

Senior soccer — Football resumes at last

## City start to earn points

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

Limerick City ..... 1  
Shelbourne ..... 1

A TOUCH of sanity returned to the local soccer scene yesterday when Limerick City got on with the job of playing football. Despite being out of competitive fare for six weeks, Ewan Fenton's men put up a commendable performance in holding unbeaten Shelbourne to a 1-1 draw, and the only pity was that so few followers abandoned their firesides to welcome Joe O'Mahony and Co. back to the fold.

Not that all the action was confined to the pitch. When Limerick City directors arrived at the venue they found that the office had been hijacked by members of the old United board, and the telephone system had been cut off.

Pat Grace admitted afterwards that he was still a little confused by the entire issue, and the general consensus of opinion was that we haven't heard the end of the long running saga which delayed City's debut in the League of Ireland.

There are rights and wrongs on both sides and for the sake of football, let's hope that an amicable solution will be found before the game is dragged deeper into the mud.

One man who has kept out of the sorry affair is manager Ewan Fenton, and being the gentleman that he is, he would not be drawn into the controversy after yesterday's game.

Fenton confined his answers to questions dealing with the result, and he expressed himself as being satisfied at the outcome.

It would have been nice from the fans point of view had City made a winning debut, but under the circumstances they did remarkably well to snatch a point. Neither can it be ignored that they became the first team in the league to put the ball past Shelbourne keeper Fred Davis.

When assessing the home team's performance, it cannot be forgotten that it was their first outing against LOI opposition since that 2-2 draw against Galway in the League Cup.

Another point in their favour was that they finished much stronger than Shelbourne, who are putting in a bold bid for honours this term.

With a little luck City could have ended with maximum points. Johnny Walsh and Ger Duggan were desperately unlucky with late scoring efforts, and earlier captain Joe O'Mahony had the misfortune to see a piledriver from a placed ball come back into play off the crossbar.

### Overweight

As was only to be expected, they had a couple of players who looked rather overweight. Now that things have taken a turn for the better, the training programme is likely to be stepped up and in this respect tribute must be paid to the panel of players and backroom staff for keeping

their mind on football during those last traumatic six weeks.

With the remainder of the pack having such a headstart, it is going to be difficult for the Markets Field men to make up lost ground but for this term at least supporters will be content if they maintain a status above mid-table.

There are some problem positions but these can be ironed out within the next few weeks. The gamble of playing Joe O'Mahony in a full-back role was not entirely successful as the long serving central defender was often caught out of position, and neither was there sufficient punch up front where Des Kennedy was often left to forage for himself against hardmen John Burke and Paul Mullins.

But then this was a demanding test against Shelbourne, who looked well organised early on and then reshuffled their side by bringing in an extra midfielder when the going began to get too tough for them.

With a miserly 300 people on the terraces, City's task was made that bit more difficult. There was a distinct lack of atmosphere about the proceedings and the few who were present failed to respond in the way of vocal encouragement.

Referee Mr. Sean Kinsella was in more generous mood. He awarded two penalties of the very doubtful variety, first when Joe O'Mahony was adjudged to have nudged Mick Byrne off the ball, and again when Ger Duggan took a tumble following an innocent enough looking challenge from goalkeeper Davis.

It was Shelbourne who looked the sharper side in the opening quarter, but Limerick, well disciplined at the back, held them at bay. They could hardly believe their luck when Mr. Kinsella pointed to the spot in the 23rd minute. Nolan took a free kick on the right and as the ball came over, both Byrne and O'Mahony went to meet it. It was a harmless enough situation, but Shels took advantage of the penalty with Kieran McCabe slotting the ball past John Power.

Then came O'Mahony's piledriver from a free kick, and Duggan could have levelled him had his 25 yards shot more direction. There was little between the sides up to the interval.

Ger Duggan showed fine courage in helping to make the equaliser in the 50th minute. Full back Dave Mackey returned the ball towards his keeper from 30 yards and Duggan seemed to be on a local cause when he made a run for possession. Keeper Davis was so surprised at his challenge that he made a late attempt to cut out the danger, and advancing towards the end of his penalty area got down for the ball at Duggan's feet. The referee pointed to the spot and Gary Hulmes did the rest.

Limerick City had got their just reward, even if there was a question mark about the referee's decision.

Thereafter the home side were in control. With Jim Nodwell and Liam Murphy in dominant mood in midfield,

assisted by Al Finucane and Johnny Walsh, they tore gaps galore in the Shels rearguard, but realising that a points split was better than nothing the Dubliners put more emphasis on protecting their goalkeeper.

The quality of the football left a lot to be desired at times, with many passes going astray. City have still to work at their game and with a little patience, it could yet come right for them.

**Limerick City** — John Power, O'Mahony, Cowpar, Storan, Finucane, Nodwell, Walsh, Murphy, Kennedy, Duggan, Hulmes. Sub., Morris for Walsh.

**Shelbourne** — Davis, Mackey, Mullins, Nolan, Burke, McDermott, Newe, McCabe, Byrne, Joyce, Gorman. Sub., Morgan for Newe.

Referee: Mr. Kinsella (Dublin).

● Limerick City are away to UCD at Belfield next Sunday. At their meeting last Friday, the League decided to rub the slate clean and are to re-fix the game against Bohemians. They also have to meet Waterford, Home Farm, Athlone Town and Sligo Rovers, and dates will be announced shortly.

### Basketball:

#### FIXTURES

Wednesday, Nov. 9—Corbally: 8.00, N.I.H.E. v. Colms (Men); 9.00—Thurles v. Colms (Men's 2).  
Thursday, Nov. 10, Laurel Hill: 8.00, St. Senan's v. M.I.C.E. (Ladies 3); 9.00—Thomond B v. Voyagers (Ladies 4).  
Thursday, November 10, M.I.C.E.: 9.00, Teachers v. MICE B (Men's 3); 10.00, Trotters v. M.I.C.E. A (Men's 3).  
Friday, Nov. 11, M.I.C.E.: 7.30, Copewood v. Nenagh (Ladies 4).  
Sunday, Nov. 13, M.I.C.E.: 6.00 p.m., Trotters v. Marathon B (Ladies 5); 7.00, Marathon v. Voyagers (Men's 3); 8.00, Atlantis v. Voyagers (Ladies 2); 9.00, Shannon B v. Trotters (Men's 3).

### Oakfield Beagles

will meet at 1.30 p.m.

#### NOVEMBER

Sun., 13th ..... Mungret  
Sun., 20th ..... Newbridge  
Sun., 27th ..... Grange

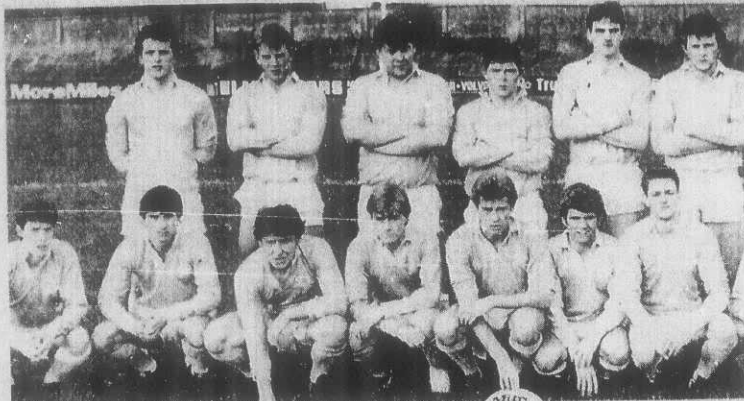
### SENIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP:

## Shannon had a superb win

GARRYOWEN, YOUNG MUNSTER ALSO WIN

A superb win by Shannon when they came from arrears of 6-nil to win 22-6 against Lansdowne highlighted the weekend senior club programme in which Young Munster had a big win over Athlone and Garryowen beat Waterpark.

Shannon..... 22



The Garryowen team that beat Shannon in the under 20 league final at Thomond

### MUNSTER SENIOR LEAGUE:

## Cross the star in Crescent win

U.C.C. .... 11  
Old Crescent ..... 13

Ger (Rusty) Cross was the outstanding player in Old Crescent's narrow league win against U.C.C. at the Mardyke last Saturday.

Cross scored a cheeky try when he scampered around the blind side of a five yard scrum. Then with the game in injury time and Crescent holding onto a tenuous 2 point lead, Colledge opened up inside their own half and put flying wing Jim Crotty free and racing for the corner flag. It seemed that a Colledge try was inevitable, but Cross came from nowhere to bring off a brilliant match saving tackle.

The Mardyke is one of Cork's most picturesque rugby grounds, and Saturdays game was played in idealic conditions.

Colledge are renowned for their open brand of rugby but Crescent who also like to run the ball nearly paid the price for using the wrong tactics on the day.

The Limerick side were on top throughout in the set scrums and would have been better advised to keep the game tight rather than play the ball wide.

However, as the game progressed Crescent eventually adopted the right tactics, keeping the ball in the scrums, and pushing the lighter Colledge pack fifteen and twenty yards at a time.

Colledge led by 7 pts. to 6 pts. at half time. A try by Jim Crotty and a penalty goal from

their promising scrum half Fergus Ahern. Nial Hogan had Crescents try converted from the touchline by Jim Keane.

In the second half Cross scored his try and Jim Keane landed a penalty. Owen Crotty scored U.C.C.'s second try. Derek Brown (captain), Eddie Reeves and Liam Cusack were outstanding in the Crescent pack. While Rusty Cross, Alan Keane and Owen O'Neill were the pick of the backs.

The Crotty brothers Jim and Owen and Fergus Ahern were best of the U.C.C., back line. Shorten, Kevin Deering and Madden were best in the pack.

Old Crescent now go to the top of their section in the league with full points from two games. Next Sunday at Rosbrien they play their third league game when their opponents will be Cork Constitution.

#### TEAMS

U.C.C.: B. Moylan, J. Crotty, T. Crotty, P. Madden, O. Crotty (capt.), G. Doyle, F. Ahern, Michael McBarron, F. O'Gorman, R. Mullen, R. Fitzgerald, N. McCarthy, G. Shorten, K. Deering, P. Madden.

Old Crescent: J. Walker, O. O'Neill, J. Rael, J. Keane, N. Hogan, A. Keane, R. Cross, E. Reeves, P. Lloyd, L. Cusack, D. Browne, M. Farrelly, J. O'Dwyer, Michael Fogarty, Michael Manning. Referee: Mr. Paul Twomey (MRA).

### Bohs. fail

Bohemians ..... nil  
Dolphin ..... 18

Bohemians made a poor start to their Munster Senior League programme when they went down to Dolphin on Saturday.

While Dolphin were on top early on they were held scoreless by a determined Bohemians side but once Declan Kidney kicked a penalty to put them in front after 40 minutes Dolphin got well on top. After 54 minutes Eric Treacy had a fine try in the corner which Kidney converted and nine minutes later Bohemians were again penalised for going "over the top" and Kidney again landed the penalty.

Two minutes into injury time wing-forward Martin O'Sullivan barged over for Dolphin's second try, following sustained pressure near the line. Kidney again completed the goal.

The visitors were never in the game and had only one penalty attempt when outman Martin Walsh was well short from long range in the opening minutes.

After this they played second fiddle to a Dolphin side that will hardly pick up two league points so easily as this.

Dolphin: J. Fitzgerald, B. Oliver, M. O'Halloran, G. O'Kelly, E. Treacy, D. Kidney, P. Ahern (capt.), E. Walsh, T. Kingston, G. Noonan, C. Woollam, P. Christopher, J. McCarthy, N. Cashman, M. O'Sullivan, Replacement, J. Sheehan for Walsh.

Bohemians: D. Barry, A. Kennedy, P. Rolls, C. McDermott, M. Wixted (capt.), M. Walsh, C. Daly, B. O'Callaghan, J. Keating, T. Mulcahy, J. Madigan, T. Daly, D. Bennett, B. Spillane, G. Madigan, Replacement, P. Shanahan for Wixted. Referee: R. McDowell (M.A.R.).

### Rugby:

## O'Sullivan named by Munster

GARRYOWEN winger, Eddie O'Sullivan, was named this morning to fill the vacant wing position on the Munster team to play Connacht in Galway next Saturday.

The full Munster team is J. Barry, E. O'Sullivan, P. Cross, M. Kiernan, M. Finn, T. Ward, M. Bradley, T. Mulcahy, Bohs.; P. Derham, D. O'Brien, Highfield; M. Keane, D. Lenihan, W. Sexton, Garryowen; A. O'Leary, Cons., and Pat O'Hara, Sunday's Wall

Moore and Pat Cross. Casey again converted.

The Young Munster team was: G. Casey, M. Moore, P. Cross, F. Brosnahan, T. O'Sullivan, T. O'Sullivan, J. Moloney, J. Murphy, T. McNamara, J. Fitzgerald, R. Daly, P. Meehan, E. Montgomery, J. McGuire and H.

Healy, B. Foley, M. Moylett, G. McMahon, N. O'Donovan and G. Moylan.

Lansdowne: C. Quinn, J. McGeady, M. Kiernan, R. Moroney, B. Winkwort, P. Bell, E. Costelloe, J. J. Kelly, M. Darcy, C. O'Brien, A. Ryan, J. Malone, B. Conroy, M. Gibson and M. Ryan.