

opposition from coming through.

### Improvement

When I train or play, I think the most important word to me is 'improvement'. All that can ever be asked of you is to give 100% to what you do — if you do that, then the result is then not the most important fact, but that you tried your hardest and gave it full commitment.

I will be writing a short column each week and I look forward to being involved with the game in the Limerick area.

A large part of the ideas and points of view have obviously been formed through my time with the New Zealand team and so will have leaning towards how the game is played with them and throughout New Zealand.

● In an interview with Sports Editor, Cormac Liddy.

# Critical 48 hours for Limerick City

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

THE LIFETIME of the current Limerick City could be as little as 48 hours — that is unless a successful conclusion is reached in the takeover bid by a group of local businessmen.

The players were not paid last Sunday for the previous week's game against Drogheda — apparently, they are the customary one week behind — and should the owners not honour their agreement following the clash with Athlone Town on Sunday then the players will, by rule, become free agents, as they will not have received payment for 14 days.

Said Manager Dave Mahedy: "It is all very worrying and at this stage we just don't know who owns Limerick City. If the players are freed from their contracts on Sunday night, they can negotiate their own terms with any other club without Limerick City receiving as much as one penny in transfer fees".

Already, claimed Mahedy, he had received approaches from one Dublin club who had made enquiries about a particular player.

And unless the situation is resolved within 48 hours there could be a virtual clean-out of players at Rathbane.

### Acting

Mr. Jim O'Donnell, solicitor, who is acting for the purchasers of the club, said in a statement this week that until such time as all negotiations were concluded satisfactorily, the prospective purchasers will, in the interim, have no role to play in the running or administration of

the club.

The question is, who then will pay the players and meet all other financial obligations.

The taking over of any football club and its grounds can be a long and complicated issue, one not likely to be resolved in a matter of days; a simple house purchase can take months to conclude.

Ann Grace and her fellow directors are in something of a dilemma at the moment. It must be said at this juncture since their taking over of the club, they have been more than generous with their playing staff, and one can only conclude that last week's affair was solely because of a misunderstanding.

If the current directors feel they have had enough then they might not wish to carry on until the legalities of the takeover are finalised.

On the other hand it must be in their own interests to keep the club going for they have a valuable asset in their players.

To continue, of course, would involve them in even further outlay, not alone in wages but in travel and other overheads.

Limerick are also having their troubles on the pitch and are just three points off the bottom club.

As Mahedy pointed out, it has not been easy to keep the momentum going on the field.

There are several injury problems for the visit of Athlone Town, with Joe Hanrahan definitely out.

Mike Kerley and Johnny Mullane should be available.

Athlone are also having difficulty in finding their form but will be keen to take advantage of Limerick's plight.

This is the most crucial 48 hours in the history of Limerick City F.C. While I doubt very much that the players financial predicament will not be sorted out by the deadline, there is always the possibility that the crisis might not be averted.

Kick-off on Sunday is 2-15.

# Stars parade at Thomond for charity

A whole host of international and interprovincial stars will be in action when St. Munchin's College celebrate their first 25 years at Corbally with a charity rugby match in aid of St. Vincent de Paul at Thomond Park on Wed., Dec. 27th.

Internationals Colm Tucker of Shannon and Larry Moloney of Garryowen have chosen two powerful sides who will be committed to the open, running game whenever the opportunity arises. Tucker will lead a side that includes fellow international Phil Danaher along with such distinguished senior club players as Stephen Hennessy, St. Mary's College; Dan Larkin, Bective Rangers; Paul Healy, Shannon, and Paul Culhane, Corinthians.

Larry Moloney is coming out of retirement for the occasion and his selection contains international prop John Fitzgerald of Young Munster and other well-known performers such as Pat Murray, Shannon; Conor McDermott, Bohemians; Tommy Lenahan, Bohemians; Jim Galvin and Tim Coughlan, Old Crescent; Noel Glynn, Shannon, and Declan Madden of Garryowen.

An impressive substitutes

panel has also been drawn up and includes notables like Ger McNamara, Shannon; Mike Hannon, Bohemians; Dermot Graham, Highfield; Richie Stokes, London Irish, and Mick Sheehan and Kieran Considine of Young Munster. All players involved are past pupils of St. Munchin's, a college that has enjoyed much success since its move from city centre Henry St. to suburban Corbally 25 years ago.

Larry Moloney dropped the goal that gave them their first Munster Schools Senior Cup final success over Rockwell in 1968. The same year, they lost in the final of the Junior Cup but won that title for the first time two years later.

The 70s were a time for team building and St. Munchin's were more than a little unfortunate to lose in two finals. But they claimed the senior title again in 1982 with a superb side that beat PBC in the final. That was a high point in the college's history and in 1983 Munchin's inflicted a 29-0 defeat on Blackrock in Dublin, the only time the sides have met. They scored 6 tries in the process.

Six St. Munchin's students, Bill Mulcahy, Bill O'Connell, Larry Moloney, Colm Tucker, Phil Danaher and John Fitzgerald, have played for Ireland, and the schools caps include John Ahern, Phil Danaher, Dan Larkin, Pat Murray, Tom O'Connor, Michael Quaid, while Donal Barry toured Australia with the Irish side.

Walsh, Bohemians; Peter Rolls, Bohemians; Donal Barry, Charleville; Ger McNamara, Shannon; Philip Danaher, Garryowen; Willie Quinlan, Bohemians; Joe Hannon, Bohemians; Paul Healy, Shannon; Kieran Considine, Young Munster; Tom Moore, Bruff; Adv O'Grady, Shannon; Hurley, Bohemia; Tom Leahy, Abbeyfeale; Mike Fitzgerald, Shannon.

Subs.: Donogh O'Brien, Bohemians; Pat Reddan, Bohemians; Maurice Nelligan, Bruff; Sean Liston, Shannon; Eamonn Butler, Shannon; John Bermingham, Bohemians; Tony Mullins, Garryowen; Nelius Noonan, Bruff; Mike Quaid, Bohemians; Hugh McGrath, Young Munster; Mike King, Bohemians; Ray Ryan, Young Munster.

Not considered due to injury — Jim Galvin, Old Crescent; Paul Hogan, Garryowen.

## Saturday's dog card

525 yards: Lady Beach, Yellow Banana, Knockanean Lass, Paddy's Black, Banard Villa, Note To Fly, Oinsin Beauty (res.).  
Heat 1 30/50 sweep: Rckmout Rambo, Una, Ross Flash, Steves World, Broadford Jean Sparkle, Rose, Ferrybridge Mike (res.).  
Heat 2 30/50 sweep: Near And Far, Belkelly Bridge, Blushing Girl, Pike Yank, Baby Jill, Chas Reject, Polly's Soda (res.).  
Heat 1 700 yards: Behins Maieic.

## Newcastle entertain Finn Harps



Tournament held at minor, Pat Dalton, DenisIFESTYLE, sponsor; Ger rphy.

# Cupped

ould take the points againstannon while Bruff, who on their last two outings, will expected to defeat ifeacle.

Presentation travel to New-astle West with a number of jury problems before they n finalise their line-up. The ints are likely to stay in ewcastle West.

There are also a large mber of underage league tures over the weekend, in e Under-18 and Under-12 ade.

### FIXTURES

**SATURDAY, DEC. 16**  
O'Donovan Cup SF—Old rescent v. Garryowen, Ros-ien, 2.30. Connacht referee. Clontarf v. Bohemians, ublin.  
Wanderers v. Young Muns-er, Dublin.  
Greystones v. Shannon, reystones.

U18 friendly — St. Cle-ments v. Munster XV, St. lements, 12.00, G. Norton.  
Junior II friendly — St. larys v. Old Crescent, Cor-ally, 2.30, G. Greenwood.  
Gleeson League — Bruff v. homond, Bruff, 2.30, B. lClysaght.

Schools junior friendly — t. Endas v. Crescent Comp., t. Endas, 11.30, K. Doyle.  
Under 20 friendly — Old rescent v. Shannon, Ros-rien, 12.45, G. Slattery.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 17**  
3rd junior clubs challenge rd — Thomond v. Old ristians, Fitzgerald Park, .00 (e.t.), N. Sexton, C. ainbow, K. O'Brien.  
Clonakilty v. Cashel, Clo-akilty, 2.00 (e.t.).  
St. Marys v. Richmond, orbally, 2.00 (e.t.), B. rown, P. Ahern, M. Lloyd.  
North Munster junior ague — Bohemians v. Old rescent, Rosbrien, 2.30, J. ole.

## Under-age rugby fixtures

**SATURDAY, DEC. 16**  
TSB under 12 A league: Clanwilliam v. Presentation, 12.00, Tipperary.  
TSB under 13 friendly: Thomond v. Presentation, 11.30, Fitzgerald Park.  
**SUNDAY, DEC. 17**  
TSB under 18 league: Bohe- mians v. Ennis, 12.50, Ann- cotty. Clanwilliam v. Shan- non, 12.00, Tipperary. St. Mary's v. Thomond, 12.00, Corbally.  
TSB under 12 A league: