



SELL ON CLAUSE Kevin Doyle's transfer will aid Cork

Doyle sale key to City survival bid

By MICHAEL SCULLY

CORK City need Kevin Doyle's move to Aston Villa to go ahead if they are to pave the way for new owners to save the club - despite Dave Mooney's move to Reading yesterday.

The eircom League lost its top scorer when Mooney completed a medical at the Madejski Stadium.

And Dublin-born marksman Mooney - who is set to make €1.5m over three years, as revealed by MirrorSport yesterday - has been signed by Steve Coppell as a replacement for Doyle, who looks likely to return to the Premier League with Villa.

Cork not only lost Mooney in a deal worth €400,000 - they also went into examinership yesterday.

The club's owners Arkaga went to the Circuit Court after it was revealed the level of debt facing the Leesiders is even worse than initially feared.

It has been reported that City owe creditors €1.3m rather than €800,000 - but those debts would be wiped out if Doyle leaves Reading, with 10 per cent of the fee going to Cork.

But it is believed that potential investors will not get involved unless the club is able to clear its debts.

RESIGNATION

City now have two weeks to pay staff their next wages and the team budget will be slashed by the examiner, Neil Hughes, who also filled the same position when Shamrock Rovers went into examinership in 2005.

Meanwhile former City chairman Brian Lennox's resignation has been accepted by Arkaga chiefs.

Last night the City board issued a statement asking for supporters to rally around the club.

It read: "The board remains in talks with potential investors and is very optimistic and confident that Cork City will emerge from this difficult period and continue in to the future as one of the best clubs in the League of Ireland.

"It is critical that the support given so generously, and over so many years, to Cork City Football Club by its fans continues during this period of examinership.

"This is a time when the fans, players, management and officials need to come together and ensure that the best supported club in Ireland continues to be successful in to the future."