

Ready 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 toggled 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.



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.

Donations can be sent to Gerry

Mc Cormack (gerrymccormack1@eircom.net - 086-8256013), Paddy Collins (087-6897778), Sean

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Lee victory delights exiled boxing fan

By COLM KINSELLA

A LIMERICK boxing enthusiast was ringside in Chicago this week as Castleconnel middleweight Andy Lee wrapped up his 12th success as a professional in double quick time.

Carew Park native, Niall Hyde was among hundreds of Irish fight fans who watched Lee stop American James Morrow in the first round of their bout this Wednesday morning.

Twenty three-year-old southpaw Lee dropped Morrow with a stiff left to the head near the end of the opening round before the referee moved in to stop the contest.

Chicago-based Niall Hyde, who works in the construction industry, has been a lifelong boxing fan and was a member of Southill and St Francis Boxing Clubs. Hyde, who has lived in Chicago for years, was hugely

sive. He hit his opponent Morrow with some devastating body shots and it was all over inside a round.

"Talking to Andy afterwards, he said he was anxious to finish the fight off early as he felt Morrow could have been an awkward opponent. When the fight was over, Andy came out to meet everyone. He is such an unassuming person, a genuinely nice guy, who is a terrific boxer. Andy had a word for everyone. He thanked us all for coming. Andy has a very bright future. He has a fantastic team behind him. If Ireland is to have a world professional boxing champion in the modern era, then surely it is going to be Andy."

Niall Hyde was an promising schoolboy soccer goalkeeper with Carew Park.

A keen all-round sports fan, he is currently chairman of St Brendan's Gaelic Football Club in Chicago.

He is planning to attend Rick Hatton's welterweight

Crescent prove too strong for a depleted Castletroy College

By EOIN TRACEY

**Bowen Shield U-16
Crescent College 8
Castletroy College 3
At Annacotty**

DESPITE being played in ideal rugby conditions, this turned out to be a scrappy match between long standing rivals Castletroy and Crescent.

Despite missing several prominent players, Castletroy still managed to make life difficult for a strong Crescent side.

It was Crescent who applied the early pressure and were only denied a try by dogged Castletroy defence.

Throughout the first half, play was centred in midfield with both sets of forwards going through a lot of work, as neither side could find the key to unlocking two sturdy defences.

Crescent still looked the most likely to break the deadlock, as on one of the few occasions the ball was spread wide, winger Jurgen Quinlan

made a break and was put into touch with a try-saving tackle by Castletroy flanker Kevin Doyle.

After this Crescent gradually upped the tempo and began applying more pressure.

Their efforts were finally rewarded on the stroke of half time as centre Gareth Quinn-McDonagh breached the Castletroy cover for the opening try. Shane O'Brien was unlucky to see his conversion attempt strike the post.

Castletroy began the second half without Captain Darragh Hannon who was forced off with injury.

Crescent began the second half in the same fashion they finished the first and Shane O'Brien tagged on an early penalty.

This finally sparked a Castletroy response, they began to lay siege on the Crescent line with increased vigour.

They began to use their solid line-out as an attacking platform, with fine displays by hooker James Rael and second row Michael O'Dwyer, to great effect.

Castletroy then tried to involve their talented backline more, but were still coming up short, with centres Stephen O'Carroll and Anthony Collins unable to break through the Crescent cover.

To rectify this Castletroy coach, Keehan, introduced winger Daniel Clarke in place of Sean Fitzgerald midway through the second half.

Castletroy kept up the pressure and went agonisingly close to the Crescent line on several occasions only to be undone by handling errors and a tight Crescent defence.

With ten minutes to go, Castletroy out-half Pádraig O'Connor coolly slotted a penalty to reduce the deficit to just five points.

This gave hope to the Castletroy team but, despite spending the remainder of the match camped in the Crescent half, failed to seriously threaten the Crescent line again and they hung on to claim an eight points to three victory.

Eoin Tracey is a transition year student at Castletroy College

Locals face stiff tests

By AIDAN CORR

REIGNING AIB Cup champions Garryowen could hardly have got a more difficult opening game than their second round away clash with Lansdowne.

They are not in action this week-end and that may benefit them, but for the other local sides in the competition this Saturday provides some testing challenges.

Thomond v

Belfast Harlequins

Fitzgerald Park, 2.30, et.

Top of the list is the meeting of Thomond and Belfast Harlequins at Fitzgerald Park. This promises to be a typical cup tie with Thomond making their debut in the competition against the side that reached last season's final.

Quins have met Thomond only once before in the AIL, the Belfast side winning 35-18 at home in season 2001/2. Harlequins have had a good start to the season winning all of their five Ulster Senior League games and collecting four bonus points thanks to a high try scoring rate. They will be hotly fancied to advance in this cup and the prize for victory, a home tie against Shannon, is an added incentive.

Andy Ward and Maurice Field are in charge of the Quins side this season and their priority will be a speedy return to division one of the AIL.

Thomond have not had a good start to their campaign. They lost 26-6 to Shannon in the Charity Cup and then crashed out of the Munster Senior Cup, 6-10 on their own patch to Sunday's Well. Traditionally Thomond have always been cup fighters and they will certainly give this tie their best shot.

Old Crescent v Naas Rosbrien, 2.30, et.

Mark Ring will be keen to put back to back wins together against what is an unknown quantity for the Rosbrien side.

Crescent showed flashes of promise last Saturday in their Munster Cup win over Nenagh Ormond but there is room for improvement. Gareth James and Alan Purcell have settled in well at half-back but the number of spills last week-end would cause any coach concerns.

Crescent's set piece looks adequate but they need more thrust through the centre if they are to worry the bigger boys in division two when the AIL starts.

Advancing to round two would be a boost for the dedicated Crescent fans. Beating Naas should be within their capabilities.

Bruff v Highfield

Kilballyowen, 2.30, et.

Geoff Moylan returns to familiar territory with his Highfield team who have promised much so far. The former Shannon and Buccaneers boss will have good knowledge of what Bruff have to offer and it would be a happy bus on the return journey to Cork if they can come away with a ticket

Ballynahinch v
Nenagh Ormond

Ballymacarn Park, 2.30, et.

This is a tough assignment for Ormond. Last season they went down in the AIL division three at the same venue 8-6 and that display indicates that they are capable of causing an upset.

It may be too early in the season to judge this Nenagh side but their overall display against Crescent last Saturday lacked a killer punch. John Lillis at out-half, Johnny Keenan at full-back and new winger Val Vima provide plenty of scoring power but the pack needs to work more as a unit if they are to get a shock result against Ballynahinch.

With home advantage and a place in the next round of this 48-team cup competition on offer, 'Bally' will be favourites to advance.

Instonians v Young Munster

Shaws Bridge, 2.30, et.

With just one victory to their credit this season, a Charity Cup win by 12-9 over Old Crescent, Young Munster face a tough task in this AIB Cup game.

Members of the AIL since 1990/91, Instonians finished fourth in AIL division three last season and have lost to Young Munster on the two occasions that the teams met in the AIL. They have had a poor start to the season, losing four of their six games in the Ulster Senior League, but they are sure to increase the tempo of their game for this knock-out competition. 'Munsters' continue to make steady progress under new coach Mick Lynch. They were denied a win over Dolphin last Saturday in the Munster Senior Cup with a controversial conversion deciding the tie but overall their performance must have been encouraging for their loyal supporters.

The teams have met four times in the AIL division one with Young Munster winning three of those ties by narrow margins.

This promises to be an interesting encounter and will give Mick Lynch a good idea of how his side is preparing for the opening games of the AIL at the end of this month.

GARRYOWEN'S friendly against Cork Constitution arranged for Doordayle on Saturday at 2.30 has been called off.

YOUNG MUNSTER are still unhappy with the conversion decision which cost them a place in the Munster Cup quarter-finals last Saturday in Musgrave Park, writes Aidan Corr.

Players and supporters, behind the posts for the late conversion by Brendan Keeshan which was to prove crucial to Dolphin's win, were still adamant that the ball went wide.

'Munsters' coach Mick Lynch this Thursday denied that the game was played in an unsporting manner but maintained his view that the kick went wide of the post.