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**Transcript**

**[cover]**

**[pg. 2]**

Minutes of the Council of Irish County Associations 1969

19 69-75

**[pg. 3]**

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held at the Irish Centre on Friday 10.3.69 at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting opened at 8:30pm under the Chairman Mr M Morrow. Officers of the COM were present as follows, Mr Hegarty V Chair. Mr Waters (Treasurer) Bob Daly Secretary. Apologies for absence were received from Mr O'Carroll A/Secretary.

The following members of the Executive Committee were present: Mr G O'Flynn, Mr R Butler, Mr S Caddogan & Mr T Beckett. Apologies were received from Mr D Ward & Mr J Griffin in respect of absence.

Minutes of previous meeting were read as were the Minutes of the AGM held on 23.2.69 (adopted).

Matters for Discussion at this meeting were:-

1 The Council Annual Dinner

2 The Presidents £1000 Inter County Competition

Dinner It was agreed that tickets for this function at the Gresham on 17 April 1969 should be 45/= [shillings] each.

It was decided that one person per Province should be responsible for sale of tickets on a Provincial Basis with the exception of Lemoth where the person responsible could co-opt another helper.

The following members agreed to be responsible for provinces as follows: Mr P Hegarty - ULSTER Mr R Butler – MUNSTER Mr M Waters - CONNACHT & Mr Caddogan LEIMSTER.

**[pg. 4]**

1 It was proposed by Gerry O'Flynn & seconded by Mr Caddogan that tickets should be paid for 1 week in advance.

This proposition was carried.

2 Proposed by G O'Flynn, seconded by R Butler that the Chairman - Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Aso/Sec be given two tickets each free of charge (complementary) in respect of the annual dinner.

This proposition was carried.

It was decided to print 500 tickets for this function. Reception at 7.30 pm for 8 pm

GUESTS:- His Excellency Mr J G Molloy, The Irish Ambassador

CHIEF GUEST Mr G Terry Sheehy, Bord Failte = Irish Tourist Bord

GUEST Mr G Conner, McGrath, Aer Lingus, Mr C M Lee, Irish Expert Bord. Judges of Inter County £1000 competition, Mr & Mrs J Conway, Revd Fr McNamara, Priest from Irish Centre (Fr Hacket)

MENU. The Menu to be on the following lined Soup course – Fish Course, Main Meal:- Chicken, Ham, Chipolata, Roast + creamed Potatoes with a variety of green vegetables. Sweet:- Fruit & Ice Cream. Coffee Biscuits & Cheese.

TOASTS. It was holed to proposed the Toast of Ireland **[pg.5]** at about 9:30 pm. By:- Toast to “Our Guests” Proposer M O Conner, Proposer Mr T Sheehy.

It was agreed that speeches & responses to toast should be limited to five minute. In view of the result of the £1000 competition being announced & prises Being awarded at this function, it was decided to dispense with this toast to “The Associations” and to request Fr Sheehy to include mention of the Associates in his response to “Our Guests”.

£1000 Inter County Competition.

The Secretary would announce the nature of this competition and then request the Chief Judge to give the adjudicators verdict in respect of winning County Associations. The Secretary would then request the Chairman of winning associations in order of merit to approach the top table. The President would then be asked to present Prizes.

Winning Chairman would be expected to make a short reply.

M Connor Chairman

19/3/69

**[pg.6]**

The Council of Irish County Associations

1. Minutes of Executive Meeting held at Irish centre on Thursday 10.4.69.

Attendance was according to the register with the exception of Mr Waters & Mr Beckett who were attending the Sligo A.G.M. Apologies had been received in respect of the two members.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting were read.

This meeting dealt specifically with the coming annual dinner & sale of tickets. A provisional figure estimated attendance at the dinner including guests at 285 + £50 allowed for entertaining guests.

The menu as chosen at the last Executive Meeting would be adhered to as far as possible on Consultation with Mr Gorman.

The “Toast to Ireland” would be proposed by our President Mr Tom Gorman.

The Toast to “The Council of Irish County Associations” to be proposed by His Excellency Mr J G Molloy The Ambassador.

The Response to this toast being made by the Chairman Mr M O Connor.

**[pg. 7]**

The Secretary was instructed to send a letter to His Excellency requesting him to propose the toast to the Association. Speeches were to be kept to a minimum.

The Secretary would, at the Dinner, give a short explanation of the President's £1000 Competition and then call upon the Chief Judge Connor Graves to announce winners.

The Secretary would then call the Chairman of winning Associations forward to receive prizes in Order of Merit.

Presentation of cheques to be made by ~~Mr Gorman~~ The Mayor of Islington.

Winning Chairman of County receiving the first prize to make a short speech.

2 The Presidents £1,000 inter County Competition.

At a meeting held at the Irish Centre on Wednesday 22nd January 1969 a Committee was formed to decide on any matters affecting this competition. The first duty of this Committee was to nominate a panel of judges, who were not Irish, and who were not members of any County Association. Six men of integrity were nominated and of these the .....

**[pg. 8 - Insert typed Page]**

A member of the Executive Committee gave us to understand that the Judges decision was already known and named the three County Assocs. in order of merit which had been successful. The Committee gave a lot of thought and discussion to this remark and eventually were of the opinion that somebody was leg pulling or guessing the results, as the judges were all man of great integrity who would never let such information leak out prior to the official announcement at the Annual Dinner on April 17th. 1969

**[pg. 9]**

following agreed to judge the competition:-

1 Very Revd Cannon JG Graves St Mellitus Church Tollington Park N4.

2 Mr Ian McPhail Chief Information Officer Arthur Guinness & Son Ltd

3 Mr J Willbourne Manager The National Bank Harrow Road NW10

4 Mr J McCargray 17 Broadmead Auriol Rd London W14.

On Wednesday April 2nd 1969 three judges on request attended at the Irish Centre to receive from Mr Gorman, in the presence of our Chairman Mr M O Connor, the entries of the 13 competing County Associations.

The judges were instructed to decide on a time & place of their own choosing to judge this competition. They were further instructed to keep secret any decision arrived at, until the evening of our Annual Dinner, April 19th when the Chief Judge Cannon JG Graves would be requested to announce the winning Associations.

During the interval between judgement and final announcement a certain amount **[pg. 10]** of leg pulling goes on. One always finds the well-informed person who can tell which Assoc came first, second or third. With only 13 Assocs. competing one could hazard a fairly accurate guess if one has studied the activities during the past year. But only a guess. As a matter of Interest our Vice-Chairman Mr Pat Hegarty informed the meeting that he has been given the name of an Association which got first place. His Informant had it on the highest authority. It so happened that the Association named had not even entered the competition.

3 The inter-County Quiz - Competition.

The final of the 1968 Quiz Competition takes place on Sunday 27th April 1969 at the Albion Bar Hammersmith Rd, opposite Lynn's supermarket at 7:30 p.m.

Mr Jim Griffin Waterford stated that some members of his Quiz Team were on shift work and were only available on Sunday evening. As the Irish Centre was usually engaged on Centre activities on a Sunday, the choice of venue as stated was made.

Mr Hegarty Vice Chairman of the Council and a **[pg. 11]** member of the Quiz Committee pointed out that the final of the inter County Quiz Competition was a great attraction for a substantial number of people at which the Council played host.

Normally the venue for a final was arranged through consultation with the Quiz Committee and was usually held at the Irish Centre. This created an attractive social occasion attended by many interested members of competing associations.

Mr Hegarty stressed the point that future finals would be agreed on through consultation with the elected Quiz Committee.

4 Correspondence

A letter from the Cavan Association with reference to the 1968 Council Dinner was read & contents noted.

Correspondence had been received from Roisin by Taoiseach in response to a letter dealing with the Leitrim Meeting at 1969 AGM.

A letter had been received from B&I Steam Packet Co in reply to correspondence in the Cavan meeting at 1969 ATM.

A letter had been received from United Ireland **[pg. 12]** Association dealing with the present situation in Six Counties.

A letter had been received from London GAA Minor Board requesting the Council to sponsor a cup to be known as the “London Irish Counties Association Cup”. A Perpetual Cup envisaged would cost £30 and would be competed for by under 16-year boys this year in a North v South London exhibition football game as part of the Wembley festival at Whitsun.

The Executive Committee recommend the sponsoring of such a cup.

The meeting closed at 10:50pm.

Chairman

**[pg. 13]**

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held at Irish Centre, Camden Square on Sunday 3. 6. 69.

**1** Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 8.45 pm. Attendance as follows Mr O Conner Mr Hegarty Daly – O Carroll – Waters – Butler – Griffin + Ward

The main item being dealt with at this meeting was Our Presidents £1000 competition for 1969/70.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the prize money should be allotted in the following sums:-

1st £400, 2nd  £300, 3rd £100, 4th £100

5th  50 Consolation Prize for a good effort

6th  50

As the Executive Committee had been instructed at the May monthly meeting to draw up Terms of Reference in respect of this competition, the following headings are a guide to Assocs. taking part in competition.

1. WELFARE **[pg. 14]**
2. PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN IRELAND
3. SOCIAL ACTIVITY
4. ACHIEVEMENTS IN RELATION TO CAPABILITY OR POTENTIALITY
5. LIAISON WITH HOMELAND ACTIVITIES
6. SUPPORT OF FUNCTIONS ORGANISED BY THE COUNCIL

**2** Council Finances

As laid down at the 1969 Annual General Meeting of the Council regarding investment of funds it was agreed on a proposition from Mr J Griffin seconded by Mr D Ward to:-

A Purchase £100 in Premium Bonds in the Chairman’s name

B Invest £300 in a Catholic Building Society

**3** Inter County Quiz Committee

A letter was read from Mr Tom Beckett of the Sligo Association raising objections to a time limit being put on the competition of the first Round. Apparently he had received from Mr Waters the current circular letter sent to all competing associations requesting that the first round b­­e completed by June 15th 1969. The letter was noted.

**4** Apologies from attendance were received from **[pg. 15]** Mr Tom Gorman & Mr Tom Beckett to this Executive Committee Meeting.

**5** Mr Jim Griffin suggested that Arthur Guinness & Son Ltd be approached with a view to providing a more suitable cup in respect of the Quiz Competition and that the cup now in use be presented to runners up with in the final of this competition.

**6** The Secretary handed out a copy of a Press Report sent out to 75 Irish weekly papers seeking members to form an Association in districts of Antrim, Derry & Tyrone and members for any other association already formed.

M Connor. Chairman

6-1-1970

**[pg. 16]**

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held at Irish Centre Camden Square London NW1 on Tuesday 6th January 1970

The following members were present:- Mr O Connor, Mr Gorman, Mr Hegarty, Mr Waters, Mr O'Carroll, Mr Daly, Mr Beckett, O'Flynn, Butler, Ward.

Apologies received from Mr Conway & Mr Griffin owing to illness were unable to attend.

The minutes of previous meeting were read & adopted.

The main reason for calling this meeting were

1 to decide on cost of Annual Dinner

2 to allocate provincial Reps for sale of tickets

3 to choose guests

4 to nominate Judges in respect of £1000 Competition.

The following members agreed to disposed of tickets:-

Mr Pat Hegarty Ulster (101 - 200)

Mr R Butler Munster (301 - 400)

Mr Waters Connaught (201 - 300)

Mr J Carroll Leinster (1 - 100)

Tickets to be available at AGM on 22-2-70.

GUESTS of H. Mr Tory Reilly proposed by Maurice O'Connor Seconded by Gerry Flynn

Sir Matt Busby proposed by J O'Connell Seconded by T Beckett **[pg. 17]**

His Excellency Mr J G Molloy Ambassador

Chairman G.A.A. London Co. Board

Very Revd Fr Fanning - Chaplain I Centre

V.R. Dean McNamara

Councillor D W Bromfield JP Mayor of Islington

Mr M O Halloran MP for Islington

On a proposition from Mr O Flynn seconded by Mr R Butler it was agreed that the Committee of Management & ladies be treated as guests at this Dinner.

JUDGES it was agreed to approach the following with a request to judge the inter County £1000 competition.

1 The Mayor of Islington Councillor D W Bromfield JP

2 Mr O Walker P.R.O. Arthur Guinness & Son Ltd

3 Miss Jackie Gillett

In the event of any of the above being unable to accept it was agreed that two reserve nominees by Mr Beckett & Mr Carroll be approached.

AOB Under any other business Mr Beckett drew attention to having cards printed with names & addresses of Secretaries of County Associations to hand to prospective members with **[pg. 18]** whom we come in contact.

The Chairman requested that he bring the matter up again at the AGM.

The meeting closed at 10:30pm.

M O'Connor Chairman

**[pg. 19]**

Minutes of the Executive Committee held at the Irish Centre on Wednesday 25.3.70.

1 The meeting was opened by the Chairman Mr M O'Connor at 8:40pm. The following members were present:- Mr Gorman, Mr O'Connor, Waters, Daly, O'Carroll, Hegarty, Ward, Butler, Sealy, O'Neill and Mrs Murphy.

Apologies were received from Mr Flynn & Mr Becket for non-attendance.

During the course of this meeting the three judges who had agreed to adjudicate on the £1,000-0-0 Competition arrived at the centre and were entertained by Mr Hegarty for a short period prior to receiving competition entries from Mr Gorman. The judging panel as follows:- Con DW Bromfield JP Mayor of Islington Mr (Col) G H Wallace JP A Guinness Mr R H Laidlaw Aeron Engineers.

The minutes of the previous Executive Meeting were read & adopted on a proposition from Mr Butler seconded by M Ward.

Matters arising were discussed.

2 The Annual Dinner 1970. This was discussed **[pg. 20]** at length and the following recommendations were put to Mr Gorman from the March monthly Meeting of the Council to which he agreed as under:-

The of one bar for Guests. Downstairs Bar.

Mr Hegarty & Mr Butler only to order Drinks for Guests.

Admission by ticket only

After dinner table with drinks to be provided immediately on rising from Dinner.

Only one or two instruments to play during Dinner.

Hall to be heated during dinner.

Door to be manned to keep out undesirable elements.

It was agreed to present flowers at the Dinner to the following:- the Ambassador's Lady - The Chairman's Lady - The Lady Mayoress of Islington.

It was agreed that the Mayor should be requested to present awards in the £1,000-0-0 Competition.

The Chairman requested that a special effort be made to dispose of over 400 tickets in respect of the Dinner.

The following menu was agreed on:-

Mushroom Soup - Fillet of Plaice - Roast Beef - Celery Hearts - Runner Beans - Roast Pots -

Ice cream - Fruit - Cheese Biscuits & Coffee. **[pg. 21]**

3 Future Activities

It was proposed by Mr Butler seconded by Mr Ward that committees be formed from delegates by C.O.M to operate & organise functions for the future.

A It was agreed to organise a Summer Fete or Fayre at The Gresham Holloway Rd on Saturday June 13th from 11am to 4:30pm to aid the Irish Centre. The Boys Band requested to help.

B It was agreed to organise an Irish Concert at The State Theatre Kilburn on a ~~Friday~~ Saturday night in October. The Irish Centre to be utilised to dispose of tickets together with booking facilities at The State Theatre.

The following committee was set up to deal with this function: Mr M O'Connor - Mr Moroney - Daly - J Quinn - J Murphy - Fr Sheridan M Gooney (Monaghan) Mr Mc Aspey (Wicklow)

C It was agreed to help the Irish Centre Marathon walk in every way possible. This walk will cover a distance of 20 miles and various Irish Organisations are sponsoring **[pg. 22]** and taking part.

The motions carried at the AGM would be dealt with at the next meeting.

M O'Connor 4/5/70.

**[pg. 23]**

Council of Irish Associations

1 Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held at Irish Centre on Monday 4 May 1970.

The minutes of the previous Executive Meeting were read and adopted on a proposition from Des Ward and by Mr Joe Sealey.

In matters arising it was felt that in connection with the recent Annual Reunion Dinner at the Gresham, the service at table was somewhat erratic, more waitresses were needed.

Apologies for non attendance were received from Mrs Murphy. The following members of the executive committee were present:- Mr O'Connor, Daly, Hegarty, Waters, O'Flynn, Becket, Ward, Butler & Sealey.

Correspondence A letter of resignation from Executive Comm. was read in respect of Mr Des Ward who was returning to his native Enniskillen to carry on the family business. Good wishes were extended to Mr and Mrs Ward in their future endeavours. It was arranged to hold a farewell buffet at the Irish centre on Friday 15.5.70. The Council to make a suitable presentation of Belleek **[pg. 24]**

Pottery ware from Ireland House. Terms of purchase to be negotiated by Mr Pat Hegarty.

3 Summer Fayre

It was agreed to hold the Summer Fayre at the Gresham Ballroom on Saturday 11th of July 1970. 5,000 leaflets to be printed to advertise this function. Very Revd Fr McNamara to be requested to publicise this function. Mr Hegarty agreed to contact the Bingo Callers with a view to publicising.

It was agreed that the Mayor of Islington be requested to open the Fayre.

The Irish Centre Boys Band to be asked to help out either by Parading or Playing outside the Gresham to attract passers-by.

It was agreed to contact the Brent Irish Assoc. The GAA and the United Ireland Assoc to help out.

Mr Hegarty agreed to have three members of the Irish centre committee help out.

It was agreed that the Council sponsor a stall. It was thought that one long stall down length of Hall would be more effective.

**[pg. 25]** Co Associations were free to sponsor their own stall.

It was decided to call a meeting of all interested parties on Thursday 26.5.70 to deal with Summer Fayre at 8:30pm.

4 Motions passed at AGM

Matters 1 & 2 regarding Airport charges at Dublin and the inclusion of cost of sailings ticket in fare to be dealt with by the Secretary.

Motion 3 in respect of a Committee to help and support County Associations with a small membership, it was agreed that such a Committee should be chosen from a full Council meeting.

The motion dealing with the Council's active participation in Irish Affairs in Britain was left in abeyance in view of The Irish Post now dealing so effectively with this matter.

The Council Constitution will be fully reviewed and suggested amendments put to an A.G.M. or E.G.M.

Concerning the Kerry Motion with regard to having the Intermediate & Leaving Certs recognised **[pg. 26]** in Britain. The Embassy had taken this matter up and were working on it at the moment.

Mr G O'Flynn made the point in enquiring if NUI personnel teaching in Britain would be credited with the time spent teaching in this country if they decided to take up teaching in Ireland once again.

Under the second Kerry Motion with regard to other Bodies wishing to address a Council Meeting a request had been received from a past President of the GAA in Ireland who wish to address C I C A on the loan scheme in operation. As an approach had been made to Pat Hegarty on this matter it was agreed to Grant permission to address Council.

It was felt that this Loan Scheme should apply to GAA Clubs in Britain.

Regarding the Sligo Motion on Publicity with a view to increasing membership it was agreed that a suitable card should be printed with the Council Secretary's address with a space for a prospective member to enter **[pg. 27]** the County of his choice. On receipt of this Card the Secretary would forward it to the County concerned.

Under any other business it was decided that tickets for the Cambridgeshire Show would soon be available in books of 10 at 6d each and would be issued to Counties under the usual conditions.

The meeting closed at 10:45 p.m.

M O'Connor 16/6/1970 Chairman.

**[pg. 28]**

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held at the Irish Centre Camden Square N 1 on Tuesday 16.6.70.

The following were present:- Mr O Conner, Hegarty, Dale, O'Flynn, Butler, O'Neill, Sealey & Mrs Murphy. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted on a proposition from Gerry O'Flynn seconded by Dick Butler.

In matters arising the Secretary was requested to take up with the Dept of Education Dublin, a point raised by Mr O'Flynn at a the previous meeting concerning the position of NUI personnel who have taught in Britain for some time and then decided to take up teaching at Home in Ireland. Would the time spent teaching in Britain be credited on return to Ireland?

Due to Mr Des Ward returning to Ireland a vacancy occurs on The Executive Committee. It was decided on a proposition from Mr Butler seconded by Mrs Murphy that the next person with the next highest no. of votes at the AGM be elected. As a result Mr Dermot Caddogan (Wexford) was elevated **[pg. 29]**  to this august body.

Regarding the Irishman of the Year Award being sponsored by Mr O'Gorman on his proposition to a previous meeting it was decided with reluctance not to proceed with this matter on a proposition from G O'Flynn seconded by Dick Butler.

In connection with the new development envisaged at the Irish Centre it was hoped that a special room could be made available for County Associations which could be furnished with lockers or cabinets for each Association wherein stationery and files could be stored.

Regarding our Presidents £1000 Competition sponsored yearly by Mr O'Gorman it was agreed to call a special executive meeting to discuss this project.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman

**[pg. 30]**

Executive Meeting held at Irish Centre on Tuesday 7th July at 8pm.

This meeting was called to discuss the proposed extension at the Irish Centre as detailed at a meeting of the Centre & representation of the County Associations held on June 30th 1970.

It was generally felt that the proposed extension fell far short of the accommodation we had been led to believe was originally intended to cater for the social needs of all Irish Organisations in London.

Almost an acre of land was now available and the development of this would cost in the region of £420,000.

Plans for development came under three stages:-

Stage l Building a 50 bedroom hostel

Stage ll " an additional 50 Bedroom Hotel

enlarging Kennedy Hall Douglas Hyde Lounge by 50%

Stage lll Building Administrative Offices & Recreation Rooms for personnel occupying hotels.

Soundproofing the existing hall would cost in the region of £15,000.

The land available for development 9/10 of an acre was **[pg. 31]** priced at £90,000. A railway tunnel taking 6 lanes of traffic runs underneath. Before building, this tunnel must be strengthened at an estimated cost of between £20,000 & £40,000. It might even cost more. This was an unknown quantity.

In view of the cost involved in strengthening the tunnel and in re-housing occupants of property on the proposed site the cost was reduced from £90,000 to £47,500.

It was felt at this meeting that the Council should engage a professional person to draw up a plan incorporating ideas & accommodation thought necessary for the promotion of social life among all Irish Bodies in London.

Mr Moroney made a point that in view of the cost (£15,000) involved to soundproof the two existing halls, why not turn this accommodation into Hostels and start from scratch building new Halls on an area sufficiently large to accommodate 500 Dinners and incorporating ample toilet facilities together with Meeting Rooms and Admin Offices.

A model of the extension proposed should be on show so that we can all be conversant **[pg. 32]** with what is taking place.

It was felt that the present Blue Print in respect of the proposed extension was in complete contrast to what the Co. Associations expected.

M O'Connor Chairman

**[pg. 33]**

The Council of Irish County Associations Executive Meeting held at the Irish Centre on Tuesday 29.9.70 at 8 pm.

Minutes of the previous meeting where read and adopted on a proposition from Mr Becket seconded by Mr O'Neill.

The following members were present:- Mr O'Connor (Chairman), Mr Hegarty, Waters, Caddogan, O'Neill, O'Flynn, Beckett, Daly & Mrs Murphy.

In matters arising further discussion on the proposed extension to the Irish Centre was entered into and views aired on the amount of money involved. We must now wait and see what develops whilst continuing to support the Centre.

The Thomond Publishing Co.

Four directors of The Thomond Publishing Co.:- Mr John Drummond, Bill Mackintosh, Wally Hill & Mrs Jane Smyth (Waterford Association) attended this meeting to discuss further their proposition to Publish Print and Declare to a central point a County Associations Journal free of charge for distribution among County Associations through the Council. It will be decided if a nominal charge is to be made on the **[pg. 34]** individual taking the journal so as to boost Association finances.

It has been agreed by the Executive Committee to accept this offer and Chairman Secretaries & Delegates are to be requested to attend the October meeting of the Council with a view to putting this project before them.

An Editorial Committee has been appointed consisting of Mr O'Connor, Caddogan, O'Carroll and Daly. Each Association is requested to submit news items of their affairs monthly for insertion in this journal, one page being allotted to each unit (or 35 pages in all). The outer cover of the Journal will incorporate the Arms of the Four Provinces and will be known as THE COUNTY ASSOCS JOURNAL. The script required from associations to include social activities, projects undertaken, Births Deaths Marriages, journeys undertaken by members, contacts made and items of interest happening in your home County etc.

It is hoped to produce the first issue for Christmas and with that end in view Associations should be prepared to submit interesting items at our meeting on October 20th.

**[pg. 35]** The cost of publication will be borne by The Thomond Publishing Co, their revenue being obtained through advertising which they seek out and offer at 25 Guineas per page to Industrialists.

The four Directors are all in the advertising field and our agents for publishers.

Script must be in the publishers' hands by 15th of each month.

A journal of this kind should give a great boost to County Associations.

Every function of a County Association should be attended by and reported on by a member of the Council Editorial Committee.

£1,000 Competition:

Mr Gorman has once again put up £1,000 to be competed for by County Associations from April 1970 to March 17th 1971. This Competition will follow a similar pattern to last year under the following Terms of Reference:

1. WELFARE

2. SOCIAL ACTIVITY IN RELATION TO CAPABILITY OR POTENTIALITY

3. SUPPORT FUNCTIONS ~~ATTENDED~~ ORGANISED BY COUNCIL (MONTHLY MEETINGS)

**[pg. 36]**

No. 1 WELFARE can cover a wide range of activities in charitable undertakings.

No. 2 Social Activity etc can also include the Promotion of tourism or creating a demand for Irish products. It must be borne in mind that the larger associations will be expected to achieve greater results than those with less than 30 members.

No. 3 Support of Functions organised by the Council. As the Council normally holds one function per year i.e. Annual Dinner which most Associations now attend due to this competition, Associations should bear in mind that attendance at the Council meeting on the third Tuesday of each month by delegates will be taken into account by the judging panel when allocating prizes. A register of attendance in Book form has been kept for the past two years.

It was agreed to set the Prizes as follows:

1st £400, 2nd £200, 3rd £100, 4th £100, 5th £75, 6th £75, 7th £50.

the seventh prize of £50 has been specially set up for the associations entering this competition for the first time so a prize to encourage more to enter. A new entry may also win one of the other

prizes. **[pg. 37]**

Social Activity It has been agreed to organise a buffet supper at the Irish Centre on Friday 20.11.70 Tickets at 10 /- each to be paid on entrance.

Holiday for Irish Lady with Family of 3. During the early summer a request had been received from the Camden Committee for childcare to help an Irish lady with three children to go on holiday. A sum of £22.00 was raised at a spot on collection. The Chairman Mr O'Connor has made various efforts to trace this lady. She has been transferred from the Borough of Camden to Barnet. The Council at Barnet are endeavouring to trace this lady and so far have been unsuccessful. We await the outcome of further enquiries whilst holding the £22 collected.

M O'Connor 20.3.71 Chairman

**[pg. 38]**

Minutes of Executive Meeting held at Irish Centre Camden Square London NW1 on Tuesday 30.3.71.

The meeting opened at 9:15 pm with M O'Connor in the Chair. The following were present: Mr Hegarty, Daly, O'Carroll, Beckett, Sealey, Caddogan, Walshe, Butler and our President, Mr Gorman.

Apologies received from Mr Waters who was ill and from Mr O'Neil who had a meeting of the Kilkenny Association.

The Chairman welcomed Mr MR Walshe as a first time member of the Executive Committee. He also paid a tribute to the work of Gerry O'Flynn not alone our Chairman of the Council but as a long-standing member of the Executive Committee.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted on a proposition from Mr Caddogan seconded by Mr O'Carroll.

In matters arising the spotlight centred on the Irish Counties Journal, Mr Caddogan pointing out that as a member of the Editorial Committee he had not yet been called when to attend a meeting of that body.

**[pg. 39]** It was hoped to call a meeting very soon and the Editorial Board were instructed to draw up a contract with Mrs Smyth to offset the console being held responsible for any liability at a future date which might be incurred by Thomond Press.

It was stated that Advertising Revenue to the tune of £18 had been unaccounted for through staff irregularities. In the interest of the Journal and the close association of the Ambassador with the CICA Mrs Smith had been advised to take no police action to recover the amount stated.

In view of this it was felt that some action was necessary on our part to make good the loss sustained.

£1000 Comp. Mr Gorman stated he had secured only eleven entries this year which was quite disappointing this being two less than last year. Some entries were a few days late in arriving due in some sense to the Postal Strike.

Mr MR Walsh (Galway) registered a formal protest that the deadline of **[pg.40]** March 17th for submitting entries have not been kept by all Associations. Had he taken a few days longer with his entry he could have submitted a much more superior report.

Mr Hegarty agreed that rules should not be broken and that the date set should be adhered to.

Others felt that when dealing with Irish Organisations points have to be stretched to encourage more Associations to participate in these competitions.

Dinner 71 Guests & Judges had been selected & notified, some replies had been received. Mr Hegarty agreed to contact the judges who had not yet replied, by telephone so that the judging of the competition could get under way.

Tickets had been distributed to Provincial delegates and according to results so far it was thought that over 300 Patrons would attend.

From a list of menus supplied by Mr Gorman the following was selected. Soup (FISH) PLAICE - Roast Beef - Celery Hearts - Horseradish Sauce - Runner Beans - Roast Potatoes. SWEET - PEACH MELBA - CHEESE & BISCUITS COFFEE WINE & SOFT DRINKS. **[pg. 41]**

Toast “To Ireland” by Mr Gorman

This will be followed in due course by the Chairman Mr O'Connor who will give a short address and will introduce the President's £1,000 competition requesting the spokesman of the Judging Panel to announce winners.

Prizes will be awarded by the Representative of His Excellency the Irish Ambassador.

The Irish Centre Cup will be awarded to the winning Association by the Priest representing the Irish Centre.

Saturday Night at the IC The draw for the second half of 1971 was made and Co. Associations will be notified of dates allocated.

Time did not permit dealing with the motion carried at our A.G.M. which will come on the agenda for our next meeting.

Under Any Other Business Mr Beckett thought that not enough use was made of the Executive Committee and that it was quite frustrating being left out of things. The Chairman pointed out that in the past Mr Beckett's business commitments did not always give **[pg. 42]** him the necessary freedom to pursue fully matters undertaken by the Executive Committee.

The meeting closed at 11:15 pm

M O'Connor 7/7/71 Chairman

**[pg. 43]**

Executive Meeting CICA held at the Irish Centre NW1 on Monday 7th June 1971.

The meeting opened at 8:30pm under the Chairman Mr M O'Connor with the following members of the Executive Committee present:- Mr Hegarty, Waters, Daly, O'Carroll, O'Neill, Walshe, Caddogan, Beckett, Sealey and Butler.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted on a proposition from Mr T Beckett seconded by Mr S O'Carroll.

In matters arising Mr Beckett requested a formal protest at an entry in the minutes given as an answer to a query of Mr Beckett as to why more use had not been made of his services during the past two years.

Regarding this the Chairman pointed out that no other member of the Executive Committee had been burdened with such work, we being in the happy position where the Executive made decisions which were carried out by the C.O.M.

Further to matters arising in connection with the Irish Counties Journal it was agreed **[pg. 44]**  that Mr Caddogan be requested to draw up a contract between the Thomond Publishing Co & CICA which would exonerate the Council from any liabilities incurred at a future date by Thomond Publishing Co.

AGENDA

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at the Centre at 8:30pm on Monday, June 7th. You are requested to attend.

AGENDA

1. Organising a Raffle in lieu of Cambridgeshire Draw *£75*

2. Draw up Terms of Reference - Inter County Song Contest *MEMBERS 1*

*IRISH SONGS 2*

*TENOR OR SOPRANO 3*

3. The provision of suitable rewards in age groups in respect of Children's Essay Competition, giving a

guide on subjects chosen *£40 £20 £10 (200 words)(400 words)*

4. To Choose a body to administer a Welfare Fund to which those seeking assistance may be referred

5. In respect of Motion carried at A.G.M. - steps to be taken to affiliate all Irish Bodies in London who

are non-Sectarian and non-Political.

6. A.O.B. *ADVERT IN PAPERS*

*Bob Daly*

BOB DALY

Secretary

**[pg. 45]**

AGENDA 1 Raffle to Replace Cambridgeshire Draw

Suggestions were made of a cash prize of £100 i.e. £50/30/20.

- - - Flights of All Ireland with v Hogan Stand tickets for football final. Others favoured Hurley Final. As no agreement could be reached the scheme was abandoned.

AGENDA 2 Song Contest

This matter was referred and the Galway Association to give a lead on Terms of Reference whilst it was agreed that this should become a Council Function on an Inter County Competition Basis.

AGENDA 3 Essay Competition for Members' Children

It was agreed that the provision would be made in the Irish Counties journal to allocate one page as a Children's Corner. This to be known as Tír na nÓg. Names of winners to be published in Journal.

Two age groups to compete, under 12 & under 16. Mr O'Connor guaranteed First Prizes & Mr Hegarty guaranteed 2nd Prizes to winners & runners-up. Publication of winning entrants would be made in September **[pg. 46]** issue of journal.

Mr Walshe (Galway) agreed to put this new turn of events in writing to the Thomond Publishing Co. and to consult other members of the Exec Committee on subjects to be chosen on which children would write.

AGENDA 4 Welfare Fund.

A Committee of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer was set up to organise means of raising money for a fund to be known as CICA Welfare Fund. This would be kept in a separate ~~xxx~~ account and administered by the Committee as set up.

AGENDA 5 That a sub Committee be set up to investigate the possibility of banding together all Irish Societies & Associations, thus ensuring Unity in all spheres and giving a greater impact to the voice of such a Body. (AGM Motion)

A Sub Committee to investigate this motion as carried was set up on a proposition of Pat Hegarty 2nd by S O'Carroll as follows:- Mr Walshe - S O'Carrol - D Caddogan - T Beckett. **[pg. 47]**

AGENDA 6 AOB. Mr Hegarty stated he was quite disappointed at the Council's response to a request for help in renovating the IC Hostel. Only five people offered their services.

It was thought that if 10 people worked for two nights the job could be completed. Mr O'Neill would provide four and Mr O'Connor agreed to raise a further six.

Allocation of Saturday Nights:- the draw had now been made for the second half of 1971. The following associations had not been accommodated Dublin - Monaghan - Meath - Fermanagh - Donegal - Westmeath & Mayo. The following dates for which no request has been received would be circulated among these Associations with a view to trying to accommodate them. Replies to be received by June 15th 71.

Meeting closed at 10:45P.M.

Chairman

J Hegarty 6/5/73

**[pg. 48]**

Minutes of Executive of C.I.C.A Meeting held at Irish Centre on 6th May 1971.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Their adoption was proposed by Maurice O'Connor and seconded by Owen O'Neill. There were no observations and no questions on matters contained in the minutes.

Apology

An apology for absence was received from Mr Tom Beckett. Mr Beckett arrived later.

Correspondence

A letter was read from Millers Caterers re the charges for the council dinner in 1970. This letter contained an account of a possible overcharge and a cheque for £85 to rectify any error was enclosed. Bob Daly proposed that this cheque be transferred to the Welfare A/C & was seconded by Owen O'Neill and was **[pg. 49]** passed unanimously.

An invitation to the Chairman to attend as a guest was received from the St Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

Annual Dinner

The forthcoming Annual Dinner & Dance was discussed. During a general discussion Owen O'Neill proposed that the day be transferred to a Sat. Michael Walters objected to this as it would not be possible for publicans & friends to attend on a Sat. and as they helped so much in ticket sales this change could seriously affect attendance. The proposal was not carried. A change of venue was also discussed and a proposal by Maurice O'Connor, seconded by the Sec. to continue at the Gresham was carried. The following list of guests was finally settled.

(1) Embassy Representative

(2) Tommy Dunne, Chairman of the Irish Club & Mrs Dunne **[pg. 50]**

(3) Chairman of the Southern Area of the Federation of Irish Societies & his wife

(4) The President of N.U.I. Club

(5) Chaplain, Irish Centre

(6) Fr McNamara

(7) Mr Stallard MP & Mrs Stallard

(8) Mr M O'Halloran, MP & Mrs O'Halloran

It was decided to include the £1,000 Competition judges and their selection was postponed until Mr O'Gorman was present.

An increase in subscription to £2.75 was proposed by Maurice O'Connor and was seconded by Dick Butler and was passed unanimously.

£1,000 Competition

After a lengthy discussion the terms of reference for this competition were modified as follows:

(1) Social and Welfare activities

(2) Support of functions organised by the Council. It was proposed by Mr M Brumpton and seconded by Dick Buckler that an audited balance sheet be submitted with each entry. **[pg. 51]**

This proposal was accepted. Following a discussion on the publication of the winning entry including the considered advantages & disadvantages of publication Owne O'Neill proposed that the winning entry be published and was seconded by Mr P McGuire. An amendment that the winning entry not be published was proposed by Maurice O'Connor and seconded by Dick Buckler. The amendment was carried by 7 votes to 3 votes.

Following discussion on distribution of the £1,000 Wally Smythe proposed that the prizes be ~~xxx~~ as last year & this was seconded by Bob Daly. The following modified distribution was proposed by M O'Connor and was seconded by Dick Butler.

1st prize £400, 2nd prize £200, 3rd prize £100, 4th prize £100, 5th prize £75 **[pg. 52]**

6th prize £75, 7th prize £50. The modified distribution was carried by 6 votes to 3 votes.

Welfare Fund

The Terms of Reference for this fund where discussed and it was agreed that a payment of not more than £25 be made to a family on the death of either parent.

All cases for help ~~were~~ are to be referred through the relative Co. Association affiliated to the Council. Co. Assoc. contributions to the fund was referred back. A direct approach to the Co. Assocs. was agreed and the Chairman also suggested that the Irish Post be approached for appeal space.

Journal

It was agreed that the Sec. should engage a solicitor and meet Mrs Smythe with a view to a drawing up a contract between the Council and the Thomond Publishing Co.

It was also agreed that editorial be submitted earlier in order to bring publication

**[pg. 53]** *863/34/4 for Pat Cusick Solicitors*

forward to the beginning of each month. Editorial matter was to be received at least one week before the monthly council meeting. In future all editorial was to be submitted through the editors Messrs O'Connor, Maguire & O'Carroll.

Fed. of Irish Societies

Bob Daly proposed that in accordance with the motion carried at the A.G.M., we apply for affiliation with the Federation of Irish Societies. This was seconded by Mr M O'Connor. The meeting agreed that Bob Daly should finalise this proposal in view of his experience and previous contact with the Federation officers.

A.O.B.

It was agreed that a presentation be made to the young lady who typed the annual financial statement & report in recognition of her cooperation & help.

The meeting closed at 10:30pm.

Signed P Hegarty Chairman

**[pg. 54]**

Meeting of the Executive Committee of C.I.C.A. held at the Irish Centre on 24/4/72.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mr S O'Carroll & adopted on a proposal by Mr Beckett. Seconded by Mr Daly. All the Ex. Committee were present with the exception of Mr Butler.

First on the agenda was the Thomond Publishing Co. - re the editing & contents of the Journal. The original minutes of a meeting on 29th Sept. 70 was read by Mr Bob Daly. Mrs Smythe's opinions were asked & she declined as she thought at this stage all the increasing material was coming in each month, as & when required. Last year the various Counties were slow in coming forward with their reports.

**[pg. 55]** The Chairman, Mr Hegarty, asked Mrs Smythe what would happen in the event of a libel & who at this moment in time decides if material is liable? The general feeling of the meeting was that an Editorial Committee should be set up to edit the journal each month. Or if an Editorial Committee was in existence, it should chase up the various ~~the~~ Counties & edit their monthly reports. A suggestion from Mr Maguire to have the Ex. Com. meet at the Irish Centre one night each month to edit the Journal.

A proposition from Mr M O'Connor to seek legal advice & try to ensure against any claim on Mrs Smyth, Thomond Publishing Co or the Ex. of C.I.C.A.

This proposition was seconded by Mr O'Neill.

The meeting decided that a solicitor Mr B. O'Connor of Michael **[pg. 56]** O'Connor Ltd, 18 Southwark St., should be contacted for an immediate appointment. This the Secretary was asked to do.

~~Wet~~ We had a letter of request for £10 for the buffet at Central Hall Westminster from Mr Beaumont. Mr W Smyth proposed ~~send~~ to send the £10 seconded by Mr O'Carroll.

Presidents £1000 competition at Gresham on the night of the C.I.C.A.'s Dinner Dance.

We had a request from the Leitrim Ass. asking if they would be allowed to submit their report, after the official closing date.

This was agreed on a proposition from M O'Connor seconded by Mr S Carroll - subject to the President Mr T Gorman's ~~agree~~ agreement.

Proposals at the dinner:-

Speakers were agreed as **[pg. 57]** follows:- The Chairman C.I.C.A. The Ambassador Dr D O'Sullivan to propose the Toast to Ireland, The Mayor of Islington the toast to the Council of Irish Counties.

The Chairman Mr Hegarty would meet guests at the entrance to the ballroom, the Vice Chairman Mr B Daly would see to their needs at the bar. The Secretary would liaise with everybody - re tables, drinks, etc.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed PJ Hegarty Chairman

26th Oct. 1972

**[pg. 58]**

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE OF C.I.C.A MEETING HELD AT IRISH CENTRE ON 26TH OCTOBER 1972.

A meeting of the Executive of the Council of Irish County Associations was held at the Irish Centre on 26th October 1972.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the Asst. Sec. in the unavailable absence of the Secretary. Their adoption was proposed by Owen O'Neill and seconded by Bob Daly.

ANNUAL DINNER

The meeting decided to try and finalise the accounts for the last annual Dinner and Dance. The various expenses and receipts were read out ~~the~~ by the Hon. Treasurer from his records. Total expenses amounted to £623.19 with receipts to date £693.00. Money still due by Co. Associations amounted to £99.00 giving a potential profit of £168.81.

**[pg. 59]** The County Associations still in debt ~~are~~ are to be pressed for payment as soon as possible.

HOLIDAY GRANT

It was proposed by Dick Butler and seconded by Mr Bruton that the Council pay the Galway Association £15 to clear up the misunderstanding that had arisen over the holiday grant discussed at the previous General Meeting. This proposal was passed unanimously.

WELFARE FUND

The balance to date was £652.80. The meeting considered this a satisfactory balance. During discussion on the Terms of Reference a letter for help addressed to the Chairman, Tipperary Assoc. was read by Dick Butler. The merits of the case were discussed and an outline of the family history was given by Dick Butler. It was eventually decided to await recommendations from the Tipperary Assoc. before reaching any final **[pg. 60]** decision. The Chairman stressed the need to enlarge the fund and suggested a possible target of £2,000 to £3,000. With a balance of this order it could be possible to amend the Terms of Reference at the next A.G.M. to enlarge the scope for issue to deserving cases.

During a general discussion on fundraising it was decided to approach the Irish Post for fund raising publicity & to approach Irish firms and semi state bodies for financial donations. Other methods considered were a raffle, '300' Club, etc.

SATURDAY NIGHTS

The allocation of Saturday at the Irish Centre was next on the agenda. Applications for Saturday nights were presented and where possible the nights requested were granted. In some cases a change of date was necessary & where there were more than one **[pg. 61]** application for the same night and no compromise was possible the winner of a "toss of a coin" was allocated the vacancy. The following locations were finally settled.

1973

Jan 6th Irish Centre April 28th Kilkenny

Jan 13th Sligo May 5th Cavan

Jan 20th Mn. Ireland Assoc. May 12th Laois

Jan 27th Fermanagh May 19th Tipperary

Feb 3rd Dublin

Feb 10th Mayo

Feb 17th Galway Sep 15th Cork

Feb 24th Waterford Sep 22nd Kildare

Mar 3rd Armagh Sep 29th Fermanagh

Mar 10th Kildare Oct 6th Dublin

Mar 17th Irish Centre Oct 13th Offaly

Mar 24th Wexford Oct 20th Armagh

Mar 31st Clare Oct 27th Wexford

Apr 7th Roscommon Nov 3rd Tipperary

Apr 14th Cork Nov 10th Roscommon

Apr 21st Offaly Nov 17th Galway **[pg. 62]**

Nov 24th Cavan Dec 15th Waterford

Dec 1st Kilkenny Dec 22nd Sligo

Dec 8th Laois Dec 29th Kerry

Copies of the above allocations were made for the Sec and Chairman. This concluded the meeting.

Signed Chairman

Dated .

**[pg. 63]**

At an Executive Meeting held at the Irish Centre on 20/3/73 previous to our usual monthly meeting it was agreed that in future all requests for monies from the Council Welfare Fund would be left to the discretion of the three named Trustees (Mr Hegarty, Mr Daly & Mrs J Dack) & their decision would be final. This was proposed by Mr M O'Connor & seconded by Mr D Butler. This decision had full support from the rest of the Executive Committee.

It was also agreed that the money in the fund would be left for the moment in the Allied Irish Bank, but we might give this some discussion at our June meeting & might include it on the agenda. The meeting decided we should call a full Executive Meeting for Wednesday 4th April at 8:30 p.m. in the Irish Centre.

P Hegarty Chairman

4/4/73

**[pg. 64]**

Council of Irish Counties

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held at the Irish Centre on Wednesday 4th April. All were present except Mr Beckett who asked to be excused. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. Correspondence. The Chairman received a cheque of £100 for The Welfare Fund from The Thomond Publishing Co. which the Chairman expressed thanks to Mrs Smythe. The Chairman also reported that he ~~gave~~ sent a Mass Card to the relatives of the late Mr Heffernan, who was a nephew of Mary Murphy Cork Association.

The Annual Dinner Dance was discussed in detail. ~~After~~ Eventually the executive decided to hold the Dinner on 3rd May at the Gresham Ballroom at £3.00 per ticket. A list of the guests was drawn up and the tickets were allocated through the Provinces as in previous years. The speeches were although and it hoped that it would be well supported by the Counties.

The Council Journal was then ~~defo~~ debated on and after much controversy about **[pg. 65]** content & editing, date of publication & support of Counties for the Journal it was decided to have a special meeting with the Director of the Thomond Publishing Co. Mrs Smyth on Monday 9th April.

Finally regarding the Council organising a charter flight it was decided to invite C Fogarty to the next Executive meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:45.

DATE

CHAIRMAN P Hegarty 1/10/71*?*

*'73*

**[pg. 66]**

Council of the Irish Counties

Minutes of The Special Executive Meeting with Mrs Smyth on Monday 9th April 73.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome to Mrs Smyth, Director of the Thomond Publishing Co. He then stated the reasons for this special meeting which were as follows (1) The reason why the pool content in the Journal, the apathy of the counties to the Journal, the quality of the editorial and the right of the Council to edit the Journal.

The Chairman asked Mrs Smythe why the content of the journal was re-edited. She stated that she could not allow Political or Sectarian editorial to be published.

The meeting then became very heated with ~~Mr O Conner~~ arguments varying from Mrs Smithe ~~saying~~ stating it was necessary for her to re-edit the journal and the members of the Executive stating that the Council should have the right to edit their own ~~magazine~~ publication.

**[pg. 67]** Eventually it was decided to ~~elect~~ appoint one from each province to collect the editorial from each County and also edit the journal.

Those appointed originally were Mr P Hegarty for Ulster, Mr J O'Carroll Leominster, Mr Bob Daly Connaught and Mr M O'Connor for Munster. Mrs Smythe said that M O'Connor would not fulfil the role as she would like. So Maurice withdrew from the Committee & Mr M. Donovan was appointed instead.

The meeting concluded with a proposition from Bob Daly & seconded by O O'Neill that the ~~portier~~ proposed of this new system would be reviewed in 3 months.

**[pg. 68]**  Apologies from M Brumpton

Council of Irish Counties

Minutes of the Executive held at the Irish Centre on Monday 1st Oct at 8.30. Presents were Mr Hegarty Chairman, Mr Daly V. Chairman, Mr Donovan Sec., Mr Waters Treasurer, Mr O O’Neill, Mr M O’Connor, Mr Dick Butler, Mr S Carroll, Mr W Smythe & Mr J Keating, Tom Beckett, apology from.

Chairman said that this meeting was called to discuss ways & means to puts forward suggestions to improve the Council, which he said had lost its impetus. The Chairman asked what was the cause of the poor response of the Counties to the Council. He gave one example to clarify this by stating that ~~only~~ 3 Counties supplied 1/2 the people at the Annual Dinner.

Mr Beckett said there was no cohesion between the Counties & the Council, Mr O Neill replied that discussion has died at Council Meetings and that nothing in finalized, and in its present state the Council is a burden instead of being an asset to the Counties.

**[pg. 69]** Mr Beckett then suggested we should request the AMBASSADOR to give more attention to Council function. He went on to compare, past and present AMBASSADORS. In this context this was derided by the Executives.

Mr Hegarty then said he would like to hear some Constructive suggestion ~~for~~ from the members of the executive. Mr O Neill then said that the Charter flight was a good suggestion which was never acted on.

Mr O Conner then replied ~~said~~ that the Council was the poor relation of all Irish Societies he continued to say that all of us can share the responsibility for this and in future we should give our full support - Council activities. Mr Dick Butler suggested at this point the Council should investigate scholarships which were going abegging at Trinity College. Mr Hegarty again asked what can we do to improve relations between the Council & the Counties. Mr O Neill replied that the Agenda for the Monthly Meeting should be sent in time to the delegates. It was suggested by some delegates that some Counties defy the ruling of the Council two examples were quoted in this respect one Cavan in not submitting the material for the **[pg. 70]** Journal to the editor appointed by the Council and two Clare in disagreeing with the arrangements for the Summer Fayre. The Thomond Publishing were criticised for its condoning of ~~eta~~ editorial & non publication of articles. W Smythe suggested that his wife in compelling the journal for the good of the Council. He also suggested that that Council should hold a St. Patrick Day Dinner Dance at the Tara. This suggestion was completely rejected by the members. Mr Smythe then proposed that the Executive should meet once a month this was seconded by B Daly and unanimously agreed that we should hold it on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month.

Mr Donovan said that delegates not getting the agenda was no excuse, everyone ~~new~~ knows that the Council Meeting is 3rd Tuesday of the Month. He continued we are not helping each other instead of being united each **[pg. 71]** County is competing against each other a typical example of this was the Summer fate. We are not fair enough in sticking by decisions made at Council level.

The meeting closed at 10.45 on date of next meeting Tuesday 13th Nov.

P Hegarty Chairman

13/11/73

**[pg. 72]**

EXECUTIVE Minutes of Council of Irish Counties Executive meeting 13th-11th-73

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held at the Irish Centre held at the Irish Centre ~~Com~~ on Tuesday 13th-11th-73. Present were Mr P Hegarty Chairman, Mr B Daly V Chairman, Mr M Waters Treasure, Mr M Brumpton, Mr W Smythe, Mr R Butler, Mr S Carroll, Mr O O Neill, Mr J Keating. Excused of M O Conner.

The minutes of the previous Executive were read approved & signed.

On the amendment of the previous Council Meeting. The Chairman said he had seen the Sec. and Mr Donovan indicated he ~~would to take~~ would be unlikely to take no further part in Council affairs. Owing to Mr W Smythe proposed the Ass. Sec. should ~~the~~ take over the duties of Sec. This was seconded by Mr R Daly, and unanimously agreed by the Executive, and this should be recommended at the next Council meeting.

We had a special ~~the~~ Treasures report highlighting bad debt to the Council dating back to 1969. He **[pg. 73]** was requested to write to the appropriate Counties in an effort to recover some Council activities.

The Executive unanimously agreed that the Council should have a Buffet Supper at the Centre on Thursday 20th December in aid of the Welfare Fund. Tickets will be £1 each.

In concluding Mr Hegarty suggested that the Council should come to an arrangement with the management of the Centre before the reorganization of present building to ensure we are allocated meeting room and other facilities.

The meeting closed at 10.15

Chairman P Hegarty

13/11/73

**[pg. 74]**

THE COUNCIL OF IRISH COUNTIES

THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at the Irish centre on Tuesday 11th Dec 73. Present were Mr Hegarty, Mr Daly, Mr Waters, Mr Butler, Mr Beckett, Mr Smythe & Mr Keating. The minutes of the previous meeting were read approved and signed by the Chairman. The buffet supper was discussed. Mr Hegarty said that the Allied Irish Bank were presenting prizes for the raffle. It is hoped that the buffet will get full support from the Counties.

The receipts from the Annual Dinner was again debated. It is felt that the number present does not tally with the number charged for. ~~Bob~~

Bob Daly then said that all Ass. Communities who hold their meetings at the centre should have membership cards. How to increase membership of Associations. It was suggested that an advertisement should be inserted in the Irish Post & Cork Weekly giving an outline of Association activities.

**[pg. 75]** The Welfare Fund

The Chairman said the time was now ripe to have an appeal in the Irish Post this was agreed by the Executive and it was suggested that the Chairman should write the article for the Post.

The A.G.M.

Bob Daly suggested that nomination papers should be sent to each Sec by the end of JAN.

In concluding Bob Daly congratulated Mr Hegarty on the winning of the individual quiz.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Chairman 8/1/74

**[pg. 76]**

Council of Irish Counties Executive

Minutes of the meeting held at the Irish Centre on Tuesday 8th Jan. Present were Mr Hegarty, Chairman, Mr Beckett, Mr Butler, Mr Waters, Mr O'Neill & Mr Keating.

The minutes of the ~~meeting~~ previous meeting were read, approved & signed by the Chairman. The Welfare Fund was discussed. Mr Hegarty ~~re~~ said he had written to the Irish Post re the publication of the Welfare Fund.

The Annual General Meeting was then debated. The Sec was asked to send nomination papers to the county secretaries as soon as possible.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Chairman P Hegarty

**[pg. 77]**

Council of Irish Counties

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held at the Irish Centre on Tuesday 19th February. Present were Mr Hegarty, Chairman, Mr W Smythe, Mr O O'Neill, Mr R Butler, Mr T Becket & Mr J Keating.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved & signed by the Chairman.

The Annual General Meeting was discussed in detail.

The Chairman said the Executive should be ~~in the one~~ advised to relay opinion as regards motions & discussions that may come up at the meeting.

He said he did not want to seek re-election for the Chair for 1974. Mr Beckett said he would like to see a fund being formed to help the Irish Olympic team. Mr Hegarty suggested that Mr Beckett bring the matter up at the March meeting of the Council not at the A.G.M.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:15.

11 / 3/ 74 Signed

Chairman G O'Flynn 11/3/1974

**[pg. 78]**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the Council of Irish Co. Associations held at the Irish Centre on 11th of March 1974.

The attendance was as follows, Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Owen O'Neill, Mr J Keating Mrs E Marron, Mr T Dack, Mr S Igoe, Mr R Daly, Mr P Hegarty, Mr R Butler, Mr T Beckett, Mr S Lynch. Apology for absence from Mr W Smythe.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, welcomed everyone to the beginning of a new year of work and had a special warm welcome for our new Lady Treasurer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adapted on the proposition of Mr T Beckett seconded by Mr Owen O'Neill.

There being no matters arising from the minutes, correspondence was next dealt with and there was a letter from Mr M Waters concerning a small sum of money which was due to him.

The Treasurer reported that the accounts were the same as at the A.G.M. At this point Mr P Hegarty proposed that, to facilitate **[pg. 79]** the new Treasurer, our bank account to be changed to A.I.B. Hammersmith. The proposition was seconded by Mr T Beckett and unanimously agreed.

The Annual Dinner was the next item on the agenda and the Chairman's suggested date of 16th May was unanimously agreed. A run-down of probable costs gave us a ticket price of £3.50. This was agreed to and the decision taken to have 500 tickets printed. A/Sec. Mr T Dack to supervise the issuing of tickets. The provincial distributors to be as follows: Mr R Daly, Connaught; Mrs Marron, Ulster; Mr S Igoe, Munster; Mr T Dack, Leinster. The Guest List suggested was as follows: His Excellency the Irish Ambassador, Fr Mee, Fr Sheridan, Dr Garret Fitzgerald (on a vote 5 for, 4 against). The President, Life President, Mr Jerry Daly, Mr Peter Kennedy, Irish Post.

At this point it was suggested that a list of Co. major functions be kept so as to avoid a clash of events.

**[pg. 80]** Mr P Hegarty reported that the Welfare Fund still stood as at the A.G.M. There were two new applications - one from Kerry and one from Tipperary. These are still to be investigated and reported on.

Discussion of the President's fund was held over pending clarification of the idea.

The Chairman gave a run-down of the arrangements for the St Patrick's Day Parade and announced a general meeting on Tues, 12th March at the Irish Centre.

Mr J Keating reported to the meeting on his ~~visit~~ attendance at the Feb. meeting of the Federation of Irish Societies.

It was reported that the Inter-Co. Quiz has now reached the semi-final stage. Carlow versus Dublin to be played on 21st March and Sligo versus Clare to be played on 26th March. It was agreed that Mr T Dack organise the Quiz competitions in succession to Mr M. Waters as a means of stimulating further inter-County interest, further competitions were discussed and a Darts Competition suggested. Discussion **[pg. 81]** was left over for the general Council meeting.

A degree of dissatisfaction was expressed on the functioning of the Council Journal. The Minutes of the Sept 1970 meeting were read and the point made by Mr Owen O'Neill that the Editorial Committee be reviewed.

A special meeting with the Thomond publishing Co. was suggested to clarify the position, when the minutes are explored by Mr R Daly.

The allocation of Saturday nights at the Irish Centre was next discussed and it was decided that the applications for 1975 should be in by the April council meeting.

Mr Sean Igoe suggested that every Saturday night allocation should be for a Dinner/Dance or Buffet/Dance as the Irish Centre got very little financial profit from just a Dance.

Mr Bob Daly informed the meeting that, during his term as Sec. of the Council he inherited some literature and correspondence dealing with the County Club. He gave a rundown on the history of this Club and said that practically all funds had been **[pg. 82]** paid back. Mr Tom Beckett expressed the hope that at some future date that the club might be reformed. Mr Owen O'Neill proposed and Mr Dick Butler seconded that further discussion be deferred to the next meeting.

Under A.O.B. Mr Owen O'Neill proposed that the Council should appoint a P.R.O. and suggested that Mr Bob Daly's name be put forward at the next Council meeting.

That concluded the Business of the meeting. The next meeting was fixed for Mon. 8th April.

Signed G O'Flynn Chairman

8- 4- 74

**[pg. 83]**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the Council of Irish Co. Associations held at the Irish Centre on 8-4-74.

The attendance was as follows: Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Owen O'Neill, Mr J Keating, Mrs E Marron, T Dack, Mr S Igoe, Mr W Smythe, Mr R Daly, Mr P Hegarty, Mr R Butler, Mr T Beckett and Mr S Lynch.

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

Arising from the Minutes, it was decided to defer discussions of both the President's Fund and the County Club to the next meeting.

In correspondence we had a letter from Fr Mee accepting his invitation to the annual dinner. A letter from the Ambassador thanking us for the invitation, but would make a definite decision nearer the date. There was also an acknowledgement from the Home Office of our letter in connection with the Price Sisters.

**[pg. 84]** The Treasurer's report showed a bank balance of £324.69. This was £19.50 more than appeared on the Books. The list of paid-up affiliated Co. Associations was read. It showed that 14 Associations had already paid. Mr R Daly queried the affiliation fee of £3.15 - as guineas no longer exist it should be left at £3. It was decided that it could only be changed at an A.G.M.

The Inter-County Quiz has now reached the Final Stage with Dublin vs Sligo. It was decided that the date for the Final should be discussed at the next General Council Meeting.

The allocation of Sat. nights at the Irish Centre was next discussed and Mr P. Hegarty reminded the meeting that only Associations whose affiliation fees were paid-up were eligible for an allocation. Items concerning the Irish Centre which were discussed were - the £10 booking fee; staffing problems and the difficulties of the manager in providing adequate staff: **[pg. 85]** extensions of the bar hours were covered and Mr P Hegarty reminded the meeting that only 12 extensions were at present allowed.

The formation of a Sports and Social Committee was next discussed and Mr R Daly made the point that it should be left over to the general meeting.

The Annual Dinner was next on the agenda. The distribution of tickets was reviewed and further tickets distributed. Mr P Hegarty brought up the point that the Guest List was altered by the General Meeting. This was not the practice in former years.

The rejection of the invitation ~~of the invitation~~ to Dr Garrett Fitzgerald was discussed and regret expressed by Mr Hegarty that the guest list looked very poor for our 21st anniversary dinner. Mr R Daly suggested a guest from B&I. Mr R Butler proposed that any discussion taken by the Executive Meeting should stand. This was seconded by Mr S Lynch.

**[pg. 86]** The appointment of a P.R.O. was next covered and a general feeling was that Mr R Daly would make an excellent officer. The papers were to be notified of the appointment.

The Council Journal: the Re-formation of the Editorial Committee was discussed and the history of the break-down covered. It was reported that some Counties refused to co-operate with the previous committee and did not want any individual editing their material.

Mr T Beckett suggested that the Journal should be supported as the idea seemed to be going around that some people were trying to kill it. Mr Owen O'Neill proposed and Mr S Lynch seconded that Mrs Jane Smythe be invited to a special meeting to discuss the matter in detail. The Secretary was to arrange this meeting.

Credit Union: Literature concerning the working of the Credit Union is to be supplied by Mr Owen O'Neill at the next meeting.

Mr Owen O'Neill reported on his meeting **[pg. 87]** with representatives of the Catholic Chaplaincy of Queen's University, Belfast. They are trying to raise funds to pay for their premises in Belfast and were hoping that we might be able to help.

Mr Pat Hegarty objected on the grounds that it was unreasonable for people to come over to this country looking for funds.

That concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting was fixed for Mon 6th May 1974.

Signed Chairman

6-5-74

Owen O'Neill

**[pg. 88]**

Council of Irish County Associations

Meeting of the meeting held at the Irish Centre on Monday 6th May.

Present were Mr O O'Neill, acting Chairman, Mr J Keating, Mrs E Marron, Mr R Butler, Mr J Daly, Mr W Smythe.

Excused were Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Tom Beckett, Mr P Hegarty, Mr S Igoe & S Lynch.

The minutes of the previous meeting ~~were~~ were read & approved & signed by the Chairman.

Mr Bob Daly suggested that any recommendation made by the Executive Committee should be approved by the Council Meeting. This was agreed by the meeting.

Mr Daly congratulated Mrs Marron on her efficiency as Treasurer.

Annual Dinner

The final details of the Annual Dinner were discussed in detail, with the stock taking of tickets, the Guest List & Menu Cards. It was agreed to give a present to Mr P Hegarty & Mr B Daly. This was proposed by Dick Butler & 2nd by **[pg. 89]** Mrs Marron.

Summer Fayre

Mr O'Neill proposed that we have a Summer Fayre and this was seconded by Mr Dick Butler & unanimously agreed. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45.

Signed G O'Flynn

28- 5- 74.

**[pg. 90]**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the Council of Irish Co. Associations held at the Irish Centre on 28-5-74.

The attendance was as follows:

Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Owen O'Neill, Mr J Keating, Mrs E Marron, Mr T Dack, Mr R Daly, Mr P Hegarty, Mr R Butler, Mr T Beckett.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Mr R Butler, seconded by Mr R Daly.

In matters arising Mr R Butler brought up the point that matters passed by the Exec. should be sanctioned by the general meeting. This was fully discussed and it was agreed that this point should be brought up at an A.G.M., since it is not covered by the Constitution.

There being no correspondence the annual dinner was next dealt with.

Mr T Beckett had great praise for the function and expressed ~~his~~ warmly his appreciation of the efforts of our V/Chairman Mr Owen O'Neill who had to deputise due to the unavoidable **[pg. 91]**  absence of the Chairman. Mr Hegarty regretted that the guests were not very well looked after. Not only just this year, he said, but for many years past and in bringing up the point, he hoped it would be borne in mind for future years.

Mr O'Neill commended highly the efforts of Mrs E Marron and Mr J Keating.

The sum of £91.78 was realised on the raffle.

The B and I prize which was won in the raffle was explained by Mr R Butler. He said that the gentleman who won it would like to take one Old Age Pensioner and the council to nominate two others to share the prize with him in Ireland. Mr Keating was to contact the prize-winner. The matter to be brought up at the next general meeting.

Summer Fair: it was decided to hold a meeting between representatives of the County Assocs. and the Irish Centre to allocate stalls etc. The date of the next meeting was fixed as 6th June at 8:30. Notices of the meeting to be sent to all Assoc. Secs.

**[pg. 92]** The Counties Journal: The point was brought up concerning an alleged defamatory remark in the report of the Graiguenamanagh Annual Dinner. Mrs E. Marron made the point that no Assoc. or Body which is not affiliated to the Council should be allowed to contribute any article. Mr Hegarty gave a run-down of the history of the formation of the Journal and reminded the meeting of the words of the Solicitor from whom advice was sought. He said that insurance against a charge of libel would be prohibitive and up to five different people could be charged even down to the Sec. of the individual Assoc. It was decided to again urge Mrs Smythe to agree to a meeting with the Exec. Mr Owen O'Neill suggested reviving the Editorial Committee and seeking the revenue of one page of advertising per month.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:45.

Signed Chairman

G O'Flynn 9-7-74

**[pg. 93]**

~~Meeting~~ Minutes of the Meeting between the Executive of the Council of Irish Co. Associations and Thomond Publishing held at the Irish Centre on 4th July 1974.

The attendance was as follows:

Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Owen O'Neill, Mr J Keating, Mr T Dack, Mr R Daly, Mr P Hegarty, Mr R Butler, Mr T Beckett, Mrs Jane Smyth, Miss Elizabeth Smyth, Mr J Pugsley.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting welcomed everyone and expressed the hope that our endeavours would get us the best possible journal.

First item on agenda - Form of Agreement.

A letter was read from Mr R Daly giving details of Editorial Committees etc. Mr Hegarty gave a history of the endeavours to get advice on libel, indemnity, etc. and quoted examples.

At this point Mr J Pugsley gave a quotation of about 10% of the insured sum as cover against libel. Mrs J. Smyth suggested that if ~~the Co.~~ we omit the Council's connection with the Journal, she would accept full responsibility in the event of libel. She **[pg. 94]** added, further, that she did not have any great worries in this respect. The Chairman said that it was not generally accepted amongst Assocs. that it is a Council Journal. Mr Owen O'Neill agreed with the Chairman and thought that Mrs Smyth's suggestion was a bad step. He also suggested that we adhere to the Decisions of the Editorial Board.

In view of the small distribution of the journal it was generally felt that damages in any libel case could only be of small amount Miss E. Smith suggested that written advice should be obtained from the solicitors on both sides. The Council members and Mrs Smyth agreed to this.

Financial Agreement: Mrs Smyth explained that there never was an agreement on any financial contribution. At this point Mr T. Beckett appealed for support for the Journal. "We are not supporting it as we should," he said and was grateful for previous contributions. These contributions amounted to £50 in the first year, £50 in the second year, and £100 **[pg. 95]** for the third year. Mrs Smyth explained that she was working on a £3,000 overdraft and didn't ask for any financial support, was not making money out of the Journal and in the future might be able to make a greater contribution. Mr Hegarty said that at the original meeting for the founding of the Journal, the sum of £1,000 as a contribution was mentioned. But Mrs Smith emphatically denied any suggestion of such an amount and called Mr Hegarty a liar.

She admitted that it came up in private conversation with her other Directors - who thought it was a crazy idea.

The Chairman appealed to Mrs Smyth to withdraw the remark, but was ignored. Mr Owen O'Neill suggested the idea of the Revenue of one page of advertising per month for Council funds. It would be a gesture and might encourage the Assocs. Mrs Smythe said she worked very hard to produce the Journal and asked why should money be drained from it. The Chairman explained that no one was demanding money. Mrs Smyth **[pg. 96]** then said that if the Council gets its advertising they are welcome to the Revenue. In response to further pleas both from the Chair and Mr T. Becket, Mrs Smyth withdrew her remark.

Editorial board: Mrs Smyth said we didn't appear to have much luck with the Editorial Board up to now. At present she did all the work on her own. Some contributors objected to their material being read. At present, she said, the work takes about a week.

Mr Owen O'Neill remarked on the great improvement brought about by the previous Board. It brought in about 17 extra contributions. He pleaded for a good Editorial Board. He deplored the fact that some Assocs. objected to sending their material through the Board.

Mrs Smyth wished that anyone with complaints would come forward and bring them to her notice.

Miss E. Smyth said that the Editorial Board was not much help because of the time required by the job and the infrequency of meetings.

He urged that Associations that did not come forward should be chased up.

Quality of Content: the Chairman said that **[pg. 97]** the Journal was a liaison between the Assocs. Mr R Daly said that he would like to see articles which would raise points of debate. Mr J Keating said that the smaller Assocs. did not have much material on which to write. Miss E. Smith suggested articles from the Council itself.

Mrs J Smith suggested that Assocs. give authority to individuals to write in the name of the Assocs. Mr Owen O'Neil suggested bringing the date of Council meetings forward to the second Tues of the month, if this would help. But Miss E. Smyth said that this would not be suitable as it takes a month to produce the journal and publishing is arranged for the 3rd Tuesday. Mr Owen O'Neill then suggested letting the Editorial Board work for three months. If at the end of that time, it is no use, he said, then disband it.

The meeting then went on to consider its position with Assocs. and Bodies outside the Co. Associations, but nothing of a **[pg. 98]** concrete nature came up. Some more points on legal liability were also considered but as it by now was past 11 o'clock it was decided to close the meeting.

**[pg. 99]**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the Council of Irish County Associations held at the Irish Centre on 9-7-74.

The attendance was as follows:

Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Owen O'Neill, Mr J Keating, Mr T Dack, Mr R Daly, Mr P Hegarty, Mrs E Marron, Mr R Butler, Mr S Lynch (apologies T. Beckett, W Smythe).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Mr J Keating, seconded by Mr P Hegarty.

In connection with the Prize-winning trip to Ireland for 2 OAPs, there was one application from the Offaly Association.

Summer Fair: The Chairman announced that the total so far realised was £177.15 and there are still some further donations to be handed in. In view of the small attendance, this year, this was thought to be a good result. It was generally agreed that the publicity, this year, was very bad and some advance announcements for this event should be made earlier in the year.

Mr P Hegarty hoped that the appeal of **[pg. 100]** the Irish Centre was not falling off. Mr Owen O'Neill ran through the proposed list of stores and it showed that about six or seven County Assocs. failed to turn up. He also thought that it should start at 2 o'clock.

Co. Journal: the Chairman announced that the insurance market for cover against libel was very limited, but said that it might be possible to get cover for £10,000 for a premium between £50 and £100. But the first £1,000 must be borne by the publishers.

He felt that this type of cover was not prohibitive and asked - should we consult a solicitor? Mr P Hegarty asked - was the Journal doing the associations any good? Mr S. Lynch said it was essential to keep the Editorial Board, as he had experiences of articles from his Association not being published. Mr P Hegarty felt that any agreement should include financial contributions to Council funds. He gave a brief history of the Beginnings of the Journal and gave a rough estimate of a profit of £4,000 p.a. If Mrs Smythe **[pg. 101]** says she is losing money, he said, let her furnish an audit to verify the fact. Mr Owen O'Neill enquired if it were not possible for us to get the adverts and be independent. He felt that the Journal cannot exist without the support of the Co. Associations. He felt that we must adhere to the Editorial Board. We have three months in which to make it work. Mrs E Marron enquired if we had anyone qualified to act on the Editorial Board. She was of the opinion that there was much more information in Gerry Daly's column in the Cork Examiner every week.

Mr S Lynch proposed that we consult a solicitor. This was seconded by Mr R. Butler. Mr Hegarty felt that for this meeting with the solicitor, the whole executive would be too unwieldy. So with this point in mind, Mr R Butler proposed that the officers only consult with the solicitor. This was seconded by Mr S Lynch. The solicitor to be Mr Cusack. Mr J Keating to arrange a suitable date at the Irish Centre. In view of **[pg. 102]** Mr P Hegarty's experience with the history and formation of the Journal, it was unanimously agreed that he also should attend.

Trip to Ireland: as there were no further nominees for this trip, Mr Owen O'Neill proposed and Mr R Butler seconded the proposition that the Offaly nominees be allowed to go on this trip.

That concluded the Business of the meeting and it closed at 10pm.

Signed G O'Flynn Chairman

9 -9-74

**[pg. 103]**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the Council of Irish Co. Associations held at the Irish Centre on 9.9.74.

The attendance was as follows: Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Owen, O'Neill, Mr J Keating, Mrs E Marron, Mr T Dack, Mr W Smythe, Mr R Butler, Mr J Beckett, Mr S Lynch.

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

Under matters arising from the minutes, the Chairman mentioned that a draft letter from the solicitor, which was reported to be sent recently, had not yet been received. Mrs E Marron stated that in the absence of Mr J Keating on holidays, she had also asked for a copy. To clarify this matter, it was suggested that Mr Keating might ring the solicitor. Under the same heading, Mr W Smythe reported that it had recently come to his notice that a member of the public had bought a copy of the Journal. He emphasised that this practice was completely against the **[pg.104]** spirit of the journal and hoped that this was only an isolated incident.

Mrs E Marron reported that a further £62 in donations had been received for the Summer Fair. The possibility of getting the Park across the road for next year's Fair was discussed and it was hoped that the help of the local community centre might be forthcoming.

Fr Sheridan's Departure: Many tributes were paid to Fr Sheridan for his work in the Centre and the form of a presentation best suited to the Occasion was discussed. Mr Owen O'Neill explained that no personal gifts are allowed and suggested a donation to the Society for which he is going to work. With this in mind, Mr Dick Butler proposed that the Council open a fund for Fr Sheridan, to which the Co. Associations could contribute. Mr T Beckett seconded this proposition.

Mr Owen O'Neill proposed a vote of thanks to Fr Sheridan for his efforts for the Centre. This was seconded by Mr T Beckett. **[pg. 105]**

Welfare Fund: The Chairman suggested that we should hold some function this year for the Welfare Fund.

It was also suggested that at the next Council Meeting, a list be made of the main functions of the Co. Associations to be held this year.

Mr Owen O'Neill reminded the meeting that next year's Council Dinner would be the 21st and that the preparations should now be got under way.

The same speaker also gave a resume of the functioning of the Credit Union movement in Ireland expressing the hope that a sinner movement could be got going here.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:30.

Signed Chairman

G O'Flynn 7 - 10 - 74

**[pg. 106]**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the Council of Irish Co. Associations held at the Irish Centre on 7 - 10 - 74.

The attendance was as follows: Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Owen O'Neill, Mr J Keating, Mrs E Marron, Mr T Dack, Mr W Smythe, Mr R Daly, Mr P Hegarty, Mr T Beckett, Mr S Lynch.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and the adopted on the proposition of Mr J Beckett, seconded by Mr W Smythe.

Under matters arising, Mr T Beckett referred to the incident where the Journal had been offered for sale. He hoped that perhaps these sales could be promoted.

Mr W Smythe explained that the incident occurred in a High Street shop and Mr Beckett said it was perhaps a good thing if revenue could be got from sales of the Journal.

Mrs E Marron reported a final figure of £262-17 for the Irish Centre Summer Fair.

It was agreed that the outstanding balance be paid to the Irish Centre. The treasurer **[pg. 107]** also explained to Mr Owen O'Neill that the President's £1,000 cheque had been lodged in our A/C. The Chairman said that he thought the best way of distributing this money was to divide it equally amongst the Assocs. Mr Owen O'Neill then proposed that it be divided equally and Mr T Beckett seconded in the hope that each Co. would add to it and give the proceeds as the Pres. wished.

Welfare Fund. With a view to running a function for the Welfare Fund, the Chairman announced that Thurs. 12th or 19th Dec. or Sat. 28th Dec. were available at the I. C. It was generally agreed that this function should be held on a Sat. night, so Sat. 28th Dec. was unanimously agreed on.

Mr Owen O'Neill suggested that we should have a buffet. Mr P Hegarty, in agreeing, explained that financially a buffet would be the most successful type of function.

The Fr Sheridan Dinner: It was agreed that all ticket money for this function should **[pg. 108]** be paid in the next Council meeting. This was to enable the Treas. to have her final figures ready in time. The C’man wondered how the money would be paid over to Fr Sheridan. He queried if the money paid in by other Bodies would be paid in with the Council money.

21st Annual Dinner: Mr Pat Hegarty proposed that we invite the President of Ireland as Guest of Honour. Mr T Beckett seconded.

Mr Owen O'Neill suggested that for this important function we must have a Sat. night. The Chairman in agreement said that we might try the Bloomsbury Centre for a Sat. night in May.

Summer Fair 1975: for this event, Mr R Daly suggested that we should endeavour to sell 10,000 programmes at 10p each. For this we could offer a prize of £100 which could possibly be sponsored by one of the well-known firms. The Chairman suggested a special meeting with the priests of the Centre.

At this point the Treas. suggested that **[pg. 109]** the Council donate £1 to the Pres. £1,000 fund. This would allow an even figure of £38.50 to be paid to each Co. Association. This was unanimously agreed to.

Mr Owen O'Neill suggested that Cup which was presented for the Individual Quiz last year should be re-engraved as it was really a very bad job. He also said that, as Aer Lingus were no longer offering the price of a free flight to Ireland, we should honour the thing this year.

The Council Journal: The Chairman read a copy of a draft letter which he had received from our Solicitor and it was passed round the meeting.

Mr Owen O'Neill suggested that in future, Exec. meetings should be held on Wed. evenings. This was because other Assocs. and bodies seemed always to hold their meetings on Mon. & Tues. evenings.

This concluded the Business of the meeting and it closed at 10:30.

Signed G O'Flynn Chairman 6.11.74

**[pg. 110]**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the Council of Irish Co. Associations held at the Irish Centre on 6-11-74.

The attendance was as follows: Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Owen O'Neill, Mr J Keating, Mrs E Marron, Mr T Dack, Mr W Smythe Mr R Daly, Mr P Hegarty, Mr R Butler, Mr S Lynch.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted on the proposition of Mr R Daly, seconded by Mr P Hegarty.

Fr Sheridan had been in contact with the Chairman, apologising for a slight mix-up in his postage arrangements. But he affirmed that a letter was on its way thanking us for the presentation and functions held on 22nd October.

The Counties Journal: The Chairman gave a resume of the meeting with the solicitor, but regretted that he had not yet had a copy of the draft letter which it was agreed to send to Mrs Smythe.

Summer Fair 1975: The Chairman urged **[pg. 111]** that we must decide on the venue you and also the form which it would take. Mr Owen O'Neill regretted that in the absence of Fr Mee, nothing was being done and suggested we start on our own. Mr R. Butler asked if any other people were willing to come in on it with us.

Possible venues: Mr Owen O'Neill suggested Market Rd Playing Fields sometime in June. We could approach Camden Sq. Tenants Assoc. Mr J Keating suggested 21st June as it is Welfare Dance night at the Irish Centre. Mr Owen O'Neill suggested that we might that we accept proposals of venue from the next general meeting and two or three people should go and vet them. He also suggested a type of All-Stars game of Football & Hurling and said that BOI are keen to come in and help. Mrs E Marron suggested the Hayes Grounds. Mr R Butler suggested the grounds of Holyrood House. Guinness Sports Grounds at Park Royal and McVities at Harlesden were also suggested.

Tug-O-War, Baby Show, Step Dancing by **[pg. 112]** the Irish Dancing Schools, Raffle for a Colour TV set, were suggestions for the programme.

Annual Dinner 1975: Mr J Keating gave a report on the Bloomsbury Centre for 24th May. The cheapest menu was £2.55 plus VAT plus 10% service charge. They require 450 min. or in default £75 extra on the basic meal.

Mr Wally Smythe and Mrs E Marron said they have received some bad reports on the Bloomsbury from patrons at other functions. Mr P Hegarty gave a report on Barkers. He estimated expenses on 300 patrons at £4.00.

Mrs E Marron said she had some very good reports on the Cunard International and suggested that some officers accompany her on a visit to the Cunard management.

Mr P Hegarty proposed that we book the Cunard for 30th May. The Chairman enquired what happens if the President of Ireland cannot come as guest of honour. The general feeling was that the leaders of all 3 political parties should be invited. The Embassy to be approached to find out the position regarding the President. **[pg. 113]**

Welfare Fund Social: Mr J Keating informed the meeting that he had booked "The Westones" for this Social. Tickets would be £1.50 and the Treas. would distribute tickets.

Fed. of Irish Societies: Mr J Keating would represent us at the forthcoming meeting of the Federation and the Chairman asked for any complaints in writing which could be put to the meeting.

A.O.B. The Chairman read the draft of a letter on emigration etc. which will be sent to the Embassy, as proposed by Fr Mee. Copies will be available for Co. Associations to send their T.D’s.

That concluded the Business of the meeting and it closed at 10:30pm.

Signed G O'Flynn Chairman

11th December 1974

**[pg. 114]**

Minutes of the Special Executive meeting of the Council of Irish Co. Associations held at the Irish Centre on Sun 24-11-74.

The attendance was as follows: Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Owen O'Neill, Mr J Keating, Mrs E Marron, Mr T Dack, Mr Sean Igoe, Mr W Smythe, Mr R Daly, Mr P Hegarty, Mr R Butler, Mr S Lynch, Rev. Fr Mee.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting welcomed Fr Mee and praised the members such a good turn-out at such short notice. The whole meeting, he said, would be devoted to discussion on what action we should take following the dreadful bombing incident in Birmingham.

Fr Mee said that he had been approached to make a statement. But any statement issued, he said, should be in the name of the whole Irish community and if they wanted to sign it, that would be acceptable. He had been in touch with the Chairman of the Federation, and the outcome was that if the Co. Associations wanted to go ahead **[pg. 115]** with their own statement, that would be O.K. It might be possible, he said, to have a Press Conference, but, on the other hand it might be difficult to organise.

Mr S Lynch said that any statement must be worded so as not to antagonise.

Fr Mee, in agreement said anything done must be correct so as not to give the wrong impression. As Christians, we must be seen not to condone.

Mr P Hegarty reported that the DATA Union had been contacted re back-lash, but he had no wish to make an individual statement.

Mr Owen O'Neill asked if the Executive would consider calling a special meeting of Chairmen & Secs. to show a united front on this matter. Mr W Smythe in agreement said it would help to get 100% co-operation of the Irish community.

Mr Bob Daly felt that the Executive should go ahead and make its own statement.

**[pg. 116]** But the Chairman was of the opinion that we should join with the Federation.

Fr Mee said that the English people are more intelligent than to think that all the Irish community are responsible.

Mr Owen O'Neill said that any back-lash would be understandable, but foolish and commended the Mayor of Birmingham for his speech after the bombing.

Fr Mee said he would be contacting the Irish Club and N.U.I. to get a degree of support.

Mr J Keating was to contact Mr P Ryan of the G.A.A.

It was agreed that any statement should be worked out by the Chairman and Mr J Walsh of the Federation and should be given to the Press Association and should also be circulated to the Co. Associations.

Fr Mee asked if it would be advisable to hold a mass for the victims.

**[pg. 117]**

Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the Council of Irish Co. Associations held at the Irish Centre on 11th Dec. 1974.

The attendance was as follows: Mr G O'Flynn, Mr Owen O'Neill, Mr J Keating, Mrs E Marron, Mr T Dack, Mr R Butler, Mr T Beckett, Mr Brian Mullen and Fr Mee.

In opening the ~~the~~ meeting the Chairman expressed the thanks of the Executive to Fr Mee and Mr B. Mullen for acting on the meeting with the Thomond Publishing Co.

In opening his Report on the meeting, Mr Mullen read an extract from the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 29-9-70 which reads: "The four Directors of the Thomond Publishing Co. attended this meeting to discuss further their proposition to Publish, Print and deliver to a central point a County's Associations Journal free of charge for distribution among Co. Assocs. through the Council". The important words, he said, being "their proposition".

Mr Mullen, in continuing said that he and Fr Mee came to their conclusions **[pg. 118]** under the following headings: Ownership, Legal Liability, Editorial and Finance.

Ownership: They felt that the journal belong to completely to Mrs Smyth.

Legal Liability: Full indemnity is promised by the Thomond Publishing Co.

Editorial: No progress was made on this point. Many attempts were made in the past to have Editorial Boards set up but the material was not getting through from the Assocs. Mrs Smyth would not hand to an Editorial Board, if she is going to give an indemnity.

Finance: Mrs Smyth is not prepared to commit herself.

This report then came on the discussion and Mr Owen O'Neill said that Mrs Smyth will not agree with anything over which she has no control - so, why should we have to agree if we have no control. Mrs E Marron said that some Co. Assocs. give their script directly to Thomond Publishing, so, if it is a Counties Journal, why are we bothering.

**[pg. 119]** Fr Mee asked, did the solicitor whom we consulted say that we could stop publication. Mr T Beckett said that he had consulted the law and comes to the conclusion that we have no call to ownership. Mr Owen O'Neill remarked that it was a pity that the sum of £1,000 was ever mentioned. Mr B Mullen said that at the next Council Meeting, the question facing us is 'do we want the journal or not'. Mrs E Marron said - it's not just the Co. Assocs. who are concerned, there are other bodies as well. The Journal is now strictly between the individual Assocs. and Thomond Publishing. Mr B Mullen drew a comparison between London & Birmingham where London first had Assocs. and then a Council whereas Birmingham was the reverse. The Chairman then re-capped on the four main points of the Report and Mr T Beckett proposed we accept these proposals remarking that we cannot afford to throw over the journal.

Fr Mee proposed that the Council agreed to withdraw from the Journal and just leave it to the Counties only. We have no ownership, no **[pg. 120]** control, so we just say we leave it to the individual Associations. Mrs E Marron seconded this proposition. The Chairman remarked that we had failed to come to any agreement, but it certainly was not our fault. Mr B Mullen suggested that are given the report at the next Council meeting. Ask the delegates to take the information back to their Assocs. and come back to the Jan meeting and have a vote on it. Mr J Keating suggested that Mr B Mullen makes the report at the Council meeting.

The Chairman then thanked Fr Mee and Mr B Mullen for their work both at the meeting with Thomond Publishing and for the report to this meeting.

Welfare Dance: It was agreed that Mr Keating would supervise the distribution of tickets and would furnish the Treasurer with a list of ticketholders.

Annual Dinner 1975: The 30th May has not yet been confirmed with Cunard. Further discussion centred around the price of **[pg. 121]** the steak dinner priced at £3.15. It was felt that tickets for this Dinner would need to be £4.50. It was also learnt that no Sat. nights were available until after the summer.

That concluded the Business of the meeting and it closed at 10:45pm.

Signed G O'Flynn Chairman

12 Feb. 1975

**[pg. 122 -** Back cover**]**