

Away to Athlone on Sunday

# LIMERICK STRIKE IT RICH AT RATHBANE

Limerick City 1: Cork City 0.

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

**BILLY HAMILTON claimed his first piece of silverware since he linked up with Limerick over two years ago when a Johnny Walsh penalty gave them a narrow win over Cork City in the Munster Senior Cup final at Rathbane on Wednesday.**

But he must have agreed afterwards that the performance wasn't in keeping with their pole position in the League.

It was a dour sort of game without any great pattern to play, but former City player, Ger Duggan, probably summed it up accurately towards the finish when he said, "Cork are always difficult to beat: they play a type of football that is not easy to combat."

Fortunes fluctuated over the 90 minutes. Limerick were masters in the first half, allowed their opponents to come back at them on the resumption, and then took over again in the final ten minutes when Joe Hanrahan was twice unlucky not to have found the target.

Hamilton was naturally enough delighted with the result and must see this as a possible launching pad for more success. Limerick had a price to pay, however, for their win: midfielder Marcus Tuite received a nasty leg injury after about 25 mins. and is likely to miss the trip to Athlone on Sunday.

It was master craftsman Johnny Walsh who brought the trophy back to Rathbane after a lapse of five years.

It was newcomer Norman Kelly who "gifted" the penalty after 18 minutes. A Marcus Tuite centre looked innocent enough as Hamilton and Kelly rose to connect, but the big central defender elected to

punch the ball away, and referee Noel Bennett had no hesitation in awarding a spot-kick.

**Pride**

Cork, with their pride hurt, reorganised themselves but as the game progressed it became obvious that they had their limitations.

A tough, uncompromising type of team, they were bereft of ideas, especially up front, and were more destroyers than creators.

It took them 35 minutes to get in their first shot of note, with Barriscale saving brilliantly from Freyne, the former Newcastle West player.

Limerick were the more aggressive, and in the 37th minute Hanrahan sprayed the ball across the goalmouth, but there was nobody to read his intentions.

Freyne, always in the thick of the action, struck the crossbar with a powerful drive, and then Walsh had a 'goal' disallowed for offside.

Hamilton, a tireless worker, was back in defence to prevent an awkward situation, and then Coyle put in a great run to set up Hanrahan, but the big striker headed over the crossbar.

The second half didn't have

very much to recommend it. Cork applied the pressure and there were periods when the locals were lucky to survive.

The half started promisingly enough for Limerick, with Harrington pushing a Hamilton header over the bar.

Then came a spell when the visitors threatened to take control. They won the mid-field battle, and player manager Eamonn O'Keefe made life a bit awkward for those at the back.

In the 67th minute Barriscale was forced into making a fine save from O'Keefe. Just when the game looked all over, there were incidents at both ends. Hanrahan was clean through but Harrington advanced to avert the danger and there was a moment of panic at the other end as an O'Keefe free from just outside the area took a deflection and went over for a corner.

Limerick were relieved to hear the final whistle. It was only Hamilton's second win over them and he will be hoping for the 'hat-trick' when the sides meet again in the League on Saturday week, at the same venue.

**Limerick City:** Barriscale; Mullane, O'Halloran, Daly, Cowpar, Tuite, Coyle, Hyde, Walsh, Hamilton, Hanrahan

Sub., Mannion for Tuite.

**Cork City:** Harrington, Murphy, Long, Healy, Kelly, Freyne, Windridge, Conroy, Duggan, O'Keefe, Caulfield.

Referee: Noel Bennett (Clare).

**League**

Riding high at the top of the league table, Limerick City defend their unbeaten run at St. Mel's Park on Sunday when they do battle with Athlone Town. This is an awkward assignment for them as the Midlanders have a good home record.

Recently promoted from the First Division, they obtained a point in Cobh last week-end, a result that must boost their confidence for the visit from Limerick.

Former City player, Denis Clarke, is a regular with Athlone, who will also have Derek Carroll, sought by Billy Hamilton earlier this season.

Marcus Tuite must be considered a doubtful starter, which could pave the way for the return of either Colm McGonigle or James Coll, in a reshuffle.

"Every game for us has that cup flavour about it, but I think we can take it," says Hamilton, pleased with their progress.



The 1987 Nestlé Junior Tennis Internat were held at the Surrey Tennis and Croydon, recently, Irish Nestlé char Niland, Limerick LTC and Eoin Beirne, College, Dublin, represented Ireland with Gina winning the runner-up spc section and Eoin winning the third plac finals. Pictured above at the prize pr Croydon are, from left to right: ( Limerick LTC with her £250 Sterling prize; Richard Webb, Chief Exec (Ireland); Eoin Beirne, St. Michael's Co 3rd place boys winner (£100 St

**TENNIS:—**

## DRAW FOR LIFESTYLE DOUBLES

The draw for the Autumn Doubles, sponsored by Lifestyle of the Crescent Shopping Centre, which gets underway at Catholic Institute next week was made this week and there will be five divisions for the Ladies and four for the men.

The pairings are:

Men's Division One — T. O'Shea and P. Lavelle; L. Power and G. O'Shea; F. Sweeney and K. O'Connor; J. English and D. Dore; J. Harkin and D. Cusack; J. Geary and J. O'Connor, M. Byrne and J. Fitzgerald.

The men's divisions one, two and four will be played on Tuesday nights with division 4 at 7pm, 1 at 8pm and 4 at 9pm and the order of play is:

Week one — 1 v 2, 3 v 4, 5 v 6, Week two — 2 v 3, 4 v 5, 6 v 7, Week three — 1 v 3, 2 v 4, 5 v 7, Week four — 3 v 5, 4 v 6, 1 v 7, Week five — 1 v 5, 2 v 6, 4 v 7, Week six — 2 v 5, 1 v 6, 3 v 7, Week seven — 3 v 6, 2 v 7, 1 v 4.

Men's Division Two: G. Loftus and T. Larpey, J. O'Hare and B. McMahon, U. O'Nuallan and S. Croker, J. Purcell and P. O'Rourke, J. Casey and J. Treacy, P. Dalton and A. Kennedy, C. Cusack and R. Young.

Mens division three: D. Ryan and B. O'Kennedy, J. McCormack and J. Coleman, J. Walsh and H. McGovern, D. Fitzgerald and I. Kiernan, P. Whelan and J. Hanly, M. Carr and E. D. McNamara,

Reddan and The ladies be played at days.

Ladies div Powell and E and C. McN; and A. Burke J. Higgins; J. Gilmore; T. Brennan; M. Larpey.

The ladies be played at days.

Ladies div Kearney and Croke and McDonagh a Connaughtor nor, C. R. Morrissey, C. F. Boucher and M. Case.

The ladies be played ea Spm.

The order Ladies divis three is

Week one: Week two: Week three: Week four: Week five: Week six: Week seven: v 4.

Ladies div Sweeney and Eileen Fyne Lanch, S. A Byrne R. M. Pratt, A. R. M. Skelton.

**RUGBY:—**

## Munster face a major task

### Rugby fixtures

Sat, Oct. 1: Rep. Munster v London Counties, Musgrave Park, 4.30 p.m.

S.F. Garryowen v Blackrock College, Dooradoyle, 3.00.

S.F. Clontarf v Old Cies