

Minutes of a meeting of the Paddington Branch of the IBRG held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, Harrow Road on Thursday 1st March 1984 at 8.30pm.

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Present: Elizabeth, Mary Marley, Michael, Mary and Cass  
Apologies: Tom, Joan and Mike

#### Matters Arising

Cass to send off letter to the publishers of anti-Irish material (Portnall Press in Harlesden).

Cass to send off letter to NEC re article in the Irish Press.

With regard to education, Mary established that there are four representatives for the Westminster area who sit on the Education sub-committee of the ILEA. They are three Conservatives and Ken Livingstone. Mary passed around copies of a letter she had written to Ken Livingstone on behalf of our branch. In it, we welcome the ILEA's policies on Multi-Ethnic education but question the role accorded to the Irish as it is portrayed in their document 'Race, Sex and Class. We want him to reply about whether the ILEA intends to fund a North London Poly course on Irish Studies, whether an information booklet on Ireland has been published for use in schools and what has been done in the ILEA about British racism against Irish people.

#### Correspondence

Mary received minutes of a recent NEC meeting from Judy Peddle (NEC secretary). It was agreed at this meeting that all branches were to have a minute book and all minutes were to be signed by the secretary and chair of every branch, including the NEC's minutes.

Agreed that Cass writes a letter to the GLC in response to the letter we received from Steve Brennan about the London Regional Council. Copies to be circulated at next meeting. Agreed we should say that we withdrew from LRC because of (a) our concern over how the grant would be administered (b) we were not party to the grant application in the first place and (c) the grossly undemocratic way in which the LRC meeting of 27th November, 1983 was run. We also want to register our puzzlement at receiving such a letter from Steve Brennan as he was well aware of what was going on as he also attended the 27th November meeting. We also want more details from the GLC about their letter.

A letter from Juliet O'Shea and P Delaney about membership renewal was noted. Cass to get in touch with Joan who is treasurer. Money received from Mary, Cass, Michael and Mary Marley for new membership. We do not appear to have received membership cards back from the national membership secretary, Pat Browne but Cass will check with Joan. Agreed to send off new batch to Pat Browne.

Leaflet advertising Lambeth Welfare Group noted. Agreed to get report from Lambeth on the public meeting which is on 14th March.

A letter was received from S Brennan about the commissions set up amongst Irish organisations in London to advise the GLC on spending its resources in the Irish Community. The inaugural meeting of the commissions will be held on 11th March. Cass & Elizabeth agreed to go pending more information from Steve Brennan about venue and time.

Cass reported on the Anti-Perjurers Joint Delegation, lead by Bernadette McAlliskey who were in London last week. They want Troops Out to set up some kind of broad campaign aimed at solicitors, barristers etc, to highlight the use of show-trials and the methods used to force people to make statements implicating scores of individuals. The delegation said they felt the Irish community could make a positive contribution and appealed especially to groups such as the IBRG. It was the feeling of the meeting that we should follow this up and Cass was delegated to attend from Paddington IBRG to a meeting of Irish organisations to be held in London next week.

A.O.B.

Michael reported that he would be going to a meeting organised by Troops Out at the Labour Club next week.

A group called the Poster and Film Collective got in touch with our branch because they wish to produce a poster before Easter on anti-Irish racism. They want to come and speak to us at one of our meetings, as they are wanting to find out the responses of Irish people and what we object to. They are also about to start making a 30 minute video which is designed to be a response to the 'World in Action' programme, televised recently, concerning Gerry Adams. This video will be about how the British media edit and cut material in order to construct a story. The Poster Collective are interested in our comments.

A letter to the Paddington Times by Pat Reynolds in response to anti-Irish jokes was noted. It is now in our cuttings file on the press.

### PLEASE NOTE

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PADDINGTON BRANCH WILL BE ON THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 1984. IT WILL BE HELD AT THE USUAL VENUE AT 8.30PM.

FROM THIS MEETING ONWARDS ALL MEETINGS OF THE PADDINGTON BRANCH WILL BE ON THE 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH. THIS MEANS THAT THE MEETING AFTER NEXT WILL BE ON THURSDAY, 12TH APRIL 1984. ALL NEW COMERS ARE WELCOME.

IF FOR ANY REASON MEMBERS CANNOT ATTEND A MEETING COULD THEY PLEASE TELEPHONE THEIR APOLOGIES TO CASS ON 960 7706 OR AT WORK ON 808 4990.

ALSO, THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE IBRG WILL BE HELD IN MANCHESTER ON THE WEEKEND OF 24TH AND 25TH MARCH. ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED. EACH BRANCH IS ENTITLED TO SEND TWO DELEGATES AND UP TO 10 OBSERVERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, BRING IT UP AT NEXT MEETING.

SLAN

*A. Brennan*  
(secretary)