

CLUBS

minutes for the forthcoming year as follows: Very Rev. Fr. P. chairman, Noel vice-chairman, Ed. or, secretary, Tom treasurer, M. O. S. two delegates to the Donal Curtin, Bill to delegates to City of Gallagher, Tom to delegates to Boreck Ryan, Tom Long. members - Joe Pat Coleman, J. J. Mick Herbert, Ger. an McCarthy, John R. Moran, Larry Mur-Keane, Michael Mac

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AVIATION Hop-Sunday, 24th

Seachtó-City Board

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Mr. Perpetual Motion... That's Limerick's Jack Tuohy

By "HOTSPUR"

THE daily routine of a secretary of a League of Ireland club is mostly mundane, invariably thankless and certainly unglamorous. But Limerick's Jack Tuohy, is more than just a secretary. He is totally committed to the game of soccer, is seldom out of the limelight and is looked upon as being the linkman between directors, players and supporters.

Jack is often referred to as "Mr. Perpetual Motion". His whole life revolves around soccer, and that is the way it has been for close on two decades. He ventured into the soccer world when he founded the famous Reds United in the early fifties, later steering Limerick "C" and "B" to many noteworthy victories, and then turned his attention to the senior team.

Some might say that tactfulness isn't exactly one of his many fine virtues, but no matter what way you look at Jack Tuohy you must admire him for his dedication to Limerick A.F.C. and indeed, football in general. Some might say that Jack is a controversial figure, others are even envious of his rapid rise to success, but those with the interest of the game at heart admire the Limerick secretary for the manner in which he disposes of his duties.

It is no secret now that Jack has often irked his fellow board members, and in his respect admits that he has been on the carpet for doing so. He is often criticised for his outspoken comments on matters relating to soccer in general, but those who know the founder of the now defunct Reds United from old, appreciate that it is his burning instinct for the game that makes him topical on occasions.

What kind of man then is Jack Tuohy? It is fair to comment that he is robust in his manner, but behind it all there is a deep sense of humour and a particular desire to see fair play all round.

He has shown an astonishing ability to resist storm and stress, to adapt himself to change and to develop new forms of activity. The Limerick secretary doesn't claim to be a perfectionist and is honest enough to admit that he has made the odd mistake from time to time.

Proud

In our interview earlier this week Jack told me that he was extremely proud to be associated with Limerick A.F.C. and added that the Board of Directors were rarely given praise for their efforts. He said that he was proud of the club's achievements over the past few years, and that he was proud to be a member of the club.

Such hard working officials as Messrs Ned Cussen, Mick Wallace, Mick Toomey, Jim Ahern, Billy Higgins, Gerry Ridd, Michael Burke and new president, Lord Petersham, were at the receiving end of much praise from Mr. Tuohy. "These men are allocated certain duties, all of which they perform admirably," commented the club's secretary.

Jack pointed out that he is not a paid official, and that his duties do not entitle him to any special status. "Some people might say that my work is tedious, it can be at times, but if one is interested enough, it can give great enjoyment and satisfaction." His routine is much the same as that of a secretary of any sporting club. Minutes have to be written up, an agenda prepared for each meeting, correspondence has to be dealt with, the financial position of the club must be looked into, and he must be wide awake to all L.O.I. matters.

We are particularly fortunate to have such an able Treasurer in Mr. Michael Wallace, one of the most respected men in our club. If I might come in here I would like to endorse Mr. Tuohy's remarks about the Limerick A.F.C. Chairman and Treasurer himself a noted footballer in his younger days.

Delegate

In addition to being secretary and a director of our local club, Jack is a League of Ireland delegate and is one of three electors to the League. Jack reckons that he has registered some 10,000 miles travelling to and from Dublin on L.O.I. business over the past couple of years. "Last Nov. I made three visits in one week."

It is not generally known that he arranged for Limerick to play the L.O.I. at Dalymount Park last month. "When Joe McGrath returned from 'down under' he informed me that the Limerick team was to be invited to play the L.O.I. at Dalymount Park last month. I got in touch with the League and as a result Australia were invited here. Now he is in the process of negotiating for a top Irish team to play the L.O.I. in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day."

When Jack was first appointed as a selector he used to influence to have a Limerick team official - Messrs. Paddy Kiley, James Hartigan and Eamon Cleary - put in charge of the L.F.A. v. L.O.I. game. The important thing is to break Dublin's influence on matters pertaining to L.O.I. affairs, he declared.

Jack has represented Limerick on the League of Ireland. Although outspoken at times, he commands the respect of his fellow delegates, and is never afraid to put forward a motion or suggestion which he feels would be of benefit to soccer.

Signings

Getting back to the local scene, Jack opines that he is seldom given credit for Limerick's signings. "Seamus Coad was signed on my recommendation; I arranged for Ritchie Hall to have a meeting with Ewan Fenton, and was also responsible for Dave Barrett putting pen to paper." He also claims to have persuaded Andy McEvoy to sign for Limerick. "This was my biggest scoop. I chased Andy for three months, made trips to Dublin and Clare, and then travelled to England with Mr. Michael Toomey to obtain his signature."

Players such as Ala Finucane, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Joe O'Mahony, Vinny Quinn and Tony Meany have much to be thankful for to Jack Tuohy. He



Jack Tuohy pictured at his desk with his son, John.

see them graduate through schoolboy ranks, and when they were "ripe" enough for L.O.I. football, made the necessary approaches. Mick Doyle, who broke his leg in the 1965 Cup final, and John Ryan, who met with similar fate against Drogheda, in a League game two years ago, were others to be influenced by him. Jack was also first in the hunt for Paddy Shortt when he was released by Cork Celtic. Proof enough that the Limerick secretary is very much alive to what is happening around him.

And what does he think of Limerick's prospects for the future? "There is a tremendous soccer following in this region, and this has been reflected in our 'gate' returning for the past few weeks. What we need is a properly equipped ground, with floodlights, and catering for 2,000 spectators. You can safely say that we could improve our average home crowd by about 2,000 if we had seating accommodation. We would like to attract the younger set, for after all the future of our club depends on them. It is imperative then that we make a determined bid to secure our own playing field."

Without committing himself, Jack informed me that there was something in the grapevine, but beyond that he refused to comment.

He is convinced that Limerick will continue to be a major force in competitions. "There are hundreds of young players being nurtured along by our schoolboy clubs, and if given the proper incentives the future of the game in this area is assured."

One of Jack's proposals - certainly constructive but not all that new - is a comprehensive programme of team building for Limerick. He would like to see Limerick "B" and "C" come back into existence again, and is confident that Manager Ewan Fenton will make a step in this direction in the not too distant future.

"We have been knocking on the door of success for the past few years and we had some consolation for our efforts when capturing the Dublin City Cup last season. The League or Cup is our principal target, and it is my wish that one of these trophies will come our way in the not too distant future."

With Limerick riding high in the League Championship, and fancied to beat Shelbourne in the opening round of the Cup on Sunday fortnight, Limerick was prompted to ask Jack if he thought his ambition would be realised this season. His reply? "No comment, just to say that I am hopeful."

Rumours

Jack scotched all the rumours that he differed occasionally with manager Ewan Fenton. "Limerick is a city of rumours of the wrong type. We have too many ball-hoppers in our midst and if I might add a few more, I have every admiration for Ewan. He is very much a professional manager and is a most competent one at that."

The Limerick secretary reminded me that some people attributed stories and tales to him which he never made. "In fact, I have often been in trouble because of these gossip mongers."

With such a progressive outlook as that which Tuohy possesses, it is not surprising that he aims to see Limerick the top club in the land. "A few friendships against Continental and English opponents would be of immense benefit to the lads. We are on the threshold of great things but need wider experience if we are to fulfil our objectives."

Interested to learn that he seldom does a week pass without a letter arriving in the Tuohy household for information on Limerick A.F.C. "I have had 150 applications for club badges and programmes this season alone, some of which came from as far away as Austria and Czechoslovakia. I also receive about three letters each week from players requesting a trial with the club."

One of Jack's finer points is that he never refuses a request to act as sponsor for a footballer. "I have been asked to sponsor a number of players in the past two seasons and given them trophies to the value of £50. At Christmas he adopted a needy family, and in addition to buying toys etc., gave a £10 shopping voucher."

It is not altogether Jack's fault that he makes the limelight. "I usually shun publicity for myself. Limerick's is based on the Mulgrave Street under-13 and 12 schoolboy teams. Southpark Rgs. custodian, Sean Kileen, is easily recognised in the above photograph. Kileen was a talented hurler and Gaelic footballer with Young Ireland, and has upwards of a dozen trophies to show for his efforts on the G.A.A. front. He was quite proficient at soccer and made his come-back this year when asked to sign by newcomers Southpark. In addition to selecting his school club, he also lends a helping hand as an administrator to Hyde Rgs. Youths. Oliver Moran (Janesboro), and Pa Butler were others who shared in the limelight in junior ranks in the fifties, while Mick O'Loughlin assisted at least three clubs.

Back Row: Ger. McNamara, Mick O'Loughlin, Pat McNamara, Thomas Burke, Jim Walsh, Austin Sheehy, P. O'Rourke (manager), P. O'Rourke, P. Butler, Sean Kileen, Michael Harrett. (Partly hidden in front is Pat Sheehan (Jnr.), Pike Rvs. current full back).

COMPETITION CORNER: STAR LETTER

Michael Wins Trip to Dublin

This week we are introducing a new and exciting feature to our soccer page. Instead of our weekly quiz we are inviting readers to write to us on matters relating to association football.

Each week we will select a Star Letter, the writer of which will receive a prize from us. This competition is open to all those under the age of 18.

If you would like to tell us about your soccer interests, your favourite team, what you think of Limerick A.F.C. and indeed, anything connected with the game, send your entry to "Hotspur", c/o Limerick Chronicle. Don't forget to give your name, address and age.

This week's Prize Letter is from 15-year-old Michael Kiley, 1 Wilmount Estate, Janesboro, Limerick, who, incidentally, was unsuccessful in a recent quiz on this page.

It reads as follows: Dear Hotspur,

I am sorry about the wrong answer I gave you last week. I did not know the jersey, nor did I know that John Gavin played for Palace, but I know now.

I am not particularly disappointed in Manchester United's latest bad spell as I dislike the team. I fancy three teams, Leeds Utd., Arsenal and Huddersfield. My choice for the League is Leeds Utd. My choice for the F.A. Cup is Arsenal and the Leeds Road team have many bright days before them.

I noticed a sigh of relief on your face when Limerick were three up against Sligo. It was a match to be remembered. Limerick v. Finn Harps was a



Michael Kiley

first class match but I think Limerick deserved to win after all their work. O'Mahony and Shortt played magnificent games, and so also did Al Finucane and Sean Byrnes.

Shortt had another outstanding game against Sligo Rvs., but was most unfortunate not to score. Hall and Barrett were two of the best investments that Limerick ever indulged in. These players make all the difference to the Limerick team. Barrett is top scorer in the team and yet has only played five matches. Well, you can wipe your forehead now - I've come to an end, so for now,

Good luck, God Bless, Yours sincerely, Michael Kiley.

For this fine effort Michael is to be guest of Limerick A.F.C. for their forthcoming away game with Drumcondra at Tolka Park. He will travel with the team coach and from Dublin and will be entertained to dinner and tea.

Looking forward to receiving your entries during the week. Watch this space next Saturday.

CALEDONIANS CA ACCOUNT FOR SHELBOURNE

League Wins for Telephones and Bedford

by "HOTSPUR"

CALEDONIANS go rolling along. Already through to the last 16 in Junior Cup, they are strongly fancied to make further progress in a final trophy at Cals. Park to-morrow, when they entertain Shelbourne one Cup will be taken a stage further this week-end, the highlight should be the clash between relegation troubled Star Rvs., and proud Bedford Rvs.

Shelbourne, who must surely qualify as one of the most unpredictable teams of the season, are faced with a man sized task at Cals Park when they pit their skills against high-flying Caledonians. These two clubs invariably bring out the best in each other and this latest meeting should be no exception.

Shels badly need to win this one if they are to improve their image. Manager, Brian Hanrahan has hinted that the Munster Junior Cup is their prime objective this year, but whether or not they have the F.A.I. Cup holders remains to be seen.

Cals front runners, Gerry Brennan, Ger Hough and Glenn Stackpole may not have it all their own way in their duels with Ben Barrett, Tony Brosnan and Charlie Hemenstall, but I do feel they pack more punch than their opposite numbers, and consequently should see their side through.

Tough game

Now that the club's "A" side are out of the M.J.C. Ballynary Rvs. "B" will be hoping to grab the limelight by disposing of Janesboro "B", and thus maintain the Blues interest in the competition. "Boro" can point to two good wins over the all-rivals already this season, which means that Noel Morgan and Co. will have to hit top form if they hope to give Balls' their ticket to the next round.

Interesting tussle

Star Rvs. let a three goal advantage slip in their relegation battle with "Boro" last Saturday, and were rather lucky in the end to escape with a 4-4 draw. They can hardly afford to be in such generous mood when they entertain second division opponents, Bedford Rvs. in the Saxone Cup. Bedford are quite a seasoned campaigners. Billy Power, Art Murphy and John Dillon included in their line-out, they will provide Gerry McEneaney's side with some embarrassing moments.

Pike Rvs. got back on the victory trail against Ballynary Rvs. and there is little to suggest that they will falter in their clash with St. Michael's, who surrendered 4-0 to the "hoops" "B" side in a league engagement last time out.

Peter O'Grady has returned to add some extra "punch" to the Pike front line, and with John O'Brien and Christy Finucane supporting him, they will give the Licks' defence a rough passage.

"Bees" to win again

St. Brigid's gave a gallant display in their league encounter with Cals "B" recently, and will be anxious to exact revenge for that defeat when the teams clash again in the Saxone Cup. Frank Johnson is a key figure in the Cals front line and unless St. Brigid's can devise some method to keep him subdued, they look booked for another defeat.

The Mick Noonan-trained Tavern have a tough nut to crack in lively Wanderers. Football here is likely to be of a high quality, and the fact that Tavern are enjoying a good run swings



The versatile Pat Lawlor, included in Shels panel for their important clash with Cals.

the pendulum in their favour. Weston can hardly relish the trip to Cals to take on the locals. This has all the ingredients of being a thriller, and while Weston are anything but a great side, it will nonetheless come as a surprise should they fail to account for the Co. Tipperary side.

Fairview Rgs. are still in with a chance of retaining the first division championship, but they will need full points from their game against Ballynary Rvs. if they are to keep pace with Weston. Ballynary's morale suffered a blow against Pike Rvs. last Sunday, and they will, no doubt, be anxious to compensate their supporters with a win to-morrow.

When these sides met in the League final last year, they served up a thriller before the 'View eventually won 5-4. I am inclined to think that we will see a similar tussle this time, and while the scoring may not be as high, the Fairgreen side should win by what is likely to be a very narrow margin.

There is an equally important "B" Division game down for decision at Southill between the home side and Pike Rovers "B". The latter are favourites to win the title, and a win over Southill would help a great deal if they are to achieve their goal. Southill are never an easy side to beat, especially on home soil, and it appears that Denis O'Sullivan and his colleagues will have to be in form if they are to see their club retain their unbeaten run.

There are some interesting games down for decision in the "C" League. Southpark Rangers will have it difficult enough against Broadville, and Janesboro "C" might find themselves deeper in trouble after their

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REMEMBER THE TEAM:

(Spaight's A.F.C., 1956)



Spaight's A.F.C. contributed their share to the success of Inter-Firm football in the mid-fifties. They fielded several well-known exponents of the code, and under the management of the popular Pat "Bonnie" Sheehan, they went close to collecting a couple of major prizes.

Their best known player was perhaps Gerry Frawley, who gave wonderful service to Pike Rovers. Ger is present manager to the Mulgrave Street under-13 and 12 schoolboy teams. Southpark Rgs. custodian, Sean Kileen, is easily recognised in the above photograph. Kileen was a talented hurler and Gaelic footballer with Young Ireland, and has upwards of a dozen trophies to show for his efforts on the G.A.A. front. He was quite proficient at soccer and made his come-back this year when asked to sign by newcomers Southpark. In addition to selecting his school club, he also lends a helping hand as an administrator to Hyde Rgs. Youths. Oliver Moran (Janesboro), and Pa Butler were others who shared in the limelight in junior ranks in the fifties, while Mick O'Loughlin assisted at least three clubs.

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