

Connrad na Gaeilge Londain

bun-reacht

CONSTITUTION

(As revised at Annual General Meeting, 29th May, 1933.)

TITLE.

1. The Official Title is "Connrad na Gaeilge Londain."
(The Gaelic League of London), and the Organisation is affiliated to the Executive of the Gaelic League in Ireland.

OBJECTS.

2. The Objects of the Gaelic League are: The preservation, teaching, and extension of Irish as a spoken language; its cultivation as a literary, scientific, and in all respects National language; the publication of Irish literature; the popularisation of Irish music, games, industries, etc., and generally the advancement of the cause of an Irish-Ireland. The League shall be non-political and non-denominational, and shall devote itself to realising the ideal of a free Gaelic-speaking Ireland.

N.B.—In the foregoing the term "Non-Political" shall mean that the Gaelic League shall not ally itself with any political party, and shall not demand from its members, or any applicant for membership, adhesion to any political party; the term "Non-Denominational" shall mean that the Gaelic League shall not make adhesion to any particular religious denomination a condition to membership.

MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

3. Those of Irish birth or descent are eligible for membership if in sympathy with the objects of the League. The Ard Choisde may, by special resolution, admit to Honorary Membership foreigners who either have done conspicuous work for the Irish language, or who evince special interest in the work of the Gaelic League; and on whom they may be desirous, on Gaelic League grounds, of conferring such a mark of appreciation; but such Honorary Membership shall not carry with it the right to vote on any question affecting the affairs of the organisation. Honorary Members are not obliged to pay a subscription. Nationals of the sister Gaelic Nation of Scotland may be admitted to full membership, but any application under this head must be made by letter to the Secretary, stating the reason for desiring to be enrolled and giving an account of activities in similar Scottish organisations; and the application must be supported in writing, and from personal knowledge, by two of their own countrymen, who are already members of the Gaelic League, and by three Irish members of the League.

ADMINISTRATION.

4. The general administration of the League's affairs, including the appointment of delegates to the *Áirí fíor* and the interpretation of the

Constitution, is in the hands of an Ard Choisde, consisting of **Uachtarán** (President), two **Leas-Uachtarán** (two Vice-Presidents), **Rúnaithe** (Secretary), **Cinneóir** (Treasurer), and twelve other members elected annually. It is empowered to appoint a **Leas-Rúnaithe Onórach** (Assistant Hon. Secretary), and may, if necessary, co-opt three additional members. In the co-option of these three additional members the Ard Choisde may, if it considers it advisable, provide for the representation of any of the local schools which remain unrepresented after the Annual Election. No person who is not actively identified with Gaelic League work, either in connection with a local school or otherwise, is eligible for co-option on the governing body.

LOCAL SCHOOLS.

5. Members of the League in London districts generally may form, with the approval of the Ard Choisde, Local Schools for the teaching of Irish and any other subjects which form part of the League's programme, the active canvass of Irish residents in the district in the League's interests, and the furtherance of Gaelic League ideas generally. All membership subscriptions collected in the district are to be forwarded to the General Treasurer. The Secretaries of Local Schools shall keep the Governing Body informed regularly of their work and progress, applying for assistance in teaching, organising, or financial matters when necessary. Membership of the League entitles any person to attend the meetings at any Local School throughout London, and the general weekly classes of the League.

LOCAL SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

6. Every local school shall be managed by a Committee consisting of six members elected annually by those attending the Local School. The Committee shall have power to co-opt three additional members. It shall at its first meeting, appoint an Hon. Secretary either from among the six elected members, or by one of the three co-options. It shall also appoint from amongst the elected or co-opted members an Hon. Treasurer, a Librarian, and a Registrar.

The election of the Committee shall take place as follows:—the Local Secretary shall summon all those members whose names appear on the local register as having attended 50 per cent. of the Language Classes, and whose subscriptions for the current year are paid. The summons shall take the form of a post-card which shall serve as a card of admission, and only those presenting this card shall be entitled to enter and vote. Only members whose subscriptions for the current year have been paid shall be eligible to vote for, or be elected on, the Local Committee. The Annual Election of all Local Committees must take place before 30th April in each year. A report of the year's work, together with a certified Balance Sheet of the local finances, must be forwarded to the Head Office in time for inclusion in the General Report and Balance Sheet for the year.

Any elected member of the Ard Choisde shall be ex-officio a member of any Local Committee. The election and co-option of members to a Local Committee shall be subject to the ratification of the Ard Choisde. The scope of the jurisdiction of Local Committees is confined solely to the affairs of the schools placed under their management.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

7. The minimum Annual Subscription is 2s. 6d. for each member over 18 years of age, and 1s. for each member under that age, and such subscriptions

shall become due on 1st May in each year. No member shall be entitled to attend, or vote, at a General Meeting (either Ordinary or Extraordinary) until such subscription be paid.

The financial year of the League closes on 30th April in each year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

8. A General Meeting shall be held annually (called the "Annual General Meeting"), as near as practicable to May 31st, but in any case, not later than that date. Members shall receive at least a month's notice of the actual date. A Report and Balance Sheet shall be made out for the preceding financial year, and a copy thereof posted to every member previous to such meeting. No change in, or addition to, the Constitution of the League shall be made, except at this meeting, and then by way of motion. All notices of motion must be in writing, signed by the member giving the same, and must be received by the Hon. Secretary at least twenty-two days before the date of this meeting. A motion must be carried by a majority of those present and voting, the voting to be manifested by a show of hands.

ELECTION OF ARD CHOISDE.

9. A Nomination Form shall be sent by post every year to each paid-up member not later than April 24th, and shall be returned to the Honorary Secretary within fourteen days from that date. Candidates must be proposed by one member and seconded by another, and shall, at the time of nomination, give a signed undertaking to attend all meetings of the Ard Choise, or furnish a reasonable excuse, in writing, in case of absence. If not more than one nomination be received for the positions of **Uachtarán** (President), **Rúnaí** (Secretary), **Ciríoeoir** (Treasurer), respectively, and not more than two for the positions of **Leath-Uachtarán** (Vice-Presidents), and not more than twelve for the remaining positions on the Ard Choise, the outgoing Ard Choise shall declare the person or persons nominated to be elected. Where more than the required number are nominated for any position on the Ard Choise, their names, duly classified and arranged in alphabetical order of surnames (Irish), shall be sent by post on a voting paper to each member, seven clear days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Each voting paper must be returned, sealed in a specially provided envelope to the Hon. Secretary on or before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Scrutineers shall be appointed at this meeting, and the result of the voting shall be declared before the end of the Meeting.

Every candidate for a position as officer, or member of the Ard Choise, must either have a proficient knowledge of the Irish language or must give an undertaking that he, or she, will continue to attend the classes of the Gaelic League until a thorough knowledge of the language has been obtained. No person not already fully proficient in the use of Irish will be considered eligible for nomination to the offices of **Uachtarán**, **Ciríoeoir** or **Rúnaí**.

Every candidate for election on the Ard Choise, and everyone proposing or seconding a candidate, must be a fully paid-up member of the League. Failure to comply with this rule in every respect shall invalidate a nomination.

CO-OPTION.

10. In the case of co-option at the beginning of the Session, and in cases of vacancies in the Governing Body through resignation, non-attendance without reasonable cause at two consecutive meetings, or otherwise, the

candidate or candidates shall be nominated at one meeting, and shall be elected at the following meeting, provided such candidate or candidates obtain the vote of two-thirds of those present and voting. Candidates who may be ineligible in any respect already mentioned cannot take office. A ballot shall be taken in all cases whether more than one candidate be proposed or not.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP.

11. Candidates for membership of the League must be proposed by one member and seconded by another, and subject to eligibility and the consent of the Executive, shall be elected on payment of annual subscription.

REMOVAL FROM LIST OF MEMBERS.

12. The Ard Choisde is empowered on sufficient cause being shown, to remove the name of any person from the list of members. The usual notice of motion being given, the Ard Choisde shall first decide whether there is a prima-facie case for the proposed removal or not. Then a fortnight's notice, specifying the cause, must be given to the member in question, and to all members of the Executive. The motion for removal must be carried by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting, and at least ten votes must be recorded in its favour.

REMOVAL FROM ARD CHOISDE.

13. On a request, signed by two thirds of its members, the Ard Choisde shall have power to supersede, for any cause, any member of its body, and to co-opt another in his or her stead, providing that a fortnight's notice, specifying the cause, be given to the member in question, and that the resolution superseding the member be carried by two-thirds of those present and voting at the Ard Choisde.

PRESS REPORTS, ETC.

14. No advertisement, poster, or other announcement shall be posted, nor any handbill or other printed matter distributed, either in the offices or at any meeting of the League, except with the consent of the Ard Choisde, or of the Hon. Sec. on behalf of the Ard Choisde. No member shall have the right, except with the express permission of the Ard Choisde, to use the name or address of the Gaelic League of London on any handbill, poster, programme, circular, or other document.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

15. On a requisition properly drawn up and signed by no fewer than 200 members whose subscriptions for current year shall have been paid, or by 100 such members if the signatories prepay the total cost of such meeting, being received by the Hon. Sec. it shall be his duty to lay it before the Ard Choisde at the earliest opportunity, and on the Ard Choisde being satisfied that such requisition is valid, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be arranged for. Such meeting shall be held within one month after receipt of requisition. A notice convening the meeting and stating in the form of a resolution the object for which it is called, shall be posted to every paid member at least seven days previous to the date of the meeting. The Ard Choisde may, if it thinks necessary, and without receiving a requisition, summon an Extraordinary General Meeting. Anyone desiring to circulate a petition in favour of an Extraordinary Meeting must formally notify the Hon. Sec. of such intention.