

LIMERICK BOXERS OF THE PAST

RUGBY NOTES

The Irish Team

(By N. M.)

Ernest Brown, Boxer And Sportsman

(By J. M. "K. C.")

I AM influenced to write of Ernest Brown, on finding in my diary a letter sent by him over 17 years ago to the Editor, "Limerick Leader," in which it shows that at the age of 70 he was still looking for a fight.

Dear Sir,—I was glad to read in last Saturday's "Leader" your boxing notes and the names mentioned. I am exceedingly glad to see that Tommy McInerney is to come back. He is one of the best, and ought to get a proper chance. I am sure the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Casey, must remember the older lot, as he was one of them, viz.—Paddy Healy and the three Daltons, Jim, Enoch and Joe. Jim Dalton, at his weight, 10st., was one of the best anywhere. I saw him beat Mick Head in Dublin in nine rounds and had only the use of his left hand. He dislocated the thumb of his right four days before training with me. Paddy Healy did me the honour some thirty-five years ago of knocking three of my front teeth out. God forgive him, as I do! Enoch Dalton beat the best man of his day in Dublin, Davy McDonough, and Joe Dalton was an exceedingly fast and clever boxer, and you must not forget the undersigned, who beat Alan Young in London in March, 1909. Alan Young won the Cistus Cup and Belt in 1900 and met him in the "all-comers" final and won in 2 rounds, K.O. I am still open to box any amateur of my weight and age in the British Isles, viz., 10st. 9lbs., give or take 2 lbs.; age, 70 next birthday.

Alan Young joined the professional class in 1901, and won the Lonsdale Belt in June, 1901, beating Bert Adams.—Yours sincerely,
ERNEST BROWN
Clonboy, O'Brien's Bridge, Co. Clare, 18/10/33.

EVERY READ TO HELP.

Many of the older generation who are alive to-day must well remember the name of Ernest Brown, one of the greatest sportsmen, boxer and supporter of boxing this city ever had. He was ever ready to help and finance any talent that was likely to make good.

Through his influence as a member of the old National Sporting Club, London, he was instrumental in securing for the late Jim Dalton a fight under the management of that famous Club, a fight which Dalton had the honour of winning. A great authority on boxing, his services were eagerly sought after as referee or judge at fights throughout the country.

As a welter-weight boxer he had few equals, starting in his university days. I am writing with personal knowledge of him, being his chief second when he fought and won his fight against Walter Long of London in the old Athenaeum Hall long years ago. Even when he retired to his farm residence, his love of the game never died. He formed a boxing club, supplied them with all the equipment, and brought out boxing clubs from Limerick to meet, as he said, "his boys." We miss his type, and that of the late Dick Gelston, sadly to-day.

FROM BOXER TO COUNCILLOR

In looking back through the corridor of my boxing experiences, I cannot find a more colourful record than that of our present Councillor Paddy Cusack. Although he has long forsaken the ring, where he had only one to fight, he now tackles fourteen in the Council Chamber, and takes them on irrespective of height or weight, and they find him very hard to subdue.

In his early boxing days, having been connected with him in practically all his fights, in which he

had always to give weight away, I often remonstrated with him over this. His only reply was: "It's all right, the bigger the man the bigger the mark."

Of the large number of contests he engaged in, a few remain outstanding in my memory, notably his two great fights with Tom Waters of Limerick; two fights with M. Guthrie, of Kilkee (who got his early training in the British Navy), Hanrahan of Scariff, Honan of Ennis, and "Balfe" O'Neill of Limerick, the only one he ever met of his own weight. These are only a few of a long record of wins which his pluck and gameness in the ring brought him. Yes, he deserves to be mentioned in "Limerick Boxers of the Past."

I understand he is now in "training" again for another contest next June. Well, he has never lost one yet; good luck, Paddy.

TAIL END.—SHE MADE A MISTAKE.

An old lady, on passing a large heid, "You're right, madam," he attendant if it was there the Needle Guild Exhibition was being held. "You're right, madam," he said. Here the 'needle' contests are being held," and gave her a handbill he was giving out, which read as follows:—

"Ten thrilling fights; everyone a killer: Thunderbolt Kelly v. Sudden Death Jackson; 'Dynamite Joe' v. 'Spark Plug' Smith; 'Gorilla Jones' v. 'Tiger' Smith; 'Wild Cat' Dempsey v. 'Kill Dead' O'Brien; 'Lightning' Jo Jo v. 'Shock-Absorber' Murphy; 'The Hackney Assassin' v. 'Caveman' Ryan." The ambulance has just arrived and she was reported to be doing as well as could be expected.

LETTER FROM MR. JOHN REDDAN

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")

Dear Sir—Referring to your publication on January 13th of "Boxers of the Past by J. M. 'K. C.'" the part that interests me was, where the writer called me "an authority on everything but not on boxing," and again he says that if I read the article on Boxers of the Past "intelligently" the answer to my question is obvious. Now, I know nothing about boxing or boxers, nor am I in any way conversant with the encyclopaedia, but I know that this man, who covers himself under block letters is ashamed of his name. He must be well versed in boxing seeing the long list of boxers he has quoted for 50 years or more. Yes, he knows it from A to Z in all its phases; that is quite evident. Now, he makes it clear by using the word "intelligent," with sarcasm, as well as "authority." Intelligent means knowing, instructed, skillful. Yes, I am sure he that went through the art of boxing must from experience and his skill be capable of managing those boxing bouts, when he is required, and we are living in an age for a long time past that no one gives their services free. Let no one be blinded to that fact. The days of club spirit are over. I do not know does J.M. "K.C." live up to club spirit. Now, let me quote two Latin phrases and I stand for them. First, "Veritas prae valebit"—Truth will prevail; and again, "Veritas odium parit"—Truth often causes hatred." Now, I said this man with block letters as non-de-plume definitely is well able to defend himself; therefore, he should be manly. My estimation of him is that he is a complete coward to cover himself with capital letters.—Yours sincerely,
JNO. REDDAN,
Ex-Secretary, 'Mechanics' Institute, 23 O'Curry Place, Limerick.

SPECULATIONS were set at rest Juvenile Cup.

When the Irish team was announced on Sunday last, the critics were not far out, as most of them had plumped for the Whites, or Probables, to represent Ireland against France on Saturday, January 28th.

The final trial, held on Saturday last, was one of the best for a long number of years. The selectors' task must have been a very easy as well as a pleasant one. It is not every "Five" has a ready-made team before they go into session. Confidence in the Triple Crown winners of last season is apparent, as thirteen of the fifteen have been honoured. One gratifying fact from the trial is that many of the Blues team look like wearing a green cap in the near future.

It was expected that Paddy Lawlor, the Dolphin second row forward, would have made the grade, but he had to give way to Agar, whose brilliant leadership of the Blues team and his outstanding all round play put him back into favour again. Tom Clifford's selection gives our local fans a big interest in the French game. Angus McMorro was unfortunate to receive a nose injury in his effort to stop Burges when the latter scored. The latter's selection adds another Munster player to the list of honour. Lane, O'Hanlon and McCarthy make up the quintette of southern players. It is a long time since our province had so many representatives for any one game.

Scotland jumped the first hurdle in the International race when they defeated France at Murrayfield on Saturday last, and so upheld the ground bogey where France is concerned.

On to-morrow (Saturday) England and Wales will make their first appearance in this season's International tourney at Twickenham.

Junior Cup Under Way.

It is not the manner by which Old Crescent tried to introduce copybook football into the Junior Cup series that romps in one's mind after a few days, but the attitude adopted by the county team, Askeaton. During the first fifteen minutes Old Crescent made a successful effort to open up the game and their reward was three very good tries from back movements. Askeaton can hardly be censured for "closing" the game and adopting an all-out defensive campaign, but certainly the behaviour of several of their forwards during the latter moments of the second half is hardly likely to be applauded. It appeared that being twelve points down they had nothing to lose by "having a go" in some of the forward metres. Now, let it be remembered that rugby is not a softies' game, and an odd punch given in the heat of the moment, though against the rules, is not severely criticised. Some of Sunday's exhibitionists would, perhaps, be more appreciated if they went in for boxing in a legitimate way, i.e.—the Ring.

By their display, Old Crescent have installed themselves as favourites for the Limerick area, but they still need to put much work into their forward tactics and develop more union in their backline.

On Sunday next another first round game will bring together C.I.E. and Thomond.

GOLF NOTES LIMERICK STOCK LIST

(By A.M.K.)

Castletroy Golf Club.
The Winter League Foursomes were confined on Sunday last, and a new pair of contenders have appeared in the field. The new entrants Jim O'Donnell and Jerry Dolan will play their first match against Frank Kavanagh and Louis Fine on a date to be arranged. Last Sunday Major Deakin and Jack McInerney continued on their victorious way by defeating Seamus O'Connell and P. White.

TO-DAY'S PRICES

4 1/2 p.c. Land Bonds	...
4 p.c. Exchequer Bonds	...
3 p.c. Exchequer Bonds	...
3 1/2 p.c. War Loan	...
Limerick Corporation 3 1/2 p.c.	(Bid)

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