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Limerick Leader

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LOTTERY VITAL TO SOCCER — GRACE

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

LIMERICK CITY warned this Wednesday that should their weekly lottery fail then there was a strong possibility that there would be no League of Ireland football at Rathbane.

"The lottery is vital to the very survival of the game here", declared Mr. Pat Grace, who said that fortnightly expenses during the playing season amounted to over £3,000—"and with home gates of around £600 over the same period you can appreciate our situation", he continued.

The wage bill, according to him, absorbed the best part of £1,100 weekly, and after that one had to take into account travel expenses, ground maintenance, meals, medical expenses, registration fees, etc.

Limerick, he said, were doing their best to keep the show on the road but there was no way they could keep going unless they had income other than 'gate' receipts.

The ideal situation, added Mr. Grace, would be to have a successful team which might attract the crowds to Rathbane—"and if that were to happen then we could proceed with ground development".

He agreed that the facilities at Rathbane were not in keeping with the original plans for the ground, but felt that nonetheless progress had been made and the local community were appreciative of what had been done to tidy up the area.

The proceeds from the lottery, he stated, had helped to keep football alive in Limerick.

ADMIT

"I will have to admit if we had been more careful in the transfer market we might be in a sounder position financially", said Mr. Grace.

It was the club's wish, he continued, to restructure and to get more people directly involved.

He confirmed that Commercial Manager, Mr. Haymen Harris, was now phasing himself out to direct his energies elsewhere.

When contacted by the Leader, Mr. Harris explained that he was very much involved in the showbusiness scene and would shortly be going to the United States on a major promotion with a local band.

Despite their present predicament, Limerick are planning ahead for the new season, and Manager Billy Hamilton has opened negotiations for two players.

Back to Grace: "We will certainly start the new season but there can be no long-term guarantees—if we don't have an income other than from football then that will be it", he warned.

Every effort, he said, was being made to field a successful team and it was their wish that the public might rally behind them.

Tennis:

Gina Irish

There was yet another superb performance this week by 15-year-old Gina Niland in the Limerick Lawn Tennis. Miss Niland followed up her superb win in the So Ireland final by causing an upset at the Irish senior championship at Fitzw Dublin, yesterday when she proved far too good for number 6 seed, Caroli lingham of England 6-7-5.

Miss Niland's brother Ross and Ray, were in winning form yesterday when they advanced in the tournament in Mulling.

LIMERICK OPEN

The Limerick junior continues all this week at the Catholic Institute Club. The senior open gets away on Saturday week. The So Ireland junior championship will be held.

The results to date:
Limerick junior open:

Monday

Boys under 14
J. Beary bt. M. K 6-0, 6-1.
K. Begg bt. B. Dowr 6-0.

T. O'Shea bt. B. Mack 6-0, 6-0.
M. Gaynor bt. D. F 6-0, 6-2.

D. Leonard w.o. G. nohue scr.
B. Madden bt. S. O'I 6-3, 6-4.

Boys under 12
L. Madden bt. R. C 6-1, 6-2.

Eamon Murtagh bt. 6-3, 6-3.

Eoghan Murtagh Penny 6-4, 7-6.
S. Reidy bt. I. Cover 7-6.

Girls under 16
F. Langford bt. S. 6-2, 6-2.

G. O'Carroll bt. C 6-0, 6-0.

R. Hayes bt. F. Has 6-0.

A. Keane bt. S. Gib 6-1.

S. O'Carroll bt. A. 6-1, 6-0.

J. Mulholland bt. M 6-0, 6-1.

D. Collins bt. F. 6-0, 6-0.

Limerick u21 hurlers in action

The Limerick under 21 team to play Waterford in the semi-final of the Munster championship at the Gaelic Grounds on Thursday 8 p.m. is as follows:

Teachers fourth defeat

M. & Q. Plastics 2
Teachers 1

Teachers finished their season on a disappointing note by losing their last match. Once

