

LONDON IRISH CENTRE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE *July 10th 1990.*

1. Present: T. Dunne, Chairman, Rev. T. Scully O.M.I., Jim Myers V.C., M. Allen Secretary, M. Fitzsimons Assistant Secretary, John Walsh, Jim Kirby, E. McCormack, C.O'Connell, Fr. O'Donoghue, Monseignor G. Stack, Peter O'Dwyer.

In attendance: Paul Murphy Co-ordinator Community Services.

APOLOGIES - Tom Mangan, Mary Kenny.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read, adopted on the proposal of Mary Allen, seconded by John Walsh.

3. Matters Arising - Item 2.1 "There was other nomination" should read "No other nomination". Noted by Fr. Scully. Corrected.

4. Item 5. Welfare Report

Presented by Paul Murphy. Copies circulated June busy. Numbers down due recession in economy unavailability of work, in consequence some clients returning home. No significant change in age groups.

With reduction in interviews he stated there will now be more opportunity to do outreach work, writing reports etc., now using telephone contacts only. Service can be enhanced in future.

Health and Safety Programme in personal contact with Irish Embassy. Committee were reminded that repair/renovation work not yet completed - carpet in Staff Room worn - floor boards loose - considered dangerous - no detection point for Fire Alarm.

Chairman thanking Paul for his hard work - extended appreciation to Staff and in particular Paul's contribution at London Irish Festival.

5. Finance Report - Presented by Fr. Scully. Copies circulated - Bar results no improvement. Catering on target. Pat O'Dwyer, making an impact - Mr. Kileen Bar Manager - with his wife have commenced duties as from 9th July. Peter O'Dwyer commented that - first 6 months encouraging.
6. Hostel Report - Both Hostels fully booked - Regrets expressed that Sr. Brenda - Medway Hostel, being transferred as superior to Retreat House in Scotland. Fr. Ryan - Conway House, being replaced by Fr. Pat Carolan probably September.
7. Directors Report - Presented by Fr. Scully.

Touche Ross, representatives Messrs. Jennings and Griffin, had visited the Centre and a successful meeting ensued. They were most impressed with the Computer System at Conway House. They have written to the Charity Commission and if the Accounts are accepted Irish Centre on the right path. Touche Ross are held in high regard by the Charity Commissioners.

Licence Mac Namara Hall due for renewal 30th June. Some bad complaints from local residents have filtered through, But no official information from Local Authority yet. Negotiations on going to improve Sound Proof System - Public Health E.H.A. Fire Authority involved and some conflict concerning weight of Exit doors. - Exists between the various units leading to great frustration. Architect has presented plans for a lobby, and accepted by Planning Authority. However these were rejected by the Fire Authority (Letter 5/7/90) as not looking like a year in advance. We have to ensure the Irish Centre is a

Council raises no objection with regulation - doors having special Sound Proofing, Doors - cost £2,500 each

Side Mac Namara

Back Mac Namara £7,500

Side J.F.K. - Accommodation in Mac Namara Hall, some Complaints re. Couch and Annual Dinner Band elsewhere.

Roof noise - Beer Cooler noise reading too loud. New acoustic covering not satisfactory - Furnace, whistling noise causing concern and remedies being sought. Mac Namara Hall, Air Conditioning also causing objection by locals. Fr. Scully maintaining good relationships with Council and Fire Officers, and hopefully any decisions may be deferred to give time to complete work.

London Irish Festival Chairman and Fr. Scully expressed thanks Insurance Claim - Letter written to Chairman Eagle Star Meeting arranged next week - £60,000, already awarded and a further £30,000 claimed.

Bars - Cash Registers - Computerised tills being investigated which would give direct control of Stocks and Sales - cost £8,000. Considering placing an order for 5 tills - which would have programmed pricing. Complimented on his personal co-operation. He reiterated his concern for the need of a P.D. at the Irish Centre.

Current Solicitors unsatisfactory negotiation on going with a new firm - Merriman White, Kings Bench Walk, and also Bryan O'Connor to tender for business. needed. The cost of running London Irish Festival is very high, but he felt that

The research project, thanks to Aer Lingus support, draft report to hand, and undergoing editing. Press publicity considered as important as Irish youth coming to London seeking further education and qualifications etc may experience financial difficulties. This Report will prove very helpful in such cases and may well become a standard work of reference.

appointment of a P.R.O. is an absolute must in order to achieve 2000's aims and objectives. It was agreed that Secretary has resigned and a temporary appointment was made until suitable candidate recruited on a full time basis.

With regard to Kennedy and Mac Namara Halls Booking Regulations. Fr. Scully had advised Counties to play their part, and give firm bookings dissatisfaction being expressed by some Counties who feel - a 6 months policy only exists, and cannot secure their Annual function dates.

Fr. Scully was concerned with the level of provisional bookings and short term cancellation.

Monseignor Stack, stated that all institutions have to survive, if Irish Centre is to prosper and grow, insufficient custom is not acceptable.

Chairman stated that various Communities are booking - one year in advance. We have to ensure the Irish Centre is a profitable concern, and there is pressing need to market to all communities'.

Due to limited accommodation in Mac Namara Hall, some Counties had taken their Annual Dinner Dance elsewhere.

Maura Fitzsimons stated that Cavan association had in hand - Irish Centre Booking Policy and conditions, and this states bookings one year in advance from January each year. Fr. Scully had advised Counties of the heavy advance booking at the CICA Meeting in early 1989.

London Irish Festival Chairman and Fr. Scully expressed thanks to a hard working committee for their co-operation in the light of some conflict at the beginning of 1989, and regrettable resignation.

The Festival was a success, crowd was down due to poor weather, World Cup, etc. It was very well run, however, little profit will accrue. It is a family day with Irish entertainment. Jim Kirby was complimented on his personal co-operation. He reiterated his concern for the need of a P.R.O. at the Irish Centre.

Fr. Scully stated that , a marketing and educational job, exercise was essential and new ideas needed. The cost of running London Irish Festival is very high, but he felt it should continue as an Irish family day. Co-operation of all carriers were outstanding Sealink, Ryanair and Aer Lingus. Allied Irish Banks generous input greatly appreciated.

John Walsh commented that efforts should be made to inform the Press of London Irish Festival aims and objectives. Again the appointment of a P.R.O. is an absolute must in order to achieve those aims and objectives. It was agreed that selected representatives should hold a meeting to review the future of London Irish Festival. Mary Allen, expressed appreciation

re co-operation from the Police who circulated all day, visiting various County stalls etc., in a friendly spirit.

Fr. Scully concluded that this year's financial loss would have to be carried and we must try to build up for next year. He criticised the adverse publicity - giving the impression of a political image rather than the original and on going concept, A family day of entertainment.

Car raffle showing £20,000 profit to date, a much higher final figure expected. Price rise beer 5p Pint due to an increase imposed by Brewers and to take effect 16th July 1990.

Acceptance - proposed C.O'Connell, seconded by Jim Myers agreed.

Chairman notified the retirement of Paddy Keegan in September after 35 years involvement and said it is sad to lose such a valuable member of the Irish Centre.

Peter O'Dwyer was invited to contribute information. Peter said "A ball is being organised 15th September London Irish Centre, only charity to benefit. The Ballyhoo magazine has been produced with an article on the Irish Centre - Press launch would take place first week in August Centre Report for insertion in Press. Posters being printed ticket cost £35 each. London Irish Society had just appointed a P.R.O. who was working with the media.

Fr. Scully thanking Peter noted that £29,000 had been donated by London Irish Society over 3 years. He extended congratulations and thanks for the Committee's efforts. Peter suggested that companies would pay £60 for ticket £600 for a company table.

8. Social Club Report Fr. Scully reported that the club was going well, with a constructive and co-operative rapport in existence.
9. A.O.B. None
10. Date of next Meeting 11th September 1990

J. Scully
11.9.90