

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 2 p.m.12 April, 1987, Oxford**

## **Present**

Ruth Dudley Edwards, Chair, and 47 members of the Association

## **Apologies**

Six notes of apology were received from members of the Association

## **Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting 5 July 1986**

These were accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

## **Matters Arising**

None other than those appearing elsewhere on the agenda.

## **Notification of Items under Any Other Business**

There were no items to be taken under Any Other Business. The Chairwoman proposed that this item should be an "Open Forum" period for Members to comment on the work of the Association and future objectives. This was agreed.

## **Correspondence**

Taken under Secretary's Report

## **Officers' Reports**

### **Chairwoman & Vice Chairman**

The Chairwoman and Vice Chairman made a joint report. Among the points they wished to draw attention to were the following.

The Association had received pump-priming funding from the Ireland Fund and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. These sums had enabled the Association to embark on a programme of activities in its own right and support the activities of people already working in the field of Irish Studies. The present BAIS Conference was being supported from these funds, for example.

The above monies were for pump-priming only and would not suffice to underpin the Association in the long-term. Subscription income would only permit a very limited level of activity, therefore they considered it essential to embark on an intensified search for donations and funding. As a first step a major approach had been made to the Department of Education and the Department of Education (Northern Ireland) for funds.

External contacts with ACIS and the Canadian Association for Irish Studies continued to be cordial. In particular, the forthcoming ACIS Conference in Dublin would be an opportunity to consolidate fraternal contacts and explore the possibilities of joint ventures, such as Conferences, for the future.

The Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman announced that since July 1986, the Executive Committee had undertaken to provide the Irish Literary Supplement as a Membership benefit.

The Chairwoman and Vice-Chairman paid tribute to the work of the Officers and Convenors, noting in particular the successful initiative of the Higher Education Sub-Committee in presenting a report to the University Grants Committee on the need for the expansion of Irish Studies Provision in Great Britain and making concrete proposals (see below).

### **Secretary**

The Secretary reported that the Association had registered under the Provisions of the Data-Protection Act and had applied for registration as a Charity with the Charity Commissioners. The application was currently being considered by H.M. Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

The Secretary had received and replied to 160 individual enquiries since July 1986, provided Association responses on the issues relating to Charity and Data Protection Act Registration and carried out six general mailings to the Membership — including mailings of the *Newsletter*, news of Association activities and materials for the ballot on the amendment of the Constitution.

The Secretary had also initiated a Second Survey of Irish Studies, involving circulars to all previous entrants in the First Survey which had resulted in a substantial increase in replies. He was pleased to be able to thank North Staffordshire Polytechnic for its financial assistance for Survey activities.

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer gave a report of income and expenditure for the period since the Annual General Meeting of 5 July 1986. He reported that the accounts would be audited and certified at the end of the current Committee's period in Office and his tabled summary accounts for the period were received by the Meeting. He confirmed the earlier statements of the Chairwoman that subscription income would be insufficient to permit a level of activity commensurate with the wider objectives of the Association.

### **Conference Secretary**

The Conference Secretary briefly reported on the arrangements and cost of the current Conference. The Chairwoman proposed a vote of thanks to the Conference Secretary for all her work and this was carried by acclamation. In answer to Members' questions about the next BAIS Conference, the Conference Secretary announced that arrangements would be considered when the lessons of the current exercise had been digested.

### **Newsletter Editor**

The Newsletter Editor reported that the first edition of the Newsletter had been well received and that publishers were now regularly supplying texts for review.