

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON THURSDAY, 1st MAY, 1986

The Chairman welcomed everyone who attended the Annual General Meeting and apologised for the absence of Lord Longford and Mr Branagan, and hoped that some delegates would wander in from the Ryan Air Promotion that was being held in the McNamara Hall. Gerry O'Flynn, the Hon Secretary, read the notice convening the meeting and also the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting. Bill Aulsberry proposed that the minutes be taken as read, seconded by Tom Mangan.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave an introduction to the Director's Report making the following points.

The Centre is on a financial road to recovery and there would be a nicer picture to paint this time next year.

He thanked the Welfare staff for all their hard work during the year especially now with the increase of first-time callers availing of the Centre's facilities. He also thanked the staff at the two hostels especially Fr Ryan and Sr Anthony for all their hard work during the year.

Gratitude was also expressed to the out-going members of the Administrative Committee for all they had achieved during the year. A special word of thanks was due to Fr Malone, Paddy Keegan and Gerry O'Flynn for their help during the year.

DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director gave a full report for the events of 1985. The written report was distributed to all present. This report was proposed by Bill Aulsberry and seconded by Tom Mangan.

AUDITORS REPORT

T Beatty of Beatty and Company presented the Accounts. He said the Centre was not dead but very much alive financially. Mr Beatty was proud of this.

Fr B Gilmore questioned the high cost of maintenance and heating. Mr Keegan, Administrator, said that he was doing research into Energy Conservation within the Centre. As regards to repairs and maintenance there was very little he could do here when existing systems had never been completed.

The Accounts were proposed by Tom Mangan, seconded by Joe Davis.

APPOINTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

Letters of appointment were read by the Chairman.

a. The Archbishop of Westminster has appointed Rev C Malone as the

Chaplain for the coming year, and Rev J Fullam as Diocesan Representative on the Administrative Committee for the coming year.

b. Archbishop Bowen of Southwark had not yet appointed a Diocesan Representative on the Administrative Committee for the coming year.

c. Bishop Thomas McMahon of Brentwood has appointed Rev J Gordon as Diocesan Representative on the Administrative Committee for the coming year.

In accordance with Rule (6) (ii) of the Constitution the following were appointed to serve on the Administrative Committee:

Mr T Dunne
Mr G O'Flynn
Miss M Kenny
Fr B Gilmore
Mr J Myers
Mr C O'Connell

Martin Moroney proposed that the six nominations from the floor be accepted and that two co-optees be elected later.

Fr Gilmore asked what the Centre was doing to attract participation of young people within the Centre. He proposed that an AGIY (Action Group for Irish Youth) member be co-opted on to the Administrative Committee, seconded by T Dack. Fr Gilmore said that young people joined organisations in which they had participation and he gave an example of the GAA.

The Chairman promised that they would definitely look into this. He then closed the nominations.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Beatty and Company were appointed Auditors for the coming year. Proposed by T Dack, seconded by G O'Flynn.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bill Aulsberry wanted to know if there was any truth in the rumour that the bars would franchise. The Chairman replied that this was not so but that franchise was always a notion which would and should be looked at.

B Shaw questioned why there were no Car Draw ticket sellers at the Mayor's Banquet. The Director outlined that there were 700 tickets in the hands of capable members and he felt quite happy with the outcome.

The Centre would also continue with the £1.00 Car Draw which takes place at the Irish Festival. Frank Caulfield suggested that if we were to have an agent for the Car Draw that it should be on a commission basis.

Steven Savage felt that there should be somebody, like the Irish in Britain History Group, promoting Irish studies, associated with the Administrative Committee. The Director agreed subject to affiliation to the Council of the Irish Centre and normal channels of election/apointment.

Bill Aulsberry asked to raise the point of historic interest to the Centre i.e. the appointment some years ago of a professional fund raiser and the outcome. He reminded the meeting that the previous time in which he asked this question the matter subjudice. The Directore agreed that the expenditure by the fund raisers (in the early 70's) was in excess of the income received. The matter is now closed.

Fr Ryan spoke about the problems at Conway House and the problems of unemployment (80%) among the residents.

Orla O'Hanrahan spoke on behalf of the Irish Ambassador, Mr Noel Dorr. She congratulated the Irish Centre staff for the the hard work they had done and for what they had achieved during the year.

T Dunne went on to say how delighted he was that Bridie Shaw was "back in action again" and looked forward to the third phase of the Irish Centre.

As there was no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30 pm.