athletic by 2-1 in mid-week.

It is expected that the locals will field on much the same lines as last season, although manager, Ewan Fenton, might avail of the opportunity to introduce newcomers Ger Duggan (Fairview) and Vincent Grey (Caledonians).

Grey had spells with Shamrock Rovers and Bohemians.

Sean Core, have again re-signed, but Tony Meaney is still on the transfer list. The remainder of last season's panel have put pen to paper.

Hibernians were lucky to beat Tramore 2-1 in mid-week, but they are likely to field a much stronger team on Sunday. Kick-off is 3.30.

FIXTURES

INTERNATIONAL ONE ST

BY CHARLIE MULQUINN

ONE of the greatest success stories of sport this year just has to be the recall of Adie Jackie Harrington to the team for the hibernian internationals Royal Harle Wales next month. Harrington, a 31-year-old career player, was capped for the first time in 13 years ago as far as I can ascertain not having earned a place in the team since such a prolonged absence.

Jackie Harrington is one of the finest schoolboys ever produced by this country. In his teens, he seemed able to do almost anything. He was Munster Boys Champion and Harrington (when he defeated P. in the final by 3-1 in Ballyclough) and 1953 he beat Castleterry for Noel Hayes at the Douglas in the decisive

Surprisingly enough, he did not mediate post-school days, but he was not very productive, a fact which had to wait until his first Munster cap in 1960, however, he seized his chance in no uncertain manner.

Green Cap

He played so impressively in the Irish selectors immediately selected Jackie for the international, and he was against Scotland and Ireland in Selection for Munster in '59, but the green cap was not his until 1960, when he simply had to be there after the famous Close Championship final between him and Michael Edwards.

It was the longest time in the national championship until Edwards eventually got home at the 40th. Harrington was now really big time, and he was capped by his country. Limerick's Ivan McAnulty, an interesting statistician, views in the now sadly G.U.I. handbook of 19 that Harrington played seven foursomes for winning two, having losing four.

He won three of his and lost four. Although he forgot all about Adareman again when he was capped in 1966 and again in '72 and '74. In this period, his contribution to the team was considerable, although only the travelling expenses were paid last year when the Scotland international was the first time at Lahinch didn't even get a game.