



Meeting of the Irish Festival
Day Committee held at the Irish
Centre on 17th April 1975.

Those present were Mrs. G. O'Flynn,
Mrs. Owen O'Neill, Mrs. Joe Lewis, Mrs. J.
Keating, Mrs. J. Dack of the C.I.C.A.,
Mrs. G. Mc Guinness Bank of Ireland,
Mrs. J. O'Boyle Irish Telesports, Fr. Wm.
Bagnrey and Fr. Ryan Irish Centre,
Fr. Brian Lalor St Augustines, Hamamersmith,
Fr. Herlihy Irish Chaplains; Mr. Don
Flatley, Mr. Jim Waters, Mr. W. Gleeson
South London Irish Society and
Mr. Des O'Halloran.

Mr. O'Flynn in opening the
meeting had a warm welcome for
everyone. He explained that the
purpose of the Festival was to raise
funds for Irish Welfare in London and
at the same time have a Sports
and cultural display of which we
could feel proud. He said that the
C.I.C.A. had looked round the
various Irish Bodies in London who
might be interested and this meeting

was the outcome. He had a ^{special} word of welcome for the Bank of Ireland and thanked them for their interest. He then called on Mr. Owen O'Neill to explain what has already gone on at Council meetings in connection with this Festival.

Mr. Owen O'Neill explained that the main idea was to bring together the Irish Bodies in London something on the lines of this meeting. And at the same time try to raise funds for the many Welfare organisations. He said that we hope to have the Festival at White City. We might have to employ a professional organiser which could cost a lot of money, but would well repay such an investment. He gave a run-down on a possible programme, but as nothing was yet organised it was up to this committee to make suggestions and decisions. He also paid thanks to the Bank of Ireland for their co-operation and expressed the opinion that such a Festival and coming together of Irish Bodies

in London was long overdue.

Mr. Don Flatley gave whole-hearted support to the idea commenting that for far too long we have all been working in our own independent ways.

Mr. J. Keating explained that a June date at the White City was unavailable but suggested that an early date in July might be suitable.

Mr. G. McGuinness asked what the cost of White City might be and who were to be the beneficiaries.

Mr. G. O'Flynn said that the total cost, including cleaning would be about £1,100. The beneficiaries were to be the Irish Centre, St. Augustines, Hammersmith The South London Irish Society and the Council Welfare Fund.

Mr. G. McGuinness said he was under the impression that all Irish groups would be interested and each one would get a proportional percentage. He felt that Fr. Noel Regan of Threshold Footing should be allowed a percentage.

He said that ~~it~~ one of the main reasons for the support of the Bank of Ireland was because of the welfare element.

Fr. Labor advised that the terms of Reference for all of this work must be very tight and specific.

Fr. Ryan said that one of the main difficulties of welfare organisations was staff and expressed the hope that this Festival would succeed.

Fr. Herlihy expressed great admiration for this idea of a coming together of all Irish Bodies.

Mr. Owen O'Neill explained that this meeting was only a beginning and when plans are properly formulated, a bigger meeting of all interested bodies would be held. He said this should become an annual event and we should hold over a percentage of this year's profit for next year.

Mr. J. Waters quoted the example of Strawberry Hill who were able to attract an attendance of approx 4,000.

Mr. O'Boyle welcomed the idea of admission by programme. Through their advertising they will pay for themselves. The professional organisers would thrash out the programme and put it before the people properly.

He felt we should have a main attraction such as a challenge game of some sort.

He suggested going along to see the White City. Its a very big grounds and felt that a smaller place might give a more intimate feeling.

Mr. O'Flynn then asked the meeting to make the decision to go ahead with this Festival. This was unanimously ^{agreed} to with White City as venue. The hours to be from 1 pm to 7 pm on July 6th 1975

Mr. Joe Davis proposed that Mr. John O'Boyle be the organiser of the Festival. Mr O'Boyle accepts on the condition that everyone pitches in wholeheartedly.

Items discussed for the programme included - The Best of Irish Schools Dancing Inter County Jug-O-war, Inter County Mile Police Dog Display, Football match.

Show Biz v DI's 20 minutes a side match and Pipe Band display. Stands by the various Associations would be allowed for sales or display. Trade floats to join in final ^{display}.
Mr. O'Boyle said the main idea is to make money for our Welfare work, but, at the same time, we must make a success of the Festival from the entertainment point of view for the sake of future years. He also promised to draw up a programme which could be discussed in committee.

Mr. McQuinn said each Assoc. should undertake to sell 1,000 programmes at 50p. each. There should also be a special programme or ticket for children. He also emphasised that at this point we should elect a committee of Chairman, Treasurer & Sec. as a separate entity.

Mr. J. O'Flynn suggested that the jobs should be filled by people in the meeting. He pointed out that this was a united effort and everyone should feel on an equal footing.

Mr. Mc Guinness suggested that one Representative from each County Assoc and from all other interested bodies should form a committee. But it was felt generally that this would be too unwieldy.

At this point Mr. O'Flynn asked the Rev. Fathers to give their reactions and impressions to what has so far happened.

Fr. Herlihy expressed his delight at being involved and hoped to be able to help right to the end.

Fr. Lalor: Was glad to see that the pattern of jealousy of former years has finally disappeared. He was slightly sceptical on some points i.e. He could not see many Co. Associations selling 1,000 programmes. He felt that we should possibly ^{have} started on a smaller scale and built it up. But none the less he would give his full support.

Fr. Kagny: Made the suggestion that it should be a good children's show.

If you look after the children, he said, they will look after the adults. Make sure there is a good parade. Let the children show themselves off. And he promised the full support of the Irish Centre.

At this point Mr. McGuinness reminded the meeting of ~~the~~ his previous suggestion that we elect a committee.

Mr. G. O'Hlynn unanimously elected as Chairman.

Fr. Wm Cagney & Fr. B. Lalor unanimously elected Joint V/Chairmen on the proposition of Mr. J. Water.

Joint Treasurers: Mr. G. McGuinness and Mr. Joe Davis.

Joint Secretaries: Mr. Jim Keating and Mr. J. Dack.

Organisers: Mr. J. O'Boyle already elected.
Mr. Owen O'Neill Assistant.
Mr. J. Waters Assistant & P.R.O.
Fr. Wm. Cagney Assistant

Programme Organisers: Mr. W. Gleeson and Mr. J. Waters.

It was agreed that the duties of

the programme organisers should cover looking for advertising, printing and production of the programmes.

Mr. McGuinness said he felt that the distribution was most important and suggested a maximum of three people to look after it.

It was agreed that Mr. Owen O'Neill would look after distribution.

At this point Mr. J. Waters asked for guidance on what price to charge for advertising space. It was agreed that the price per page should be £50.

That concluded the business of the meeting and it closed at 11.30 pm.

Signed
B. J. Lyman

Chairman
25.4.75

he would put all his
endeavour behind it

The Irish Festival Day Committee Meeting.

The 2nd meeting of was held at the Birl Centre on Friday 25 APRIL 1975 Present were Mr. J. O'Lynn, Chairman, Rev. Th. Coyne and

Rev. Th. Lawlor. vice chairmen, Mr. J. O Boyle Organiser, Rev. Th. P. Healy. Mr. J. Waters & Mr. W. Gleeson Program Organizers.

Mr. J. Mc Guinness, Bord of Ireland, & Mr. J. Davis Joint Treasurers. Mr. O. O'Neill Program Distribution, Mr. T. Inch & Mr. J. Keating Joint Secretaries.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, adopted & signed on a proposition from Mr. J. Waters. Motion passed by Th. Coyne.

Mr. J. Mc Guinness reported on the Sponsorship from the Bord. of Ireland. He said the ^{AS} general manager here in London is very much in favour of the idea, because its embracing all Irish Organizations in London and because the venture is for ^{exclusively} welfare. He said the application had gone to Dublin for ratification ^{and}. He was very optimistic that it would be ratified.

Report on White City Stadium

Mr. J. O'Flynn reported on the meeting with Mr. Homes, General Manager of White City.

He said the cost was estimated at £1,500. Mr. Lawlor asked what was the feeling regarding the facilities available at White City. Mr. J. O'Flynn said that the facilities are not altogether suitable.

Mr. J. O'Flynn went on to say that the Manager was emphasizing problems, on staffing, Main Fence. NO Commercial STALLS. etc.

Mr. J. O'Boyle said we have got to wait and see what the Contract will be. He said there were only two entrances on to the playing surface, and the public were not allowed on to the playing surface. It will therefore have to be a spectator show.

Mr. O'Boyle went on to give an outline of the day bearing in mind the facilities available.

To open with a 7 a side football match. He said he would meet P. Jennings at the Col. Final for to arrange the soccer match with the show big 11.

He envisaged a junior 50. Car. Race.

on the Terrace, Honour Hoates.

A Feast, on portable stages.

Pipe Band, etc.

Mr. O'Flynn said Mr. L. Hewla had contacted the Artane Boys Band, who were willing to come for the day. The Sec had written to Mr. Lynch to sponsor their fare over.

Mr. J. Mc. Guinness asked said he got the idea from the late meeting that the public would not be able to move about.

Mr. O'Neill said it would be impossible to control such a large crowd if they were allowed to go onto the grass surface.

Mr. J. O'Boyle. The stadium could be divided so as all the people could see what was going on, there would be two shows at the one time.

J. Waters said if we create a Fleet atmosphere we will create a Family atmosphere.

Mr. W. Fleeson said if we are going to have an Irish Day it is in our interest and everybody's interest that we make it a day for the children.

Mr. ~~even~~ example schools in uniform
a parade of Irish children. Mr. Coney
said if we get the children participating
you will get the parents ^{to} come along.

Mr. Lawlor asked would the police be
in favour of an Irish Day in London.
Mr. O'Neill, though yes, it was intended
having a police dog display as part of
the program program, he continued this day
must not fail, we are committed to having
it.

Mr. Coney said we have agreed to have
the day, then lets us make it an Irish
day, we can be proud of and if you were
it a Childrens Day, the the demonstration
will follow.

Once ~~we~~ Mr. O'Neill said, once we
have all our ideas formulated we should
have a public meeting as soon as possible
with every Irish Organization Represented.

Mr. J. Keating said we ^{are} basing our program
without being certain whether we have
obtained the Stadium. He said he had
reservations regarding whether we would

get the stadium. The rest of the Committee
thats that this was being over permitted.
But Mr. J. O Boyle said we should try
Professors Mr. as an alternative.

The program was drawn up, and is
as follows.

- 2.00 A Band PARADE
- 2.15. 7 A SIDE MATCH.
- 3.00 Police Joy Parade.
- 3.15 Ten A WAR. Provincial
- 3.45 TIRE PARADE OF BANDS & CITIZENS.
- 4.30. TIRE FLEAGH.
- 5.0. TIRE SOCCER MATCH. SHOW BIZ II
- 5.45 TUG A-WAR FINAL
- 6.0. 7. A SIDE FOOTBALL FINAL
- 6.30 GRAND PARADE

Mr. Lawlor said that Mr. Mc Cabe of
R.T.E. would give it publicity.
J. O. Boyle requested an ad on the
Wembley program, this was agreed.

B. Gleason. asked J. O Boyle what his fee would be for organizing the event. J.

J. O. Boyle said his services would be free. it was an honor. to asked to organize the event and his services would be free. He only asked for the cooperation of all concerned.

J. O Flynn asked how many stewards would be necessary to control the crowd. J. O Boyle said that 40. would be more than ample.

B. Gleason. asked for advice on programs advertising. It was decided. ~~that~~ to have \$50 a page @ \$15 a quarter.

There being no further business

The meeting closed at

12.30 AM

Date of next meeting

Wednesday

30 April. at 8.30 PM.

30-4-75

SIGARD

Got by on

Minutes of the meeting of Irish
Festival Day committee held at the
Irish Centre on Wed. 30th Apr. 1975.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn, Owen
O'Neill, Fr. Cagney, Fr. Herlihy, Mr. Joe Davis,
Mr. J. McGuinness, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. J.
Dack, Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. Jim Waters,
Mr. W. Gleeson.

The minutes of the previous meeting
were read and adopted on the proposition
of Mr. Owen O'Neill, seconded by Fr. W. Cagney

There being no matters arising from
the minutes, the chairman suggested we
have a review of the three items -
White City, Aer Lingus and Bank of Ireland.

Mr. J. Keating Reported on his
telephone conversation with the manager
of White City. He was told that there
would be staffing difficulties because of
holidays etc. His hire charges for the
grounds after a full estimate has now
risen to £1,000 and with cleaning
charges, both before and after, the cost
would now be between £3,000 & £4,000

Mr. Keating also reported that Aer Lingus are not in a position to sponsor the Artane Band, but they will endeavour to help in some other way.

Mr. J. McGuinness reported that the Bank of Ireland are now agreeable to sponsor costs up to a maximum of £1,200.

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Committee to Bank of Ireland for their magnificent gesture and also had a special thank-you for Mr McGuinness for his efforts in this matter.

Mr. Keating mentioned that, in looking for alternative grounds, he had spoken to Mr. Bill Brunney about Roundwood Park.

Fr. Herlihy said that he also had enquired about Roundwood, The ^{superintendent} ~~manager~~, Mr. Powers said there should be no problems about a Sun. booking. It could hold about 10,000; was completely enclosed. Fr. Herlihy is to see the Parks Manager at Brent Town Hall re Booking.

Mr. Jim Waters suggested Shelrea Football grounds and will contact Mr. John Galvin

Mr. G. Mc Guinness said that he would expect a full house at Roundwood as there is quite a large Irish population in that area.

The Chairman asked how many programmes we should have printed. The general opinion was between 10,000 and 12,000. Some members were worried about overselling Roundwood and Mr. W. Gleeson suggested that for such a long programme we might need a more comfortable arena.

Mr. Mc Guinness suggested that we might have two intervals to enable patrons to walk about among the stands.

Mr. Jim Waters asked, that in view of the difficulty about grounds, could we possibly put the date back slightly. It was agreed that 20th July should be the very latest.

Mr. G. Mc Guinness, on reflection, felt that Roundwood was not so suitable. With no seating accommodation and a long programme, people could get very tired. He also suggests we run a

Raffle in conjunction with the Field Day.

Mr. O'Boyle suggested a concert in the Gaumont State on the same evening.

The Chairman then said the whole question of an arena revolved round King Edward Park or Chelsea F.C. Grounds, and he asked for opinions round the table.

Mr. J. O'Boyle said if all fails we have the Roundwood Park. It might possibly have a better atmosphere. But on the other hand we must think of the comfort of the patrons. And for that reason, he proposed that we book Chelsea, provided the terms are right.

There was unanimous agreement on this proposition and Mr. Owen O'Neill suggested a ceiling of £2,000 on the rent of Chelsea. He said there must be many firms and individuals in London who would be prepared to make up the difference. That concluded the business of the meeting and it closed at 11 p.m.

Signed Golligan Chairman

2-5-75

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival Committee held at the Irish Centre on 2nd May 1975.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Hagan, Fr. Cagney, Mr. John O'Boyle, Mr. G. McGuinness, Mr. Joe Davis, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. J. Black, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mr. Jim Waters.

The reading of the minutes of our previous meeting was postponed to a later meeting.

The chairman asked Mr. Keating to report on his efforts to get Chelsea F.C. grounds as the venue for our Festival.

Mr. Keating said that he was successful in making a provisional booking of the grounds at a fee of £2000. Considerable bargaining was necessary to get it at this price. There are one or two stipulations to be complied with: Footballers must not use the normal type of spiked boots; catering and bar proceeds will go to the Chelsea club. A further meeting is arranged with Mr. Halsey, Asst. General manager for Tues. 6th May at 11 am.

At this point Fr. Cagney introduced

to the meeting Mr. David Andrews, Shadow Minister of Social Welfare in Dail Eireann, and Mr. Brian Loughney of Irish Trust Banks.

Mr. Andrews, in a short address, explained that his visit to the centre came about as a result of invitations from Fr. Hee and Fr. Cagney. He said that he was delighted and indeed privileged to come and see at first hand the valuable and important work done at the Irish Centre. He apologised for the apparently neglectful attitude of previous Irish governments, and promised to use every opportunity to change those attitudes. He expressed admiration for the aims and spirit of the Festival committee and wished them every success.

Mr. Brian Loughney also joined in the good wishes and reported that the New York Association are holding a similar event on June 3rd.

The meeting then continued discussion on the booking of the Chelsea grounds. The following members were elected or

volunteered to attend the meeting on Tues 6th at Kelsca: Mr. G. O'Flynn, Mr. John O'Boyle, Fr. Bagnay & Fr. Herlihy. It was agreed that the various types of insurance cover would be discussed at this meeting.

Two other points were unanimously agreed - Confirmation of the booking should be given after this meeting: The date has been put back one week - to July 13th.

Mr. J. Mc Guinness suggested, that to facilitate pointing etc. we should agree on a title.

Mr. Owen O'Neill proposed we adopt the title: 'First Annual London Irish Festival'. Mr. Mc Guinness seconded, and was agreed unanimously.

Mr. John O'Boyle then suggested that we get out our posters first, followed by programmes and hand bills. For the posters and hand bills he suggested a two-tone colour arrangement. He contends that nothing looks as ~~uninteresting~~ ^{uninviting} as a monotone, uninteresting poster.

Mr. J. Mc Guinness then asked

when we can have the meeting of all interested Bodies. After discussion, the date agreed was Wed. 14th May. To be held at the Irish Centre from 8 - 10 pm.

That concluded the Business of the meeting. The next meeting fixed for Wed. 7th May.

Signed G O Flynn Chairman

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival Committee held at the Irish Centre on 7th May 1975.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. G. McQuinness, Mr. J. Back, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. Joe Davis, Mr. J. Waters, Mr. W. Gleeson, Fr. Lalor, Fr. Herlihy, Mr. Joe Conway.

The Chairman announced that the deputation which met the Chelsea F.C. management came to a very favourable agreement on the rental of the Grounds. The figure agreed was £1750. And they also offered us 2½% of the profits on Bar and Catering. He thanked the Chelsea people for the very warm reception given to our deputation.

Mr. G. McQuinness then raised the question of Insurance. On this question Mr. J. Waters is to see Mr. Noel McQuinn. Mr. J. O'Boyle will contact his Brokers, and Mr. Gleeson will do likewise.

At this point Mr. G. McQuinness introduced Mr. Joe Conway as the man who was

responsible for getting the support of the Bank of Ireland. Mr. Conway said that the Bank is very interested in the aims and objects of the Festival and looks forward to a well produced show.

Fr. Cagney said he would expect that the Bank would get pride of place from the point of view of advertising.

Fr. Herlihy added that possibly another Bank should not be encouraged.

Mr. Conway said he felt safe in relying on the discretion of the committee.

The Chairman then expressed the thanks of the committee to B of I. for their sponsorship.

Mr. Gleeson then brought up the matter of programme costs. The estimates being £3,460 for 30,000 and £2,850 for 20,000.

Mr. J. Waters said that at these costs we would not make any profit on them, and suggested that we have a smaller edition showing acknowledgements of contributions from advertisers. After some discussion this point was unanimously agreed to.

It was also agreed that the booking of Chelsea F.C. grounds be confirmed by letter. At this point it was agreed that we should have some stationery pointed, with the heading London Irish Festival Committee and, in small print at the bottom, the names of the four associated bodies - The Irish Centre Welfare Bureau (Camden), The Irish Welfare Bureau (Hammersmith), The Council of Irish County Associations (London), The South London Irish Assoc.

Fr. Herlihy raised the question of registration for V.A.T. purposes. It was decided to leave this matter and the the vetting of our contract with Chelsea F.C. in the hands of our solicitor.

Mrs. John O'Boyle announced that he already has an appointment arranged with the police for Mon. 12th.

Further discussion took place on the format of the programme, Mrs. J. Waters suggesting that we might have a

loose-leaf centre in case of last minute changes. This idea was not favoured. It was felt that ~~last~~ any changes could be announced at the grounds.

Mr. O'Boyle estimated that we would need about 80 stewards on duty around the grounds.

It was decided to hold the General meeting of all interested Bodies on Wed 14th May at 8 pm. Fr. Cagney felt that this meeting should not be so much a discussion as a presentation of the Festival as already organised. Mr. J. McGuinness reported offers of help from Luton. Mr. O'Boyle hoped that each Co. Assoc. would look after their own individual groups. But Fr. Herlihy favoured approaching each group individually.

It was decided to invite Reps. from the following organisations: The County Assocs., The Irish Centre, The Irish Welfare Bureau (Hammersmith), Ilford Irish Society Federation of Irish Societies, Comhaltas Beolteor, North London Irish Assoc.

Brent Irish Society, West London Irish Society, Watford Irish Society, Slough Irish Society, Sutton and District Irish Society, G. A. A., London Irish Rugby Club, N. U. I. Irish Club, Irish Embassy, Gaelic League Choir, Celtic Folk Culture, Dancing Schools, Bands, Luton Irish Society, Hayes Club, Threshold Legion of Mary and Total Abstinence, N. A. C. A., Aer Lingus, Bord Fáilte, B + I, Bank of Ireland, I. D. A., Chelsea F. C., Bord Bainne, United Irish Distillers, Irish Life, A. I. B., Sea-Link, Ryan's, Cork Weekly Examiner, Irish Post, Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish Press, Kilburn Times.

It was thought necessary to have a hand-out done for this meeting, and to draw this up, a meeting was arranged for Sat 10th May at 3 pm. It was felt that 4 or 5 speakers viz. Mr. G. O'Flynn, Fr. Cagney, Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. J. Waters, Mr. Owen O'Neill could put across the idea of the Festival

It was agreed that any two of the following should be empowered to sign cheques - The Chairman, Mr. G. Mc Guinness, Mr. Joe Davis. That concluded the business of the meeting and it closed at 11.30 pm.

Signed G. Mc Guinness Chairman.

21.5.75.

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival Committee held at the Irish Centre on Wed 21st May 1975.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn, Fr. Lalor, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mr. J. Waters, Mrs. W. Gleeson, Mr. John Galvin, Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. Joe Davis, Mr. G. McGuinness, Mrs. P. Collins, Fr. W. Bagney, Mr. T. Dack, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. Don Marron.

The minutes of our previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Mr. J. Waters, seconded by Mrs. Owen O'Neill.

In matters arising, it was noted that Fr. Bagney's name should ^{have} been included in the names of those empowered to sign cheques.

Discussion opened on the amount and types of insurance which ^{we} would need to cover the festival. Mr. John O'Boyle explained that we should need a good third party and Public Liability cover and an indemnity to the extent of a million pounds for Chelsea F.C.

The Chairman advised that we should treat this insurance with urgency and thought that it might be advisable to get our brokers and the Chelsea brokers together so as to avoid any overlap of insurance. The following suggestions were offered:

Mr. J. Waters to see Noel Mc Guinn
Mr. W. Gleeson to see Beatty.

Mr. J. O'Boyle to see the Chelsea brokers.
It was also felt that Mr. Brian O'Connor should see the Chelsea solicitors.

At this point, Mr. G. Mc Guinness proposed that Mr. Brian O'Connor acts as our solicitor. Fr. Lalor seconded and was agreed.

Mr. O'Boyle announced that he has placed an order for 2,000 car stickers "Chelsea goes Irish".

Mr. G. Mc Guinness raised the matter of admission prices. He assumed the original prices of 50 p. and 25 p still stood and queried when these were changed to £1 and 25 p. Mr. Waters

explained that some discussion of this matter did take place at the meeting which was held to draw up the hand-out for the general meeting. He realised this was not a full committee meeting ~~to~~ and felt that the point needed further discussion. After debate, Mrs. McQuinness proposed we charge £1 for adults and 25p children. This was seconded by Mrs. B. Gleeson and carried.

The next item discussed was the drafting of the poster. This discussion was led by Mr. J. O'Boyle who explained the technicalities and the points to be emphasised.

During the previous discussions, members had an opportunity to study a hand-out which Mrs. J. Waters had prepared for distribution to prospective advertisers in our programme. In the hand-out A.I.B. were quoted as consenting "to sponsor this effort". Mrs. G. McQuinness objected to this hand-out on the

grounds that A.I.B. are now being shown as sponsors. And he also reminded members that at a previous meeting we had promised Mr. Joe Bowway that no other Bank would be considered a sponsor.

Mr. Waters explained that the whole idea was that we were looking for support from all Irish companies.

Mr. Gleeson - When we were given the job of producing this programme, we went along to all Irish Bodies, none excluded.

Mr. O'Boyle asked can we afford not to take this offer.

Fr. Cagney - We could not have started this Festival were it not for the prompt help of Bank of Ireland and for this they deserve a place of priority in the case of advertising.

Mr. O'Boyle - If A.I.B. were invited to our general meeting we are obliged to accept their offer and he suggested a full page advert for them.

Mr. J. McGinness asks to have the

hand-out altered to read "sponsored by ~~A.I.B.~~ Bank of Ireland".

Fr. Lalor commented that it is a pity this matter should cause so much trouble.

Mr. W. Gleeson gave a run-down of the history of the approach to A.I.B., remarking that we simply cannot turn down such an offer.

Mr. J. Waters emphasised that no-one who contributes to the programme should be refused. Both would get the same ground facilities. No-one should be allowed to dictate. This committee should be strong enough to run this festival.

Mr. Owen O'Neill suggested that the chairman should contact A.I.B. and find out what facilities they would want for their money.

Mr. Waters replied that they were appointed to do the job and should make the approach.

Fr. Lalor suggested that we have

two types of sponsorship - Festival Sponsorship and Programme sponsorship and we explain to A.I.B. these two types.

Mr. J. O'Boyle proposed that we find out from A.I.B. exactly what they want for their money - hold a further meeting and come to a decision.

This was seconded by Mr. Joe Davis. Fr. Bagnery agreed to contact Mr. Seán Hayes and outlined his approach.

Fr. Bagnery phoned Seán Hayes and was informed that A.I.B. would want a grounds display.

Finally, it was agreed that Mr. G. McQuinness would seek the advice of his superiors and a further meeting was arranged for the following evening at 9 pm.

Signed G. Flynn Chairman

2-6-75

22-5-75

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival committee held at the Irish Centre on Thurs. 22nd May 1975.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn, Sr. Cagney, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mr. Don. Hatley, Mr. J. Waters, Fr. Lalar, Fr. Herlihy, Mr. Joe Davis, Mr. G. McQuinn, Mr. J. O'Boyle, & Mr. J. Lack.

Mr. Jerry McQuinn, in reporting the reactions of Bank of Ireland gave a resumé of the approach which the Council made in connection with the Festival. The Bank people thought it was a good idea and entered into a commitment. Now that A.I.B. want to come in, there are three points on which Bank of Ireland would insist:

- i. no objection to A.I.B. adverts - but no stand allowed.
- ii. A.I.B. are allowed to produce the programme with an advert in it ~~or~~ other suitable acknowledgment
- iii. no objection to Boards or adverts on the grounds, but no literature

Mr. Tom Hatley expressed his admiration for these points, thought them very reasonable and hoped A.I.B. would think likewise.

Fr. Hehiry remarked that the Bank of Ireland have been in this right from the beginning. We promised them full publicity and now, if A.I.B. want to join in they must be satisfied with what is allotted to them.

Fr. Lalor asked if A.I.B. were approached the same as Bank of Ireland - ans. no. Fr. Lalor - This is where we are caught between the two Banks.

Mr. O'Boyle suggested we have a set of Rules so that we can easily decide.

Mr. J. Waters emphasised the point that every Irish body should be allowed to participate.

Fr. Cagney said that we are in danger of destroying our ideas of unity and co-operation. We should go back to A.I.B. and ask them to accept our decisions.

The Chairman then asked what Bank of Ireland want. They need the back-page of the programme, an acknowledgment on the front page and the Travelling Bank. He then asked for proposals on the Bank of Ireland requirements.

Mr. J. Keating then proposed that we accept Bank of Ireland and their requirements proposition seconded by Mr. Owen O'Neill. Fr. Lalor said The Bank of Ireland respect us as honourable people. In our enthusiasm we were not fully aware of all these difficulties. Mr. Conway asked that we do not have another Bank. After all, he was not very long with us and we were not wholly with it. He appealed for unity and asked - can we have A.I.B. in.

At this point Mr. J. Mc Guinness got a unanimous "no" answer when he asked Would it help if Bank of Ireland dropped out.

The Chairman appealed for the Bank of Ireland to take Fr. Lalor's advice.

Fr. Bagney suggested that Bank of Ireland might withdraw the Travelling Bank and just have Banners, with pride of place for Bank of Ireland.

Mr. J. McGuinness agreed but asked to seek further advice.

At this, Mr. Keating's proposition was withdrawn.

After conferring, Mr. McGuinness added the following points:

1. If the A.I.B. contribution is £750, Bank of Ireland would want the Travelling Bank.
2. If the contribution is £1250, then they agree on Banners and equal publicity, with pride of place to Bank of Ireland.

In winding up this discussion, Mr. Owen O'Neill gave a history of the approach made to Bank of Ireland saying that when the Festival idea first started, we could see that A.I.B. were otherwise committed.

So, he approached Bank of Ireland and asked them for support. This can be

bigger business than the Wembley Games.
The whole idea was discussed in committee
and the Bank of Ireland were invited.

The next item discussed was posters
and advertising. Mr. J. O'Boyle had
quotations for large posters as follows.

20" x 15" @ £47 per thousand

22½ x 17½ @ £54 " "

30 x 20 @ £60 " "

He said we would also need 1000
competitors tickets; 1000 Refreshment tickets
and about 500 Reserve tickets for the
V.I.P. Bar. On 23rd he would be seeing
Capitol Radio people. The two centre
pages of the Irish Post are booked for
the week before with ads. from different
firms.

Mr. J. Waters added that we were to
get full publicity at the Wembley Games
on 1st June.

Discussion on Insurance was left
over to a later meeting

It was agreed that application to
the G.L.C. for Bar extension etc. should

be sent as soon as possible.

The Chairman suggested a further meeting with Mr. Collins, Mr. John Galvin and Mr. ~~Bryan~~^{Brendan} Mulcair and all the artists so that some degree of co-ordination can be achieved.

That concluded the business of the meeting, the next one is fixed for Mon June 2nd.

Signed G. G. G. Chairman

2.6.75

~~Meeting~~. Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival committee held at the Irish Centre on Mon. 2nd June '75.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn, Fr. Cagney, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mrs. J. Waters, Mr. Wm. Gleeson, Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. J. McGrinness, Mr. Joe Davis, Mr. J. Back, Fr. Lalor.

There being no matters arising from the minutes, correspondence was next dealt with: There was a donation to funds of £5 gratefully acknowledged from the Middleton & District Assoc.

Mr. John O'Boyle had a letter from his brokers concerning insurance cover. The premium for the £1 m. cover for Chelsea F.C. works out at about £12. He read

through the proposal form and various points were discussed covering different aspects of our insurance requirements.

Mr. O'Boyle also announced that he had placed orders for 2,000 20" x 30" posters, 1000 Refreshment tickets, 1000 performer tickets, 500 V.I.P. tickets. He has also had a

meeting with Capitol Radio. They will do plugs and arrange interviews. R.T.E are coming to do interviews and recordings.

In connection with the programme, Mr. W. Gleeson mentioned that it will soon be going to print and appealed for any further advertising contacts.

Mr. Owen O'Neill suggested sending a Press Release to Assoc. Press.

Fr. Lalor asked if it would be possible to have a function to which all the Press Reps. and other interested people could be invited.

Mr. J. O'Boyle said he could possibly get the Martini Building for a launching ceremony.

Mr. Owen O'Neill said there is also an offer of the Press Club. And possibly Bank of Ireland might foot the Bill.

Mr. Jerry Mc Guinness thought that Bank of Ireland might put on such a function at their headquarters. He also said that Irish Life were sponsoring

sets of medals and had asked for advertising space on the grounds.

Mr. O'Boyle proposed we accept the offer of Bank of Ireland for this function. We could send a list of proposed visitors to them.

Mr. O'Boyle announced that he was having a meeting with Mr. P. McCabe in connection with the teams and supporters which are offered from Birmingham. The chairman also spoke of having an offer of two teams under 15 from Coventry. Mr. Owen O'Neill proposed that teams representing London & Warwickshire compete for the Irish Life Cup. In an endeavour to overcome this impasse, Mr. G. McGuinness proposed that the football competition be confined to four minor teams. This was seconded by Fr. Lalor and agreed. Mr. O'Boyle hoped that we might eventually have prelim. rounds leading up to a final at the festival.

On the printing of the programme

Mr. J. Waters asked if we could give the printers another week. Mr. J. Mc Guinness proposed Stallons as our printers. This was seconded by Mr. J. Waters and agreed.

Mr. J. O'Boyle urged that we get on with the lay-out of the Front Page and announced that we had received a crate of whiskey from Jim Conway for our Raffle.

The Front Page Lay-out as follows:

First Annual London Irish Festival.

Sponsored by Bank of Ireland.

At Thekeia Football Stadium

Stamford Bridge SW6

On Sun. 13th July 1975 at 2pm.

Gates open 12.30pm.

Admission by programme

Adults £1 Children 25p.

Licensed Bar, meals & refreshments from 12.30

All proceeds in aid of Welfare

The numbered programme type of Raffle was next discussed. Mr O'Boyle favoured the Bingo Balls - others favoured

the tear-off strip. The idea receiving most support was the insertion of a tear-off ticket in the programme.

It was agreed to have 20,000 adult programmes + 20,000 children tickets printed.

Mr. G. Mc Guinness suggests a note in the programme advising people not attending to send it along to the festival with a friend.

It was agreed to give Gaelic Tele-sports an advert on the inside Back Page.

Fr Lalor suggests an acknowledgement of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

Mr. J. Waters suggested a minimum contribution of £25 for an acknowledgement in the programme.

Mr. G. Mc Guinness asks if the Chairman in his foreword would give a thank-you to Comhaltas Ceolteoiri etc.

Mr. W. Gleeson suggests omitting times of events from the programme.

Signed G. Glynn Chairman.

9-6-75

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival committee held at the Irish Centre on Mon. 9th June 1975.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Hagan, Fr. Healy, Mr. Jas. Keating, Mr. J. McGuinness, Mr. Joe Davis, Fr. Lalor, Fr. Ryan, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. Wm. Gleeson, Mr. J. Waters, Mr. T. Dack, Fr. Wm. Bagnay.

The minutes of our previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Mr. J. McGuinness, seconded by Mr. W. Gleeson.

Arising from the minutes, Mr. J. McGuinness announced that Bank of Ireland were willing to put on the Press Function at the Tara.

It was agreed that the invitations be sent out on our Headed Paper. It was thought advisable to wait until the programmes were available. The suggested date was June 24th and the time 1-3 pm. It was agreed that we should make out a list of those we intend to invite and also make a list of the outlets for posters. It was also agreed that we put an advert in the Irish Post every week from now until the Festival.

Mr. J. McGuinness reported to the meeting that the advertising manager of his Bank had been in touch with the Irish Post and was informed that Bank of Ireland and A.I.B. were now in equal sponsorship. Considerable alarm was expressed by all at this leak of information from the committee and the general feeling was summed up by Mr. Owen O'Neill when he said that in future the only person with authority to contact the Press would be the Press officer.

Mr. J. Waters is now waiting for any final adverts for the Programme. The absolute dead-line is Wed. 11th June.

In reviewing the Raffle prize list, Mr. J. O'Boyle felt that the list was too long to offer them all on just the programme Raffle and proposed that we put the three major prizes to the programme Raffle and hold a separate Raffle for the other prizes. This was agreed to and Mr. J. Davis offered the assistance of the Irish Centre Social Club in putting on this Raffle

The price of tickets was agreed at 10p each
M/s J. Waters & W. Gleeson went through
the list of prospective contributors to the
programme and got great praise for their
efforts.

Mr. J. O'Boyle gave a run down of the
programme - asking for assistance on such
things as dancing platforms and low-loaders.
The size of platforms was discussed and
the requirements of the dancing schools
mentioned. They had asked for about 30' x 30'
but, in view of the expense of such sizes,
it was felt that everyone should give some
thought to this problem and report back
to the next meeting.

Fr. Lalor raised the matter of the urgency
of our Insurance cover. Mr. J. McGuinness
proposed Mr. Noel McGuinn as our Insurance
agent and Fr. Lalor seconded. Mr. J. Waters
will contact Noel McGuinn.

Mr. J. O'Boyle is to look after our
contract with Chelsea.

In the course of discussion on the
entertainment of V.I.P.'s in the lounge,

Mr. J. Waters raised the question of gate-crashers. But it was felt that the ticket system was capable of dealing with this.

The following is the suggested list of invitations to the Press Conference:

J. Conway + Co.	South London Gazette
Kevin O'Shea.	Jerry Daly
J. Green	G.A.A.
Irish Post	Islington Gazette
Capitol Radio	Daily Express.
L.W. T.V.	Fulham Chronicle
B.B.C.	Daily Mirror
Irish Embassy	Sun
R.T.E.	Evening News
Irish Independent	Universe
" Press	Daily Mail
" Times	Samonn Andrews
Kilburn Times	Terry Wogan
West London Observer.	Pete Murray
Camden Journal	Paul O'Shea
Ham + High Express	Ron Delaney
	Joe Lynch.

That concluded the business of the meeting and it closed at 11.30 pm.

Signed W. J. Cagney V. Chairman 16-6-75

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival Committee held at the Irish Centre on Mon 16th June 1975.

Those present were Fr. Cagney, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mr. J. Waters, Mr. Wm. Gleeson, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. J. McGuinness, Mr. J. Dack.

In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, Fr. Cagney chaired the meeting.

The minutes of our previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Mr. J. Keating seconded by Mr. J. McGuinness.

Mr. J. Waters raised the matter of the leak of information from the committee saying that, on reflection after the last meeting, he got the idea that he was under suspicion. He emphasised that he had not spoken to Brendan McLue for some weeks and rang him to enquire if he was the person referred to.

Mr. J. McGuinness denied that Mr. Waters was ever at any time suspected and asked to make the following statement: "In connection with a statement at the last committee meeting about the Irish Post, I do not wish to withdraw anything, as everything

I have heard since confirms the accuracy of what was said. I have been quoted as making a pejorative remark about Brendan McLue and the Irish Post and I claim that any remark was not derogatory of the above, nor was it intended. I would like to question the reasons why a report of such a nature would be given to Mr. McLue."

Mr. McGuinness again gave the details of what took place when Mr. White telephoned Mr. B. McLue. Mr. McLue said he had information from two sources on the Committee about the equal sponsorship of Bank of Ireland and A.I.B. Mr. W. Gleeson again expressed his regret that such a leak should happen. Mr. Owen O'Neill emphasising that as far as the previous meeting was concerned there were no derogatory remarks on the Irish Post or Mr. B. McLue.

The Chairman advised everyone to behave in a mature and responsible manner. He suggested writing to Mr. McLue explaining our aims and objectives and

asked Mr. Mc Guinness to withdraw his statement but he declined. Mr. Gleeson asked if Mr. McLue can confirm that he heard from a source on the committee. The Chairman then suggested that three people should be appointed to see Mr. McLue and clear this matter up. The Bank of Ireland must be given the correct informa and also the Irish Post. The committee now has the right to speak up for itself and our minutes are the only record of what happened.

Mr. Gleeson proposed that Fr. Cagney, Mr. Jim Waters and Mr. J. Mc Guinness see Mr. McLue

Fr. Cagney then proposed that Mr. J. Mc Guinness withdraws his statement. This was seconded by Mr. J. Keating. Mr. J. Mc Guinness then withdrew his statement. Mr. J. Waters proposed that Mr. G. O Flynn, and Fr. Cagney see Mr. Brendan McLue Mr. W. Gleeson in seconding this added the name of Mr. T. Back as the third name.

Press Conference: Mr. J. McGuinness announced that the Tara was booked out and instead he had booked the London Ryan Hotel for 24th June. The time was 12.30 for 1 oc to 3pm. He then read a copy of the invitation. The Chairman then went on to deal with procedure of the Conference asking who will speak and answer questions. It was agreed that Mrs. M. O'Flynn, Fr. Cagney & Mrs. J. O'Be would be the speakers and all the Comm would be in attendance. It was hoped we would have a new hand-out ready after the general meeting on Thurs. 19th June. Mr. Owen O'hille suggests that the general manager of Bank of Ireland should attend to welcome everyone.

General meeting 19th June: All organisations have been invited by Mrs. J. Keating. The Douglas Hyde hall is available. Mrs. J. Waters suggests that anyone who knows any useful people should invite them along as the main objective of the meeting is to distribute programmes and posters. Mr. J. McGuinness reported that he had heard of a G.A.A minor match arranged for July 13th.

Mr. J. Waters will ring advertisers inviting them to come along.

It was agreed that the main purpose of this meeting was to present the programme, give a progress report on advertising and explain the facilities on the grounds for advertising etc.

Mr. J. Waters hoped that late-comer ^{contributors} ~~advertisers~~ to the programme might like to put on stalls and adverts on the grounds.

The Chairman suggested that we should delegate some one who would look after people who wish to have stalls on the grounds. He said it is essential that the whole committee should visit the grounds and appoint three people who would look after the allocation of space. But a date for such a visit was not yet available.

Mr. G. Mc Guinness said that the existing adverts on the sides of the grounds are to be taken out, but unfortunately that space will not be available to us.

Mr. J. O'Boyle and Mr. J. Waters will be available to liaise with advertisers.

Various groups have announced their intentions to put on side-shows such as Tombola etc. Whilst these attractions are most welcome, it was generally agreed that the main purpose of Assocs and various Societies lay in selling programmes and stewarding.

Mr. J. Waters announced that he has got an alternative supplier of car-stickers at £57 per 2,000.

Mr. Owen O'Neill suggested that a letter be written to London Transport advising them of the numbers who will be travelling to Clebea on 13th July.

Insurance: Mr. J. Waters advised that Noel McEginn is looking after it.

The Chairman said the Dancing Schools want to know the size of Floats for Dancers. Mr. J. Keating promised he might be able to get some chip-board for the Platforms.

Mr. W. Gleeson raised the question of Jug-o-war. He said he might be able to get a Luton team.

Mr. J. Keating might also be able to get a West London team.

Mr. J. Waters is to negotiate a Perpetual Trophy.

Next meeting 30th June.

Signed M. J. Cagney Chairman
30.6.75.

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival Committee held at the Irish Centre on Mon. 30th June 1975.

Those present were: Fr. Cagney, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. J. Davis, Mr. J. McGuinness, Mr. T. Back, Mr. J. Waters, Mr. W. Gleeson, Fr. Healy, Mr. J. O'Boyle.

In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, Fr. Cagney chaired the meeting.

The minutes of our previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Mr. J. Waters, seconded by Mr. Owen O'Neill.

Arising from the minutes, Fr. Cagney gave a resumé of what happened when he phoned Mr. B. McLua about the alleged leak of information from the committee. Mr. McLua, he said, accepted ^{fully} the explanation which was offered to him, and expressed his admiration of the work being done by Mr. J. McGuinness. Fr. Cagney added that it was an unfortunate series of misunderstandings and it was left at that.

Mr. J. Keating had contacted L.T.B. and they agreed to put on extra trains and buses.

Mr. W. Gleeson, in reference to the Tombola stall, said he got the impression that Mr. Halsey was not too happy about this because of the danger of accidents from broken bottles.

Mr. Waters assured the meeting that both the Insurance Policy and the Contract were on their way.

Mr. W. Gleeson announced that he has got Jug-o-war teams from Clapham and Luton.

Mr. J. Mc Guinness raised the problem of getting the cash away from Chelsea on the day. He said that Bank of Ireland's Travelling Bank will be there but the problem is insurance. Otherwise, ~~we~~ we will have to get Securicor.

Mr. J. O'Boyle asked for a cheque for £875 for Chelsea as the contract is ready. Whoever goes to Chelsea, he said, should be delegated as a signatory. Mr. J. Waters volunteers as he will be in the Chelsea area and he was delegated as a signatory.

Mr. J. O'Boyle raised the question of advertising. He felt that we are falling down on the job of getting posters in the right places. To cover London, he said, is a vast job and we must plan correctly. We must get lists of Schools, Churches, Pubs and clubs, Hospitals and Hotels. The practice of letting people just take the posters was not good enough, he said, and there were now too many posters just lying about in the boots of cars.

Mr. W. Gleeson agreed and said that the posters are not getting to the correct places. He also said that the posters could have been distributed through the Irish Post mailing list.

Mr. Owen O'Neill asked can we not spend £200 advertising some of the Star names who are attending the Festival.

Fr. Cagney promises to get some-one to contact the schools.

Mr. J. McQuinness promised to do 100 posters through Banks of Ireland.

Mr. J. Waters suggested that a

Bill - poster should be employed.

Mr. J. Mc Guinness mentioned that some people are not feeling too safe leaving programmes value £1 each to pubs and also some pubs are refusing to take them.

Mr. J. O'Boyle announced that Bedford are to send a Jug-o-war team.

It was announced that Mr. John Conroy will provide one of the dancing platforms and W.G. Gleeson & Co will provide the other three and also two drums for the Raffles.

Fr. Cagney announced that the Ambassador will speak for about three minutes as an opening ceremony.

Stalls: In addition to the Lumbola stall, the Irish Centre Social Club would like to run a Chicken Stall. It was agreed that the stalls could be underneath the stands. Mr. J. O'Boyle and Mr. J. Waters are visiting Chelsea on Tues 1st July and will arrange the space.

Mr. J. Waters announced that W.G. Gleeson & Co. will give a trophy for the Jug-o-war.

It was brought to the notice of

the committee that programmes are being sold in some areas for 25p for children. This practise was severely criticised and to stop it, it was urged that the children's tickets should be made available immediately.

It was announced that two coach companies are interested in selling programmes and taking people to Chelsea.

Mr. J. Mc Guinness proposed that we make out our list of V.I.P guests. The following list was agreed: His Excellency the Ambassador, Mr. J. O'Connell, Two from Bank of Ireland, Two from Allied Irish Banks, Mr. Jack Stallard, Cardinal Heenan, Bishops of ~~Brentford~~, Southwark & Brentwood, Mayor of Hammersmith, Chief Super of Hammersmith, Mr. J. Meares, Mr. B. Mc Luan Aidan Hennigan, Jim Nichols, Jerry Daly, Mayor of Camden, Mr. Tom Walsh & Mr. Mr. Brown of the Federation.

A general meeting is arranged for July 3rd. for programme sales and Stewarding arrangements.

Mr. J. Mc Guinness promised that about fifteen Bank staff will help

at Chelsea on the 13th July.

Mr. Owen O'Neill asks if we can put an advert in the Cork Examiner. This was agreed to and Fr. Cagney will see about it.

That concluded the business of the meeting, the next one takes place on Mon 7th July.

Signed

G. O'Flynn
Chairman

7. 7. 75.

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival Committee held at the Irish Centre on 7th July 1975.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Fr. Lawlor, Fr. Cagney, Mr. J. McGuinness, Mr. D. Gallagher, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. J. Waters, Mr. W. Gleeson, Mr. T. Dack.

The minutes of our previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Fr. Cagney seconded by Mr. J. McGuinness.

In opening the meeting, the Chairman extended a warm welcome to Mr. Dermott Gallagher of the Irish Embassy and also thanked Mr. W. Gleeson for sponsoring the Tag-o-war medals and Trophy.

Mr. Jim Waters informed the meeting that our insurance cover is now virtually completed.

The problems caused by having the travelling bank on the Chelsea grounds and the Insurance cover required were explained by Mr. J. McGuinness. The premium for this insurance would be in the region of £73.

Fr. Bagnery has contacted all the 283 schools in the London dioceses; and Fr. Heohly has covered all the churches. Mr. J. Waters has seen about the Bill - posting but there are only about 230 posters available.

Mr. J. Waters promised to provide Green & gold football jerseys for the Irish All-Stars team. It was agreed that the committee would buy a Ball and 15 sets of knicks and stockings.

Mr. J. O'Boyle announced that the following Minor Football Teams would be taking part - Sean Mc Dermott's, Birmingham St. Agnes, Crickwood; Dr. Crokes; Thomas Mc Curtains, London. Mr. O'Boyle announced also the following Jug-o-war teams - St. Clare's, Hayes; Lando, Blapham Mt. Windmill, Crickwood; Shandon, Bedford.

Mr. O'Boyle suggested that we have a private bar for stewards and officials and that Mr. W. Gleeson be allotted £50 float.

Mr. W. Gleeson suggests that he will have 6 or 8 deputies who will visit the

grounds with him on the previous Sat. and note all the problems.

It was agreed that the names of Mr. B. Mulhall of Irish Life and Mr. Roger Burgess of W. G. Gleeson + Co. be added to the guest list.

The sum of £150 was agreed to cover the cost of the Buffet in the V.I.P. Lounge. Mr. J. Mc Guinness to arrange this with Mr. Halsey on Tues 8th July. Entrance to this bar will be by ticket only.

Just in case we run out of programmes, Mr. J. Waters will get some extra copies of the 1st page of the programme as a reserve supply.

Mr. J. O'Boyle announced an extra Raffle Prize from Allied Irish Building Society of £60 to buy a prize. He has also had a promise of a Bicycle as a prize from the Children's Entertainment proprietor.

Mr. J. Waters said he had a promise of a Trade Float from Charringtons

It was agreed that Mr. Joe Davis will organise the Raffle ticket sellers.

Mr. J. McGuinness will look after the cancelling of programmes after they are sold. A £500 float will be carried in the Travelling Bank.

Mr. J. O'Boyle raised the question of Co. Assoc. banners and stewards. It was agreed that Mr. T. Dack would chase up the Assoc. on these points.

Mr. O'Boyle said that a write-up went to Dublin for the Sun. Press for 6th July in conjunction with an advert but the write-up did not appear.

The following photographers to be invited: Mr. Moroney, G. Harrington, Don O'Mahoney, P. Harmon, Mel Mc'hally, Michael Maloney. Each one to be issued with a stewards arm-band.

It was agreed that the Ambassador would be the only speaker.

That concluded the business of the meeting. The next is fixed for Chelsea on 10-7-75. at 8 pm.

Signed G. Flynn Chairman

21/7/75

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival Committee held at Chelsea Football Grounds on 10th July 1975.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn, Mr. J. Halsey, Mr. D. Hatley, Mr. J. Waters, Mr. W. Gleeson, Fr. B. Lawlor, Mr. M. Whitty, Fr. Herlihy, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. J. Mc Guinness, Mr. Seán Hayes, Fr. Cagney, Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. T. Back.

Mr. J. Halsey offered to supply Staff Badges for stewards. He suggested the following list of stewards: Four between the Bovril and Britannia Gates; A constant walk-round of stewards on the Hard shoulder; 10 on the Forecourt; 2 on main gate; 6 by the stalls; 3 at back of stand; one at entrance to Reception; one on each lift; one at entrance to stairs door; 2 at dressing rooms one in charge of microphone. The Police Room can be used as changing room for dancing children. There will be a table for autographs with 2 stewards. The only cars to enter the grounds will be people with V.I.P. tickets. The Press will have Directors Box Tickets.

The W. G. Gleeson & Co. Cup and medals were on view at the meeting and also the Irish Life Cup and medals. The Chairman thanked Mr. Gleeson for his beautiful Trophy and it was agreed that he should present it.

Mr. O'Boyle announced that he had got the services of two Show Bands. They would go round on the musical floats with two Ceilidhe Bands. Mr. J. Waters objected to this arrangement on the grounds that it would not be right to mix the two different types of music and also that this should have been discussed at an earlier meeting.

Mr. Sean Hayes offered some of his female staff to sell Raffle tickets.

Mr. M. Whitty will get a Raffle-Drum.

Fr. Cagney announced that Bing Crosby regrets he cannot come on Sun. 13th.

The Bar hours on the grounds will be 12.30 to 5.30 pm.

To facilitate people who will be at the grounds early, Fr. Herlihy will say Mass at 11.30 Am in the Directors Lounge.

Fr. Cagney has laid on nurses for

First Aid provided the St. John's Ambulance Brigade can supply a Marshall.

In the V.I.P. Lounge, Mr. J. Mc Guinness will have a float and offer a drink when people arrive. After that they buy their own. Buffet lunches will be available @ £.50 catering for 100 people.

Steward lunches available at North Stand for £1 on presentation of ticket.

All performers to have a Refreshment ticket for which they get 50p. worth. Mr. W. Gleeson to look after.

Mr. J. Waters suggests someone should look after the amusement charges.

Fr. Herlihy suggests that all committee members move round and hold themselves available at all times.

Fr. S. Lawlor is to get Committee Badges. The ceilí at the Hibernian will run to 11 pm. After that it will be the Resident Band.

Mr. Sean Hayes from A.I.B. registered a small protest on two points. Firstly, he had to request tickets for his V.I.P. people and secondly he was led to believe that

for their contribution they would get a sizable ad. in the programme and he had told his executive so. Mr. Hayes had earlier given a cheque for £1,250 to the Chairman, who expressed the thanks of the committee.

At this point, Mr. J. Habsay paid tribute to the efficiency and dedication he found in the work of the committee and thanked everyone for their co-operation.

It was agreed that Mr. Don Mulvey be invited. Mr. J. Keating to look after this point.

The B and I guests are to be taken to the V.I.P. Lounge also Mr. T. Dunne.

Mr. Sean Hayes spoke of the problems of overlooking guests.

That concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting was fixed for Mon. 21st July at the Irish Centre.

Signed G. J. Lyan Chairman.

21-7-75

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival Committee held at the Irish Centre on 21st July 1975.

Those present were: Mr. G. O' Flynn, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mr. J. Waters, Mr. Wm. Gleeson, Mr. Joe Davis, Mr. J. Keating, Fr. Lalor, Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. J. McGuinness, Mr. T. Lack.

The minutes of our previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Fr. Cagney, seconded by Fr. Lalor.

In correspondence there was a letter and donation of £50 from Bishop E. Casey; a telegram from Bing Crosby wishing success, and a letter from Bishop Casey of Brentwood to say he would visit the Festival. It was agreed that all letters and telegrams should be filed.

The Chairman announced that the Embassy would supply the Ball for the football games.

It was agreed to hold a public meeting on Thurs. 31st July at 8.30 pm sharp. All assoc. and societies to be invited. An advert. to this effect

to be put in the Irish Post.
Mr. J. back to look after this.

Financial Report showed that the
Bank balance was £ 9, 143 - 40.

Some further monies were paid in at
the meeting and also some bills were
agreed for payment. After these transactions
the balance was £ 6, 606 - 08.

The further life of the committee was
discussed and the general feeling was
that the Council of Irish Co. Associations
should still be the organising Body.
They should draw up a constitution
and decide the membership of the
Festival committee. Mr. Owen O'Neil
suggests reporting back to the Council Exec.
Fr. Cagney gave a run-down of the history
as he saw it and suggested that the
committee make a representation
recommendation to the C.I.C.A.
The Chairman suggested that this
committee initiate proceedings for
a constitution.

At this point, Mr. J. Galvin, Mr. J. Maguire

and Mr. D. Lander joined the meeting.

The Chairman then invited general comments on the Festival.

Mr. J. O'Boyle said that he accepted full responsibility for all the mistakes that were made. There was, he said, an immense amount of hard work done and he paid tribute to everyone for their efforts. There were only two points in his mind, he said, which would make a failure (i) The people did not turn up (ii) It Rained. Overall, the basic idea was good and he hoped it would continue.

Mr. D. Lander - Agreed, But added that there should be more people in charge. Two for music - two for dancing - two for football etc. It was difficult to get musicians and they were not heard this year.

Mr. J. Galvin said it was cruel to the children to be kept standing around all day. There seemed to be a complete lack of planning. He had

been asked by the bombaltas to make a protest which he read and asked for compensation. The people who travelled in coaches no longer had confidence in Mr. O'Beyle and also the Radio publicity seemed to be handled badly. He suggested that two members from each participating company form a committee and there should be no commercial organisations.

Mr. Wm. Gleeson expressed his sorrow for the children. After all, he said, it was their big day out and they were badly disappointed. He appreciated the position of Mr. J. Maguire. The whole thing needs rehearsal and he hoped we would still have the confidence of the general public.

Mr. J. Maguire said we must press on with the Show. We need ~~more~~ co-operation between the committee and the participants. The stewards must be fully informed on everything.

Fr. Labor expressed his pleasure in being associated with the Festival, but

on the other hand, was sad we disappointed so many people. When he saw the grounds he realised what a problem we would have with communication and he has asked all people for a second chance. We have all benefitted by the experience.

Fr. Wm. Cagney said he could not possibly make a list of those who phoned 97% offered positive criticism. But the main message was please continue.

We had all the ingredients for success and the enthusiasm was there. Our failure, he said, seemed to be under two headings - Failure to present and introduce the artists and failure of control. The other major mistake was that the announcer should have been in the commentary box. We also needed a commanding M.C. There seemed to be a failure of job description. At some stage we should have had all the artists on the ground. And finally he expressed the opinion - there is a need for this event.

Mr. J. Conway expressed disappointment for the players he brought to the festival. Firstly, there wasn't even a glass of orange for them in the dressing rooms and secondly, no-one even thanked them for coming. But his personal message was - have confidence and go ahead for next year and he expressed his delight in being associated this year.

At this point Mr. T. Maguire proposed a vote of confidence in the committee.

This was seconded by Mr. B. Lander

Mr. Lander in thinking of next year's venue advised of the facilities of Strawberry Hill college.

Mr. Owen O'Neill asked questions about stewarding and queried why the committee did not act when they saw things going wrong. He advised that programmes should not be on sale before future Festivals. He said that the children should have been treated better. He asked who issued the committee badges. Too much work seemed to fall on too few shoulders.

Mr. J. Galvin promised that the bombhalts will again co-operate next year - But asks why they were not invited to the original public meeting.

The Chairman, in winding up, said we did not have sufficient experience and time was not wholly on our side. He said now is the time to start preparations for next year.

Mr. J. O'Boyle said he has never seen so many people work so hard and expressed his thanks to all. In a few weeks, he said, we will all look back and say how well we did.

That concluded the business of the meeting and it closed at 11 pm. The next meeting was fixed for Mon. 22nd Sept. 1975.

Signed G. Flynn Chairman

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival committee held at the Irish Centre on 6th Oct. '75.

Those present were Mr. G. O' Flynn, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mrs. J. Dack, Mr. J. Davis, Fr. Healy, Fr. Lalor, Mr. W. Gleeson, and Mr. Pat Gallagher, Kelleher.

The minutes of our previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Mr. J. Davis, seconded by Fr. Healy.

Fr. Healy, in giving general comments on the Festival remarked that groups were not very suitable. He also suggested that we could possibly use Chelsea grounds again, but immediately after the football season finishes.

There was a run-through of the prize lists and Mr. Dack explained that he had written to all the sponsors but, as yet, had no replies. Mr. Gleeson offered to look after the carpet prizes and the Chairman would ring or contact Mr. Conway re the crate of whiskey.

Mr. Joe Davis announced that

our deposit A/c stood at £7000 and the current A/c at £865.07.

The Chairman went through the details of the balance of the Chelsea Bill. The charge of £45 for ground staff is to be queried.

The suitability of Chelsea as venue was again discussed. It was agreed that it was not entirely suitable. But its convenience as far as the general public is concerned was admitted. Strawberry Hill college was put forward and its merits discussed.

A number of bills were agreed for payment and it was also agreed to pay £30 for an ad. in Mr. J. Conway's Football annual.

A meeting with Chelsea management is to be arranged by Mr. G. O'Flynn.

That concluded the Business of the meeting and it closed at 10.45 pm.

Signed G. O'Flynn Chairman
20/10/1975

Minutes of the meeting of the London Irish Festival Committee held at the Irish Centre on 20th Oct. 1975.

Those present were Mr. G. O'Flynn, Mr. J. Davis, Mr. W. Gleeson, Mr. J. Waters, Fr. Herlihy, Fr. Lalor, Mr. J. Dack, Fr. Ryan.

The minutes of our previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Mr. J. Davis, seconded by Mr. W. Gleeson.

The first item discussed was the Festival Raffle Prizes. Mr. J. Waters informed the meeting that the Westbury carpet had been found at Chelsea. It was agreed that, if necessary, this would be cleaned and presented to its winner. Mr. W. Gleeson has bought a carpet for the Tottenham winner, Mr. Burke, and Mr. J. Waters will arrange payment for this. Mr. Waters will also arrange that a crate of whiskey be delivered to the Irish Centre. Mr. O'Flynn will arrange delivery to the winner in Romford. Unanimous disgust was expressed at the Shannon Record prizes. The winner informed Mr. J. Davis that

Some of the records were unusable and also that his choice of 25 records was from a selection of only 26. Mr. J. Back is to write to the Aer-Lingus Freeway winners and ask when they wish to take up this prize.

Points arising from the meeting with the Chelsea management: The Chairman informed the meeting: that the cost of the electrical lead which was stolen on Festival day would be halved; that a cheque for £79, which represents $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of profits has been paid by Chelsea into Festival funds; that a possible date for Chelsea next year is 16th May; and that nothing can be done about the charge of £95 for ground staff as this is a requirement of G.L.C. Regulations.

Accounts were next dealt with and it was agreed that all accounts should be sorted out by next meeting on Nov. 3rd. Mr. Waters showed his telephone bill for the last quarter amounting to £132.00. His usual a/c is in the region £30 - £35.

It was agreed to pay £100 of this a/c.
Mr. W. Gleeson proposed that all accounts
and bills be paid by next meeting.
This was seconded by Fr. Hehily.

Division of the proceeds amongst
the Beneficiaries was next discussed and
Mr. J. Davis proposed that we divide
as follows: 30% Irish Centre, 20% each
to South London Assoc., C.I.C.A Welfare
Fund and Hammersmith Bureau with
10% Retained for next year. This was
seconded by Fr. Lalor. Further discussion
on this proposition centred round the
amount being retained. Mr. J. Waters
maintained that 10% was too high and
proposed we rescind the proposition of
Mr. J. Davis. This was seconded by Mr.
W. Gleeson. Mr. Waters then proposed we
divide as follows: 30% Irish Centre, 22½%
each to South London Assoc., C.I.C.A Welfare
Fund and Hammersmith Bureau and Retain
2½%. This was ~~agreed~~ seconded by Mr. W. Gleeson
and agreed. That concluded the Business of
the meeting and it closed at 10.45 pm.

Chairman G. Flynn 3-11-75.

Minutes of the meeting of the committee of the London - Irish Festival held at the Irish Centre on 3rd Nov. 1975.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn, Mr. Owen O'Neill, Mr. J. Keating, Mr. J. Davis, Mr. T. Dack, Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. J. Waters, Mr. W. Gleeson, Fr. Herlihy & Fr. Lator & Fr. Caplan. Mr. J. McGuinness asked to be excused.

The minutes of our previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Fr. Lator, seconded by Mr. W. Gleeson.

A short discussion on the Raffle Prizes revealed that these have now all been sorted out.

A letter was received from the Middleton & District Society expressing concern about the non-delivery of Raffle prizes. There was a letter also from Mrs. Murphy of Carshalton which contained suggestions for future Festivals. Both of these letters to be acknowledged.

The Treasurers Report showed that the current stood now at £1341.69 and the Deposit A/c at £7000.

Mr. J. Waters gave a run-down of the outstanding amounts due from advertisers. It was agreed that all accounts should be paid in for our next meeting on Nov. 17th. A general Public meeting is fixed for Mon. Dec. 1st.

Copies of a Draft Constitution for the London Irish Festival as proposed by the Executive of the C.I.C.A. were circulated and discussed.

Mr. Owen O'Neill proposed that each organisation take a copy back to their committees and report back to the next meeting. This was seconded by Mr. J. Davis.

That concluded the business of the meeting and it closed at 11. pm.

Signed G. Flynn Chairman.

17. 11. 75

Minutes of the meeting of the London
Irish Festival committee ~~meeting~~ held at
the Irish Centre on 17th Nov. 1975

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn,
Mr. Owen O'Neill, Fr. Cagney, Fr. Labor,
Mr. J. Dack, Mr. D. Flattley, Mr. W. Gleeson,
Mr. J. Waters, Mr. J. Keating, Fr. Herlihy,
Mr. J. McGuinness.

The minutes of the previous meeting
were read and adopted on the proposition
of Fr. Herlihy, seconded by Mr. J. Waters.

There was a letter from Noel McGinn
enclosing a Photo-stat of the Insurance
Policy and a Bill for the Premium.
Fr. Labor proposed and Fr. Herlihy seconded
paying the bill. A Bill from Gleeson & Co.
for plywood was also passed for payment.
Mr. J. Waters paid in some more cheques
from advertisers and went through the
out-standing accounts. He estimates that
about £1200 are still outstanding from
advertisers.

The Treasurer reported that with
£7000 in our Deposit A/c we also have

a balance of £1528-32 in the current A/c.
It was agreed that Thurs 27th Nov, our
next meeting would be the final date
for receipts. Any receipts after that date
would be left over to next year. It was
agreed that the cheques for the beneficiaries
should be paid at the public meeting
on Dec. 1st

The chairman's suggestion, that people
who organised events at the Festival should
~~receive~~ be given a small presentation, got a full
discussion. After many debates for and
against, the suggestion of Mr. J. Mc Guinness
was agreed to - that one representative from
each of the groups who participated get a
presentation. The list agreed was as follows:
Mr. J. Conway, Mr. S. Hamilton, Mr. J. Galvin,
Mr. B. Mulcair, Mr. J. Maguire, Mrs. Agnes
O'Connell, Mr. J. Baly, Mr. B. Gleeson,
Mr. J. O'Boyle, Mr. D. Whelan, Mr. A. Hackett,
Mr. P. Nolan, Mr. J. Bowler (Mr. Bowler
to nominate another recipient from the dancing)
It was agreed that Mr. Roger Burgess would
receive Mr. Gleeson's presentation.

The Draft Constitution was next discussed. The South London members regretted that they did not have time to go into the proposals fully. But in a short address Mr. B. Hatley objected to the proposals on the grounds that South London seems to have no say. Everyone, north, south, east and west should be brought into this Festival, he said. But with this draft, he felt that would not happen. If we want support from all sides, we will not get it. And if we put on a show next year, we must guarantee that it will be put on. South London people feel very neglected by these proposals, but our motives are the same as yours and we would like to be included. Together we could put on a show everyone would be proud of.

Mr. Owen O'Neill remarked that there is absolutely no reason why South London should feel left out. After all the whole of London is covered by the Council Welfare Fund.

Fr. Lalor said that the Council idea that the Festival sprang from the Irish Centre Bazaar makes him a silent observer. As long as the history remains as it is he cannot agree.

Mr. J. Mc Guinness observed that we cannot meet the C.I.C.A executive. We must accept this position. So we should meet other committees and get their comments.

Fr. Cagney said that, as requested, the Council exec. have produced this draft so we should have a solicitor to look at it.

Fr. Herlihy asked if we as a committee could not draw up our own constitution.

Mr. Waters remarked that the main theme running through this year's festival was unity.

Mr. J. Mc Guinness emphasised that if point 3 on the draft constitution is not resolved, then all other points are irrelevant.

Fr. Cagney agreed and added that

we must decide if the C.I.C.A. is the governing Body.

Mr. J. McGuinness then proposed that we vote on article 3 of the draft adding 'Is the Council or this committee the governing Body'. Mr. W. Gleeson seconded.

Mr. McGuinness added that if we accept point 3, then we can come along with suggestions and amendments, hopefully resolving the difference.

Fr. Cagney said that there are two separate things here. There is such a thing as an authority and also a working committee and this is where the difficulty seems to come from.

The Chairman referred to the minutes of 21st July and said that meeting gave authority to the Council to produce this draft and we could not have a vote.

Mr. McGuinness then asked "Who is the governing Body?" And the Chairman replied - "The object of the Constitution is to resolve these matters".

Fr. Cagney said we are a committee

we have got this draft since the last meeting. Let us add our own items for a constitution.

Mr. McQuinners said that article 3 is the cardinal point and asked again for a vote on his proposition.

The Chairman then asked for the proposition to be read again and then asked for a vote. The result was 7 out of a total of 12 in favour.

The Chairman then asked for amendments or additions to be in by next meeting.

That concluded the Business of the meeting.

Signed

Boyle

Chairman

27.11.75.

Minutes of the meeting of the London
Irish Festival committee held at the
Irish Centre on 27th Nov. 1975

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn,
Mr. J. Davis, Fr. Heohy, Mr. J. McQuinn,
Mr. W. Gleeson, Mr. J. Waters and Mr. J. Back.

The minutes of our previous meeting
were read and adopted on the proposition
of Mr. J. Waters, seconded by Fr. Heohy.

There being no matters arising from
the minutes and no correspondence, the
next item on the agenda was a discussion
on the Constitution.

Mr. J. Waters announced that the
South London association had now got
a draft constitution prepared and would
present it at the next meeting. He
asked for a clarification of the vote
on article 3 of the Council draft
Constitution.

Mr. J. McQuinn said that
article 3 had been voted on and passed.

Mr. Waters replied that he would
not then be putting in a draft constitution.

Fr. Herlihy asked how did the authority of the Council affect us last year.

Mr. Waters replied - "Not at all. In fact the four Bodies who were in last year, plus the Chaplains would suit South London fine". That committee should decide, he said.

Mr. J. McGuinness said that the C.I.C.A were the people who initiated the Festival last year and the degree to which they would enter into it would be open to discussion.

At this point, Mr. J. Davis proposed that further discussion of these matters be left for a full meeting. This was seconded by Mr. W. Gleeson.

The Chairman then asked everyone to have their proposals ready for the next meeting.

That concluded the Business of the meeting and it closed at 10.45 pm.

Signed Chairman.

Meeting of the London Irish Festival
Committee held at the Irish Centre on
15th Jan. 1976 - After the Public meeting.

Those present were: Mr. G. O'Flynn,
Fr. Cagney, Fr. Lalor, Mr. J. Waters, Mr. W.
Gleeson, ~~Mr. Owen O'Sullivan~~ Mr. J. Keating,
Mr. J. McGuinness, Mr. Don Marrow,
Mrs. B. Dack, Mr. J. Dack.

Mrs. B. Dack and Mr. Don Marrow
were elected to the committee at the
Public meeting.

It was agreed that when the
date of the 1976 Festival is confirmed,
the Financial Report of 1975 would
be published and a letter of thanks
would be sent to all advertisers.

On the question of sponsorship, Mr.
J. McGuinness advised that any requests
for sponsorship should clearly state the
full amount. And also give details of
what sponsors would get i.e. Sponsored
By --- on the Front Page of programme,
Full page on the Back - adverts on each
gate and in the grounds and also

state the price of a full page advert.
It was also felt desirable to ask
sponsors if they wished to share
sponsorship, in which case the
advertising facilities would be shared.
It was agreed that ~~upon~~ the full
sponsorship this year would cost
in the Region of £4,000. And the
cost of a full page advert in the
programme should be £500, and
it can be sub-divided.

In connection with the Booking
of Chelsea, the Chairman suggested a
meeting at Chelsea on Mon. 19th Jan.,
provided it suited the Chelsea management.

That concluded the business of the
meeting and it closed at 11.15 pm.

Signed

Chairman
G. O. Flynn

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