

LIMERICK LEADER

History-making Sean back home to rapturous applause at Shannon Rowing Club



Sean McGowan with wife Lorraine, sons Patrick and Daniel and daughters Chloe and Rachel after he was bestowed with life membership of Shannon Rowing Club in recognition of his achievement in becoming the first Irishman to successfully row across the Atlantic singlehandedly

10 May 2010

By Anne Sheridan

RAPTUROUS applause greeted Limerick man Sean McGowan in Shannon Rowing Club on Sunday night, after he was made an honorary life member of the club he joined as a teenager.

Dressed in khaki shorts, a t-shirt and sandals, the 42 year-old from Farranshone, looked as if he was still on 'Antigua time.'

But home was always on his mind. "When I was at sea I always thought I was rowing for Shannon," he told the crowd.

"My journey didn't really end until Cork airport and tonight now is a great feeling; an end to my journey. And that's it; I feel it's complete.

"I went out to row an ocean and had a dream of what I wanted to do, so it's just fantastic to receive these honours afterwards."

McGowan became the first Irish man to row solo across the Atlantic in early May after more than three months at sea, having left the Canary islands in January.

He battled with storms in the first quarter, leaving him to nurse his damaged vessel for much of the journey, but he said any thoughts of quitting the race, or calling for assistance, lasted only a "nano second".