

amateur

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

rick A.F.C. may go next season; that is test news from club in, Mr. Billy Higgins, erick count their losses 1-75.

must be realistic and the board meet next for the annual general it is likely that they are a decision to go r," said Mr. Higgins. urthermore, they are al- ertain to invite a num- young businessmen to e board. The chairman icious of the fact that ould is needed at the the blues are to con- to survive.

e is also a possibility ily will open negotiat- with a schoolboy club view to they coming the umbrella of Lime- .F.C.

ADOPT

bet is that Limerick dopt Wembley Rovers eir nursery. They are remely good terms with ley, who have some very ing young players un- eir wing.

n the new season com- s in August familiar such as Richie Hall, r" Williams and Sean s, will no longer be seen cal headquarters. This they were put on the o-transfer list, as were y O'Connor and Gerry eld. Fourteen players been retained.

If the club decide to nateur there is a pos- y that other players sk to be released.

Higgins added that it their intention to work the same lines as Home

Dubliners raised many yebrow when winning F.A.I. Cup last Sunday, other clubs influenced by ccess attained by the am- s might follow a similar r in an effort to cut down penses.

re Bacuzzi, one of the dedicated managers in game, worked wonders. Home Farm in his first n with them.

PATTERN

ie pattern of football has red dramatically and all ae of Ireland clubs must take a long hard look at selves," continued Mr. ins.

Patrick's Athletic set the rolling this week when disclosed that they were renewing their contract player-manager, Jack ett. Yesterday, Drogheda d company with their r-manager, John Cowan.

terford are expected to e a major announcement. ly. They have one of the est wage-bills in the ry. Their supporters des- them this season when team failed to make an ct.

st other clubs will pro- cut back on their play- staffs, and there could be "imports" than usual the new campaign gets way.

uld Limerick decide to

go amateur they will perse- are with local talent; Ewan Fenton's position with the club is not yet known, but Mr. Higgins said that if the Scot was anxious to remain on they would be glad to have him.

WORST

The 1974-75 season was one on the worst in Limerick's thirty-seven years history. They got off to a promising star when qualifying for the League-Cup semi-finals, but then once the other teams clicked into gear, the locals were amongst the "also-rans."

They avoided having to apply for re-election by one point, and were knocked out of the F.A.I. Cup in the second round by Bohemians.

They recorded only one home League win in 1975 — against Home Farm way back in January. The public lost interest and "gate" receipts towards the end of the season must have been the lowest on record.

Mr. Higgins' statement that the club might decide to go amateur does not come as a major surprise. The important thing at this stage is that they make a decision as soon as possible and then let the preliminary work be done before August.

Limerick must now start from scratch again. They must commence building for the future . . . immediately.

Mini-Rugby at N.C.W.

Newcastle West Rugby Club hold a mini rugby festival, in conjunction with their golden jubilee celebrations, on Sunday next, 4th May. Teams from towns in Counties Cork, Lime- rick and Kerry will compete for the Cahill Cup (under 12) and Murphy Cup (under 11), com- mencing at 1 p.m. sharp.

Kilmallock, last year's Community Games section winners, will be the side to beat but with all the teams in intensive train- ing some real thrillers are ex- pected. There will be further trophies for a losers' group and for sides beaten in the second round.

At 6.30 p.m., after the presen- tation of prizes, Newcastle West play Bruff in the final of the Cussen Cup (under 20 competi- tion). The visitors, who beat a strong Tralee side powered by youth international captain, Spring, in the semi-final, will be favourites, but the hosts, many of whom as under twelves, won the Cahill Cup back in 1968, will not be easily overcome.

Hyde v. Crofton on Sunday

The Munster Junior Cup semi- final replay between Hyde Ran- gers and Crofton Celtic will take place at Priory Park on next Sunday at 3 p.m. The teams drew 0-0 in Cork last week-end, spicuous by their absence at the

Earls given free release



Limerick-born Michael Earls has been given a free release by English second division club Southampton. Earls, plagued by injuries all season, joined the English club from Ballynanty Rovers three years ago.

During his spell with South- ampton, he played mostly with their Reserve side. In season 1973-74, he played about six first team games. Mick gave one of his best displays at Anfield a little over twelve months ago when he received rave press notices for his performance at centre-half against Liverpool.

The former Ballynanty player was also included in Johnny Giles panel for the European Nations' Cup games against Russia and Turkey earlier in the season.

There is a possibility that Earls will return to his native Limerick. It might be worth Limerick AFC's while to investi- gate the possibilities of signing him for 1975-76. He is a strong, sturdy lad and the experience he gained in England would be of tremendous benefit to the locals were they to offer him the right terms.

Shannon R.F.C. 7-a-Side

Shannon R.F.C. are holding their annual seven-a-side for club players on Saturday, 17th May, at Thomond Park, com- mencing 1.30 p.m.

The under 10-to-14 age groups will compete for the Harry Ryan Memorial Trophy. Those knocked out in the first rounds will play for the John "Fox" O'Halloran Cup. The under 15 to 17 age group will compete for the Ald. Stephen Coughlan, T.D., Cup. It is hoped to have all the donors in attendance to present the trophies.

The presentation of trophies will take place at 5 p.m. approx., followed by a party and film show. Over 100 boys will be tak- ing part.

Big chance for Harringt

BY CHARLI

MUNSTER'S victories in the Interpro years have been chiefly due to ti tionally good side to call upon. But t paration which the non-playing captain insisted upon.

Trials were held on each of these years, and team meet- ings held at various inter- vals, all building up to the superb spirit that lifted the title for the first time at Lahinch in 1973. The Cham- pionship was retained in style at Royal Dublin last year and at last Munster had broken through in a decisive manner.

This year, Leydon has de- cided to stand down after a magnificently successful reign as Munster skipper, but the new leader, Bob Fleury of Monkstown, has continued with the intensive pre-Cham- pionship preparation, to such an extent indeed that his year's trial was held at Gal- way, which was to have been the venue for the Interpros.

Imagine the irony, then, that this week's announcement that Galway wouldn't, after all, host the event, was greeted with: The Galway course has not recovered from the rav- ages of our terribly wet win- ter, and the Connacht Branch in their wisdom, agreed to change to Killarney, with the west taking over Munster's "year" in 1977.

Despite their earnestness in playing the trials in Galway, Munster won't be in the slight- est upset at the switch to Kill- arney. All their players know the course very well (at any rate, they should), and with the European Championships there in June, and the Home Internationals in September, the Interpros. afford an excell- ent opportunity for every In- ternational team contender to gain an even better knowledge of its subtleties.

THE TEAM

The selected Munster side has generally been greeted quite favourably, although Vin- cent Nevin's highly impressive victory in the Castletroy Scratch Cup, must have brought him very much into the firing line once again.

I don't necessarily disagree with the side chosen, but I cannot help feeling that Nevin's match-play attributes, and all- round golfing class, would have made him a better propo- sition than more than one of those included.

Billy Rice was one of the heroes of last year's triumph at Royal Dublin, winning five matches out of six, and as a great deal hasn't been happen- ing since, it is difficult to see why he should have been "re- legated" to travelling reserve, a position, which, admittedly, leaves him virtually guaran- teed of a game at some stage of the Championships.

The selectors, understand- ably, have tried to keep faith with the younger brigade as much as possible, and that is why Arthur Pierce, and to a lesser extent, Mick Burns, have been chosen.

The return of Ivan Morris is welcome — his early season form has again been impress- ive, and he has an excellent re- cord in the Interpros. The Irish team for the European

LIMERICK

Vincent Nevi to be reckone golf. The for- n displayed his Castletroy last ally over the he equalled p the earlier p Michael Hicke take the Sra- tunately, Vince not sufficient Munster select club is well Ivan Morris i Billy Rice selec ing reserve. C both.

APRIL

The long-hi ready (15) re 64 on Saturday pair of spiked in the Monthly earned himself of 12, but the that we will s him for a whil earns a trip May 19th, wh bine with our fessional, Joh foursomes dec of which get Spain in Nov to both in th in the medal

Roberts (5) Lloyd Hutchir ded a 66, an make him a the Lyric Cup the best gros good scores Noel Moore (O'Connor (15 (16) and Bri all on 68. Jim Quane (10) et

JOHN BU

In the Joh Shield, played Sunday, we friends and Castletroy. H troy were the sufficient for shield. The ev a useful tri Purcell squa in the area f

WEEKLY

Noel Smith row (19) were fourball with ished too stro ready (15) (18), who al Next best or Long (9) a (18).

It had b weeks back draw fourb afternoo—a know-you ve new membe little shy. H Cup final is same aftern- cided to post to Saturday