

# Sense of loss at death of a Sodacake

WHEN the news filtered through that Tom Bud Aherne had passed from this life in Luton, England, the Limerick area felt a deep sense of loss and sadness.

Born on January 26, 1919, he was but seven days older than his international colleague, the incomparable Jackie Carey.

"Budda", as he was affectionately known to all, was a son of Thomondgate, a true Sodacake.

To paraphrase in a positive way it can be said that there is nothing better than a Limerickman, or indeed, a sporting Limerickman or better still, as "Bud" might say, a man from Thomondgate.

He lived in an era when nicknames were par for the course and the Ahernes were no different than most other families living in the north-side of the city. His dad was known as "Sawder," brother Paddy was "Whacker," Christy "Duff," Willie "Chesty" and the most famous of all, Thomas, "Bud".

Limerick can be proud of its sportsmen and women so when a blow-in rugby player from Dublin town gave us the title of 'the Sporting Capital of Ireland', it was a rare but very true compliment that few outsiders could disagree with.

Had Bud not departed for distant shores, such was his talents he would have excelled in hurling and gaelic football with Treaty Sarsfields and Seoirse Clancy's in the parish of St Munchin.

He signed for Limerick soccer team in 1937, the year of their founding, played his first season as an outside right but soon converted to the left back berth.

Barrell-chested and tigerish in the tackle, Bud became well known for his forays upfield and soon the battle-cry, "Come on, Budda" would echo through the Markets Field.

Tom won a Munster Senior Cup medal in his first season in the cardinal red and white of Limerick AFC when they defeated Cork City 2-0 after a replay Bud had scored in the 2-2 draw encounter. Amongst his contemporaries at the time were Billy Douglas, Dermot Lynch, Tom Colliery, Jimmy McCann, Billy Nash, Jimmy and Mick O'Mahony, Mickey Kelly, Richie and Eugene Noonan.

brother, 'Whacker' had come into the side as had John Smith, Josie Conway, Michael 'Danagher' Sheehan, Jackie Brouder, Neil Boyle, Paddy O'Leary, Davy Walsh, who was to go on to play with West Brom; and Seamus D'Arcy who went on to play with Chelsea.

Four inter league caps versus Northern Ireland Regional League in the mid 1940s attracted the attention of the famous Belfast Celtic team and Bud signed for the north-erners in 1945. He played four times for Northern Ireland.

Celtic won the Gold Cup on Buds' arrival and made it a double in 1946/47, defeating Glen-toran 1-0 in the Irish Cup decider courtesy of a goal from Charlie Tully. They won the league championship in '47/'48 with a run of 31 straight wins on the trot.

With the demise of Belfast Celtic, Bud was transferred to Luton Town for a fee of £6,000. A joke circulating at the time was that when he arrived in Luton he was mistaken for the illustrious Hollywood actor, Spencer Tracy.

In June, 1946, Bud made his international debut for Ireland against Portugal in Lisbon and also played in the 1-0 win over Spain in Madrid.

His most memorable performance was against England at Goodison Park in Liverpool on September 21, 1949. England were unbeatable favourites but the Irish beat them 2-0.

On March 8, 1950, Tom was again part of soccer history when he played a vital role in the last North/South All-Ireland team which played a scoreless draw with Wales in Wrexham. Another glorious sporting occasion was against France on November 16, 1952 when three Limerickmen, Bud Aherne, Sean Cusack and Johnny Gavin all played in the green shirt as Ireland held the French 1-1 at Dalymount Park.

Tom was Limerick's greatest soccer player and I bow to nobody in that opinion. He was to soccer what Mick Mackey was to hurling, Tom Clifford to rugby and Stan de Lacy to hockey — and no higher compliment could be paid.

Even when he returned on holidays to his native Limerick, I remember looking at him going through his training

whom he made 266



'Bud' Aherne, third from left, back row, with the Irish team that beat England 2-0 in Goodison Park, Liverpool on September 21, 1949; back row, from left, Billy Lord, trainer; Con Martin, Aston Villa; 'Bud' Aherne, Luton Town; Tommy Goodwin, Shamrock Rovers; Tommy Moroney, West Ham; Willie Walsh, Manchester City; front Peter Corr, Everton; Tommy O'Connor, Shamrock Rovers; Jackie Carey, Manchester United, captain; Peter Desmond, Middlesbrough; Peter Farrell, Everton; Davy Walsh, West Bromwich Albion

# Farewell to Bud Aherne

By AIDAN CORR

OVER a period of 63 years, Limerick senior soccer has produced only a handful of full international players.

There have, in fact, been 10. Al Finucane from Prospect was capped 11 times while playing with Limerick AFC, Johnny Gavin, originally from Janesboro, won seven caps as a Tottenham Hotspur player and Rory Keane of Swansea Town played four times in the green shirt of the Republic of Ireland.

Joe Waters, who starred with Grimsby Town, won two caps while one cap each was won by goalkeepers Kevin Fitzpatrick and Willie Hayes, Sean Cusack, Johnny Walsh and Timmy Cunneen. One player, however, stands out as not alone the most capped Limerick player of all time but also one of the best.

The late Tom "Bud" Aherne won 16 caps as a full-back while playing with Luton Town with whom he made 266

Patrick, Kathleen, Patricia and Maura all live in the Luton area in England.

Bud Aherne enjoyed a healthy lifestyle up to the age of 77 years. Around that time he was diagnosed as having Alzheimer's Disease and he died on December 30, just a few weeks before his 81st birthday.

For "Budda," sport was his life. He played competitive soccer until he had passed the 40 year milestone and up to his late 70s, had seldom been sick in his life. It was while playing with Belfast Celtic that he met his wife, Eileen. The couple were married in Belfast in 1949.

A memorial Mass, arranged by Bud's sister-in-law, Irene, was celebrated in St Munchin's Church in Limerick by Fr Michael Liston on Friday, February 4. It was a lovely occasion

Limerick among country's

and the singing of Frances Duggan, accompanied by Molly Prendergast on the organ, enhanced the ceremony. The offertory gifts included a missal, a four-crested flag, made especially by Brian's wife, Bernie, depicting Ireland, Limerick AFC, Belfast Celtic and Luton Town; a football and a personal Mass brochure used on the day of Bud's funeral in Luton were brought to the altar. After Fr Liston spoke of Bud's prowess on the football field and the esteem in which he was held, Brian Aherne paid a glowing tribute to his dad's football and family commitments.

Bud was a member of the famous Irish team of 1949 which beat England for the very first time at Goodison Park. Ironically, four of that side have now died from Alzheimer's Disease.

Bud Aherne was one of the greats of Limerick soccer. He came through the tough school of juvenile and junior soccer in this city at a time when facilities were almost non-existent and proved himself in the competitive English League to be a player, sportsman and proud Limerickman of exceptional qualities. May he rest in peace.

## Thanks

THE Brothers of Charity Bawnmore, have thanked the collectors and contributors after the Abbeyfeale churchgate collection last weekend. The collection raised £1,102.76.

## THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS

Sealed tenders addressed to the Secretary General, Office of Public Works, Engineering Services, 51 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, and receivable at this office before noon on March 16th, 2000, are invited from suitably qualified firms for the carrying out of a survey on 84 km of embankments in Co. Limerick. Applications must be received before 9th March, 2000. Applicants must provide details of similar surveys carried out.

The above mentioned work is to be completed in accordance with the Specification and Conditions of Contract exhibited at the above Office.

Tender documents may be obtained by writing to the Secretary General or telephoning Eileen Clifford at 6476047.

Contractors must have a C2 or produce a Tax Clearance Certificate before tender acceptance. All sub-contractors will be required to produce a C2 or a Tax Clearance Certificate. It will be the responsibility of the main contractor to ensure compliance with this condition.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.



**APPLICATION TO PLANNING AUTHORITY**  
Limerick County Council: I, Eamonn Garrett, am applying to Limerick County Council (Planning Authority) for planning permission to construct a dwelling house, garage, entrance, boundary walls, septic tank and percolation area, together with planning permission to demolish existing gate lodge at the above address (dwelling house proposed to be as a replacement for lodge), all at Coolyhenan Tld., Ballysimon, Co. Limerick. (74469)

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Fri., March 10 — Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sat., March 11, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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# Castle



contemporaries at the time were Billy Douglas, Dermot Lynch, Tom Colliery, Jimmy McCann, Billy Nash, Jimmy and Mick O'Mahony, Mickey Kelly, Richie and Eugene Noonan.

The 1930s and early '40s were lean years for Limerick, who had now changed their colours to blue and white, but Bud still picked up two league championship runners-up medals. By now his

## Greyhound missing

A GREYHOUND bitch has been missing from Donoghmore since February 14.

The 15-month-old greyhound is a red brownish brindle colour.

Any information to Rosemary Moloney on 061-333116.

ford to rugby and Stan de Lacy to hockey — and no higher compliment could be paid.

Even when he returned on holidays to his native Limerick, I remember looking at him going through his training routine on the back pitch of Shelbourne Park. He had to remain in peak physical condition for the start of the next season when he would renew combat with the cream of English wingers, the peerless Stanley Matthews of Blackpool and the wizard of Preston North End's Tom Finney.

For his many achievements, Tom Bud Aherne never received the recognition he deserved during his lifetime. For those who knew him, he will remain a hero for all time. He was one of Limerick's favourite sons.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

— BRIAN O'BRIEN

the most capped Limerick player of all time but also one of the best.

The late Tom "Bud" Aherne won 16 caps as a full-back while playing with Luton Town with whom he made 266 appearances.

The club he joined from Belfast Celtic in 1947 thought very highly of the Limerick man. The fans adored him and he became one of the most formidable defenders in the English League at his peak.

Even after his retirement, Bud never lost contact with his fans in his adopted Luton. He ran a very successful licensed premises in the town, never forgot his roots and was a regular visitor to his native Limerick.

Two of his sisters, Lily, 85, and Delia, 90, still live in the northside of Limerick while one of his sons, Brian, is married and lives in Naas.

His four other children,

## Limerick among country's wealthiest

LIMERICK is one of Ireland's three wealthiest areas.

People in the Mid-West have more disposable income than those anywhere else in the country, excluding Dublin.

While the average Dubliner has a disposable income of nearly £10,000, Limerick city and Kildare come in with just over £8,600.

Corkonians have an average disposable income of £8,424, Galwegians, £8,363, while those with the least disposable income are from Roscommon with an average disposable income of £7,026.

The figures are the latest to emerge from the CSO in its annual estimate of national household incomes and show that Dubliners have a disposable income a full 16 per cent over the national average.

The most well-off regions are Dublin with 116 per cent of the national average, Limerick with 97.7 per cent, Kildare with 96.4 per cent and the south west with 95.8 per cent.

People in the Mid-West have an average disposable income of £8,612 per head.

The Limerick figure has declined slightly over the past few years peaking in 1997 with people having a disposable income of 101 per cent of the national average.

The CSO defines disposable income as total income minus taxes, social insurance contributions and other current transfer payments.

## Website address

THE new website address for Hanly Donnellan Auctioneers, Glentworth Street, Limerick is: [www.hanlydonnellan.com](http://www.hanlydonnellan.com) / email [hanlydonnellan@esatclear.ie](mailto:hanlydonnellan@esatclear.ie)

## COMHAIRLE CHONTAE THIOMBRAID ARANN THEAS

Tipperary (South Riding) County Council

## INVITATION TO REGISTERED BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Tenders are invited for the construction of houses as follows:

- |    |         |          |
|----|---------|----------|
| a) | New Inn | 2 Houses |
| b) | Kilross | 4 Houses |

Tenders Documents can be obtained from the Housing Section, Co. Hall, Emmet St., Clonmel, on payment of a deposit of £50.00 for each set of documents. The fee will be refunded on receipt of a Bona Fide Tender, which is not subsequently withdrawn and the return of documents.

Tenders, on the prescribed forms in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Tender for (insert description)" (separate envelope for each tender) must be lodged with the undersigned, not later than 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd March, 2000.

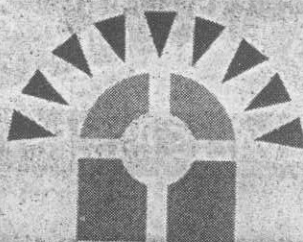
The Contractor must comply with all statutory requirements as per the specification.

Tipperary S.R. County Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 1997. If you consider that any of the information specified by you is either commercially or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted and the reasons for its sensitivity specified. In such cases, the relevant material will, in response to the FOI requests, be examined in the light of the exemptions provided for in the Act.

The lowest tender or any tender need not necessarily be accepted.

Signed: Michael Fitzgerald,  
County Secretary,  
Aras an Chontae,  
Clonmel.

(f26c)



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