

Soccer fraternity prepares to honour Tommy Power

By AIDAN CORR

LIMERICK'S soccer fraternity will gather in large numbers next week in the Janesboro FC pavilion to pay tribute to one of the city's most dedicated soccer referees.

Tommy Power has been prominent at all levels of the game for over half a century. He played with Geraldines in the 1940s, captaining the Dines side that won the Cromer Cup, and his deep love of the game ensured that even after his playing days he would continue to contribute as an official. Tommy took up refereeing during the mid 1950s. He first of all officiated at schoolboy level, graduating to inter-firm and junior soccer and within a short time his dedication to the role and his light-hearted approach moulded him into one of the region's best referees of all time.

It has always been to his credit that Tommy Power never missed a game that he was assigned to officiate at. Even the most humble of under eight and under ten fixtures were treated with the same respect as keen local derbies and junior cup finals.

My memories of Tommy Power are many. A Printers league game in the Barrack Field in the early 1970s springs to mind. It was not unusual for the Printers to struggle on particular mid-week nights because of print deadlines. On this occasion we could only muster six and Tommy Power's shrill blast of the whistle as he stood in the centre circle while the

other team, complete with togged out substitutes, kicked about at the other end of the ground only added to our frustration.

Eventually Tommy ambled up to us and suggested that we might find a few lads to make up the necessary numbers. Within five minutes we had ten and the game was played. The opposition won handsomely, the full game was played and everybody was happy. Power's common sense attitude prevailed and soccer was the winner that day. For all his joviality, Tommy took no nonsense. He stuck to his decisions and often it was a gentle word, a witty remark or just the old Power charm that defused difficult situations.

The Tommy Power Tribute Night will be held in the Janesboro pavilion on Friday night, October 12. It will begin at 8.30pm and tickets have already been distributed to local clubs. There is no admission price but those who attend and those who take tickets are asked to make a donation. In recent times Tommy has encountered ill health and is recuperating at present. He has certainly been one of the great characters of local soccer and a good attendance on the night would be a fitting acknowledgement of his contribution.

Donations can be sent to Gerry McCormack (gerrymccormack1@eircom.net - 086-8256013), Paddy Collins (087-6897778), Sean Curtin (scurtin@limerickleader.ie - 087-2040908) and Leonard Burke (lenburke@eircom.net - 087-2308493).



Way back when: the 1949-50 Geraldines team which won the Cromer - back from left: P. Browne, M. Greaney, P. Allen, S. O'Dwyer, C. Daly, P. Butler & J. Callaghan. Front from left: E. Donnelly, Tommy Power, J. Butler, F. Collopy, P. Hughes & J. Storan.

Limerick's Lee returns to the ring

By IFROME O'CONNELL

"We have spent the last month in Healy in August.

Locals feature on U18 side

By AIDAN CORR

Dudley Herbert of Crescent Comprehensive is head coach of the Munster