



SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1976

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Rowing season concludes

BY "ASPIRANT"

UGH Carrick-on-Shannon Regatta, on this August Monday, has still to come, a far from rable season for Limerick clubs concluded at .C.'s fixture last Saturday.

It was one of the ever seasons on record for Limerick clubs. Despite the several wins were practically all these a minor nature. The deterioration in the city rowing in the past few years and come when those still d in the sport must roll sleeves and do some- out it.

stance of this decline is er-day record in Irish shipments. Last local champions were Shannon iden eight in 1954. Up time, Limerick (and est-Athlunkard) had an enment of Irish titles to t. Since then, however, had a dismal innings. e an idea how other ial clubs have forged t us take one, Neptune, nple. Since 1970, this club have won no less championships, bringing erall total to eleven. s tally in Irish titles t eight. Other centres, way and Athlone, have their championship suc- n recent years. And in this year, Clonmel and at Club, with their our and eight wins. w taken up where w t off.

WEAKEST
 is no doubting the fact ick is now the weak- ing centre in the country. his time last year, in our g notes, we devoted ms setting out what we were the reasons for line and offered some l suggestions. We do not to repeat that again, but uring factor emerges ally and that is that in our local clubs is not ough support from its s, especially ex-oarsmen. id well be the criterion ur ill. It only stands on that an interested ship must lead to healthy ances on the water.

are, of course, many tributory causes to this. These must be obvious gicing few responsible ed the sport alive in s. ult we Limerick people many aspects, is that we want expert in dissect- pointing out what is especially over a drink), y though, there is no p to rectify the situa- is can well be applied g and we feel that the talking is past and that action must now be put Limerick back in ful place in Irish rowing.

ACTION
 start, instead of working ion, could not represen- of our clubs meet and course of action that would help set us out again on the road to success? This could be worked independently of the regatta committee and such vital topics as whether schools rowing in our clubs is an invest- ment or not; how to get back a healthy rowing atmosphere; whether we must use different methods and approaches to the oarsman of to-day; acquisition of coaches, etc., could be discussed and acted upon.

LEE REGATTA
 Only consistently winning local crew this year was Athlunkard ladies novice four. They chalked up their fifth win at Lee Schools Regatta last Saturday when they beat the host club in the final. Lee stood their ground in not allowing late entrants and favourites Commercial into the maiden fours championship. Clonmel subsequently won the title—their first since the senior eights championship in 1920. Frank Kent, their mentor and coach, laid the foundations for this success by concentrating on schoolboy rowing these past years and nursing them along to this major win. Shannon R.C. qualified with Carlow A from Heat B to the semifinal, but were knocked out at that stage.

LOCAL WINNERS
 The following is a list of local wins at regattas in 1975:
 N.I.H.E.: Senior 8, Senior 4, Junior 4, at Fermoy; Schools Pair (Portora); Senior Pair (Gatway).
 Athlunkard—Ladies Novice 4 (Dungarvan, Limerick, Cork, New Ross, Lee Schools).
 St. Michael's: Under-age 4 (Shandon); Veteran 8 (Limerick).
 Limerick B.C.: Junior Schools 8 (Shandon); Junior Schools 4—Pontfield Cup; Head-of-the-River.
"AT HOMES"

Now that the regatta season is in abeyance for another year, the "At Home" fixtures will commence in a few weeks time. First positive date to hands is from Athlunkard, who have arranged Sunday, September 14, for their usually popular fixture.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
 A special article on the world championships at Nottingham at the end of the month is held over again and will be published next week-end.

CONCLUSION
 As these are the concluding notes of the season, we would like to thank the editor for giving us valuable space throughout and to those who helped in many other ways to keep this column going these past few months.

SOCCKER: All local team for '75-'76?

Time is running out for Limerick AFC

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

A few words of timely advice to followers of Limerick AFC — do not be expecting any miracles in season 1975-'76. This week, newly appointed PRO, Mr. John Murnane, outlined the club's policy for the next nine months, and he said little to suggest that better days were ahead.

At a time when most League of Ireland clubs are busily engaged in friendlies in preparation for the big kick-off in mid-September, the locals have been strangely subdued.

Several cross-channel teams have visited Ireland in the past fortnight but Limerick was not included in their itinerary. There has been news of signings and transfers, but again the blues have been noticeable by their absence from the gossip columns.

ODDS
 Don't worry. Limerick will definitely have a team in the League of Ireland next term... but as stated at the outset, the odds are that it will be another mediocre season for Joe O'Mahony and Co.

The directors are keeping to the promise they made a couple of months ago that the emphasis is to be on an all-local panel. Said Mr. Murnane: "Funds are low and we have to cut down on ex-



Ewan Fenton, re-appointed manager for '75-'76.

penses. Accordingly, we are compelled to reduce our weekly wage bill and this means that we will be concentrating on developing our own talent."

But here I must hand out a word of warning to the blues. If it is your intention to recruit local talent then you must move quickly.

A prominent member of the Ballyfanly team which won the FAI Youths Cup in June has already been approached by Dundalk and is almost certain to sign for them.

This week, another LOI club made enquiries about Wembley Rovers pivot, Ger Brosnahan, who shone for Limerick CBS during the Colleges World Cup finals in Izmir, Turkey.

If Limerick AFC are serious in their intentions to build an all local team for 1975-'76, is it not about time they got down to business.

After all, the big kick-off is only six weeks away.

Mr. Murnane, a most efficient PRO, informed me that the Board had made arrangements to meet their retained players this week-end to discuss terms.

"And it is likely that most of them will re-sign," he added.

MET
 The board have already met. Mr. Ewan Fenton and it appears that he is anxious to continue with the club as manager for another season

at least. Mr. Fenton cannot look back on last season with happy memories, but it was not entirely his fault that Limerick went through one of their worst periods ever.

And with little money in the kitty, he will have to make do with much the same panel as that which finished third from the bottom in the League. That's not an encouraging thought.

The annual general meeting will take place in a fortnight's time. In the meantime, let's hope that somebody in authority will give the signal for training to commence.

Otherwise, we could have a disastrous start to the new campaign.

LINKED
 Definitely missing from the Limerick line-up will be English-born Richie Hall, whose name is being linked with Waterford. Hall was given a free release at the end of last season.

It is also understood that Dubliners Shay Doyle and Sean Core are anxious to get away and I believe that Limerick will agree to their request for a move.

Jimmy O'omior, signed from a Dublin junior club, has already been given a free release.

One piece of good news is that the Markets Field will again be available to Limerick.



Pat Nolan is expected to make a big impact next season.



Sheffield-born Denis Lymon could be the only "outsider" on the Limerick panel.

GOLF: Youth fails badly at Lahinch

Malone worthy addition to 'South' honours list

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