

Soccer shock as 2 reveal resignations

By JOHN O'NEILL

IN A SHOCK STATEMENT this Thursday, Mr. Noel Murphy of Castleconnell, announced that he was about to tender his resignation as a director of Limerick City F.C. to Mr. Pat Grace, chairman. And Mr. Pat Cronin, of Askeaton, who had responsibility for match programmes, indicated that he was severing his connection with the club. Meanwhile, Mr. Grace has threatened to sell the Rathbane grounds to property speculators if, he says, the public are not prepared to support the club.

In an interview with the *Limerick Leader* Mr. Murphy and Mr. Cronin said their resignations would be in the post to the club this Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Murphy, who was previously associated with the defunct Limerick United and then teamed up with Limerick City on their formation, said he had become very disillusioned and was not at all happy with operations at Rathbane.

He emphasised that his resignation had nothing to do with the team's poor performance in the League.



Signing off: Mr. Murphy (left) and Mr. Cronin.



Mr. Cronin told the *Limerick Leader* that he was prompted into his decision because of an alleged statement to him from Mr. Grace that he would build houses at Rathbane, withdraw from the L.O.I and concentrate on a reserve team in the Munster Senior League.

Mr. Cronin said he was concerned at the club's poor image and claimed that he found it difficult to get the business community to advertise in the match programme, which, he added, was being run at a profit.



Doon Festival Queen, 17-year-old Mary O'Brien, daughter of Patrick and Ann O'Brien, Hilltop View, Carrigbeg, Doon. The festival queen event was sponsored by Golden Vale Creameries.

Tom Dunne 'comfortable'

A file is being prepared for submission to the Director of Public Prosecutions by detectives at Henry Street headquarters, Limerick, who have interviewed two men while investigating the assault on Tom Dunne, the Munster junior hurling star from Adare, on Sunday of last week, September 27. He had intervened as a peacemaker in a fight between two men, at about 10.20 p.m. at the junction of Catherine Street and Thomas Street.

His condition at Barrington's Hospital was described this Thursday as "comfortable."

Aidan Tuttle

Mr. Aidan Tuttle, aged 48, of Ennis, a former turf accountant who was well known in Limerick business and sport circles, died unexpectedly early this week.

Ideal Homes

The Ideal Homes Exhibition at Moylish Sports Centre will be officially opened this Thursday by the Mayor, Tim Leddin, at 4 p.m.

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NEWS LINES



Martin Mac Aodha, manager of the Limerick cement works, has been appointed to the board of directors of Irish Cement Ltd.

Launching

Most Rev. Dr. J. Newman, Bishop of Limerick, will launch Mainchin Scioighe's new book, *The Story of Kilmallock*, at 8.15 this Friday evening in the People's Hall, Kilmallock. In connection with the launching of the book there will be a Mass in Irish in Kilmallock church at 7 p.m.



Looking for gold... Michael Daly, managing director of Estuary Fuels Limited, turns pirate to publicise this Sunday's Treasure Hunt from the Crescent Shopping Centre sponsored by his firm to raise funds for Mungret soccer club.

Meetings

His decision, he added, was prompted because he felt he served no function. "I am only called to meetings to endorse decisions already taken by the chairman and his wife, Anne Grace, who is club secretary and treasurer. I have never been allowed to voice an opinion and when I asked questions, I was overruled," he claimed.

Mr. Murphy stated that he was not alleging any impropriety.

He said of the club's weekly lottery: "When the lottery was launched the public was told it was for development work at the ground. My information is that Mr. Haymen Harris, commercial manager, has handed over upwards of £400,000 to Mr. Grace in the two and a half year existence of the lottery, and expenditure at the ground in that time has been no more than £100,000, and that includes the initial outlay in the purchase of the property from Old Crescent RFC.

"I have been told that the proceeds are being directed towards the running of the team, which is contrary to what the lottery was set up for."

Mr. Murphy said that there were 10,000 subscribers in county and city at £1 per week, and after expenses and prize money had been met, there was a weekly profit of £3,000.

Since the club was formed, he said, there had been no annual general meeting and neither had a statement of accounts been presented. Neither had he been consulted on transfers, signings or free releases.

"I am not alleging a misappropriation of funds — I am merely questioning the purpose of the lottery, and I think as a director I had a right to know where the money was being spent."

Claimed

As a businessman, he added, he was embarrassed at the direction the club was taking.

He claimed he had never been told where as much as 1p was being spent. "Too many things have happened which I did not like and the

time has come for me to get out," he commented.

Mr. Murphy said that the public were beginning to ask questions of him — "and the truth is that I was not in a position to answer them honestly."

It was wrong, he said, that the team should be subsidised from the fund.

He pointed out that it was costing in excess of £3,500 to run the club per fortnight during the playing season.

The average home gate was around £600, which left a shortfall of almost £3,000 over the same period.

"The money has to come from somewhere and I can only conclude it is coming from the lottery," he added.

"All other clubs have an AGM — why not Limerick City?" asked Mr. Murphy, who will now be notifying the League of Ireland that he will no longer be representing Limerick City.

Parish's long quest for a water supply nears an end

By MARTIN BYRNES

EFFIN'S TEN-YEAR wait for a water supply is nearing an end, the county engineer, Mr. Andy O'Connell, announced this week. The County Council is to seek to buy a well and headworks from Cork County Council. The source, which is in Jamestown, Co. Limerick, was used until lately as part of the Charleville supply. Now, because Charleville has an improved supply of its own, the Jamestown unit only serves the Ballymac group scheme in County Limerick, and a handful of houses along the pipe route to Charleville.

Townlands

In the meantime, Effin and its surrounding townlands of Garrycoonagh, Garryderk, Ballynagoul and Thomastown have been trying to find a suitable source. There are 230 houses in the area to be served, and the daily demand is for 46,000 gallons. In addition, the farming demand is put at 85,000 gallons, making a total daily demand of 131,000 gallons.

As luck would have it, the capacity of the little-used Jamestown well is 150,000 gallons a day. There is an associated bore-hole source which can provide an extra 14,000 gallons a day. Mr. O'Connell believes that this source would be quite satisfactory to meet the needs of

the people of the Effin area.

Negotiations are in being with Cork County Council for the purchase of the headworks, which the County Council here prices at about £60,000. However, there is a delay relating to Cork's need to clear wayleaves and other legal paperwork.

Watermain

The preliminary report has, however, been sent to the Department of the Environment by Mr. O'Connell's office, so that no undue delay would be caused from Limerick's end.

The work, if approved, would involve the laying of about 2½ miles of eight-inch and six-inch trunk watermain.

The board

The other directors of the club, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Grace, are Det. Sgt. Michael Browne and Mr. Michael Bourke.

When contacted by the *Limerick Leader* on the allegations made by Mr. Murphy and Mr. Cronin, Mr. Grace agreed that funds from the lottery were made available towards the running of the team.

He said that from previous experience with Limerick United, he arranged to have the grounds at Rathbane purchased in his own name, and that he in turn rented it out to Limerick City.

If anybody in Limerick, he continued, wished to become involved with Limerick City AFC, they were quite entitled to do so — "but first they must be prepared to put up money."

Soccer, he said, had cost him a small fortune. When Mr. Cronin's allegation that he (Mr. Grace) may build houses at Rathbane was put to him, Mr. Grace revealed that if the public didn't want soccer at Rathbane then he would be prepared to sell the property.

Developers

"I have ten acres up there and have already been approached by property developers," he said.

And he further revealed that he had two actioneers to value the property.

Mr. Grace said he was surprised to learn of Mr. Murphy's resignation.

As regards holding an agm, Mr. Grace said that Limerick City FC was not a limited company and therefore

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