

## SPARTACUS

# How about Old Christians taking over from the city council?

□ AT A RECENT Limerick City Council meeting the councillors spent two hours getting through a mere five items on a 38-item agenda. The meeting generally was chaotic and little of any real value was achieved.

It would be bad enough if that was all. But it was not. One of the topics, which involved a lengthy and heated debate on the lack of action by the G.A.A. in relation to Canon Punch Park, showed that many of the councillors did not know what they were talking about.

According to the reports of the meeting only one council member, Cllr. Gus O'Driscoll, knew the facts of the case which many councillors were prepared to preach about – in spite of their obvious ignorance of the subject matter.

Are we not entitled to more from our public representatives?

The facts are that the pitch in question – Canon Punch Park – has not been used for many years. However in recent years Old Christians GAA Club took over the pitch from the city board of the GAA. This was in 1978. Within one year the club had secured a grant from the Department of Education for a youth employment work programme to put the field in order.

Even before the grant was paid the work started and the pitch was ploughed. This had to be done because the land was in a poor condition after laying idle for many years. And, by next August the pitch should be ready for use.

In the two years since Old Christians became involved they have spent some £12,000 on the ground – £8,000 of it Government money, which the members of the Government party on the Council were not aware of.

It is clear that the councillors knew nothing of the work going on at the field and without checking to see if they had the facts of the matter many of them felt free to abuse the G.A.A. in the city with indignation and self-righteousness.

Two people at the meeting seemed to know what the facts were: Cllr. Gus O'Driscoll and the Corporation accountant, Mr. Kevin Quilligan. Between them these two men gave the facts as they were but other members choose not to listen and instead went on to waste the time of the city council meeting talking obvious rubbish.

Instead of talking rot the council would do well to closely examine the speed with which Old Christians acted once they got the ground and they might urge the Corporation officials to act similarly on some of the many ills besetting our city. From the evidence it looks as if Old Christians might make a better hand of running the city than the city council does.

### A SHAME, MR SHIELS

□ JUST HAVE A ...