

THE IRISH CENTRE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 2<sup>nd</sup>. OCTOBER 1982.

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PRESENT.

Messrs. Donie Egan, Jim Troy, Tommy Dunne, Frs. Malone and John Gordon.

APOLOGIES

Messrs. Frank Aherne, Pat Judge, Paddy Keegan, Fr. Ryan and Fr. Butler.

ABSENT

Fr. Fullam and Canon Woods.

- (a) Mr. T. Dunne proposed that the minutes be adopted, seconded by Miss Fitzsimons.
- (b) The present minutes would be taken by Mrs. Daly.
- (c) The Chairman requested that in future the minutes would be circulated to the members of the Committee no later than two weeks before a meeting.  
The secretary agreed to meet this deadline if humanely possible.

MATTERS ARISING

The brochure not yet in production because of difficulty in obtaining photographs of the facade of the building which is obscured by building material and equipment. at present.

CLUB A.G.M.

Only 20 persons attended the A.G.M. therefore it was not<sup>a</sup> very successful or fruitful meeting. Consideration would be given to calling an extraordinary A.G.M. in January 1983, or alternatively co-opting skilled personnel on to the Committee. Mrs. Maureen McCabe had been voted on to the Committee. Discussion brought agreement to leave the quorum and to reevaluate it in January 1983.

URBAN AID APPLICATION

The Quantity Surveyor costs unrealistic, therefore costs re-adjusted to meet qualifications. (£160,000).

FEED BACK

This years application may not be successful, however there was every hope that the 1983 application would bear fruit.  
All sources of grant aid would be researched and E.E.C. terms for grants investigated with 1983 in mind.

## THE LIBRARY

Jim Troy assured the committee that the work on the Library would be finished and the bookcases in position by November 2nd., in good time for the opening of the McNamara entrance.

The cost of £650 to be met by the Meath Association. The cost of the classroom £400 would be met by the Irish Centre funds

## CORRESPONDENCE

The fund-raising meeting November 10th., - letters had been sent to all interested parties.

## IRISH STUDIES IN LONDON

An author had requested space to sell books written in gaelic. This request granted.

## CAVAN FUND-RAISING

Correspondence from pony clubs in Britain objecting to a pony being raffled, therefore an assurance that the winner would be in a position to take care of the animal before it would be handed over was demanded. Miss Fitzsimons gave an assurance that the welfare of the animal would be paramount in her undertaking.

A Mrs. Moore wrote an interesting letter to Fr. Malone, critical of the I.B.R.G. and its ideals.

## L.E.B.

Fr. Malone reported that he was pursuing an application for a lower tariff rate for electricity with the L.E.B.

The Breweries <sup>wrote</sup> requesting the repayment of loans.

## THE DIRECTORS REPORT

- (1) New Entrance. Fr. Malone assured the committee that the McNamara entrance would be ready for November 4th. All committee members would be present at 2.p.m. Every member would have a duty therefore a format/programme schedule would be drawn up in the meantime to facilitate this.

The Waterford Association would have to be acknowledged for their mammoth fund-raising efforts that made the opening of the McNamara Hall entrance possible at this time.

THE DIGNATORIES ATTENDING :- Cardinal Basil Hume, Irish Ambassador, Dr Eamonn Kennedy and the Mayor and Mayoress of Londen.

## PUBLICITY

Tommie Dunne had previously agreed to be responsible for publicity for this venture. To date he had sent out letters of invitation and a brief history of the Centre to the media. (a copy of which was not available at this meeting). Tommie Dunne introduced a draft copy of a brochure that might be used on November 4th. However the title of the brochure brought serious discussion which led to the brochure being dropped as publicity literature for November 4th. But it would be used as a hand out at no. 50, because it did not advertise the commercial side.



The title in question "Irish Centre Community Services" might be too ambiguous and lead to a misunderstanding of the function or usage of "The Irish Centre" in the future. Fr. Malone spelled out the role and the function of the complex of buildings in Camden Sq. and Murray St. thus; "The Irish Centre" and "The Community Services" were not two separate entities and they both came together under the directorship of Fr. Malone. A Management Sub-Committee manages the Welfare and Fr. Malone and Tommie Dunne sit on the committee and report back to this committee. In the past there had been a breach between the Centre and the Welfare, however the amenities of the buildings when used to best advantage would bridge this gap. The chaplains Fr. Butler and Fr. Malone were first and foremost chaplains to the people and their mission was to the people not commerce. Publicity must reflect unity but not to the detriment of either separate functions that is, the Welfare side and the commercial side. Therefore the brochure draft under discussion would not be used on November 4th, as it did not give equal billing to Welfare and Commerce.

Tommie Dunne was thanked for his work and attention to detail in his endeavours to publicise the November 4th. venue and it was hoped that the media would give the Centre a wide coverage and a good press.

At a recent meeting with the Bank Manager and Declan Quinn a commitment to pay our debt was stressed. Paddy Keegan was now preparing the Centre's accounts and a true picture of the cash flow and available surplus would be available at the next meeting.

Declan Quinn voiced his opinion that the books should be on the table and available at every meeting. The Director agreed that this would be the case in future. The picture was thus -;

No interest had been paid for 18 months. £406,000 now owing to the bank (£6,000 paid now) rounded down to £400,000 interest accrued to be calculated on a monthly basis and this target has to be met.

Messrs. Murphy owed circa £350,000 including interest.

Whitbread owed £44,000, Charrington £50,000, Courage £44,000 plus 5% interest to all three.

#### THE CASH FLOW

Beer sales down, an independent brewer offered to take over the debt to brewers and give us more favourable terms.

D. Quinn reminded the Chairman that the cost of transferring might cost more than the gain. The Irish Centre was a free house in name but not in fact.

The new book-keeper was very helpful in tightening up procedures and the cash flow and records had greatly improved.

Funds to redecorate the Kennedy Hall were now available. This improvement in amenities would also help the cash flow and turnover.



The uncompetative price of beer at all the bars was again discussed. The Director could not see his was to cut bar profits however he would consider it. Day time opening with the Kennedy Hall as a restaurant was also open to discussion.

Bank holiday closing was also very limiting and looses good will which is as important as cash. This would be looked into and rectified.

Stocktaking was inconsistant and an independent stocktaker would put this right.

The Diary Bookingsmethod of allocating halls to County Associations was criticised. It appeared parish re-unions were given preference and this caused ill will especially dangerous at a time of a major fund-raising launch.

The Chairman replied that a first come first serve basis was the only way to ensure maximum bookings for the halls.

Discussion evoked a decision to take this issue to the C.O.I.C. meetings and advertise vacent dates. Then we would be seen to give a fair crack of the whip to all. It was also stressed that the C.O.I.C. should nsist that new committee's would honour the outgoing committee's bookings and so stop last minute cancellation.

#### HOSTELS QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Conway House was full to capacity with many of the residents unable to contribute towards their keep on entry, being unemployed.

#### MEDWAY STREET

Full, with a high compliment of Irish students availing themselves of this accommodation.

D.Daly proposed a vote of thanks to the hostel managers, this was seconded by Declan Quinn and the Chairman agreed to pass this on to the people concerned.

#### THE DRAMA SOCIETY

The Director gave Doris Daly consent to use the classroom at no.50 for 'play reading' every Wednesday evening when available subject to clearance with Sr. Joan. Fr. Gordon invited to transfer his play "Charles Kickham" into the Irish Centre. Dates and publicity to be agreed between D.Daly and Fr. Gordon.

#### YOUTH

Miss Fitzsimons reported that the Youth Committee was not getting groups but were breaking away into 'counties'. The C.O.I.C. youth group was perhaps responsible for setting this type of identity in motion. Miss Fitzsimons wishes to unite all youth under the umbrella of the London Irish Youth Banner. She had discussed this with the Federation, Mr. Jim McGrath and further information on progress down this road would be available at the next meeting.

The London Irish Festival 1981, profits of £20,000 of which £10,000 was handed over in August to the 'Irish Centre and the C.O.I.C. welfare fund', plus the interest of the capital sum of £50,000 - £1,574.00.

Dublin Marathon

Sponsorship sought for next Monday and tee shirts for sale.

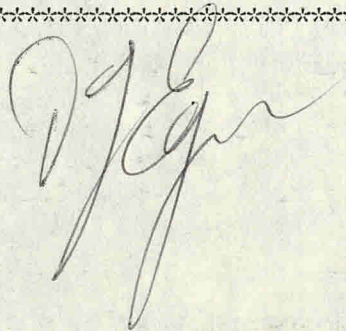
Future planned events -;

- (1) Video of the All. Ireland Finals courtesy J.Troy
- (2) Concert courtesy Maguire School of Music.

A 'thank you' press release to be published naming all benefactors to become a permanent feature in future advertising and planning.

All members to meet at the opening ceremony on November 4th.

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'D. J. Egan', is written over the line of asterisks.