



A group of runners before the start of the Trustee Savings Bank sponsored run to Lisnagry on Christmas Day. Included are, l. to r.: Nuala Logan, Mick Hillery, Derry Bowman, Adrian Treacy, Willie Ryan, Frank O'Neill, who cycled as he has an injury; Paddy Moran, Tony Coughlan, Declan Coughlan, Declan O'Donoghue, Frank O'Mara, Mick O'Shea, John Mulcahy, Bart Cleary and Patricia Logan, at front.

**SENIOR SOCCER**

# O'Neill flies in for vital talks

By **JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY**

Former Northern Ireland international, Martin O'Neill, is flying into Shannon on Saturday to meet directors of Limerick City and to have a look at facilities at Rathbane.

Mr. Pat Grace, chairman, said this Friday morning that he had been in touch with O'Neill yesterday.

"This is a big move for him and before he makes a decision he wants to have a look around the area," he said.

O'Neill is keen to have a look at the structure of the club. He is also to look into the school situation for his two children.

After meeting with the directors he will travel to Bray on Sunday for the vital league game against the 'Seasiders.'

Continued Mr. Grace: "We cannot say there is anything definite yet. Certainly, we are interested in signing O'Neill as player-manager, but there are lots of considerations to be taken into account."

O'Neill was to have travelled over on New Year's Eve but he was committed to attending the Nottingham Forest v. Liverpool league game for BBC.

Should negotiations break down then Grace has been furnished with other possible candidates for the post by Johnny Giles.

Limerick's two League of Ireland representatives, City and Newcastle West, are very much out of favour with their supporters at the moment following a series of disappointing results and unless both record wins this weekend, they could find themselves in the bottom rungs of their respective leagues.

Though I am not privy to negotiations between the club and the ex-international, I can only conclude that he would be demanding a signing-on fee in the five-figure bracket, plus travel, accommodation and, of course, salary.

The directors insist that they want a big name to try to help them restore former glory. But apparently they are divided whether they should go for a manager or player-manager.

One bit of good news for the club is that Brendan Storan is rarin' to go again, and in view of Gordon Cowpar's injury, he could very well be pressed into action for City's first visit to the Carlisle Grounds. Storan, who has not played since his testimonial at the end of the summer, lined out with the 'Bees' on Sunday in their scoreless draw against Tralee Athletic.

**Return**

His return could release Des Kennedy for duty up front. It was the Kennedy-Gaynor partnership which reaped such a rich harvest of goals for the locals, and it hasn't helped that Gaynor has left the club, with Kennedy asked to step back a few positions.

Limerick never got going against Bray Wanderers, but with Storan's return they might fare better this time out. I have a sneaking suspicion that they will salvage something on Sunday.

**Newcastle**

Newcastle West are also

## BMX news

THE Limerick BMX club are holding a bicycle-orienteeering event at Cratloe Wood on Sunday next.

Combined with this there will be a mini treasure hunt also on bikes. This novel event is open to anyone who has a bike and who would welcome a day out in the beautiful surroundings of Cratloe Wood.

Indeed we would encourage father, mother, sons and daughters to participate as a family unit. The starting time will be 2 p.m. and finishing time will be 4 p.m.

**Schools Hockey:**

## Reserves in action

A Munster reserves team will meet their Leinster counterparts at the Catholic Institute Grounds, Rosbrien, on Sunday afternoon.

The Munster panel is: D. Brennan, Laurel Hill; S. Hutchinson, Regina Mundi; H. O'Brien, Mount Mercy; V. Ryan, Regina Mundi; C. Walsh, Ashton; N. Mason, UCB; Y. Barry, UCB; M. Keegan, Ashton; D. Gay, Bandon; A. Barry, Laurel Hill; M. Troy, Fermoy; J. Barrett, Mount Mercy; D. Moore, Scoil Mathair De; M. Walsh, Scoil Mathair De; L. Begley, Laurel Hill; L. Leahy, Laurel Hill.

**Tennis**

## Croke in superb form

Liam Croke of Catholi Institute, sponsored by the Limerick Inn, gave a blistering performance when having a superb win in the Leinster Junior Indoor Championship at Kiltiernan yesterday.

In the final Croke met Garbhan O Nuallan whom he also met in the final of the Irish Junior Open (under 16) a Fitzwilliam in August and on this occasion Croke was again very much the master with 6-3, 6-3 victory.

**Athletics**

## Costello in form

Robert Costello gave splendid performance when winning the Westside Tool 10k. road race at Patrickswell yesterday in 30 mins. and 2 seconds.

Edwina Foley of Limerick was second to Christine Kennedy of Galway in the ladies race.

## Co. Limerick Hunt

The County Limerick Hunt will meet at 11 a.m.

**JANUARY**

Sat., 3rd..... Mell (Children's lawn meet)

very commanding position.

With the elements in their favour after the interval Richmond had most of the play but their only reward was a Paddy McNamara penalty goal.

Young Munster continued their good run in the Under 18 league with a merited 13-7 win over Richmond. Declan Tobin and James McNamara scored tries for Young Munster with Tony Delaney converting one and also added a penalty goal.

One of the most enjoyable games over the Christmas period was the annual meeting of Garryowen and Shannon for the "Bottle" trophy.

What is unusual about this encounter, is that the team who lose wins the prize. On this occasion Shannon lost but won!

The superior Garryowen teamwork was the difference between the sides scoring three tries from Pierce McGann (2) and a superb effort from Leo Mayne, two of which were converted by Bobby Browne. However, Shannon did have a number of individual stars, particularly prop forward Noel Gore who converted a Sean Moran try and generally was one of the best players on view.

**Garryowen** — D. Hayes, J. O'Donnell, P. McGann, D. Clancy, M. Finlan, J. O'Doherty, L. Glynn, R. Mayne, L. Mayne (capt.), S. Sheehy, N. Johnstone, B. Browne, N. Rafferty, G. Downes, C. Johnston.

**Shannon** — P. Norris, J. Kelly, D. Sheehy, F. Power, K. Ryan, J. Ryan, C. Murphy, N. Gore, S. Lee, S. Moran, V. Ryan (capt.), E. Hopkins, C. Tucker, M. McGann, E. Menaey.

Referee, Mr. Michael McLoughlin (S.R.C.).

## Last week's results

Kelly Cup — Young Munster 15, Old Crescent 3.

Cork Charity Cup final — Cork Constitution 17, Dolphin 15.

Senior friendlies — Garryowen 4, Shannon 41; Cork Con. 18, UCC 12; Old Christians 10, Highfield 15; Waterpark 25, Waterford 8.

Transfield League — Thomond 12, Shannon 6; Bruff 12, Richmond 3.

Under 18 league — Young Munster 13, Richmond 7.

Junior 1 — Garryowen 12, St. Marys 18; Young Munster 24, Tralee 3.

Junior 2 — Thomond 34, Presentation 3.

Junior 3 — Thomond 0, St. Mary's 8.

## RUGBY REVIEW

A review of the rugby year for 1986 will appear in next Wednesday's Limerick Leader.

## Swimming Limerick outpost Waterford

Limerick Swimming Club played host to Waterford Crystal S.C. in a pre-Christmas friendly gala held at Roxboro Pool. Heretofore, the visitors had proved the stronger in two encounters, but this time were clearly outpointed in a score of 460 to 390 points.

Limerick's win would have been

