

# PROSPECT

1904 ————— 1980



**Munster Junior Cup winners, 1924-'25.** Back row: Ritchie Patterson, Kieran Blake, Jackie Venners (vice-captain), Mick O'Connell, Willie Shute, Tom O'Shea, Dan "Ferkie" Lynch (president), J. Micks, Pat Keating. Sitting: Tommy O'Neill, Joe "Gossege" Patterson, Gerry "Lamman" Griffin, Paddy Ronan, Louis Simmonds. Front: Jim "Bunty" Sarsfield, Paddy "Whack" Gleeson. Medals are displayed on the shield.



**Prospect Utd., 1936-37.** Front: Noel Donnelly, Pat Kelly, John Lynch, Pat Hourigan, Joe O'Shea. Back row: Willie Flanagan, Joe Nolan, Michael O'Brien, Pat Hanrahan, Tom Coltery, Noel Ronan.

## IN TRACING THE HISTORY of Prospect Football Club one is taken back to 1904 when the club was founded in the Halls Range area of Limerick.

Among its founder members were Willie Shute who was secretary and who afterwards joined Limerick when they entered League of Ireland ranks and Jack Noonan whose brother Paddy, now residing in Janesboro' gave over 40 years service to Limerick AFC. Incidentally, Paddy's son, Mick, is at present a member of LDMC, having held with distinction the office of registrar for several years. Among those who played for the first Prospect team were goalkeeper Sonny Doran, the McCormack brothers, Paddy and Dominic who resided next to Edward St. Garda Station; John Murray from Wolfe Tone Street and Mick and Jim O'Sullivan, from "Jack the Lads Lane", both of whom were killed in World War 1. From Halls Range came Jack and Mick Noonan, Tom McLroy, Martin Gleeson whose brother "Whack" played in the 1924-'25 Munster Junior Cup team, Paddy and Willie Flood, and Gus Neilan.

Prospect's home ground then was at Corkanree, but as there were few teams in Limerick at the time they travelled frequently for games. Westonians were another club in Limerick around 1910 and among its players were Sam Browne whose son Ollie, later joined Young Munster RFC; Tommy Spencer, Bunty Sarsfield, Paddy Browne and Mick Hayes.

They also found opposition, football wise, in the British Army whose members played in the Barrack Field, and on one occasion, held the Black Watch senior team who were holders of the Army Cup to a 2-2 draw.

The First World War curtailed football activities for a few years, but Prospect were back again in the '20s.

### Munster Junior Cup

In 1924 they qualified for the final of the Munster Junior Cup when they defeated Victoria in Priory Park by 2 goals to 1.

The final was played in Victoria Cross in Cork and Prospect make history in becoming the first Limerick team to bring the MFA Cup out of Cork when they defeated Freebooters Footballers Club by 1-0. Dan "Cha" Flanagan who played in goal in the semi-final and saved a penalty the same day, broke his collar bone shortly afterwards in a City Cup game for the Railway Rugby team and was replaced for the final by Tom O'Shea. The team lined out as follows: Tom O'Shea, Gerry "Lamman" Griffin, Jimmy "Bunty" Sarsfield, Tommy O'Neill, Dan "Ferkie" Lynch, Paddy "Whack" Gleeson, Joe "Gossege" Patterson, Mick O'Connell, Bobby Ronan, Jackie Venners, Louis Simmonds.

In the 1924 Young Munster City Cup win "Whack" Gleeson Bobby Ronan and Mick O'Connell played in the final against Abbey.

Ritchie Patterson, Jackie Venners, Bunty Sarsfield, Ferkie Lynch and Tommy O'Neill also wore the famed Black and Amber, while Lamman Griffin won a senior cup medal the year they won the Bateman Cup.

The next trophy to come Prospect's way was when they won the juvenile cup which was presented by Walsh's Drapery Shop in Wickham Street. This was won in 1926-'27.

### Minors.

John Joe Connery from Quinn's Cottages started Prospect minor team in 1929-'30. They held their meetings in what was known as the "Shack", a cellar-room in Parnell Street. In that same year they reached the final of the minor cup but were beaten 2-0 by Crusaders. Playing for Prospect at that time were such notables as Nasser Keane in goals, Blarney Keane, Jimmy Cantillon, John Fahy, Gaffer O'Brien, Dummy Carey, Brendan and Paddy Kelly, Jackie Brouder. In 1931-'32, some of their players joined Trojans, among them Jimmy Cantillon, Tom O'Callaghan, Christy Sheehan and Mickey Trehy and the following season they defeated their old club in the minor cup final played at Corkanree by 3-2 although Prospect led by 2-0 at half-time. Eddie Johnson and Blarney Keane scored for Prospect while Jimmy Cantillon (2), and Paddy Doyle assured Trojans of victory.

It was in 1933-'34 that the first shield to be competed for at junior level was presented by the famous "Duke" Breen from Newcastle West to the local council who operated from the old Rangers clubhouse. Serving junior council at that time were President, A. W. Simmonds, treasurer, Willie Shute, secretary, H. O'Brien; asst. secretary, Andy Byrnes, also Joe Scallan, Mick O'Connell and Paddy O'Neill.

Trojans were the first winners of the City Shield, a feat they also accomplished in 1935-'36.

Louis Simmonds and Blarney Keane later approached Cromer Jewellers, who presented a cup which up to recently was competed for locally. Again it was Prospect's arch rivals, Trojans, who became the first winners and also lifted the trophy again in 1935-36.

Paddy Daly who was elected chairman of Prospect when they reformed its junior side in the early sixties played for Trojans at this time.

Others to play for Trojans, among them many ex-Prospect players, were Blarney and Naser Keane, Danagher Sheehan, Mickey Trehy, Ferkie Lynch, Jimmy Cantillon, Christy Sheehan, Charlie Hannon, Mattie Gray, Tom O'Callaghan, Christy Reddan, Dan Lonergan, Willie Woodrow, Pappy Keane, Dominic Keane and Pat Cronin.

Blarney, Naser, Danagher and Jimmy Cantillon played for Trojans when they became the second Limerick team to win the Munster Junior Cup in 1935-'36.



**Prospect Utd. Committee, 1946-47:** Standing: P. Noonan (hon. sec.); C. Galvin, G. Noonan (chairman); F. Johnson (hon. treas.); J. Lynch. Sitting: T. Doherty (trainer), R. Hardaker (capt.), F. Morgan (team sec.).



**Prospect Utd. F.C., winners Limerick Juvenile Cup, 1946-47.** Back row: F. McGrath, T. McDermott, S. Kelly, G. Stubbins, Willie Donegan. Centre: P. McInerney, R. Hardaker (captain), W. Cusack, W. Harrold. Front row: P. Meade, J. Galvin. Mascots: J. Morgan and M. Whelan.

Of the 1935-'36 Prospect team Tom Colery and Michael O'Brien went on to play with Limerick. Micheal O'Brien, after leaving Limerick, then formed the famous Reds United with whom the present captain of Limerick Joe O'Mahony, began his career.

After a lapse of a few years Prospect again entered football this time drawing from the Prospect Housing scheme. George Mitchell, who is chairman of Limerick Schoolboy Council at present and who was recently rewarded for his services to football; Christy Mungovin, Henry Kelly, Connie Ward and Dick Casey were instrumental in this. Their first year, 1944-'45, in competitive ranks saw them capture the minor cup when they defeated Wembley Rovers in the final. Prospect fielded some highly talented players at this time, among them Billy Hayes who later went on to play with Star Rovers and Limerick AFC who later transferred him to Wrexham with whom he gained International honours for Ireland.

The late Thomas Wilmott, brother of Pat, was another to grace the local scene with distinction while John Linnane, Paddy Noonan and Christy Galvin were much sought after by other clubs. Gerry Mason took up employment in England a few years later and half-back Mick Wallace, brother-in-law to Joe McKeown, is now residing in America. Richie Casey and Art Stubbins later emigrated to England while Gerry Noonan was regular number four with the Blues and Mick McMahon captained the side. A player who twenty years afterwards was to win a Lawson Cup medal with Prospect was the incomparable Frankie Johnson, who played with distinction for Limerick, Distillery and Waterford. The winning minor side of '44-'45 comprised of: Billy Hayes, Gerry Noonan, Alf Stubbins, Mick Wallace, Boats Conway, Joe Boland, Frankie Johnson, Michael "Biko" McMahon (capt.), Christy Galvin, Christy Mullins, Christy Hartnett.

Frankie Johnson signed for Limerick in 1948 but returned to junior football several years later with Pike Rovers, with whom he won the Saxone Cup when Pike defeated Ballynanty Rovers in the Markets Field by 5-2.

### Juvenile Cup

In 1946-'47, Prospect won the juvenile Cup when they defeated Pike Rovers 1-0 in Cals Park. They accomplished the same feat in '49 when they defeated Black Diamond by 3-1 at the Markets Field. The team lined out as follows: Jim Kearney, Paddy McCormack, Mick Killeen, Tommy Burke, Tom Kelly, Dick Meade, Paddy Moore, "Whopper" Hayes, Jim O'Reilly, Sonny Moore (capt.), Charlie McCormack.

Jim O'Reilly scored the goal against Arthesians in the semi-final while Charlie McCormack helped himself to two in the final. Blarney Keane refereed the game. Assisting Black Diamond on that occasion were Mick

Franklin, Ducker Daly, Gerry Dean, Tom Lillis and John Clarke.

That same year, Prospect's minor side qualified for the final of the cup when they defeated Perryville by 3-0. In the final, played at the Markets Field, Prospect, who were league champions, took the lead against Pike Rovers through Willie Cusack. However, Ryan equalised for Pike, who went on to win in extra time.

The junior side in 1949 lined out as follows: J. O'Connor, T. Tobin, P. O'Dwyer, J. Enright, J. Galvin, R. Hardaker, G. Noonan, C. Barry, M. Hurley, F. Coughlan, and M. O'Brien.

In 1949-'50 Prospect had the distinction of winning the first Limerick Schoolboy trophy when the under-14 side defeated Garryowen Celtic by 2-1 at the Markets Field. The scorers were Jimmy Considine and Junior Galvin, whilst Ralph Prendergast replied for Garryowen.

Local Councillor, Jimmy Kemmy, played centre-forward for Garryowen Celtic that day. Ger Hussey played in goal for Prospect, ably assisted by Tom Kelly, Mick Killeen, Jim McInerney, Tawsey O'Brien, Pat Sheehan, Pat Kinirey, Junior Galvin and Jim Considine. They also win the under-14 league and Cup in '50-'51.

The team that defeated Pike Rovers in the final that time was Tony Phayer, Jim McInerney, Dissie McNamara, Mick Killeen (capt.), P. Considine, Frank McInerney, Billy O'Halloran, Davy Barry and Pat Sheehan.

John Lynch was secretary of the club then, while Christy Galvin trained the schoolboys.

### Rodney Hardaker

It was in August 1950 that Prospect centre-half Rodney Hardaker signed for Limerick. However his very promising career was cut short when a knee injury, sustained against Cork Athletic forced him to retire from football.

In the 1951-'52 season the under-15 Lawson Cup was introduced. Prospect and Pike Rovers met in the first ever final of the competition played at Shelbourne Park on Sunday, September 14, 1952. Paddy Kiely refereed this game which ended in a draw and the replay took place the following Sunday at the Markets Field. Pike took the lead in this game after only five minutes when Ger Waters scored. However, well-known publican, Eamonn Maher equalised for Prospect. In the third game, played at Shelbourne Park, Pike again led at the interval through a Mick Kemmy goal and Prospect winger James Culhane equalised ten minutes into the second half. Mickey Killeen scored Prospect's second from the penalty spot and Ger Sheehan added their third to leave the scoreline 3-1 in Prospect's favour. Outstanding star of the three games was undoubtedly Prospect's Mickey Killeen who was well supported by Pat Sheehan, Dessie McNamara, Ralph Prendergast, Dave Barry, and goalkeeper Tony Phayer, while Pike had their best players in Paddy O'Connor, Mick Kemmy, Jimmy Downes, Ger Waters, Harry Hartigan and Eamon Tuite.

Prospect also won the under-16 Cup in 1951-'52 when they again defeated Pike Rovers by 2-1 in a game again played at Shelbourne Park. Goals from Freddie McNamara and Ralph Prendergast gave Prospect an interval lead. Noel Carey pulled one back for Pike in the second half.

The teams lined out as follows:—

**Prospect:** T. Kelly, M. Killeen, D. McNamara, M. Clancy, E. Maher, J. Culhane, R. Prendergast, J. Kearney, F. McNamara, P. Sheehan.

**Pike Rvs.:** D. Fitzpatrick, P. O'Connor, M. Kemmy, B. O'Brien, R. Johnson, S. O'Dwyer, M. Clancy, M. Tynan, N. Carey, D. O'Donovan, G. Waters.



Back row: Johnny Kearney, Jim O'Reilly, Mick Killeen, Ger Hussey, Dave Barry, Joe Benson, Junior Galvin. Front row: Tommy Meehan, Fred McNamara, Tom Kelly, Willie Neville, Pat Sheehan.



Prospect v. Pike Rovers, 1950-51. From left: Mick Clancy, Mick Killeen, Matt Fleming, Tony Phayer, Pat Sheehan. On the by-line, Ger Frawley.



Prospect Utd. A.F.C. minor team, 1945. Back row: Alexis Clancy, Tom O'Mahony, \_\_\_\_\_, Joe O'Connor, Seamus Rice, George Lee. Front: \_\_\_\_\_, Pa Wilmott, Mick Frawley, Frankie Coughlan, Rodney Hardaker, Frank Johnson.

### Trials

The first Limerick team to play an under-15 international trial contained no less than six Prospect players. This game was held at Ozier Park in Waterford in March 1952 against a local selection. The game ended in a 2-2 draw in which Shelbourne's Ger Morgan had the misfortune to score an o.g.

Pat Son O'Dwyer and Ger Waters scored for Limerick and inside-left Jimmy Downes of Pike Rovers was later selected on the Irish team to play Wales.

In June 1953, Prospect beat Rossa Villa by 9-0 in the Limerick area Munster Minor Cup. Ger Hussey and Ralph Prendergast had a hat-trick each while McNamara, Galvin and O'Halloran scored one each. Also in 1953, Pike Rovers defeated Prospect in a replay of the FAI Minor Cup area final by 4-3, to be beaten themselves by Glasheen (Cork) in the semi-final proper.

Ralph Prendergast, Mick Killeen and Junior Galvin took part in a minor trial in Waterford in February of that year.

In the Limerick area final of the Evans Cup, Prospect defeated Pike Rovers by 1-0, the winner coming 15 minutes into the second half when Dave Barry (who, incidentally, captained Slattery's Inter-Pub winning team a couple of seasons ago) crossed for Ralph Prendergast to head home.

### Juniors

The junior side in the early fifties contained such players as Frankie Coughlan, whom many consider to be one of the finest players to come out of the area; Sean Moore, Gerry Stubbins, Joe O'Loughlin, Pat O'Regan, George King, Mick Keenihan, Vincent Flynn, Tom Galvin, J. Kinane, Paddy Flannery, Harry Mitchell, Mick Maher and Paddy Noonan.

Several of their players played with Limerick senior team, including Pat and Ger Sheehan, Pa Wilmott, Des and Freddie McNamara, Mick Killeen, Raply Prendergast and, of course, Frankie Johnson.

### Success

The success of Prospect can be attributed to the people of the area, notable Sean "Soccer" O'Neill in whose house the weekly meetings were held; Tom O'Doherty who died only recently and who devoted a lifetime to the club; Blarney Keane's brother, Donal and the late Thomas McNamara (father of Dessie and Freddie), who was also an accomplished referee in his time.



The Prospect team, beaten by Pike Rovers in the 1949 Minor Cup final at the Markets Field. Back row: Alexis Clancy, Willie Donegan, John O'Brien, Tony Moran, Rodney Hardaker, Jim Kenyon. Front row: Pa Wilmott, Willie Arnold, Frank Coughlan, Terry McDermott, Mick O'Brien.



**Under 15 and Under 16 Cup winners, 1950-51.** Back row: George Mitchell, Pat Kiniry, Billy O'Halloran, Tony Phayer, Ger Sheehan, Tawsey O'Brien, Dessie McNamara, John Lynch. Sitting: Ralph Prendergast, Eamon Maher, Freddie McNamara, James Culhane, Mick Clancy.



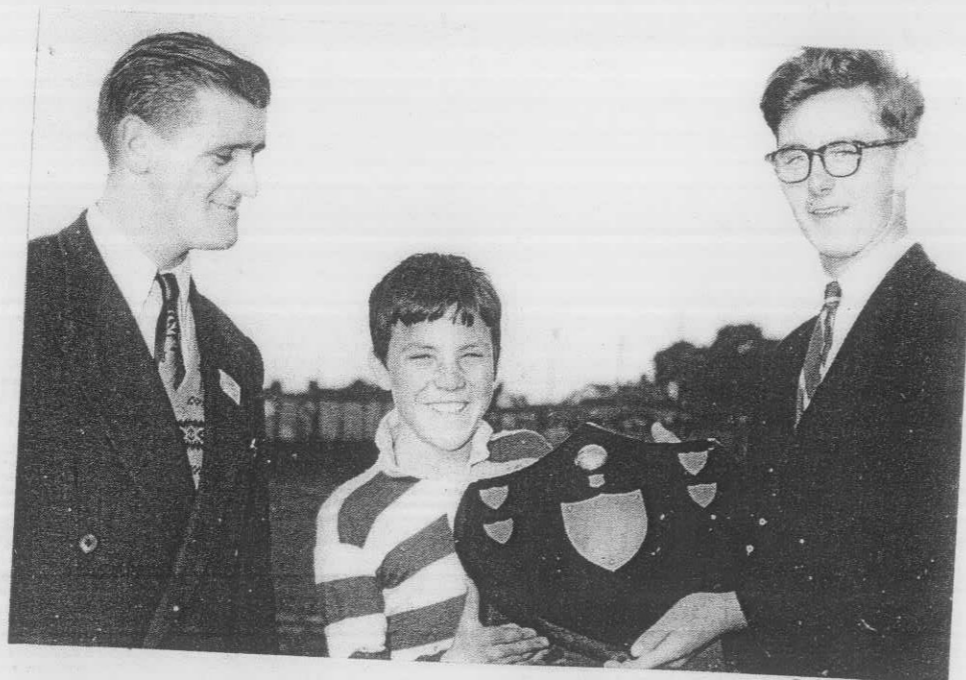
**Limerick under-15 trial team to play Waterford at Ozier Park, Waterford, in 1951:** Back row: Mick Killeen (Prospect), Ralph Prendergast (do.), Tony Phayer (do.), Ger Morgan (Shelbourne), Jimmy Downes (Pike Rvs.), Mick Kemmy (do.). Front row: Dessie McNamara (Prospect), Pat "Son" O'Dwyer (Pike), Pat Sheehan (Prospect), Ger Waters (Pike), Con Galvin (Prospect). Missing from picture is Eamon Maher (Prospect), who was substitute that day.



**Under 13 team, 1958.** Back row: Noel Monaghan, Billy Doran, Bob Devitt, Anthony Mitchell, Pat Devitt, Ollie McCarthy, George Mitchell, Ger Brennan. Front row: Mick O'Callaghan, Mick Brennan, Patsy Doran, Paddy Coll, Billy Harte.



**Under 13 League winners, 1959-60.** Back row: George Mitchell, Christy Wharnton, Billy Doran, Bob Devitt, Noel Monaghan, John McCormack, Anthony Mitchell, Pa Wilmott. Front row: Stephen Halpin, Christy Cleary, Ollie McCarthy (captain), Billy Harte, Paddy Coll, John Lynch.



Ollie McCarthy being presented with the Under 13 Shield by Cormac Liddy, with manager Pa Wilmott.

Prospect schoolboys came back into the limelight again in 1958 under the guidance of Pa Wilmott, George Mitchell, John Lynch and John Collins. Their first trophy was again the under-15 Cup in '58-'59, in which they defeated Fairview Rangers in the final by two goals to nil. Frankie Wharnton captained the side which lined out as follows: Dermot Cantillon, Henry Bouchier, Stephen O'Shaughnessy, Frank Wharnton, Gerry Earls, Tommy Morrison, Brendan Meagher, Mick O'Callaghan, John McCarthy, Mick Sheehan and Patsy Doran.

Ollie McCarthy captained the side which won the under-13 league in '59-'60. Patsy Doran captained the side which won the under-15 cup for the second successive year in '59-'60.

The team was: K. O'Neill, C. Coll, H. Bouchier, T. Keane, N. Monahan, C. Cleary, A. Mitchell, O. McCarthy, B. Meagher, M. O'Callaghan, P. Doran.

They defeated Reds United in the area final of the Evans Cup but were eliminated in the next round by Tramore Athletic in the old Rangers Field.

### Most successful season

Prospect had their most successful season in '60-'61 and created a new record by winning the under-13, under-15 and under-16 leagues and cups, going through all competitions unbeaten.

The under-14 side, captained by Billy Harte, collected runners-up honours in the league and cup.

The under-15 side had a narrow escape in an under-15 league game against arch-rivals Wembley Rovers when down 3-0 to a hat-trick from Ned Morrissey. However, lady luck was smiling on Prospect when at the start of the second half the ball deflated and, without a replacement, the game had to be abandoned.

### Teams

The schoolboy teams of 1960-'60 lined out as follows:

**Under-13:** W. Shanahan, J. Blake, R. Mullally, R. Collins, M. Constable, D. McGuinness, J. Fitzgerald, R. Whelan, M. Madigan, G. Brennan (capt.), P. O'Connell, E. Kavanagh, J. Fitzgerald.

**Under-15:** B. Harte, P. Coll, S. Halpin, C. Wharnton, N. Monahan, C. Cleary, M. Brennan, A. Mitchell, J. McCormack, O'McCarthy, N. McDonne...

**Under-16:** K. O'Neill, H. Bouchier, P. Coll, G. Earls, N. Monahan, C. Cleary, B. Meagher, A. Mitchell, P. Doran, P. Collopy, O. McCarthy.

Prospect created another record in '61-'62 when they won the under-15 cup for the fourth successive year with Noel Monahan again captaining the side. They also won the under-16 league and cup in 1961-'62 and again in '62-'63.

In 1963-'64 they won the Liam Whelan Shield defeating Dominic Savio in the final game by 2-1. Young Munster stalwart, Johnny Brennan, put Savio ahead with an o.g. However, goals from Joe McGuinness and Alan Healy brought him back in favour with Pa Wilmott.

Playing for Dominic Savio then were Ger Reeves, Don Foley, Tony Galvin, Junior Moran, Phil Treacy and Gillie O'Dwyer.

In 1961 a meeting was called in the Boherbuoy Bandroom in an attempt to re-form a junior side. The response was overwhelming and a junior committee was formed headed by Paddy Daly as chairman; Paddy Noonan, secretary, Kevin Frost (in whose premises the idea was first mooted), and Billy Byrnes, joint treasurers; Tom "Bunny" Ryan, Tom Doherty, John "Bomber" Lynch, Tom Byrnes, Paddy Fitzgerald, Paddy White, Tom O'Mahony and George Mitchell, as liaison officer with the schoolboy teams.



Back row: Vincent Palmer, Buddy Brennan, Tommy Morrison, Gerry Earls, Paddy Finucane, Kieran O'Neill, Dermot Cantillon, Mick Sheehan, Patsy Doran. Second row: John Fitzgerald, Ritchie Whelan, Denis McGuinness, Henry Bouchier, Noel Monaghan. John McCormack, Mick O'Callaghan, Liam Fitzpatrick, Patsy Collopy, Ollie McCarthy, John McCarthy, Ger Brennan, George Robinson, Billy Doran. Front row: Johnny Brennan, Seamus Ryan, Paddy Coll, Michael Brennan, Christy Cleary, Anthony Mitchell, Billy Harte, Nicky McDonnell, Stephen Halpin, Tony Flanagan, Ray Collins.



**Under 16 Cup winners, 1960-61:** Back row: George Mitchell, Paddy Coll, Anthony Mitchell, Henry Bouchier, John Lynch, Kieran O'Neill, Brendan Meagher, Gerry Earls, Pa Wilmott. Front row: Christy Cleary, Mick O'Callaghan, Patsy Doran, Ollie McCarthy, Noel Monaghan.



**Under 15 Cup winners, 1959-60.** Back row: Pa Wilmott, Anthony Mitchell, Noel Monaghan, Gerry Earls, Ollie McCarthy, Henry Bouchier, Tom Keane, John Lynch. Sitting: Brendan Meagher, Paddy Coll, Patsy Doran, Christy Cleary, Mick O'Callaghan, George Mitchell. In front, with ball, Sean O'Callaghan.



**Under 13 League and Cup winners, 1960-61.** Back row, Pa Wilmott, Dick Mul-laly, Bunny Ryan, Ernest Kavanagh, Walter Shanahan, Tom O'Doherty, Junior Blake, Ray Collins, Noel Monaghan, Denis McGuinness, Whopper Kennedy. Front row: Seamus Ryan, Johnny Brennan, Pa O'Donnell, John Fitzgerald, Mick Madigan, Ger Brennan (captain), Ritchie Whelan, Ollie McCarthy.

## President

Sean Moore, now president of Young Munster R.F.C., was captain that year. Mick Benson, Leo Doran, Kieran Downey, Pa Wilmott, Dave and Liam Constable and Fonsie Fitzgerald also played with the side. They were beaten by Limerick B in the semi-final of the Lawson Cup. They were beaten by Fairview Rgs., for whom Paddy Casey scored, in the final of the Minor Cup. Eddie O'Brien (goal), Tom McCarthy, Davy Clancy, Patsy and Leo Doran, Sean Colbert, Ger Dalton, Ger Lawlor and Mick Timmons were minors that year.

## Recalled

After three years in junior football with Pike Rovers, Frankie Johnson was recalled in August, 1961, to the Limerick senior side. When Pearse Stadium was officially opened, Prospect opposed Pike Rovers in the semi-final of the Fr. Lyons Cup. Tony "Moxey" Meehan, who played with Fairview Rangers since schoolboys, played for Prospect that year, but returned to Fairview the following year and went on to win F.A.I. and M.F.A. Junior Cup medals with them. P. J. Meagher scored the first goal in Pearse Stadium in that game, which Prospect won by 2-1.

They were defeated by Geraldines 2-1 in the final of the 1962-63 Leonard Cup.

Again in 1963-64, after three games, they were defeated 2-1 by Star Rovers in the Leonard Cup final. However, they won the most coveted local trophy when they defeated Geraldines 1-0 in the final of the Lawson Cup — Jimmy Ryan being the scorer.

In 1962-63 the minor team won the Minor Cup when they defeated Janesboro 2-1 in the final at the Markets Field. They also won the league in 1962-63 and again in 1963-64 under the guidance of Mick Clancy.

It was in 1963-64 that Pa Wilmott formed Prospect Athletic, together with Mick Timmons and Paddy Brennan. In a league game played at Pearse Stadium in February, 1964, both Prospect minor teams met and although Athletic led through a Mick Madigan hat-trick, United emerged winners by 4-3.

## Dropped out

Prospect Utd. dropped out of minor football at the end of the season when several of their players joined Prospect Athletic.

Athletic concentrated on minors only for the next four years, in which time they won the league on three occasions and Ingle and Kenneally Cups.

In 1963-64 they were defeated in the semi-final of the Munster Minor Cup by Waterford Bohemians. Mick Madigan was leading scorer in Limerick that year with 27 goals.

In 1965-66 they were beaten by Ballynanty Rovers in the Limerick area finals of the F.A.I. and M.F.A. Cups, and finished second in the Barry League. The team: Pat Hartigan, Jimmy Colbert, Ray Collins, Denis McGuinness, Mick Constable, Joe O'Mahony, John Fitzgerald, Henry Gavin, Mick Madigan, Ger Brennan, Mick O'Donnell, Ritchie Whelan, Ger Noble, Christy Ryan and Donal McCarthy also played for Athletic minors.

## Joe O'Mahony

Joe O'Mahony was capped at Youth level against Northern Ireland and England and also had a trial with Everton.

When Prospect Athletic ceased after 1966-67 it marked the end of Pa Wilmott's long association with the club, an era in which, supported by George Mitchell, John Lynch and John Collins, saw them become one of the most successful schoolboy and minor teams in Limerick.

Prospect United were beaten in the final of the Lawson Cup in 1966, and they too bowed out of junior football.

Joe O'Mahoney joined Limerick, while Ollie McCarthy, Ger Brennan, Jimmy O'Rahilly and Brendan Meagher won F.A.I. Junior Cup medals with Caledonians in 1970.

Ger Foley, Ted Slade, Bart Dillon and Ray Mitchell were involved in the running of Prospect Utd. then.



**Minor League and Cup winners, 1962-63.** Back row: Christy Wharton, Michael Brennan, Patsy Doran, Brendan Meagher, Tony Mitchell, Mick O'Callaghan, Paddy Coll. Front: Nicky McDonnell, Ollie McCarthy, Henry Bouchier, Christy Cleary, John McCormack.



**Prospect Athletic, winners of Ingle Cup, Minor League, Minor Cup and semi-finalists, Munster Minor Cup.** Standing: Pa Wilmott, Billy Doran, Liam Fitzpatrick, Stephen Halpin, Billy Harte, Nicky McDonnell, Tommy Kirkland, Anthony Mitchell, Paddy Brennan (hon. secretary), Frank Sheehan. Front: Mick Timmons (asst. hon. secretary), Joe O'Mahony, Mick Madigan, Jimmy O'Rahilly (captain), Ollie McCarthy, Paddy Coll, Ger Brennan.





**The Prospect team beaten by Star Rovers in Leonard Cup final, 1964:** Back row: Mick Clancy, Joe King, Frank Kenny, Fred O'Connor, Paddy Daly, Christy Ryan, Jimmy Ryan, Frank Johnson. Front: Sean Griffin, Denis Ahern, Benny Fitzgerald, Gerry Casey, Henry Bouchier.



Fred O'Connor receives the Lawson Cup from his namesake, Liam O'Connor. Also included are Tom Ryan and Charlie Ingle.



**Lawson Cup finalists, 1966.** Back row: Liam Fitzpatrick, Brendan Meagher, Paddy Daly, Eric Daly, Tony Colbert, Brendan Moloney. Front: Henry Bouchier, Ollie McCarthy, Anthony Mitchell, Christy Cleary, Frankie Johnson.



Mick Clancy, Fred O'Connor, Tom O'Mahony



Prospect, winners of Under 13, 15, 16 Leagues and Cups, 1961-62. Back row: Mick O'Donnell, Walter Shanahan, Billy Harte, Martin O'Brien, Johnny Brennan, Paddy Mulqueen, Joe Fitzgerald, Martin O'Donnell. Second row: Gerry Allen, Stephen Halpin, Jim Coyle, Dick Mullaly, Leemo Fitzpatrick, Timmy Moloney, Mick Timmons. Third Row: Billy Doran, Christy Cleary, Anthony Mitchell, Paddy Coll, Mick Madigan, Denis McGuinness, Ollie McCarthy, Pa O'Donnell. Front row: Pa Wilmott, Noel Monahan, Henry Bouchier, Ger Brennan, Mick O'Callaghan, Ray Collins, John Fitzgerald.

Ray Mitchell took charge of the under 12 and 13 teams in 1966-67, when they won the under 12 Cup for the first time. In the final against Hyde Rovers, Eddie Smalle put prospect ahead and, although they lost the lead, two goals by Sean O'Callaghan in the last ten minutes saw them emerge 3-2 victors. Pa Benson was awarded the U-12 schoolboy of the year and the "Footballer of the Year" (all grades) was awarded for the first time to Sean O'Callaghan. The majority of this team joined Hyde Rovers the following year, with whom they won the U-13 Cup.

Ray Mitchell tried unsuccessfully for several years to get the junior side organised again and finally succeeded in doing so in 1972 (it was Frost's inter-pub team that generated interest), when a successful meeting was held once again in the Boherbuoy Bandroom. Mick "Mousie" Hannon was elected chairman; Christy McMahon, treasurer, and John Ahern, secretary. The committee consisted of Jimmy O'Shaughnessy, Jimmy Madigan, Tawsey O'Brien, Johnny Kiely, Christy Hayes, Henry Bouchier and, of course, Ray Mitchell. The late John Collins, who served the club in the 'fifties and 'sixties, was elected vice-chairman. Ollie Halvey succeeded Mick Hannon as chairman during that year and rendered tremendous service to the club up to the time of his tragic death.

In 1976 they won the President's Cup in a tournament run by Janesboro S.A.C. at Pearse Stadium. The U-14 team were defeated by Colbert United in the U-14 Cup final the same day.

Joey O'Donnell was awarded the U-14 Sports Star of the Year, while in 1975 the U-12 team received the team of the year award. The only major trophy won by Prospect in the 'seventies was the 3rd Division League in the 1977-78 season, when they emerged clear winners, losing only one game to Summerville. Fairview Rangers put paid to their hopes of a double when they defeated them in the semi-final of the cup.

Ger Griffin, Alfie and Ger Micks, Paulie O'Donoghue, Harry Mitchell, John Lynch, John Hayes, Dave and Christy Mulqueen, Fred Moynihan were some of the last schoolboys to play with Prospect when they opted out a couple of years ago.

As president of the club today, George Mitchell has maintained an association with Prospect going back to 1944.

The present committee is as follows: chairman, Mick Madigan; secretary, Tom Sheehan; treasurer, Jimmy O'Shaughnessy. Committee: Stephen and Michael Corbett, Bobby Hickey, Arthur Mallon, Jimmy Kavanagh, Junior Carey, Joss Carroll and Jimmy Colbert.

On the playing side, side, Stephen Halpin has remained a loyal servant to the club, with whom he won schoolboy league honours in 1959-60.

Paddy "Whack" Gleeson is the only surviving member of the Prospect team that won the Munster Junior Cup in 1924-25 and now resides in Schoolhouse Lane.



**Under 12 Cup winners, 1967.** Back row: Mick Mitchell, Alfie Johnson, Francis Brosnihan, Mick Kennedy, Ger O'Connor, Kenny O'Connell, Joe Coll. Front row: Pa Benson, Eddie Smalle, Noel O'Grady, Eddie Long, Gerry Duffy, Sean O'Callaghan.



**Prospect, 1977-78.** Back: Joe O'Sullivan, Stephen Halpin, Jimmy Walsh, Kevin Benn, Sean O'Brien, Jeff Edwards, Eddie Shanley, Ray Mitchell. Front: Charlie O'Loughlin, Georgie Colbert, Billy Gough, Bobby Hickey, Liam Ryan, Harry Hannon.

● The foregoing article on Prospect's history was compiled by Christy ("Buddy") Brennan, Woodlawn Park, Limerick, who wishes to express his sincere thanks to all who supplied photographs, data, etc.