

LIMERICK FC

LIMERICK FC V THE LIVERPOOL LEGENDS

Liverpool FC and the Limerick connection

WHEN most Limerick soccer followers talk of any connection between the city and the famous Liverpool FC they naturally mention Steve Finnan's family connections with the city as well as Limerick FC under-20 manager Paul O'Donnell, who spent several seasons on Merseyside as a youth.

Many of the older generation however will also remember Aengus McMorrow, a very popular sportsman who played both rugby and soccer locally during the early 1950s.

However most Limerick people will probably not be aware that Aengus McMorrow went on to play a very important role for Liverpool FC during their most successful years as European Cup champions.

One of an identical set of twins the Sligo-born Aengus was educated in Terenure College and on leaving school arrived in Limerick to work with Aer Lingus in Shannon.

He joined Garryowen FC and also played soccer with Pike Rovers.

Aengus soon established himself as an outstanding rugby full-back with Garryowen in a team which also included Gordon Wood and Richard Harris. He won a Munster Senior Cup medal in 1951 and went on to be capped by Munster and won his first international cap in the last game of that season which was a 3-3 draw with Wales at the Cardiff Arms Park.

McMorrow was now the man in possession of the full-back jersey and it was expected that McMorrow would retain the position during the following season.

Unfortunately, while playing a local soccer game during the summer break, Aengus had the misfortune to break his leg, an injury which heralded the end of his sporting career.

Having married a local girl, Birdie O'Neill (Thomas Street), promotion in his job saw Aengus McMorrow moved to Edinburgh from where he was promoted once more as manager with Aer Lingus in Manchester.

As manager of Aer Lingus Aengus acquired the prestigious contract of transporting the Liverpool FC team on all their European Cup campaigns until his retirement in 1982 - what had started as a business arrangement soon became a close personal relationship between Aengus and Liver-



Above: Showing off the European Cup - Bob Paisley, Aengus McMorrow and Alan Kennedy pictured with the European Cup in 1981 - Alan Kennedy scored the winner against Real Madrid in the European Cup final that season. Interestingly Kennedy's strike represented the third goal Real Madrid had conceded in the competition. They conceded the other two against Limerick FC in the first round when the Super Blues' Des Kennedy scored at home and away against the Spanish giants



Left: Aengus McMorrow and Bob Paisley pictured on a flight home after Liverpool beat Real Madrid in the 1981 European Cup final

pool FC. Indeed, the club came to depend on Aengus to arrange all details of travel and accommodation for the team and their officials.

He traveled on all away trips with the team and became known as the man sort out all problems, but without any fuss.

Though living in a house with wife Birdie and seven children, who were all ardent Manchester United supporters, Aengus remained a loyal Liver-

pool fan up to his death nine years ago.

On the occasion of his retirement from Aer Lingus in 1982 Liverpool made a special presentation to him as well as dedicating a special match day programme to Aengus in recognition of his outstanding service to the club.

In retirement Aengus took great pride in the special invitation he always received to be a guest of the club directors at all home games in Anfield.

Aengus' wife Birdie remains hale and hearty and is still living in Manchester. She makes regular visits to Limerick and loves to recount her memories of Aengus' sporting exploits in Limerick.

Aengus' identical twin Colm was also an accomplished rugby player. He played for Connacht and on one occasion played opposite Aengus in an inter-provincial match - Colm became manager of the Aer Lingus office in Boston and still lives there in retirement.

Aengus was also an uncle of ex-Old Crescent RFC president Dermot McGovern and Aelish McGovern who is married to Ralph McMahon who has been involved with Limerick FC for many, many years.

Liverpool Legends

Meanwhile Limerick FC are delighted to announce that both Mark Lawrenson and Phil Neal will also feature next Sunday at Jackman Park when the Super Blues take on the Liverpool Legends (kick-off 5pm).

Previously confirmed Liverpool players include: Ronnie Whelan, John Aldridge, Jason McAteer, Bob Bolder, Don Hutchinson, Michael Thomas, Gary Gillespie, Jan Molby and Phil Babb.

Match tickets cost €25 (seated), €20 (adult standing) or €10 (under-16 standing). There will also be a special family area, with family tickets (two adults & two under-16s) priced at €40. There will also be a post-match dinner at the Strand Hotel. Tickets for the dinner cost €50.

Tickets are now on sale and are available from Limerick FC, ticketmaster.ie and from all Ticketmaster outlets. For ticket information please phone 061 324 563 or 085 107 9319 or email tickets@limerickfc.ie

LEAGUE OF IRELAND - FIRST DIVISION

The key factor at Jackman Park on Friday night is pride

Brian McDonnell

LIMERICK FC entertain Finn Harps at Jackman Park on Friday night (kick-off 7.45pm) in their final home game of what must be admitted has been a disappointing season for the Super Blues.

The result, with Limerick FC lying seventh in the table and Finn Harps eighth, isn't likely to influence either side's finishing position so the key factor here is pride.

And, with both teams trying to avoid their 14th league defeat of the season this

encounter at Jackman Park could prove entertaining.

Limerick FC first encountered Finn Harps at Jackman Park on May 8 when the Super Blues were held to a one-all draw - that game represented Paul Hegarty's, the then Finn Harps manager, last game.

Although Finn Harps did especially well to hold on for a share of the spoils Hegarty parted company with the Donegal club in the days following that fixture.

Limerick FC only managed one goal that evening (John Tierney), but they were most

obviously the better footballing side with the frustration getting the better of Pat Scully late in the game when the manager was sent to the line for arguing a litany of refereeing decisions a little too vigorously.

Limerick FC should have won that game and made amends on August 8 when the Super Blues traveled to Ballybofey and won 2-1 thanks to goals from Shane Tracy and Stephen O'Flynn.

The weekend previously Limerick FC had lost 1-4 at home to Sporting Fingal and that result proved a massive

tonic to the Limerick squad. And, they will be looking for

LOI - FIRST DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	P
UCD	31	22	5	4	71
Sporting Fingal	31	20	6	5	66
Shelbourne	29	19	7	3	64
Waterford United	30	18	6	6	60
Monaghan United	31	14	7	10	49
Wexford Youths	31	15	4	12	49
Limerick FC	31	10	8	13	38
Finn Harps	30	8	9	13	33
Longford Town	31	7	4	20	25
Athlone Town	31	5	9	17	24
Mervue United	31	6	4	21	22
Kildare County	31	4	3	24	15

Fixture
Friday, October 30
Limerick FC v Finn Harps
Jackman Park @ 7.45pm

another one this weekend. Since last facing Limerick in August Finn Harps have recorded four victories (Kildare County, Longford Town, Mervue United & Athlone Town) - it should be noted that all four wins came against the bottom four in the division.

Finn Harps also drew with Shelbourne and Waterford United while they have lost to UCD, Sporting Fingal, Monaghan United and the Wexford Youths. In their last 10 games Finn Harps have managed 14 points while Limerick FC have accumulated just 11.

Since that successful trip to Ballybofey Limerick FC have beaten Mervue United, Athlone Town, Waterford United, drawn with Shelbourne and Monaghan United while they have lost to Longford Town, UCD, Wexford Youths, Sporting Fingal and most horrifically of all to Kildare County.

Limerick FC supporters will be hoping that the Super Blues will put on an attacking display against Finn Harps on Friday night and not the anaemic display which saw the home side lose so badly to Kildare County a mere three weeks ago.