

Limerick to host World Powerlifting Championships

ATHLETES from 33 countries are to visit Limerick between November 22 - 26, as the Treaty City is set to host the World Powerlifting Championships.

A first for Ireland and Limerick, the prestigious sporting event is expected to generate huge revenue for local businesses, at a time of year that is normally lean for tourism.

Treasurer of the Southill Powerlifting Club, Liam Beville, told a recent meeting of the Cultural and Sporting Policy Committee of Limerick City Council, that they are expecting over 250 athletes and 500 people,

including supporters, to attend the four-day event.

"This really reflects on our ability as a city to host such a prestigious event. And it will be a huge boost to local tourism. It is something positive for the city and will really show off sporting Limerick, the Irish powerlifting organisation and Southill Powerlifting Club. Of course, you also have all these nationalities visiting our city, who will hopefully, be going home with positive feedback," he said.

Explaining that the event will cost 9,000 euro overall, Mr Beville said that they will be approaching local busi-

nesses to sponsor them, and will highlight their logo in the background of the championships in return. "But what we are really hoping for is that the Sports and Social committee will sponsor medals for each athlete at the University of Limerick championships. We would also like to give replicas to the teams and the coaches as a reminder of the city - like a miniature Treaty Stone replica. And we would really appreciate help in funding that," he said.

Calling for the committee to support the championships, Cllr John Ryan said: "To have 33 countries coming to Limerick

because of a small group that started off in a shed in Southill, is a huge achievement. We have a great opportunity here to promote Limerick in November and we need to offer our support".

Cllr John Cronin said that it was no easy feat to get 500 people into Limerick and would all be going home and spreading the word about Limerick even further.

Mayor Diarmuid Scully said that the committee will help the cause.

The Southill Powerlifting Club is the only club in the country to cater for special needs athletes in powerlifting and the Irish powerlifting

organisation intends to take this concept nationwide.

Powerlifting is a strength sport and is a purer form of weight lift-

ing, according to Mr Beville. It is not an Olympic sport at present

as it involves three lifts whereas the Olympics involves two.



Shane Brodie, promoter, Stephanie Duffy, assistant secretary and Tommy Dillon, president of the Irish Powerlifting Organisation.

Teenager jailed for possession of sun-machine gun

A 19-YEAR-OLD man caught with a powerful submachine destined for use by one of Limerick's notorious crime gangs, was jailed for five years this week.

Patrick Dowling, Deer Court, John Carew Park, Limerick, was found with the Ingram submachine gun on St

Patrick's Day 2005.

The teenager was also found in possession of a silencer and 150 rounds of ammunition, when he was stopped by gardai while travelling in a taxi along the Childer's Road in Limerick on March 17, 2005.

Limerick Circuit Court heard that Mr Dowling - who admitted having the gun and the ammunition in his possession - had the items

was told that Mr Dowling had previously met with one of the leading members of a notorious south side Limerick crime gang, but that he was not a member of the gang.

Before imposing sentence Judge Moran said he accepted garda evidence that Mr Dowling was not a gang member, but insisted that he was not entirely an outsider as the gang had "trust-

could only "imagine with horror" what purpose the gun would be used for.

A garda witness described the Ingram submachine gun as a very specialised weapon, capable of both semi and automatic fire.

Judge Moran said he was taking into account Mr Dowling's guilty plea and the fact that he had two minor previous convictions.

Cllr
clears

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