

# Kilteely first off the mark bid to make it happen for youth sport

By DEARBHLA ACHESON

**KILTEELY** Dromkeen Community Games were the first group in County Limerick to apply for the Limerick Leader/Combined Insurance €20,000 Make it Happen Community Give-away.

Cash from the prize fund will be awarded to organisations or individuals who are involved in projects to benefit the community.

The Make it Happen awards are the first of their kind involving a newspaper in Ireland. Combined Insurance were previously involved in similar projects in the United Kingdom.

Judges from the Limerick Leader and Combined Insurance will consider all applications, and divide the cash between the most worthy causes.

The first application for the awards from County Limerick came from Kilteely Dromkeen Community Games. They were nominated by their PRO Anne O'Dea.

They are in need of fund to continue to provide sports training, activities and to enable children to compete in the Community Games finals in Mosney.

"Kilteely Dromkeen Community Games was set up over two years ago to provide new opportunities to children in the area, and to encourage participation, particularly in sport. It caters for children residing in Kilteely, Garydoolis and Dromkeen," Ms O'Dea said.

They provide a range of activities both indoor and outdoor. "Our U14 quiz team reached the national finals in Mosney during 2002 and 2003 and were narrowly beaten in the county final in 2004." This year they held training for under-13 and under-15 indoor soccer in Caherconlish and competed in the county competition.

The group also run

cross-country training sessions. "Since 2002 our representation at county finals has steadily increased with 35 children participating in 2004. The under 9 boys team won gold and the under 9 girls and under 11 girls won certs. Three of our athletes qualified for the all-Ireland in Mosney with two winning silver team medals," she explained.

They train children in track and field athletics also. "Over 40 children competed in the county finals including five relay teams. Overall, five of these won gold and went on to compete at the finals in Mosney.

The club also provide tag rugby for the children."

Children involved in the group compete annually in swimming competitions in Askeaton pool.

She said that 2004 was a landmark for the girls in the club, when for the first time there was an under-12 girls soccer team in the area.

And recently they started training under-8s for soccer. "This is a new venture which has just started in the local field. The idea is to gently introduce the boys and girls to the game," the PRO commented.

Every year the club hold a sports day with more and more taking part each time. "We cater for all age groups and provide a huge range of events including an exhibition matches in tag rugby, gaelic or soccer, novelty events, skills competitions, fancy dress, face painting, in addition to an extensive athletics programme. It is one of the few sports days which is open to children from outside our area."

Ms O'Dea said the club's policy is not to accept any funding from alcohol-related sources. "Because we serve a rural area, sponsorship is scarce. We were fortunate to receive sponsorship for the athlete's singlets from a local businessman. We produced a booklet last year which raised some revenue for us through the ads. We have run raffles and each year we have made a profit at the sports

day," she said.

During the last year they introduced a charge of €1 per session for some of the activities, to help meet the costs of training bibs, footballs, chess/draughts sets, training cones. This year they need to invest in a new set of goal posts.

For the last three years

the club have paid the fee for the visit to Mosney for 25 children. "Our policy is to pay the full fee for each participant because we do not want finance to be an issue for a child that qualifies for an All-Ireland final. This fee has increased from €120 to €150 per child," Ms O'Dea explained.

