



Child and adult members of the Limerick and Shannon Tae-Kwon-Do Club, A.I.T.A., who have been training since the club opened in the city in 1984. Included in the picture are C. Moynihan, T. Power, M. O'Dwyer, J. Healy, F. O'Donnell, N. Juinane, M. Gill, T. Ford, J. Kirwin, B. Mealy, N. G. Hession, P. Tyrell, E. Harrold, P. Bradley, E. Byrne, J. O'Shaughnessy, W. Murphy, A. Molloy, W. Power, D. Buckley, J. Foley, J. Maher, M. Noonan, T. Murphy, C. O'Donnell, T. Healy, M. O'Donnell, T. Doran, B. Lennane, D. Russell, T. Ryan, M. Ahern, P. Moloney, J. Price, N. Price, J. O'Donnell, J. O'Donnell, J. Price, J. O'Donnell, A. O'Donnell, D. Smith, T. Hehir, D. Collins, K. Duignan.

# HAMILTON REPLIES!

Dear Cormac,  
**THANK** you for affording me the space to substantiate my recent remarks.

The issue concerned centres around my belief that there is an "anti-club" feeling emanating from your newspaper. I would like to point out that this is not a recent grievance of mine. Three or four weeks after taking the job, Brian Flynn and myself found it serious enough to seek you out and discuss the matter. You assured us that you had no grievance with Limerick City Football Club or any person within the club at any level. For our part we told you we would be available for comment, night or day. This I have adhered to on the few occasions you found it necessary.

I am still of the opinion your newspaper has an axe to grind with Limerick City. Firstly, I would like to point out that I never sought to avail myself of a national platform. The national newspaper in question sent a reporter, all the way from Dublin, for an after-match interview. Something which your newspaper has yet to do and as you said yourself we are all entitled to freedom of speech.

I would like to make a stand for my players. Since taking charge my players have had to withstand, unmerciful and at times, unjustified criticism from your newspaper. For example, one player's performance was described as being "so much out of it he could have phoned in his contribution." Very witty, very smug. Would it not have been sufficient to say the player had a poor game without adding malice? Are these the comments of a newspaper whose sports editor purports to "feel for" the players and who is not antagonistic.

Players targeted for this criticism have to live and work amongst people who read your reports. People who may not have been to the matches to form their own opinion and therefore adopt the opinion of the local press, thus the importance of fair comment without malice.

You ask, are my players grown men or a bunch of youngsters starting at Primary school? They are, indeed, men, having withstood for so long this unmerciful criticism without any complaint. Results of which, may have shown in their play.

Criticism does indeed hurt deeply. As was illustrated by your own response to my few lines in the Sunday Independent. Your response being a huge editorial in your own paper and a published letter to the sports editor of the Sunday Independent. Unfortunately, my players do not have the same media space to answer their critics. This is why I stand in the corner of my players.

It is by coincidence that in my opinion match reports when a national press reporter is in attendance, give a much fairer comment and reflection of balance of play, than is afforded in the Limerick Leader.

Responsible national sports reporters do not stoop to questionable journalism, such as inferring that — as supporters were leaving the ground, many said they would not be back — or — those who bought tickets for a cup tie would be willing to part with them before the game took place — or — as you said more recently, "I, in all honesty, could not suggest to anybody that they spend their money on going to watch this Limerick team." In the three instances above you suggest that supporters would not be coming back, that they should seek a refund on their tickets and should not turn up at all for games. The first two of these remarks, you allege you overheard from supporters, the third is from your own mouth. Cormac, if you don't want to come to Rathbane, don't bother, but don't abuse your privileged position in telling others not to. That's the equivalent of me using the national media to tell people not to subscribe to your newspaper. Something I would never stoop to.

The power of the press is awesome. It can go a long way to help fill a soccer grounds or empty them. good or bad team performances have the same effect. Limerick City needs support through good times and bad.

I would dearly love to work in harmony with the local press to help fill Rathbane with supporters. Let us bury the hatchet and together we can hopefully help Limerick City to greater things and greater support.

Yours in Sport,  
**BILLY HAMILTON.**

# BRANDYWELL TRIALS IN RATHBANE

Cusack (Richmond) and John Reardon (Old Crescent) ensured that their clubs underage results were recorded.

## Trial teams

John Lillis of Thurles was the star when north Munster beat south Munster 17-7 in the inter-county cup at the Old Christians grounds in Cork.

Lillis scored a try and also kicked a penalty and conversion. The other tries were scored by Maurice Flynn of Abbeyfeale and Mick O'Gorman of Kilrush.

The North team was: G. McNamara, Richmond; M. Flynn, Abbeyfeale; B. Roche, do.; J. O'Grady, Bruff; J. Lillis, Thurles; N. O'Connor, Richmond; T. Quirke, Bruff; T. Leahy, Abbeyfeale; R. Duggan, Thomond; M. O'Halloran, do.; R. O'Connell, Thurles; S. Bennett, capt., Richmond; M. Fogarty, Thurles; M. O'Gorman, Kilrush; Sub., M. Cahill, Bruff for N. O'Connor (injured).

The following players are asked to report to Clanwilliam RFC, Tipperary, on Saturday next at 2.30 for a final trial for the Munster Junior XV:

B. Daly, Old Christians; M. Ryan, Thomond; D. Hayes, Clanwilliam; J. Coombes, Skibbereen; M. Slater-Townsend, Skibbereen; J. Lillis, Thurles; D. Harrington, Old Christians; S. Young, Nenagh; B. Hill, Old Christians; K. Duggan, Thomond; F. Consideine, Ennis; N. Hourihane, Skibbereen; S. Bennett, Richmond; M. Fogarty, Thurles; E. Coombes, Skibbereen; J. McNamara, Richmond; J. Quinlan, Bruff; D. Lane, Old Christians; K. O'Keefe, Cobh Pirates; J. O'Grady, Bruff; P. McNamara, Richmond; I. Coombes, Skibbereen; G. Waters, St. Mary's; J. Fitzgerald, Thomond; T. Leahy, Abbeyfeale; M. Barry, Fermoy; M. O'Halloran, Thomond; P. Burke, Bandon; M. Cahill, Bruff; L. Whelan, Watford Glass; J. Crowley, Dunmanway; R. Godsil, Bandon; D. Murphy, Richmond; P. Leahy, Charleville; R. O'Connell, Thurles; J. Sheehan, Bandon; M. Quirke, Abbeyfeale; E. Hickley, Fermoy; J. Cullhane, St. Mary's; C. Keogh, Thurles; B. Roche, Abbeyfeale; L. Coffey, Kilrush; D. Cross, Richmond; I. Hartly, Middleton; W. Curtin, Middleton.

## Schools results

Crescent, 6; Rockwell, 3; Newtown, 3; Glenstal, 18. St. Enda's, 28; Ard Scoil Ris, 3. St. Munchin's, 10; Rockwell, 9. CBC, 26; Crescent, 6. Bowen Shield, St. Munchin's, 8; Rockwell, 3.

## FIXTURES

## SENIOR SOCCER . . .

# Coyle set to return for City

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

Limerick manager Billy Hamilton, still smarting from that 5-0 defeat at the Brandywell last weekend, had a slice of good news this week when it was revealed that Peter Coyle had overcome his recent injury and made himself available for Sunday's meeting with Shelbourne at Rathbane.

Coyle has missed out on all Limerick's league games to date due to a shoulder injury sustained in the League-Cup. His absence was felt by his colleagues, and should he return for the visit of Shelbourne will surely give more stability to a defence which has already conceded 12 goals.

Marcus Tuite is also ready to make his comeback following suspension, but Johnny Walsh will miss out on this one.

These are troubled times for City, both on and off the field. Few could have expected that they would be lying bottom of the table after five series of matches. Morale is low at the moment, and distress signals could be sent out if they were to lose to a Shelbourne outfit that has met with mixed luck.

Club chairman Pat O'Grady is mindful of public reaction to Limerick's poor performances and this week promised to strengthen his panel. First target is former

Manchester United player Joe Hanrahan, now in training at Rathbane.

With all due respects to the chairman, his effort might now be considered somewhat late.

The time to rectify whatever problems existed was in the close-season. Limerick's preparation for the new season was dismal, and it took that Munster Senior Cup defeat by Fike to prompt them into action.

The season was under way when the search for talent started in earnest. And by then the few players who had been available had settled in new surroundings.

Key players departed from Rathbane, but they were not replaced.

Limerick City are better off player-wise than several other clubs, but yet are unable to put it together on the pitch.

That result from the Brandywell was probably a one-off situation, but unless they account for Shelbourne this weekend the soccer public will turn-off. Limerick did have a difficult programme at the start of the campaign in that they were paired against big guns Shamrock Rovers, Dundalk and Derry City, but they have some of the lesser lights in the weeks ahead.

Indeed, indeed, Limerick's long-term prospects could well be

decided by the October bank holiday week-end. Following the visit from Shelbourne, they have a meeting with Bohemians at Dalymount on October 25, and one day later entertain fellow strugglers Sligo Rovers. Their target from these three outings must be five points.

Let's face it, City are not as bad as their current position suggests. That they are now propping up the table is, in my opinion, due to a lack of preparation in the weeks leading up to the commencement of the 1987-88 season.

Shelbourne are in a fairly comfortable position and have had a few good wins under their belt. They have gathered together some of the more experienced players in LOI football, and would probably be happy to settle for a points split.

Limerick's main problem is that they are short in scoring power, with a mere two goals in 450 minutes of football. They need to inject new life into the front line, where Hamilton appears to be waging a lone battle.

A lot of pressure has been put on the defence and they finally capitulated in Derry.

A tight game is predicted on Sunday, and I think that Limerick will be doing well if they emerge with a draw.

# Utd. back at Market's Field

**SOCCER** returns to the Market's Field on Sunday next when Limerick United, still with ambitions of making a return to the League of Ireland, will play their FAI Junior Cup tie against Killoan, kick-off 3.30 p.m.

Tony Payne, Peter Campbell and Gerry Hogan remain as convinced today as they did two years ago that Limerick United should be back in league football at the Market's Field.

Newcastle West manager, Kevin Fitzpatrick, is seriously concerned with the sudden slump in the performance of his team. Ten goals have been conceded in the last three games and four points have been dropped at home. Fitzpatrick intends to try to sign a few more players to bolster his side but for Sunday's visit to Longford he relies on the same panel as did

particularly those who supported their recent dance.

"I would make a special appeal to all soccer supporters to come along to the Market's field on Sunday. Admission will be free but we will be making a collection to help defray expenses," said Mr. Payne.

The use of the Market's Field will cost £200 per game.

**Saturday's Dog Card**

7.45 p.m.  
 Open 525 yards, heat 1 — Lishahan Sandy, French Breton, Metal Cross, Shecaun Lancer, Storm Slave, River Snatcher.

Open 525 yards, heat 2 — Modern Wave, Debbys Master, Rochambeau Pet, Dark Idol, Vessington Soda, Dingle Laa.

4080 700 yards, heat 1 — Cedarwood Susie, Coming Champ, Daralanaugh, Armagh Dandy, Bitter Jack, Jolly Roger Reserve, No Whisper.

4080 700 yards, heat 2 — Diamond Fight, Our Sarah, Forget Me Now, Anco Man, Young Magpie, Brecks Sherry Reserve, Call Me Daisy.

Semi-final Leger heat 1, 550 — Odell Salt, Manorville Major, Oughter Brigg, Odell King, Yellow Bud, Spring One.

Semi-final Leger 350, heat 2 —

## Newcastle panel for Sunday unchanged

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**Riverside A.C.**  
 The cross-county season got under way on Sunday last with the County Championships for ages 11 to 17 held at Plassy. The following athletes from Riverside were successful: boys u-11, 1st place, Raymond O'Brien; u-11 team, 2nd place (team: R. O'Brien, J. Vaughan, P. Power, G. Power, A. Hodnett); u-13 girls, 2nd place, Barbara Joyce; u-13 team, 3rd (team: B. Joyce, K. Mackey, C. O'Brien).