

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 10TH JANUARY 1989

1. PRESENT

Rev T Scully, T Dunne, Mrs M Allen, Mrs U Cooper, Rev G Stack, A Coyle, Mr J Myers, Mr T Mangan, Mr O'Mahoney, Mr C O'Connell, Mr G O Flynn, Miss M Kenny.

APOLOGIES: Mrs M Fitzsimons

IN ATTENDANCE: P Keegan, P Murphy

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Subject to two corrections the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on a proposal by T Mangan, seconded by Miss M Kenny.

3. MATTERS ARISING

P Keegan said he understood that the fee charged to Auctioneers who attended the promotion at the Centre was between £400 and £500. The figure previously mentioned (£1000) probably included travel and hotel costs. The fee charged by Irish Centre was £600.

A reply has not been sent to the Waterford Association letter of complaints re their dinner. It will be sent immediately.

It was agreed to write to Miss K Fitzsimons expressing displeasure at her abrasive and abusive attitude when she attended the last meeting, also her abuse of a member after the meeting as well as her discussing the affair with outsiders.

4. FINANCE REPORT

The profit made on the twelve monthly car draw was £26,373. This was very disappointing when £100,000 could have been realised.

Returns for the year showed increases of 8% in catering sales and 5% on bars. The average monthly figures were as follows:

Douglas Hyde Lounge £4000

J F Kennedy Hall £3300

Mc Namara Hall £9160

Counties Bar £2320

Turnover has not changed very much. The early part of the weeks are very quiet and an effort must be made to attract new business. There has been a big increase in bookings for weddings in the period June to September.

The dance on New Year's Eve was very successful. An effort must be made to develop Sunday Night dances.

6 WELFARE REPORT

Paul Murphy did not present his usual monthly report. Instead he presented a preliminary statistics report on 1988.

Total number of new clients seen in 1988 was 2078. Total number of interviews conducted in 1988 was 4254.

Accommodation was the most common problem encountered. The number of new callers has increased substantially in the past week. All cases present more difficult problems now. It is also much more difficult to get help from DHSS and payments are held up for two weeks. Telephone calls are very costly and time consuming as are letters seeking birth certificates. The Irish Embassy charges £10 for a phone call and does not give much help with repatriations. The worst hit group are the 16 - 17 year olds who cannot get any help from DHSS and are forced into squatting.

Our grant from the Irish Government has been cut by £2000 for this year.

The leaders of Fine Gael visited the Centre, Conway House and St Louise's. They were also shown a squat.

6 HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels are full. The girls in St Louise's are nearly all working where as the occupants of Conway House are mostly unemployed. The under 18 year age group are again the big problem both as regards welfare grants and accommodation. Work on the new hostel in Quex Rd is progressing well and should be opened in two months.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(a) 51/52 Camden Square

It was hoped that the Emigrant Chaplains would take it as their headquarters but no response has been received to our offer. Sketch plans of the proposed accommodation have been sent to Fr Gavin. Fr Stack agreed to accompany Fr Scully on a visit to His Eminence Cardinal Hume in order to outline the situation to him.

(b) Air Conditioning and roof repairs - Kennedy Hall/Douglas Hyde Lounge

It may be necessary to sell No 12 Murray Street in order to raise the necessary finance for this work.

(c) Adjacent Land

A letter claiming ownership has been received from the Housing Association.

(d) New Work Initiative

Pete St John is trying to organise an office in Dublin in time for March opening.

(e) Fund raising

The Wembley Concert takes place on 4th February and we must sell all the tickets. There will also be a raffle for sponsored prizes. Tom Mangan will organise the ticket and programme sellers.

(f) Manager replacement

Interviews are being arranged for next week.

(g) Kitchen cleaning

Both kitchens have been thoroughly cleaned from floor to ceiling.

8 SOCIAL CLUB

Anton Coyle reported.

Admission to dances has been increased to £1.50. The Social on Boxing night was good and that on New Year's Eve was very successful. He suggested booking Frankie McBride for Easter Sunday but Comhaltas Ceolteoirí Éireann have already booked the McNamara Hall.

He complained that the floor polish was not satisfactory and as a result a lady got a broken ankle. He hoped that the necessary insurance is in force. He also complained that light fittings are not right and spotlights are not satisfactory. Miss M Kenny complained that the rail on the stairs near Douglas Hyde Lounge had not been fixed.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Una Cooper reported claims regarding booking and service re Rugby Club dance. There were 300 guests but only two bar staff. Some of the guests had to help in the bar. J Myers said itemized receipts should be given in the bars.

A vote of sympathy was passed to Fr Denis on his recent sad bereavements.

NEXT MEETING- 14TH FEBRUARY 1989 @ 8.00pm AT THE IRISH CENTRE

J Rangan '89
14.2.89