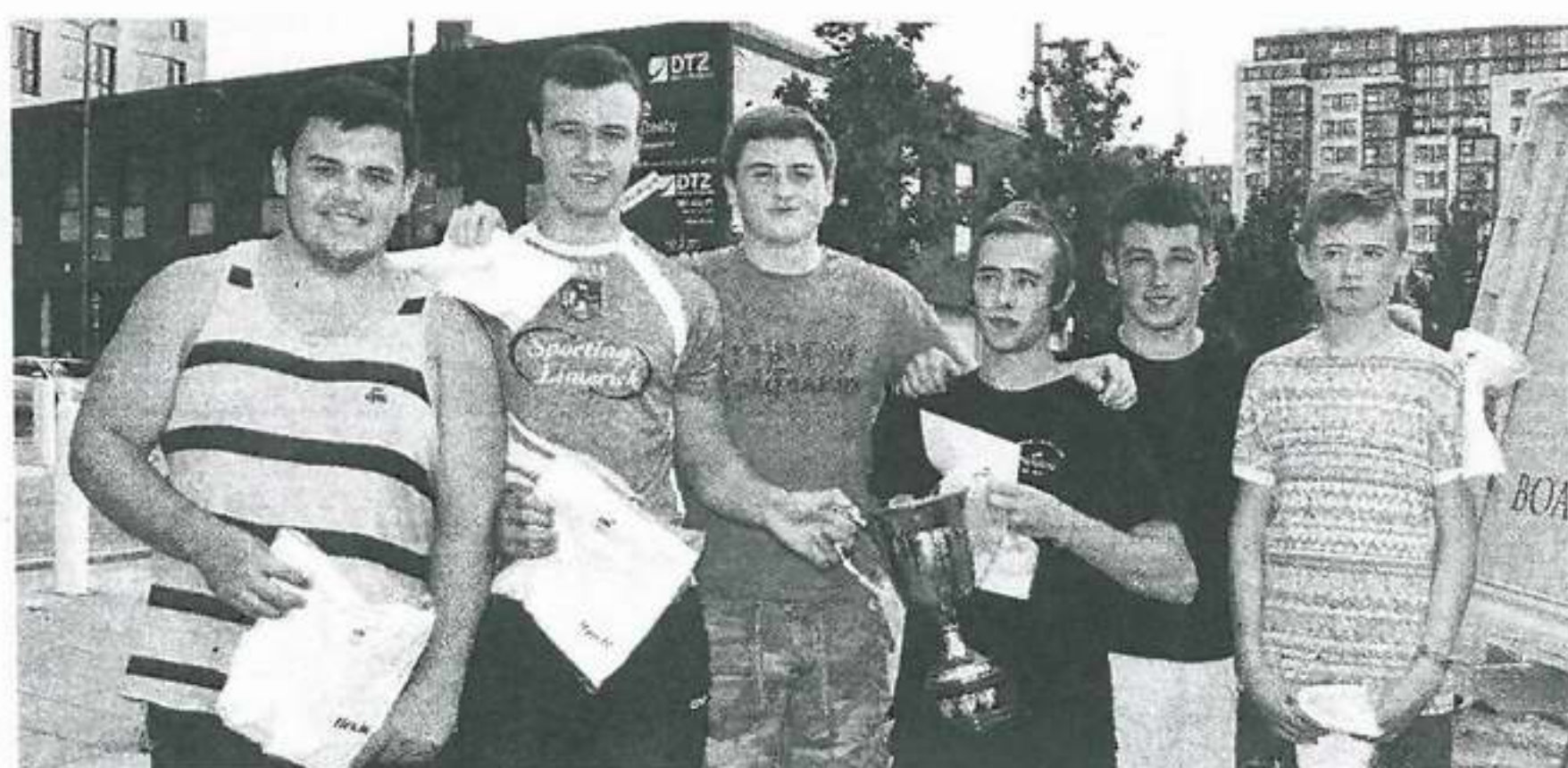


FESTIVAL

A great day out with the Gandelows



by **Bernie English**
 bernie@limerickpost.ie

MORE than a thousand people gathered in the bright sunshine last weekend to watch traditional Gandelows and the newly-designed CityOne racing dinghies take to the water in Limerick city centre.

Spectators watched and followed the fun throughout the afternoon, mostly from the new Harvey's and Howley's Quays river boardwalks.

"The boardwalk adds enormously to the perfect amphitheater that is the river topography, as it flows through the city," a spokesperson for organisers, the Ilen School and Network for Wooden Boat Building said.

Teams of Gandelow rowers from Limerick city and Clare generously put on a display of their passion for excellence in boat handling and competition to the joy and entertainment of their audience. This year's races welcomed entries from U18, female teams and experienced Ilen School crews.

The colourful CityOnes were designed by the members of Ilen, on a design based on the

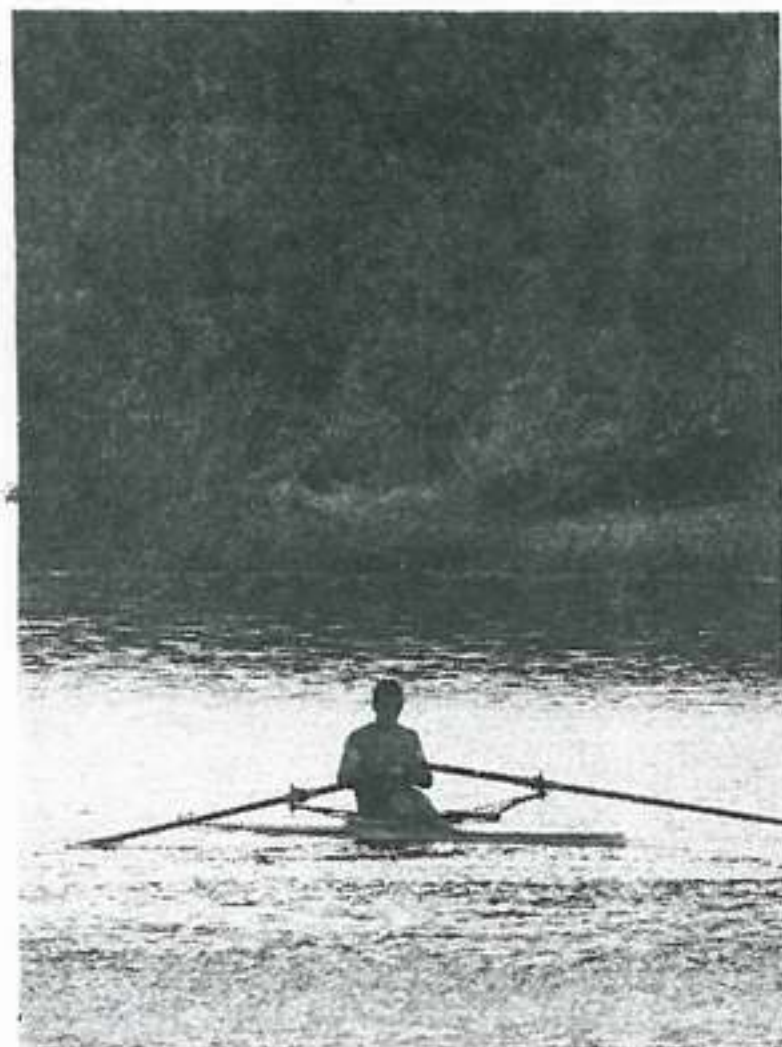
traditional Gandelows.

The school is a voluntary body, which has been organising the races on the river for three years now.

The new Limerick designed and built CityOne sailing boats attracted teams from Limerick city, NUIG, Foynes Yacht Club, Lough Derg Yacht Club and Cullaun Sailing Club. Their visually striking graphic and colourful canvas sails were a great sight in the afternoon sun as they consecutively raced with their elegant sister boats, the Limerick 23-foot-long Gandelows.

"The Gandelow Races seem to have found a workable formula for riverine celebrations and competition, a formula that also seems to resonate with city and visiting spectators and is significantly, perhaps, a river event formula for successful Limerick city centre river engagement going forward," the spokesperson said.

There will be yet another opportunity to see the new boats at an exhibition to be launched on September 26 in St Mary's Cathedral, as the 'CityOne' sail boat decoration was the subject of an international graphic design competition.



Photographs: Bron O'Loughlin

