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Limerick Leader
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1978

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SCARTEEN POINT-TO-POINT:

Hogan and Hurley take the honours

THE HONOURS of the afternoon at Sunday's Scar-teen Hunt Point-to-Point at Askeaton went to Knocklong, County Limerick, owner, P. P. Hogan, who, with his rider, 21-year-old Roger Hurley, of Bruff, Co. Limerick, recorded a double with Squires in the Open Heavyweight Race and Mummy's Dolly in the Open Maiden Race.

In fact, Hogan was unlucky not to have made it a four-timer and Underway was a very hot favourite to beat his opponent in a match in the opening race of the afternoon but he came to grief at the sixth fence thus allowing Sea Grace to race home alone. His fourth runner of the afternoon, Any Crack, which Miss R. Eason pu, contested the Cragmore stakes, had to give best by a half a length to Very Impressive.

Roger Hurley who is only starting his career as a point rider, was recording his first double. In fact, had John Fowler been able to travel to the meeting he and not Hurley would have had the rides on the Hogan runners, and it was only lack of experience that cost him a treble as Leo Hayes gained the inside berth on the race to the final turn on Very Impressive and a better jump at the last got him the verdict over Any Crack.

There was quite a gamble on Peaceful Song VI in the Nomination race of £100. Three miles, £75, £15, £10. Mr. D. Hassett, 2. Squires b g Harwell-Bruncen II (P. P. Hogan) 8; 127. Mr. R. Hurley, 1. Top Cross (R. F. Gill) 8, 12, 7. Mr. D. Hassett, 2.

Graceful Queen (D. O'Meara) 8; 127. Mr. D. O'Meara, 3. Also - Halogen, Mr. T. Kinane 4; Successful, Mr. L. Hayes, 5; Lough Gur VI, Mr. D. Winters, pu; Carrigalanna V, Mr. B. Murphy, pu, 7 ran. 51 neck.

The James McMahon Open Maiden Race of £150. Three miles, £100, £30, £10. Mummy's Dolly b m Royal Highway-Mary Escart (P. P. Hogan) 5, 12, 0. Mr. R. Hurley 1.

Little Horse (J. W. Blake) 7, 12, 0. Mr. M. Blake, 2. Hard Lane (Mrs. M. Browne), 7, 12, 0. Mr. T. Kinane Jr. 3; Also - Fair Package, Mr. J. O'Connell Street, Limerick, by the proprietors, The Limerick Leader Ltd., and circulating in the City and Counties of Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Cork, Kerry and Galway. Transmitted through post in Great Britain and Ireland at Newspaper rate of postage and at magazine rate of postage to Canada and Newfoundland. Printed

Dog Card

Monday's dog card, 8 p.m.
525 yds. flat-Bally's Wonder, Margaret's Bluff, Ballytollan, Dan, Moygara Bet, Honk Dog, Inchbeg Dusty, Tom Spatters (res.).

525 yds. flat-Lakeshore Miss, Ballynash Cheer, Spring Lawn, Monemore Rambler, Leitrim Day, Black Sheep Lady, Camogie Lassie (res.).

525 yds. flat-Is And It, Connaught Street, Kaborkey, Tricky Johnny, Ginger Tart, Proud Rita, Shantalla Hiker (res.).

525 yds. flat-Peg's Rearing, Melody Ryde, Vets Light, Calling Naves, Star of Pint, Wandering Jew, Black Pollie (res.).

525 yds. flat - Rapid Jenny, Chiswick, Hidden Fun, Wise Up, Dreamer, Betty's King, Caher Star, Dark Morris (res.).

525 yds. flat - Lucky Touch, Yonkers Baby, Hilly Way, Rox-town Boy, Barnageeha Dusty, Blackear Dandy, Coco Boy (res.).

525 yds. flat - Atlas, Tagik, Misty's Double, Thank You Sir, Cloahat Sovereign, Bright Hi Land, Tough Thru The Pair (res.).

525 yds. flat-Lager N Line, My Banjo Boy, Mellon Border, Proud Ace, Aligpan Boy, Special Pet, Three Hands (res.).



Fitzpatrick's proudest moment... when he shared in Limerick's 3-0 F.A.I. Cup triumph over Drogheda at Dalymount Park in 1971. Front row: Pat Shortt, Joe Bourke, Seamus Coad, Andy McEvoy, Tony Meaney, Dave Barrett. Back row: Al Finucane, Richie Hall, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Joe O'Mahony, Sean Byrnes. Hughie Hamilton.

SOCCER:

Fitzpatrick comes of age

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

When Kevin Fitzpatrick trotted on to the pitch for Limerick against Cork Celtic at the Markets Field recently, few in the huge crowd realised that he was starting in his 21st year of unbroken service with the club.

Indeed, it is doubtful if any other player in the country can equal Fitzpatrick's record. In his 21 years with the blues he has never dropped, and the few games he did miss were usually because of injury or sickness.

When it comes to loyalty Fitzpatrick is tops. He joined Limerick 'C' as a 15-year-old and two years later had the satisfaction of making his first team debut against Glasgow Celtic in a friendly at the Markets Field.

Fitzpatrick recalls that day well. "I was going to school at the time and you could imagine my delight when told that I was to guard the posts against the mighty Celtic. We had the famous Charlie Tully in our side and though he scored three times they notched a similar number to earn a draw."

ADORED

He has been an ever-present since then, and though approaches were made to him at various times by other clubs to put pen to paper, the likeable "Fitzzy" has always stood by the team he adored as a teenager.

When he was first picked by Limerick in the 'fifties, he was better-known as a hurler and Gaelic player, but he soon became a famous hurling nursery, Limerick C.B.S.

As the ban was very much in force at the time, Fitzpatrick played soccer with Limerick 'C' under an assumed name and when the secret leaked out was threatened with expulsion. But such was his love for the game that he kept on playing, while at the same time helping C.B.S. to land Corn Na Mithinn in the Colleges Senior Football Cup.

Though Fitzpatrick has had his ups and downs with Limerick A.F.C., he has never once let go in search of glory. In ways went out to enjoy my game and seldom worried about winning trophies," said the "keeper," who up to date has only one F.A.I. Cup and one League Cup medal to show for his efforts with the blues, as well as Dublin City Cup and Munster Cup honours.

He was once honoured with international recognition and also played with the Inter-league team. Fitzpatrick was on best Limerick team in three F.A.I. Cup finals and managed Limerick for one season in the early seventies.

RETIRE

While he threatened to retire from the game a couple of years ago, he has now changed of mind and is now determined to keep on playing until they win the F.A.I. Cup for the second time. "And I have a hunch that will be next April," said the tobacco company representative and father of five children.

AGE

Age doesn't appear to have caught up with Fitzpatrick, whose reflexes today are still as good as they were twenty years ago. Indeed, manager John Hurley feels that he has more years left in him as a footballer. "Kevin is one of those people who never tire of the game and just to prove how dedicated he is, he rarely misses a night's training at the Markets Field."

Fitzpatrick has played amongst the greats of Irish football. He rates the present Bohemians team as the best footballing side he has encountered—but they are not far ahead of the great Rovers team of the sixties and the Waterford teams that boasted the likes of Hale, Fitzgerald and Bobby Gould.

He has always had great admiration for Sligo Rovers and was delighted when they won the League last April. He feels, too, that the inclusion of Thurles and Galway Rovers in the League will do the game an amount of good.

The much respected 'keeper' is also of the opinion that personalities are creeping back into soccer. "The game was dead for a period in the late 'sixties and early 'seventies, when there was little star appeal, but now clubs are making a determined effort to win back support by including big names."

At the same time he opines that Limerick's youth policy is paying dividends and he is happy to be associated with such a promising young side.

"In years gone by we fielded more or less the same team each week—now things are different with everyone having to fight for a regular spot."

Fitzpatrick, now in his 18th games with Limerick and in the year as a senior player, can look back on his remarkable record with pride and satisfaction. He has played over 700 he is a model sportsman.

Irish 'inter' title for Robert Costelloe

ROBERT COSTELLOE of Limerick put past disappointments behind him at Rockwell College yesterday when he ploughed his way home through three inches of snow to win the national intermediate cross-country championship title from the Eastern Region champion, Brendan Downey, of Kildare. The wisdom of holding the event on a day when travelling was so difficult is debatable, as only one-third of the original entry lined up for the event. But the snow-laden course proved no handicap to Costelloe or to Cork girl, Mary Dempsey, who took the women's title in equally impressive fashion.

That Costelloe learned from his experience of the past two years, when he finished fifth and then hopped when not favourite last year, was plain to be seen, for he was always at the head of affairs.

After half a mile, he led Downey by 20 metres, with Louthman, Brendan Smith, who runs with London-Irish, a similar distance away in third place and being chased by young James Connell of Galway, John O'Toole (Tullamore) and Corkman, Noel Shannon.

After two laps, Downey closed the gap and went on to take up the running, but his reign was short-lived, for the 21-years-old Limerickman burst past going out on the second last lap and opened up a gap that continued to grow with every subsequent stride, and he had a comfortable ten seconds to spare at the finish.

"I was glad he caught me where he did," he said afterwards. "I had been out in front for a long time and I got bored when I run on my own. When he got in front I felt better and was able to kick ahead when I wanted to."

Table Tennis: Limerick Open C'ships . . .

Slevin and Van de Walle turn on the style

Boys' singles final - Slevin bt. T. Dolan, 21-15, 21-14.

HUNTING

SCARTEEN HUNT
(The Black and Tans)
Will meet at 11 a.m.

FEBRUARY

Mon, 13 ... Limerick Junction
Thurs, 16 ... Herbertstown
Mon, 20 ... Old Pollas
Thurs, 23 ... Old Pollas
Sat, 25 Cluggen Cross (confined)
Mon, 27 ... Inch-St-Lawrence
(To finish the season)
N.B.: Hunter trials at Ballytrasna, Old Pollas, on March 18. Enquiries: Joint hon. secs, Mrs. D. Barnwell, Kenmare Castle, Hospital, (061) 83292. Followers are reminded to ride with care, close all gates, report to the Fieldmaster any damage.

LIMERICK HARRIERS

Meet 12 noon
FEBRUARY
Sat, 18 ... The Hamlet

MAIGUE VALLEY BEAGLES

All meets 1.30 p.m.
FEBRUARY
Sun, 19 ... Lee's Cross
Sun, 26 ... Lynch's Gate

COUNTY LIMERICK HUNT

FEBRUARY
Mon, 13th ... Greenmount
Wed, 15th ... Beechmount Five
Fri, 17th ... Glenbrook (Lawn Meet)
Sun, 19th ... Hunt Ball at Parkway Motel

NEWMARKET FOOT BEAGLES CLUB

Meet for February:
Sun, 19 ... Sixmilebridge
Sun, 26 ... Ballykilly

G.A.A. fixtures pile-up

The cancellation of the Railway Cup semi-finals scheduled for yesterday, has not only made matters much more difficult for the G.A.A.'s Activities Committee, the body charged with the responsibility of organising all the Central Council competitions. It has put them in an almost impossible situation partly because there are only four Sundays—all "booked" for important matches—in which to play the games before St. Patrick's Day, but more especially because it has compounded the problems created by the complicated position in Division A of the National Hurling League.

The concluding rounds of the league is scheduled for next Sunday, on February 26, the club hurling championship semi-finals as well as the Sigersen Cup are down for decision; March 5 is the date for the club football semi-finals and the Cork-Wexford Oireachtas replay; and on the following Sunday, the quarter-finals in both National Hurling and Football leagues are scheduled to be played.

It would appear, then, that the only alternative to postponing the Railway Cup competitions altogether is a re-scheduling of one, if not both, of the club championships. March 19 is reserved for any necessary replays, which means that the Activities Committee also have the alternative of moving the league/quarter finals to this date and playing the Railway Cup games on the 12th—five days before the finals. Of course, extra time would need to be played in the semi-finals if this course of action was to be decided on.

Juvenile handball convention

A strong plea for full support in the promotion of juvenile competitions was made by the Chairman, Mr. James O'Mahony, of Cork, at the Munster Handball convention in Clonmel on Saturday.

Making particular mention of the under-18 leagues he said this year only four of the ten counties took part and he urged that all six counties participate this year. The future of the game, he said, lay in the development of juvenile handball.

The President of the Association, Mr. M. Boyce of Clare, in addressing the delegates congratulated the Clonmel St. Mary's Club on the completion of the finest 60 x 30 court in Ireland.

The Chairman was re-elected for his third term and other officers returned were: Treasurer, Michael Hackett, Clare, who was elected when the outgoing treasurer, Willie Roche of Clare withdrew; secretary, Michael Tyrell, Clonmel (outgoing unopposed); rep. to Munster GAA Board, C. Jones (outgoing unopposed); rep. to Central Handball Council, Michael Tyrell (outgoing unopposed).

Limerick without a game

"The postponement couldn't have come at a worse time for us," said a disappointed John Herrick at the weekend on learning that Inchcore was unplayable for the Limerick v St. Patrick's Athletic League game on Sunday.

On next Sunday Limerick will play Athlone Town in the second round of the FAI Cup at St. Me's Park—and we could have done with a game at the weekend to keep us in tune," added the player-manager.

Barry Bridges, St. Patrick's Athletic player manager, resigned his post at the weekend and is due to return to England this week. Bridges, a former Chelsea player, was with St. Pat's for the past three years. Only two L.O.I. games were played on Sunday. Cork Albion hammered Dundalk 3-0, while Drogheda Utd. mastered Cork Celtic by the same margin.

England collapse

Geoff Boycott, with a painstaking 77 scored in seven hours and 22 minutes, watched grimly as England's middle order batting crumbled against the New Zealand team attack on the third day of the first cricket test at Wellington yesterday.

England, 89 for two overnight in reply to New Zealand's first innings score of 228, were 215 all out at the close of the day. The home side had reached 12 for no wicket in their second innings—a lead of 25.

Title for Ritchie

RICHIE POWER of Waterford won the grade "A" section of the Murphy Munster Open Squash Championship in thrilling fashion at the Waterman Arms, Co. Cork, yesterday. Power confirmed his rating as number one seed with a power-packed display to which even Craven, well of Dublin, the number two seed, had no answer.

The super fit Power was full value for his 9-2, 9-2, 9-3 victory. In the ladies' "A" section, the all Dublin confrontation was won by Geraldine Barneville when she had a fine 9-6, 9-7, 9-5 win over Kay Sexton.

NEWMARKET FOOT BEAGLES CLUB

Meetings for February:
Sun, 19 ... Newmarket-on-Fergus
Sun, 26 ... Sixmilebridge
Sun, 26 ... Ballykilly Manor Quin
Move off, 2 p.m.



Emmet O'Rafferty, Ireland's new second in line-out action for Leinster.

RUGBY ROUND-UP:

First Irish cap for Emmet O'Rafferty

Weekend programme wipe weather

BY CHARLIE MULQUEE

AS WAS more or less anticipated, the 17 st. 5 lbs. Wanderers' second O'Rafferty, has been called up by the Spring's injury for Saturday's game at Paris. On a snow-bound weekend, about the only morsel of rugby news.

Certainly, O'Rafferty is big enough to do a good job in Paris, and the experience picked up during the New Zealand tour of 76 should also stand to him in his dealings with the robust Frenchmen. Furthermore, one is more than apt to recall that the temptation to reveal following was after that he was in Paris, but for one of such a slight frame he, personally, may be better off to steer for the time being a clash with the Bistats and Palmes of this rugby world.

SNOWED OFF

The weekend rugby programme took a severe battering from the heavy snowfall of Friday night and Saturday morning. Nothing at all was played here in town, with Saturday's three senior friendlies and yesterday's three Munster Junior Cup, second-round ties, going by the boards. It had been hoped to play the third round of the Junior Cup next Sunday, but quite obviously tonight's North Munster Sub-Committee will have to make alternative plans.

LEAGUE FINAL

The biggest problem, however, senior cross-country centre around the Munster Senior League final between men's race.

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