

Tensions have been mounting at the club since it lost its affiliation with the GUI (Golfing Union of Ireland) as a result of unpaid subscriptions.

According to the GUI, Limerick County Golf Club was suspended from mem-

the GUI.
"We are taking this initiative because we feel that it is the best way of maintaining and developing the golfing facilities at Ballyneety. It is in the best interest of the local community and sporting Lim-

done," the notice stated.
According to Mr Fitzpatrick, there is no way that a new club can be started until the money owed to the GUI is paid.
"There were questions which weren't answered. They gave the stock answer that 'we are going

"But as we know there are no negotiations with the GUI - they gave a date back in March and the commitment wasn't met so the reality of the fact is that nobody - but nobody - not even the richest man in the world could start a club until the money that is

year, 2009 is paid," said Mr Fitzpatrick.
The men's and ladies' committees of the facility officially known as Limerick County Golf and Country Club entered into negotiations with the company who owns the golf club last November with a view to

premises on a five-year lease. There was an option to purchase at the end of that term.

Last January, a proposal to lease was put to an EGM and it was passed.

The proposed lease was dependant on a minimum of 550 members signing up

what was decided.

"There is huge mistrust between the directors and the members," he said.

"It's a very sad situation really," concluded Mr Fitzpatrick.

Director Christy White would not comment when contacted this week.

the mid-May sunshine for a charity match organised by Moyross man Jamie Daly.

Among the stars taking part that day were former Defence Minister Willie O'Dea and the father of Munster star Keith Earls, Ger Earls, as well as a selection of players from Limerick FC.

The Monks beat the Gardai 5-3 on the day, but the real winners were the Special Olympics and the Irish Cancer Society, who have each picked up cheques for €3,900 from the event

O'Donnell urges swift application for school allowance

DEPUTY Kieran O'Donnell has urged Limerick families to apply early for the 'Back to School' clothing and footwear allowance before the September 30 closing date.

The average cost of sending a child to their first year of secondary education now stands at €815, with the allowance offsetting this cost by €305.

"Last year, people experienced huge delays in receiving payment and I am encouraging all parents to apply for this allowance as soon as possible, to avoid the stress and anxiety of late payments," Deputy O'Donnell said.

The Limerick TD added that the high cost of a child's first secondary school year may not come as a complete surprise to parents, but many new people are now eligible for the allowance who may never have applied for the scheme in the past.

"If you did not receive the allowance last year, you can get an application form from your local health centre. It is important for parents to get their applications in as early as possible to ensure that they can get paid as soon as possible," he said.

Alan Owens

THE FAMILY of Kilcormac mountain climber Gerard McDonnell, who was tragically killed after becoming the first Irishman to summit K2 two years ago last weekend, climbed Carrauntouhill on Monday to commemorate the Limerick man's death.

Mr McDonnell's partner Annie Starkey flew from Alaska to accompany members of the McDonnell family to the top of Ireland's highest mountain, where a plaque is dedicated to his memory.

The 37-year old was killed on August 2, 2008, on his descent from the top of K2, the world's most dangerous mountain, along with 10 other climbers.

The Limerick climber is understood to have been killed by a falling ice serac after stopping to save a group Korean climbers and their Nepalese porter on his descent from the summit.

In recognition of this effort, Mr McDonnell is to be posthumously awarded an Italian Alpine rescue award, considered one of the top awards in mountaineering.

The McDonnell family are to receive the Targa d'Argento Pinzolo Gold Medal on September 18, and are said to be "over the moon" with news of the award.

However, Gerard's brother JJ did admit that the news was tempered by sadness at the second anniversary of his death.

"It is very good news and incredible that Ger has been recognised internationally once again. It is in some way comforting, yet hard also."



Ger McDonnell: 'people couldn't say enough good things about him' according to 'No Way Down: life and death on K2' author Graham Bowley

JJ added: "It's a great comfort to us to know that Ger did what he did. But perhaps it would have been more comfort if the Koreans and their Nepalese guide had survived."

"At the same time, Ger must have been on a total high, knowing he had helped them in the way that he did," he added.

A spokesperson for the award committee said that "McDonnell was the finest of mountaineers".

"He was someone who

chose to take his outstanding generosity abroad, someone who took part in many rescue efforts, and someone who was capable of abandoning his own plans, such as conquering the world's most difficult peaks, to assist climbers in difficulty," added the spokesperson.

Several books have been written about the events on K2 in 2008 and one was published in Ireland last week, by English-born New York Times journalist Gra-

ham Bowley, who told the Limerick Leader that although he didn't know Gerard McDonnell, he was a "presence throughout my life for the last two years writing the book".

"Gerard was a special man and he shone throughout my reporting, people couldn't say enough good things about him," explained Mr Bowley from New York this week of his book, which is called 'No Way Down: Life and Death on K2'.

Mr Bowley interviewed Ms Starkey and Gerard's close friend and fellow mountaineer Pat Falvey for the book and attended the memorial service held in Kilcormac for Mr McDonnell.

Bowley travelled the globe speaking to the surviving members of the various expeditions and indeed climbing to base camp on K2 himself, in order to discover more about the motivation that drove these mountaineers

toward their goal.

"There was that key moment where Gerard stopped to save the two Koreans and the Sherpa who were trapped overnight in these ropes, just around the serac area. And there is no question that he stopped," explained Mr Bowley.

"It was an amazing moment of high altitude bravery, I think. I hope his family would be very proud of him for that," added the author.

City bus lane to go ahead

CONSTRUCTION crews could be out on O'Connell Avenue as early as next month to begin building a three-kilometre bus lane from the county boundary to the city centre.

Limerick City Council director of services Pat Dromey says the local authority plans to plough ahead with a green bus route between the Ballykeeffe Roundabout and the O'Connell Street/Mallow Street junction.

The €2.6m project could see residents' parking spaces done away with.

More than 100 people were at City Hall last week to register their protest at the plans and they have vowed to continue to fight them.

Late into Wednesday night, members of the Ballinacurra residents association held a three-hour meeting with City Hall management, where they again stated their opposition to the "mis-spent" funding for this "unnecessary bus lane that will have a negative impact on our daily lives".

Lamp standard work

FORMER alderman Sean Griffin has lauded what he says is "a clear indication" from Limerick City Council that the antique lamp standards on Sarsfield Bridge are to be restored.

And he also expressed his hope that conservation standards at the Council have improved since the days when a piece of Patrick Sarsfield's sword ended up in a city centre scrapyard!

An alarmed Mr Griffin said he contacted City Hall six weeks ago after noticing one of the 19th century lanterns had been removed. He was later told by an official with the roads department that this was done at the request of Limerick City Council.

The Council confirmed to Mr Griffin and the Limerick Environmental Awareness Group that it had "engaged the services of Slattery Conservation and Roughan O'Donovan Engineering to carry out a conservation inspection and report on the lamp standards on Sarsfield Bridge and to prepare a plan for carrying out remedial works to return them to their former glory."

Cinema permission appealed

THE developers behind a proposed cinema in Coonagh Cross have appealed a decision taken by Limerick City Council to grant planning for a cinema just miles down the road.

Limerick City Council had granted permission to MZM Holdings - headed up by former rugby star Philip Danaher - to change the use of three units in the Ennis Road Retail Park - adjacent to the Jetland Shopping Centre - to build a multiplex cinema, comprising of a 1,338 seven-screen cinema, as well as a children's play area.

But Chieftain Construction - which already has planning permission to build a similar size cinema at Coonagh Cross - has now appealed the decision taken by city hall to An Bord Pleanála.

Development refused

LIMERICK City Councillors have reacted with delight after Bellisle Properties were refused planning permission for a construction in Lynwood Park.

The construction company were involved in a highly contentious application to build 34 terraced houses and 13 apartments in the area.

Sean McGowan's boat sale

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