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Limerick



SATURDAY, MARCH

SPORTING VIEW

Sunday's hurling match opportune

We have a very interesting senior hurling game at Pair na nGael on Sunday with the meeting of Limerick and Clare, which is being played to aid the development of playing fields in the Banner County.

This is a very opportune match as far as Limerick is concerned, for it is our first game in first-class hurling company since the Munster final of last July. We have been operating, as most will know, in the secondary hurling league since then and whilst we had an unbeaten run in the competition, yet the fact remains that the standard we attained was never of the top bracket and this was especially evident at Mullingar last Sunday where our performance, even when a winning one, was of a very poor quality and certainly far from the standard we attained in previous league campaigns.

We face All-Ireland champions, Kilkenny, a fortnight hence in the quarter-final of the league. On the same occasion, Clare play Waterford in the other quarter-final, with the result that this game is the ideal opportunity for both to sharpen their approach — and give us a good game into the bargain. Clare and Limerick have provided some great play within the last decade and this should induce a big attendance to Pair na nGael to see both a worthwhile encounter and help a very worthy cause.

—“Caman”.

NCA notes

The first race of the season — which was held at Drombane, Co. Tipperary, last Sunday, — turned out to be a thriller as promised. The race attracted riders from many counties, including Limerick R.C., who took 5 prizes in all. The under 14 race brought an entry of 20 riders. It ended with Liam Hynes, L.R.C., getting second place for the club. The under 16 race proved just as exciting with a tremendous sprint to finish. It also took second place for Edward Keehan, L.R.C. The junior race took first and second place also for the club in Tom O'Brien and Denis Sweeney. Our lady cyclists also did well, with Bernadette Walters taking first place in a packed bunch. The course itself was tough enough, as some of the riders told me afterwards. In all the total amount of riders numbered 96. This was a very good attendance since the race was the first on the calendar. The race distance was 40 miles, but this was divided to cater for the different age groups.

—T. Gleeson, P.R.O.

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Supporters rally behind Limerick

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

A determined and whole-hearted effort is to be made to re-launch Limerick A.F.C. as a major soccer force — that was the outcome of the public meeting called this week by the directors to discuss the club's future.

There wasn't a particularly big turnout at Pearse Stadium, but the meeting was nonetheless productive in that a fund-raising committee was formed.

And to prove they meant business, this new committee swung into action immediately with a guarantee that they would dispose of 200 tickets for a special dance being held at Pearse Stadium on this Friday, in aid of the club.

Two Limerick directors were present, Messrs. Michael Webb (chairman) and Ned Cussen; as well as treasurer, Mr. David Coughlan, and manager, Mr. Ewan Fenton.

The important thing was that those who went to the bother of supporting the meeting were dedicated fans of the blues and were evidently genuinely concerned about the team's poor performances in the League.

Certainly, probing questions were asked of the directors and the manager, but there was an air of friendliness about the whole affair which suggested that the board's explanations were satisfactory, and that it was time to start a clean sheet.

In fact it was obvious that the 30-odd fans were there to encourage the board rather than to hold them up to ridicule.

At the outset, Mr. Tom Hynes, chairman, Janesboro' Sporting and Athletic Club, took to the rostrum and told the gathering that the meeting was instigated by his club.

FACILITIES

"Limerick have offered us five directorships on their board for the use of our facilities," said Cork-born Mr. Hynes, who added that he felt the present directors were genuine in their approach to the game.

Mr. Michael Webb revealed that Limerick had no chance of surviving unless they were given more support.

"We have got to get ourselves organised and let us pull together."

He told the meeting that Pearse Stadium could be developed into a League of Ireland ground.

One member of the audience criticised Limerick for their lack of enterprise in not following the example of Cork Celtic and Cork Hibs in signing cross-Channel players, but the manager interrupted to say that four seasons ago when Limerick had five cross-Channel players they were in the same position in the league as they are now.

Mr. David O'Sullivan, a student at N.I.H.E., came up with a few worthwhile suggestions, as did other people at the meeting.

In answer to one question re strengthening the team, Mr. Fenton said that he would have no objection to outside players being signed provided they would be on the same pay structure as the locals.

The manager stressed that he did not have the necessary reserve strength at the moment to make Limerick into a force.

"There are a couple of weak

spots on the team but the talent is not there locally to fill these particular positions." He denied the suggestion that several players were not trying.

That Limerick were not the only club sending out distress signals at the moment was emphasised by Mr. Webb, who declared that Sligo Rovers had a wage bill each week of £600.

Another speaker was critical of Limerick AFC for not showing the same initiative as LD.M.C.

But Mr. Tom Hynes interjected to say that the new stand at Priory Park was built under contract — "by that I mean that LD.M.C. have levied a fl fee on all players under their jurisdiction."

LINK-UP

Mr. Frank Timmons, a former Limerick B player, questioned Mr. Hynes on the proposed link-up between Janesboro and Limerick AFC, but the latter was evasive in his answers, due perhaps to the fact that negotiations were not yet at an advanced stage.

It wasn't altogether made clear what was planned between the two clubs but the general feeling was that the time was not too far off when League of Ireland football would be played at Pearse Stadium.

Top of Limerick's priority list is to secure their own playing field — "it is important to have a home of our own," stated a Limerick director.

It is worth mentioning that Janesboro Sporting and Athletic Club have a first class pavilion and a fine playing pitch.

Could it be that there will be a link similar to that which took place between Drumcondra and Home Farm a few years ago?

As an indication of Limerick's concern for their fans here are two interesting quotes:

"We feel more hurt than the genuine fans at the team's disappointing results." — Michael Webb.

"It is important for Limerick to have a successful League of Ireland club and we must all strive to field a winning team." — Ewan Fenton.

A lot of good emerged from this meeting.

Mr. Ned Cussen told the new Fund Raising Committee that they would have full powers and would be invited to attend at the board's meetings to discuss ways and means of raising money.

WORK

"We have enough responsibilities at the moment and would like the committee to work on their own initiative," he said.

Those elected on to the committee were: Messrs. Michael Crowe, David O'Sullivan, Gerry O'Neill, Christy Costelloe, Frank Timmons, Michael Breen, Harry Walpole and Jimmy Cuhane.

Is a new era about to open for Limerick AFC? Only time will tell.

RUGBY: England v. Ire

Rockwell attractive

Shannon Seek H

BY

CHARLIE MULQUEEN

WHILE Ireland are desperately trying to salvage something from this disastrous rugby season by beating England at Twickenham tomorrow, the domestic programme is a light, if rather interesting one.

Highlight should be Sunday's Munster Senior Schools' Cup semi-final between Rockwell and CBC at Tipperary. The 3.30 kick-off allows plenty of time to make the short trip out to the fine grounds of the Clanwilliam club and the reward should be an excellent game between two fine sides.

Rockwell and CBC qualified for semi-final action by beating St. Munchin's and Crescent, respectively, on the same afternoon. Although neither had things particularly easy, both revealed potential and the likelihood is that Rockwell's forwards will carry the day, especially at a Tipperary venue.

SENIOR GAMES

Shannon will be chasing a hat-trick of wins this year over Garryowen when the pair clash at Dooradoyle tomorrow, kicking off at 12 noon.

City of Derry make the long journey to meet Bohemians at Thomond Park, starting at 1 o'clock, and at the same time Old Crescent meet Sunday's Well (whom they did so well to beat in the Cup last Sunday) at Musgrave Park. Furthermore, Old Crescent field an under-21 selection against London Irish at Sumbury on Sunday.

Only senior game on Sunday in Limerick involves Young Munster and Ballinasloe at Greenfields.

FIXTURES

Saturday, March 6:
International — England v. Ireland, Twickenham.

Senior friendly—Garryowen v. Shannon, Dooradoyle, 12 noon.

Senior friendly—Bohemians v. City of Derry, Thomond Park, 1.30 p.m.

Junior friendly—Young Munster III v. Krups, Rosbrien, 1 p.m.

Junior friendly — Thomond v. L.G.O., Shelbourne Park, 12 noon.

Under 20 — Shannon v. Newcastle West, Thomond Park (back pitch), 12.30 p.m.

Under 13 — C.B.S. v. Shannon, C.B.S., Rathbane, 11.30 a.m.

Sunday, March 7:

Senior friendly—Young Munster v. Ballinasloe, Greenfields, 3.30 p.m.

Junior friendly—Bohemians II v. Cashel, Thomond Park (back pitch), 3.30 p.m.

Friendly — Thurles II v. Bohemians III, Thurles, 3.30 p.m.

Friendly—Presentation v. Ennis, Ballysimon, 3.30 p.m.

Friendly — Garryowen II v. Nenagh, Dooradoyle, 3.30 p.m.

Friendly—Clanwilliam v. Thomond, Clanwilliam, 3.30 p.m.

Brenc to pla day, was C Foley f

J. Quigly, Collopy, gerald, Shann ond)—B McEllig, O. Kiel, P. Red O'Connoc Mahon, M. Hyl Flynn, coran, 11.30 a.m. Young Richmol J: Bro Moore, M. Fitz Manaha F. Neal gerald, D. Fitz O'Connoc P. Roon Young Brown,

BO)

S

Balla v. Home Farm off

The FAI Youths Cup game between Ballynantly Rovers