

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 14TH JUNE 1988

1 PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Rev J Gordon.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rev D Cormican, Mr P Murphy.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting having being circulated were taken as read and adopted on a proposal by T Mangan, seconded by C O'Connell.

3 MATTERS ARISING

None.

4 WELFARE REPORT

Paul Murphy submitted a written report and a page of statistics which were self-explanatory. The number of callers during the month of May was considerably less than in the previous month. He hoped that this was a result of the publicity in Ireland outlining problems for newcomers. Further information sheets are being sent to Ireland in the next month. The staff in the Welfare Department are working very efficiently. Security precautions are being taken and the necessary equipment has been provided. One member of staff may be taking leave of absence to attend a course. if so, a replacement may be necessary. Food and travel vouchers are distributed. Money is given only in cases of extreme emergency. it has been discovered that some of the food vouchers have been exchanged in off-licence premises.

The Chairman expressed thank to Paul and his staff.

5 FINANCE

The Finance Committee had a meeting and were disappointed at results - especially those for the McNamara Hall. The Douglas Hyde Lounge and the McNamara Hall returns showed increases over 1987. It was agreed that P Keegan prepare and present targets which must be achieved for each department. Theatrical Companies are not using the premises at the moment but Thames TV are coming back next week. Queries were raised as to the reasons for the drop in bookings of the McNamara Hall. Some County Associations have gone elsewhere, three late cancellations were made by the Boxing Clubs and two by the GAA.

Complaints by customers should be thoroughly investigated and officers of the group concerned should be invited in for a discussion. Limits on numbers allowed to attend a function are not a help, and restrictions on licencing hours also cause problems. Benefit dances are not productive. Tickets are sold outside but purchasers do not attend. Parish re-unions are generally good.

Deposits should be taken at time of booking and it should be kept in case of a cancellation. this would not apply in the case of County Associations, the majority of which give donations to the Centre. A charge should be made for the use of rooms for meetings. A fee of £10.00 was suggested. The Executive and Finance Committees will meet to review the whole situation.

There is a possibility that the McNamara Hall might be used to cater for coach parties on Sunday afternoons from 2.30pm to 6.00pm but the licence would need to be adjusted to suit. The question of providing Sunday lunches will be left in abeyance pending a decision on the above.

Suggestions for publicity and new business were made:-

- 1) Ballroom tea dances.
- 2) Function to coincide with presentation of car prizes.
- 3) An Open Day.
- 4) Advertise in licenced Trade Journals.

FUNCTIONS ARRANGED.

- 1) Concert in Albert Hall on 23rd September.
- 2) Concert at Wembley on 4th February 1989.
- 3) Limerick Association Dance.

6 HOSTELS REPORT

Both hostels are full but the waiting lists are not so long. This situation will probably change when exams are completed. The holdup in DHSS benefits has caused increases in bad debts. Landlords will not accept lodgers without payment in advance. The new Housing Act coming into force shortly will also cause problems. Financing of hostels must be shared with private investors. The maximum housing aid will be 80% and the remainder must be provided otherwise.

7 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(a) The suggestion to convert the upper floors of No's 51 and 52 into hostel accommodation would not be viable. Twenty bed spaces could be made available but the premises and location are not suitable.

Under 18's will now get benefit only if they are in an approved training scheme. Irish youths coming here are not subject to any waiting list. A new training scheme has come into operation at home and enquiries will be initiated to ascertain whether it could be got to work in conjunction with the Youth Training Scheme here. The possibility of using the vacant rooms as classrooms will be investigated.

(b) The Day Care Centre is going quite well and numbers

are increasing. At present it is used from approximately 11.00am to 2.00pm. The lunches are good and are very much appreciated. ILEA will make Arts and Crafts teachers available in September.

(c) The Counties Bar is favourably commented on but is being defaced by some untidy customers who do such things as stubbing out cigarettes on the carpet.

(d) The Douglas Hyde Lounge needs a lot of repairs to the roof and the ventilation. The same applies to the kitchen and the McNamara Hall.

(e) General decoration - some work still to be done.

(f) A determined effort is being made to sell tickets at churches on Sundays. A large number of sellers will be required in Roundwood Park on Festival Day.

(g) Social Club

Sunday morning attendances are now quite good as are those on Friday and Saturday evenings. More and better bar staff are required. Complaint was made that prices have not been adjusted. Answering of telephone leaves a lot to be desired. An ansafone should be installed.

9 BARS AND CATERING

Mrs D'Arcy reported on progress and gave details of functions for June. A recent benefit dance was a complete flop. Sunday mornings have improved. It was agreed that supplies of crisps and nuts would be available and that the price of bottles and cans of Coke etc be kept at 25p. The demand for sandwiches in the bar is disappointing. It was agreed to open bars on Saturdays from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm. Sunday lunches if provided will have to be 'carvery'.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To mark his retirement to Ireland, Canon Wood was entertained to lunch and was presented with a set of Waterford glasses.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The quarterly meeting will take place on Thursday 16th June. Items to be on the agenda include finance, future development, use of facilities, professional and expertise input.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON

- 12TH JULY 1988 @ 8.00pm AT THE IRISH CENTRE

J. D'Arcy
12 July 1988