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# Limerick

## SENIOR SOCCER:

# End this farce now

BY CORMAC LIDDY

The farcical situation which has surrounded League of Ireland soccer in Limerick for the past few weeks continued yesterday when pickets forced the cancellation of the Limerick United-Waterford United game at the Markets Field.

Now surely the powers that be must now step in and sort out this sordid mess. The pros and cons have been more than adequately stated over the past few weeks and no stone must be left unturned in a bid to call a halt to the present chaos.

If the High Court has to be the venue for the ending of the affair then so be it. Get right in there without any further delay is my advice to the League of Ireland who are charged with the responsibility of running the game but who did not even have the courtesy to send a representative to Limerick yesterday when they must have been aware that a problem existed. Yesterday the players of Limerick City who are members of the Professional Footballers Association of Ireland picketed the ground. Their position has become unclear following the High Court ruling which said that United should be the club to play in the League.

The City players took part in the League Cup and Munster senior cup but they have become sidelined following the High Court ruling.

Ewan Fenton, manager of Limerick City was present to see yesterday's sad affair, and he told me "it is a sad day for Limerick football. I nearly cried it is such a shame to see household names walking up and down outside the Markets Field with pickets."

It was the first time ever that pickets by players halted a League of Ireland game. Mr. John Givens, secretary of the PFA in a brief statement said "we decided to place a picket in the interests of our members. We now expect the authorities to sort out the situation

## Schoolboy Results

<b>T.S.B. Cup:</b>	
Corbally Utd. ....	.....
Caherdavin .....	2
Granville .....	0
Plassey .....	4
Shannon .....	0
Fairview Rgs. ....	1
<b>Woodlawn v. Star — Off</b>	
<b>IHowmedica Cup:</b>	
Janesboro .....	1
Moyross .....	1
O'Malley Pk. Rgs. ....	6
Summerville .....	0
Carew Park .....	4
Hyde Rgs. ....	0
<b>Lawlor Cup:</b>	



On the picket line at the Markets field on Sunday, Limerick United captain, Joe O'Mahony. (O.S.)

and to stop the game from being brought into further disrepute."

Limerick Utd. players had assembled since Saturday, and were ready to fulfill the fixture, but the Waterford Utd. players refused to pass the picket.

Mr. Alfie Hale, manager, Waterford Utd. explained that he fully understood why his players did not pass the picket. "We were directed by the League to play this game in Limerick, and I presented the list of our players to the referee, Mr. Sean Ware (Cork)," he said. "When we arrived at the Markets Field we were met with this picket placed by the PFA and I can fully understand why our players did not pass it," he said.

Mr. Hale supported the players action. "It is a very sad day for League of Ireland football. From

the Waterford viewpoint, it is a waste of a day as we could have organised another friendly for our players if we thought that our game with Limerick United was not going ahead," he said.

Mr. Eamonn Reid, chairman, Waterford Utd. was highly critical of the fact that the League Management did not send a representative to Limerick to try and sort out the situation. "The League Management knew there was going to be a problem here and they should have sent somebody down to try and solve it. We came here to play football," he said.

Mr. Reid said they would be seeking compensation from the League as it cost the club £250 to travel to Limerick.

Mr. John McNamara, chairman, Limerick Utd. said that the club intended to fulfill the fixture with

Waterford Utd. and "we are still two points behind the leaders as far as we are concerned." He pledged that Limerick Utd. were members of the League of Ireland for 1983-'84 season and would fulfill the fixtures.

Mr. McNamara claimed that Mr. Fran Fields, president of the League of Ireland had stated that he would be in Limerick yesterday. "I am very disappointed that he isn't here. We had our house in order and City players had no crib with United."

The game, according to Mr. McNamara, had cost United £900 and their players had assembled on Saturday. He denied that there were "warring factions" in Limerick United and stressed that people from outside the club had no authority to speak on their behalf.

"We have no intention of sitting down with anybody who has not the future of Limerick United at heart. We will sit down with anybody who has the good of Limerick football at heart and its future," he said.

Mr. McNamara accused the media of making scandalous statements. "The press has battered this club and we don't deserve it."

Mr. McNamara said that they were concerned about running a football club and our policy is to develop local talent which is in abundance in this city at the moment.

"We will be discussing today's outcome with the League Management," Mr. McNamara said.

Mr. McNamara said that in a lengthy meeting with a deputation of Limerick City players, he said that United would honour the City contracts but they had asked to examine the contract.

Mr. Reid: "The League Management will have to take the action that they should have taken last Wednesday. It appears to us that Limerick United on evidence given to us that Limerick United had some illegal players last Sunday. The League had a week to do something on the matter and we were pawns in this situation. He hoped that as a result of yesterday's "farcical situation" that action will be taken as it has done no good for football."

The Limerick United team for yesterday was: Joe McBrearty, John Dwyer, Charlie Reilly, Robert Kelly, Barry Campbell, John Forbes, John Bernard, Peter Webb, Jim Tier, Donal O'Doherty, Jed O'Dwyer, John Fitzgerald and Cathal McFarland.



James O

## Oireachtas Hu

# Lin i

## Clare 2-3 Limerick 0-4

Limerick's hurling who were cruising so cloud seven since their win over All-Ireland champions, Kilkenny, were lated back to reality a nGael on Sunday w Oireachtas aspiratic unceremoniously de Clare on a scoreline 0-6 in a fiercely semi-final played in conditions.

It was an abysmal pe by Limerick and the polle visibly stunned by the c standard as compared Kilkenny game. Gonc rythm and fluency, to b by mis-hitting, lack of c and a forward division scoring ability.

A heavy sod, the swirl greasy ball and a r downpour all militate good hurling, but there excellent passages of p. much the stronger side themselves better to the conditions and inspired majestic display by Sea centre-back, always had playing second fiddle.

Although they got a with Terence Kenny poi in the first minute Lim always struggling with ultra-reliable defence j unsure, Danny Fitzg David Punch were l losing battle against a James Shanahan and De

## SENIOR RUGBY:

# Poor Munster