

**SOCCER: Doubt about Sunday's game as . . .**

# Limerick soccer future in doubt

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

WITH ONLY a few hours to go to this evening's deadline for Limerick United and Limerick City to sort out their differences, Sunday's League game against Athlone Town still hangs very much in the balance.

Should both parties not have come up with a solution by 6.30, then it is quite conceivable that Limerick could be left without a club for the remainder of the season.

Mr. Pat Grace, chairman, Limerick City, denied newspaper reports this Friday that he is about to enter into a cash settlement with United supremo John McNamara, and he also denied that the two met in Dublin yesterday in an effort to resolve the crisis which has put Limerick soccer in the headlines over the past month.

But Mr. Grace did admit that he was willing to enter into a settlement with Limerick United, as distinct from

any individual(s).

"Any cash that I am prepared to pay over will go to the company in trust," he said.

While he is confident that McNamara will sell out his interest, Mr. Grace is not too sure about the others who are waiting on the wings. "There are several other people who had an interest in Limerick United, and whether or not we will be playing Athlone Town on Sunday depends on their attitude."

## Deadline

The League of Ireland have given Limerick this evening to sort out their differences. The League's Management Committee is to meet at 6.30 and they hope to issue a statement 90 minutes later.

Michael Crowe and Mick Webb, both of whom have an interest in Limerick United, have expressed disappointment at McNamara's decision to settle the affair.

"We are going to fight this - even if it means going back

into court at the weekend," they said.

Pat Grace is adamant that if he gets his way this evening then Limerick City, and not Limerick United, will represent the city in L.O.I. football in the coming months.

Should the matter be resolved in Dublin then it is likely that the Limerick v. Bohemians game of three weeks ago will be wiped off the slate, with a re-fixtures ordered.

While indications are that the Limerick v. Athlone game will go ahead on Sunday, Mr. Grace said that there was still a possibility that things may not work out as planned this evening.

"I am not going to buy half of anything - it is all or nothing - and unless all those with an interest in Limerick United sign documentation to the effect that they are severing all interest in Limerick United then I am not going to become involved again."



The Atlantis Basketball Club committee with Mr. Roger chairman of Atlantis club and two of Burgerlanders tear Burgerland

## ATHLETICS:

# Gold for John and Patricia

Croom A.C. are to be congratulated for the manner in which the course was laid out on Sunday last for the novice cross country championships. And they celebrated in fine style by taking the team championship titles in both the mens and womens events.

The ladies individual race was a very close affair with the Williams sisters and Breda Biggane fighting it out between them. At the tape, Breda separated the sisters, with Patricia taking the gold medal. Nuala Logan beat Eileen Enright in the senior league event run in conjunction with the novice race.

John Scanlon, Rathkeale, was always in front in the men's novice event. Tom Bruder, West Limerick, was also prominent in the early stages, with Tony McMahon, Croom, and John Downes, Limerick, well placed also. At the finish, Scanlon had seven seconds to spare over Downes, with McMahon third. Seamus Cregan won the men's senior league race with brother John second and Mike McDonnell third.

## RESULTS

Mens novice championship-1, J.

Scanlon, Rathkeale, 23.55; 2, J. Downes, Limerick, 24.04; 3, T. McMahon, Croom, 24.14; 4, T. Bruder, W. Limerick, 24.18; 5, G. Sheehan, Reenavanna, 25-10; 6, J. Grahame, Reenavanna, 25.15. Team result: 1, Croom, 52 points; 2, Reenavanna, 95 points; 3, West Limerick, 115; 4, Garda; 5, Limerick A.C.

Ladies-1, Pat Williams, Limerick A.C.; 2, B. Biggane, Croom; 3, Phil Williams, Limerick; 4, C. Hedderman, Croom; 5, E. Lavery, Croom; 6, H. Donovan, do.

Mens senior league-1, S. Cregan, Croom, 23.44; 2, J. Cregan, 23.54; 3, M. McDonnell, W.L., 24.13; 4, P. Lonergan, Reenavanna, 25.05; 5, S. Cawley, Croom, 25.30; 6, J. Madigan, W.L., 25.43.

Action this week takes place at two venues. The mens intermediate cross country title race takes place at Kilmeecey, Limerick's Paul Moloney and Ger Hartman should fight out the individual race but the new novice champion, John Scanlon, will also be well up.

The stars of the future all flock to Mungret, where the cross country championships for ages u-9, u-11, u-13, u-15, u-17, both boys and girls, take place. Limerick Emer-

## Basketball: Burgerland new sponsors

# Sixty teams in Limerick event

ATLANTIS Basketball Club, Limerick, will present their 7th International ladies basketball tournament on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, 29th, 30th and 31st October, at St. Enda's, Bawnmore, Laurel Hill and Redemptorist gymnasiums. The tournament is designed to cater for and promote ladies basketball at all levels: Junior, intermediate, senior and international. This year's competitions have attracted 60 teams. This shows the high regard and respect the Limerick tournament has gained since its first year, when only eight teams competed.

In 1976 the Atlantis Club made a statement which appeared in all national and local newspapers: "Don't you dare tell Seamus Kinsella that basketball in Ireland is a minority sport." Armed with statistics he hit out at business firms for their failure to recognise basketball, by way of sponsorship and he attacked the media for not giving adequate publicity to one of the fastest growing sports in the country.

Seven years later the Atlantis Club have gone against all expectations in presenting the best organised tournament of its type and size in Europe. The club also

The Atlantis tournament has struggled with lack of sponsorship for the last 3 years. This year, Burgerland fast food group will take up where Aer Lingus left off in sponsoring this prestigious tournament. This initiative of Burgerland International in supporting all sports, particularly basketball, has been remarkable. They sponsor national league men's title holders, Neptune (Cork) and national league ladies team, Corinthians (Dublin).

Making the presentation, Burgerlands director Roger Kingston said his company was delighted to have the opportunity to extend its involvement with Irish Basketball. Accepting the tournament sponsorship on behalf of Atlantis, Seamus Kinsella expressed the clubs delight in being associated with Burgerland International.

Praising the Atlantis Club and their involvement in promoting ladies basketball. Mr. Kingston remarked on the progress that the game of basketball has made in becoming an integral part of recreation and entertainment on both family and school levels. "As a family restaurant chain we see ourselves reinvesting in the valued community that does business with us," he said. The Burgerland

over the Halloween weekend, over one hundred games will be played. The finals will be played at St. Enda's Sports Complex on Monday, October 31.

The junior final begins at 12.30 p.m., intermediate final at 1.30 p.m., and the senior final at 2.40 p.m.

The Atlantis club deserves special praise for their progressive efforts in promoting ladies basketball. The club caters for girls from 12 years of age and has seven teams. The Atlantis senior team qualified this year to playing national league and have their sights set on finishing in the top four in their first season.

The Atlantis club wish to thank the management and staff of St. Enda's, Bawnmore and Laurel Hill Sports Complexes for the use of their facilities and their support. A special word of thanks to the programme sponsors whose support is invaluable, a final word of thanks to the Limerick Officials Association.

The tournament dance, the highlight of the weekends social activities will be held in the Glentworth Hotel, on Sunday night. Miss Burgerland will be selected and best players and club of year awards will be presented. Finally the club wishes to thank all

## CLUB GO

### Limerick

Litter warden cleans up at Ballycough was the weekend headline, when a large field played in the Jesuit Open fourball in gale force winds and sunally showers.

rain-swept conditions in order to support this worthy cause. Winners as follows: 1, Elizabeth McDonagh; 2, Vera Sinnott; 3, Chris Tinney; 4, Nora Ward from V. Dennehy.

Oct. 18 and every other Tuesday: 10 hole competition. Commencing October 16: Ham-