

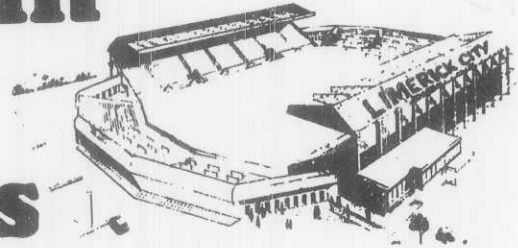


1984 Limerick Leader/Cospoir sports service awards, at the (back row) Dick Quin, Mossie Kelly, chief executive officer City V.E.C.; Creed, Minister of State with special responsibility for sport; Gerry Gilfedder, O.S.B.; Paddy O'Connell, Brendan McNamara, Phil O'Neill, Phil Bennis and Pat Cronin.

Limerick City see light

£1m in five years

Limerick City Football Club
Rathbane



By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

THE ADVENT of multi-channel TV in the provinces and the threat of more 'live' coverage on Sundays is certain to signal changes in the structure of LOI football.

Already, Limerick City have taken their cue and the board of directors this week threw light on the subject when they agreed in principle to investigate the possibilities of installing floodlights at Rathbane.

It has been suggested that upwards of 20 First Division and FA Cup games could be screened 'live' in the 1985-'86 season, with the majority on Sundays.

Many League of Ireland clubs are already on the bread line and have expressed fears of this extended TV coverage from England.

"We just cannot sit back—we have to take note", said Limerick City director, Michael Browne, who is of the opinion that the whole future of the LOI is in danger.

It is for that reason that City have included a flood lighting system in their plans for Rathbane, with the big switch-on next winter.

Initially it was planned to instal lights at some future date but now they are seen as a main priority.

Visited

When City visited Milltown last Wednesday, members of the Board inspected Rovers' system and came to the conclusion that it would be ideal for them. The cost—estimated £80,000.

Only four LOI clubs—Rovers, Home Farm, Bohemians and Dundalk—have lights, but it cannot be too long now until others follow.

It has been customary for LOI football to be played on Sunday afternoons, but the threatened clash with top English First Division fixtures could bring about a change in attitude.

Explained Mr. Browne: "We could visualise playing our home games either on Fridays or Sunday nights. It would be ridiculous to try to compete with TV coverage from England and the time has come for us to act".

TV's live coverage of the Tottenham Hotspur v. Liverpool game last Sunday affected attendances at LOI games, and in some cases there were no more than 300 people in attendance.

Shamrock Rovers and UCD deferred their kick-off time to 4.30 and realised a 'gate' in excess of £3,000.

Contrast that to the 200 or so who paid at the stiles to watch Limerick and Sligo Rovers in action at the Showgrounds.

Press

The Limerick Board are determined to press ahead with their plans for flood lighting and the man entrusted with the problem of raising the necessary money is Mr. Hayman Harris, recently appointed Commercial Manager.

In fact, Hayman's brief is to raise £1m over the next five years. Yes, you have read correctly, one million pounds.

The money is to go towards development costs at Rathbane where a super stadium is

planned. Said Hayman: "In view of recent happenings our prime consideration is to be flood lighting the ground—the remainder will follow over a five year period".

Inside the next few days upwards of 50,000 circulars are to be distributed to households in Limerick, advising how it is intended to raise the money.

The directors are in no doubt that the public will respond.

Upwards of £3,000 can be won weekly in a special draw and members are to be asked to subscribe £1 weekly. The draw will be confined to the Limerick area.

Agents

Agents have already been appointed.

The ten acre site at Rathbane is to be developed into a sports complex, comparable with the best in the land.

Included will be modern training ground, gymnasium, squash courts, spacious car park and children's play area. Phase one of the development—bar and function room—has already been completed.

Said Mr. Harris: "We want every Limerick household to be part of the action. This proposed stadium is for the people of the region, and more especially for the family unit.

A board of trustees has been set up to monitor and oversee all fund-raising activities and they include: Mrs. Anne Grace, secretary, Limerick F.C.; Fr. C. Naughton, S.J.; Mr. J. Hennessy, manager First Southern Bank, and Det. Sgt. Michael Browne, Edward Street.

vice to sport award winners

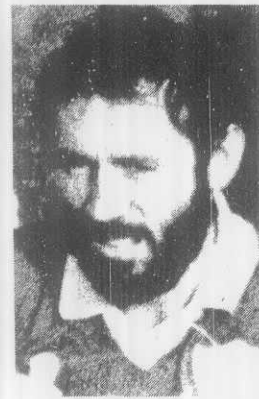
I am that generated to meet the sporting and recreational needs of this country. "Before concluding, I would like to thank all those responsible for this Award Scheme, the Limerick Leader for its patronage, the City of Limerick Sports Advisory Body for its support and, of course, the judging panel of Jerry Burke, Mary Costelloe and Cormac Liddy, who have put much work into the preparation of the event." Mr. Cormac Liddy, sports editor, Limerick Leader, on behalf of the judges, Jerry

Bourke, Cospoir, and Mary Costelloe, Cospoir, congratulated the winners.

Cllr. Frank Leddin, chairman of the City Vocational Educational Committee, praised the award winners and their ability to see the potential of boys and girls and to coach them to greater things.

He welcomed the proposed national lottery and said that sport can curb vandalism and foster manliness and civic duty in young people.

Cllr. Leddin also pledged the support of the VEC to sporting activity in the city.



Leonard Enright

Liam O'Donoghue

Limerick travel to New Ross

exford aim to

SpeCtator's Guide to Form

1 = HOME WIN. X = A DRAW. 2 = AWAY WIN

FAI Junior Cup area semi-final:		
Pike Rovers	2	Ballynanty Rvs.
MFA Youth Cup 3rd round:		
Shannon Town	1	Vereker Clements
Ardhu-Highfield	1	Hyde Rgs.
Saxone Cup first round:		
Shelbourne A	1	Prospect
Geraldines A	1	Janesboro
Lawson Cup fourth round:		
Wembley Rvs. A	1	Kennedy Pk. B
Premier League:		
Star Rvs. A	1	Vereker Clements
Division One League:		
Kilmallock	X	Distillery
Summerville Rvs. A	2	Mungret A
Park Rgs. A	1	Aisling A
Hyde Rgs.	X	Wembley Rvs. A
Croom Utd. A	2	Star Rvs. B

Schoolboy Fixtures

SATURDAY, FEB. 2

Under-12 A Cup:	
Glenagross v. Carew Park, 11 a.m., Glenagross Pk., G. Naughton.	
Under-12 B Cup:	
Granville A v. Caherdavin B, 11 a.m., Granville, G. Flynn.	
Geraldines v. Park Rgs., 11 a.m., Garryowen, P. Cooney.	
Shannon Town v. Newmarket Cel., 11 a.m., Fergus Drive, Shannon, Jim Fitzgerald.	
Under-14 A League:	
Ballynanty Rvs. v. Shannon Town, 11.30 a.m., Moylish, J. Clancy.	
Under-14 B League:	
Pike Rvs. v. Weston Villa, 11 a.m., Pike Field, M. Noonan.	
Star Rvs. v. Corbally Utd., 11 a.m., St. Mary's Park, M. Madigan.	
Under-16 B League:	