

A LIFETIME IN LIMERICK SOCCER

AS a tribute to his long years of service to Limerick Association Football Club, Mr. Paddy Noonan has been admitted to the Roll of Honorary Life Members of the Club. The honour was conferred at a special meeting of the Directors this week, on the proposition of Mr. Terry McGowan, Hon. Secretary, and seconded by Mr. John Tuohy.

Paddy, who is assistant trainer to the club and who looks after the playing gear, has been a member of Limerick A.F.C. ever since the Club was founded in the 1936-37 season. But his years in soccer go back many years before that.

His brother, the late Jack Noonan, was one of the founders of the Prospect Club about 1904, when soccer was first introduced to Limerick. Two other brothers, Joseph and the late Michael Noonan, were also actively associated with the Prospect Club and Paddy himself first played in its colours in 1910.

Prospect was Limerick's first Soccer Club, but another in those early days, Westonians, has strong links with some of our contemporary players. Phonnie Neiland, for instance, who is grandfather of Al Finucane, played with the club, and, in another sporting sphere, captained the famous Young Munster team that won the Bateman Cup in 1928.

Only a few of Paddy Noonan's team-mates are now left. They include Billy Flood (employed with Messrs. Stokes & McKiernan), Paddy Flood (with Limerick Steamship Co. Ltd.) and Denis Punch, plumber.

Away matches were a popular feature of those pre-World War I days, and Paddy recalls trips to the Cork Pavilion in 1910-'11 season for games with the Cork Freebooters. Prospect had also many games with the Black Watch in the present Barrack Field. Almost all regiments in Limerick had their own soccer clubs, and others would send teams here from Dublin, Cork and other parts.

At that time, Prospect had their training grounds in Corkanree and in part of Hall's Quarry. And a ball, which now costs about £9, could be had for 4/6!

The years of the First World War brought austerity, and soccer, in common with many other sports, lapsed. But the revival was brought about in 1920, and since that time, Prospect has maintained its prominent place in Limerick sport.

PRESENT-DAY

Coming up to the present time, Paddy Noonan says that soccer is enjoying standards of popularity never known before, and that this is particularly true over the past six years since Ewan Fenton came to Limerick. "He has, in my experience, done more than anybody else for the promotion of soccer in Limerick," Paddy told me. "He is the outstanding personality in the list of the club's train-

ers and coaches—a gentleman on the field and off the field, and to all the players." And, of the Board of Directors, he says: "It is the best Board in my experience."

Paddy says that Al Finucane is the best wing-half he has ever seen. He is a stylish

player, with a family tradition in the game; his two uncles "Batey" and John Neiland, played with Limerick A.F.C.

Referring to the team itself, Paddy ends on an optimistic note. Though it has been beaten in the final of the Cup

for two years in succession, he is looking forward to a Limerick victory this year. In the League of Ireland the club's match with Dundalk—the last of the season—will be a vital one. And he says: "We have a very good chance of winning."

"Use more Irish" urges City Board Secretary

PADRAIG O MAOLDOMNAIGH, the new Secretary of the Limerick City Board G.A.A.—he succeeds Tom Boland, now County Secretary—thinks that there should be a greater emphasis by Board officials and club secretaries in general, on the use of the Irish language in club affairs.

"We, as an organisation, are lacking something in our efforts for the language movement," he told me. He will encourage club secretaries to correspond more in Irish, and he also encourages an Irish class to promote the study of the language among the members.

Padraig also sees a great potential for development in

arise from the new referees' panel, which was formed last Monday under the supervision of Sean O'Connor of Claughaun. Referees will be graded for senior, junior and minor matches. They will meet for a half-hour before each Board meeting for informal discussion on the rules and make known their availability for future matches.

Padraig, who is Clare by birth and Limerick by adoption, founded Sean Souths in 1957 and played with the club for several seasons. He is at present attached to Mungret Club.

On the executive side of the sport, he was Assistant Treasurer of the City Board for a year and Treasurer for two

years. He is a prominent language advocate, and is a member of the Gaelic League and Glór na nGael. Last year he acted as Secretary of the Easter Commemoration Committee in Limerick, and he is also a member of the Manchester Martyrs' Committee.

Padraig, who is a cousin of the late Most Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Bishop of Killaloe, was educated at Flagmount National School and St. Flannan's College, and is Purchasing Officer for the South for Messrs. McInerney's Builders. His wife is the former Miss Majella O'Neill, of 38 Prospect Villas. They have three children, Cathal, Finnola and Deirdre, and live at Ballykeefe.



SCIENCE IN THE SCHOOLS

"SCIENCE is a necessary subject, not only for itself but because of its contribution to the general objectives of primary education, giving children ideas, understanding and the skill to become good citizens." This is the opinion of 19-year-old Catherine Forde, who is in her final year of studies at Mary Immaculate Training College.

All girl students in the College take a project for their final year, and for hers, Catherine is writing a thesis on the study of science in national schools. She has been interested in the subject for a number of years past, and says that it helps children to work together and to develop a scientific way of thinking. "They see the connection between cause and effect, and it broadens their interest," she told me.

taken in the subject in our local schools, and one of its most ardent promoters is Mr. Pat Kennedy, a teacher at Limerick C.B.S. and Chairman of the Limerick Ratepayers' Association.

Catherine, who is a native of Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon, is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Forde, and was educated at St. Peter's Convent of Mercy, Athlone. Her hobbies are reading, classical and modern music and tennis. She has three sisters, Mary.



The Crescent Coaster in the national competition sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Ireland. (l. to r.) John Tuohy

CRESCENT NATIONAL FINAL

CRESCENT COASTER progress in a competition which Chambers of Co

The Limerick Junior Chamber of Commerce local section, in a recent defeated eight. Subsequently, they were successful in their semi-final of the competition in Thurles on Wednesday night when they defeated Farrington of the Munster final.

The four members of the Crescent College team are: John McLoughlin, Will John Cosgrove, Kavanagh. They are in the fifth or intermediate class.

Barry, who is aged 17. Mr. J. J. McLoughlin, Davis Street. He is a member of the F.C.A., and with the second team.

Willie is son of Mr. "Auburn," Ballina. He is aged 16. A keen player on the field, he has a good course and his harrow. He is present holder of the Lyric Cup, which is the match-play system. He is also interested in music and hopes to make on the school's side next year.

Sixteen-year-old John is son of Mr. Cosgrove, "Lismoyle," Curra. He is in music, and has a annual school open.

Tony Kavanagh is 17. Monica Kavanagh, Terrace, South Circular, and in aged 17. He is a member of the F.C.A., and a keen fisherman. Later this year they will represent the national final.

Some time ago, the Chamber of Commerce voted the schools' Time as a national holiday. It was introduced in Limerick for the first year, and the user is Mr. Harold of A.P.V. Desco.