

CLUB HISTORY:

Shannon Rugby Football Club was founded on the 18th of February 1884, in the Shamrock Bar, by the old Park Bridge, on the Corbally Road, in the historic island parish of St. Mary. Hence the term 'The Parish', and it is this Parish identity that has made Shannon the proud club that it is today. The founder members were Paddy Lynch, Dan Duggan, Richie Gleeson, Pierce Hartney and Joe Hegarty. Paddy Lynch captained the first Shannon team and Stephan Hanrahan was President of the club for the first two years of its existence.

We remained a Junior club for the best part of 70 years, during which time Shannon supplied numerous players to Garryowen's successful Senior sides. Shannon won the Munster Junior Cup for the first of many times in 1914. Our first Transfield cup was won in 1938. The following year, the Junior Cup was again annexed. One year later(1940), in the process of winning our first Charity Cup, we also added both the Munster Junior Cup and Transfield Cup.

Shannon's continued and consistent success as a Junior Club eventually led (some would say belatedly) to the club attaining Senior status in the 1953-54 season, becoming Limerick's fifth Senior club.

It was not until 1960 that Shannon won our first Munster Senior Cup, defeating UCC, 6pts to 3 in a pulsating replay at Thomond Park, having drawn 8-8 the previous week at Musgrave park in Cork.

Over the years, since the club's inception, Shannon have had numerous temporary grounds, among them the field at the Island Bank, Gilligan's field, Johnny Cusack's field and Egan's Field on the Mill Rd. in Corbally. The first purchased grounds were 14 acres of land at Fir Hill, Gortatogher, (better known as Athlunkard) just two miles from Limerick city. However, a few years ago, it was determined that this was not big enough, so it was sold to Corbally Utd. soccer club in favour of our current more spacious grounds at Coonagh, off the Ennis Road. We currently have 3 training pitches there, floodlights and newly built dressing rooms, and are developing two more pitches.

While still a Junior Club, Shannon became co-tenants with Bohemians RFC at the Munster RFU-owned grounds at famed Thomond Park. In 1967, we completed our own Club Pavilion there. In 1978, the Pavilion was extended to the size it is today. There is talk currently of a further extension as the needs of a successful club in this professional age expand rapidly.

Our honours list is well documented on another page on this site, culminating in the unlikely-to-be-surpassed (unless we do it ourselves) achievement of 4-in-a-row All Ireland League titles. There have, however, been some notable individual achievements by Shannon players on the representative scene. The following players have worn the green jersey with distinction for Ireland: Brian O'Brien, Brendan Foley, Colm Tucker, Gerry McLoughlin, Mick Moylett, Mick Galwey, Mick Fitzgibbon, Anthony Foley and Eddie Halvey, and now, Alan Quinlan. Of that bunch, Gerry McLoughlin, Colm Tucker and Mick Galwey have been chosen to represent the Lions on tour. Currently on the fringes of the Irish squad are John Hayes, Peter Stringer, and Marcus Horan. Three Shannon players played on that famous Munster side that defeated the touring All Blacks (12-0) on 31st October 1978, in Thomond Park. They are Brendan Foley, Colm Tucker and Gerry McLoughlin.

A great milestone in the history of the club was the celebration of our Centenary in 1984. In a long and illustrious history Shannon have won everything that has to be won in the

domestic game. However, that does not diminish the hunger for success that is the hallmark of Shannon teams at every level. Here's to another 100 years at one of the most famous and legendary rugby clubs not just in this country, but the world over.