

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT
CONWAY HOUSE ON THE 10th SEPTEMBER, 1985

PRESENT:

T. Dunne, Fr. C. Malone, O.M.I., Miss M. Kenny, J. Davis,
J. Myers, F. Swan, S. Troy, Fr. J. Smith, P. Keegan, Fr. F. Ryan, O.M.
Mrs. F. D'Arcy.

APOLOGIES:

Mrs. E. Kehoe, P. McAuley, G. O'Flynn.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read and adopted on a proposal by T. Dunne and seconded by Fr. C. Malone.

MATTERS ARISING

A damages claim has been received with regard to the child who fell off a dancing stage at The London Irish Festival. We are currently trying ascertain whether this claim is covered in the Insurance Policy covering the Festival. Our solicitor is being contacted on this matter.

J. Myers said that the leads to the amplifiers in the Douglas Hyde Lounge have been fixed.

It was agreed by the Committee that Brian Duggan should be specially thanked for the roll in which he plays in the Missing Persons Bureau.

DIRECTORS REPORT

P. Keegan gave a brief resume of 6 months accounts to the 30th June, 1985. He said that there would be no problem in meeting the Loan Repayments due at the end of the year.

The Air-Conditioning system in the John F. Kennedy and Douglas Hyde Lounge were obsolete and the cost of a new system would be approximately £26,000. The McNamara Hall Air-Conditioning system is operating well and the £3,000 per annum maintenance contract has been accepted on this system.

Quotes have been received to replace the floor on the Kennedy Hall. These ranged from £3,100 to £3,600. It was felt that this project might be taken on by an Irish Association. In the interim, however, £300.00 is being spent to do a temporary patch up job.

The Clare Association have donated £300.00 towards the replacement of the Chairs in the McNamara Hall, the figure of approximately £7,000 is what is needed to fully replace the Chairs in the Hall. We are writing to the Council on this matter and will consider taking on one or all of these urgent projects for 1985/86.

£15,000 has been received from the Festival revenue for 1984.

The Irish Centre wishes to express it regrets on the passing of Mr. Tim Brennan who was Auditor of the Irish Centre for many years. A letter of condolance is being sent to his sister.

It was felt by the Committee that the general wages costs at the Centre were very high and that they could be closely monitored. Fr. Malone formally thanked P. Keegan

for his work so far with the finance at the Irish Centre.

FUND RAISING

On the 28th September, 1985, Fr. Malone is doing a Parachute Jump and proceeds are expected to reach £5,000. Originally the Parachute Jump project was to be taken on by the Kildare Association but due to unforeseen circumstances, this did not happen. A second jump is being organised for October. Local Provincial papers in Ireland have been written to for their support. The final proceeds figure from this project will be announced later.

Provisional date of the 28th November has been set for the Brendan O'Dowda/Percy French evening. It is set to take the form of a sit down meal and concert at McNamara Hall for approximately 300 people. Sponsors are being looked for to help with this project and a target of between £3,500/£4,000 has been set.

Una Murphy has arranged her annual charity walk around Regents Park which should raise approximately £2,000 for the Centre. A Youth-Walk is also being organised and this should take place in a following weeks.

Brendan Hayes, Landscape and Portrait Artist has agreed to stage an exhibition in London and donate 25% of the revenue received from the sale of his paintings to the Irish Centre. The Committee are currently trying to find a suitable venue for this exhibition and are hoping that the Irish Ambassador will be present on the opening night.

WELFARE

There has been some debate recently in the media with regard to the number of Irish people coming to London. The Action Group for Irish Youth received IR£10,000 from the Youth Employment Agency to research this matter and produce accurate background information on the people coming over from Ireland and calling at Irish agencies. They employed a professional research company and the results are now being compiled. It is planned to have an all day conference on the 20th October to discuss the results of this research. It will cost approximately £4,000 for the day and a main sponsor is being looked for. The GLC offered to fund it, but the conditions they laid down were unsatisfactory, hence, their offer was refused.

HOSTELS

Fr. Ryan felt that a Social Worker was badly needed for the Hostels. He felt that the Hostels were not getting any support from the Irish Centre.

A large number of people have been trying to book into Conway House recently. The vast number of these people are without money or have other problems. People have been found dealing in drugs at the Centre. It is the intention of Conway House to be very particular in their booking in policy to prevent these problems.

A property is currently being looked for to supply Bed-Sits to the longer term tenants at Conway House.

Fr. Malone said that the Management Committee would look at the Conway House problems and try to produce a solution.

MANAGEMENT

Mrs. F. D'Arcy gave a quick resume of the up to date position with regard to the Management of the Irish Centre. She said that both Halls were booked up to Christmas with Weddings and Functions and there were a lot of bookings for 1986.

She felt that the Small Bar was in bad decorative state and in fact needs a total refurbishment. It is felt that a Brewery should be approached in this matter as they are now feeling more secure with regard to the Irish Centre. Paddy Keegan is to be asked to look into this.

The front of the House together with the entrance to the McNamara Hall badly need painting. Bar prices are going up and it was felt that a notice should be typed up to advise the price increased to the customers.

It was noted that the current music and dance licence in the McNamara Hall is to 1.00 a.m. However, the liquor licence is only until 12.00 midnight and it was felt that the Courts should be approached to increase this until 1.00 a.m. This matter is being attended to.

There is a leak at the Water Tank on the McNamara Hall roof which badly needs to be repaired.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A meeting has to be set to meet the provincial of the Oblate order. A letter is being written to him to invite him to an Administration Meeting if he should so wish.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 8th October 1985

VENUE: Irish Centre.

J. D'Arcy
8.10.85