

LEITRIM ASSOCIATION IN LONDON

There was a meeting of the Leitrim Association in London at the Irish Centre, 52, Camden Square, London NW1 on the 20th October 1980. Present were J McGarry, Nora McGreal, M Mulvannerty, M Winters (Chairman), Doris Daly, T Maguire, Fr Butler. Apologies were received from A Fleming.

THE MINUTES WERE READ approved and signed.

AT THE OUTSET a short discussion took place agreeing on questions to be put to Martin Moroney, Chairman of the Administrative committee of the Irish Centre... Do we continue donating cash for the future or do we put money into a thing which will not be in existence in the future?... What are the debts on the Irish Centre and how were they incurred?... How is the running of the Irish Centre administered?... Is there a report on the London Irish Festival and will it be presented to the public through the Irish Post?... What are the Counties doing to help?... Are we supporting which will go into other people's pockets?... Are we wasting cash on a lost cause?... Could the priest go on the stage during a function and say 'Put your hands in your pockets and give at least 50p'?... Did Abbeyfeale give a donation?... Could prizes be kept low?... Why is the McNamara hall not open every night? The odds of survival - you want a substantial number of donors giving substantial sums on a regular basis?... What plans are made to raise funds?...

CORRESPONDENCE : posters had been received for the Gala Night at the Grosvenor House hotel in aid of Irish Centre funds, photographs were available at £2.50 each. The CICA meeting would be tomorrow night 21st October at the Irish Centre. For discussion - the St Patrick's day parade and the London Irish Festival 1981. It was agreed to change the land bond to Premium Bonds. A cheque for £50 had been paid over for Benburb Base - the hostel run by the de la Salle Brothers. It was agreed to sponsor Fr Butler for £100 in the Charity Walk for the Irish Centre. The following would walk - M Winters, John McGarry, M Mulvannerty, Doris Daly and Adrian Fleming would be asked. The presentation of the medals for the London Irish Festival 1979 for stewards was appreciated but more were required than four.

THERE WAS A CREDIT BALANCE of £1230.00 but certain bills had to be paid. It was agreed that 157 tickets used at the Bacon & Cabbage menu function in the Kennedy hall was correct and this would be pointed out to the Irish Centre authorities. Mrs Daly had enrolled 11 new members at the function. A vote of thanks was passed to all who helped.

THE FORTHCOMING DINNER DANCE was discussed. Kaskade was the band engaged. Bishop expressed his intention to attend. Should Fr Phair be invited as a guest as well? Greg Dunne would not be coming this year on account of an eye operation. He expressed his desire to resign from the post of patron of the Leitrim Association in London. Raymond Laird was delighted to come. John McGarry was to invite J Fox. (Captain) Doris Daly opened a discussion on the invitation of a local vicar from Carrick-on-Shannon. It was agreed to leave this over to another time. It was agreed to write to Greg Dunne wishing him well in his illness, and adding that the meeting endorsed his remaining on as Patron. The menu would be printed by Irish Life. Prizes would be presented by Irish Life. Waterford glass, Aer Lingus and Irish Life.

MARTIN MORONEY ATTENDED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT... He stated right away that the situation at the Irish centre was not as serious as it seemed. Interest rates had jumped from 8½ to 17% during the building period... The fund raisers had made no headway because they did not realise what was at stake (promises have to be followed up). They had promised £100,000 by the end of 1980.

Mr Moroney said that the full building scheme would go through. The interest was 17% and Murphys one more. The debt at the present time was £650,000 and there was a good profit on the hall. The figures were diversified. Profits from the Mc Namara hall were taxed. The collection in Ireland might come this year. The major expenses came from building a raft over the railway which cost £200,000. The building itself and the preparation for the next phase were included. The toilets for the next phase were already built a salso were the toilets. Phase I was finished. Phase II was nos 50, 51 and 52. (This would cost 187,000). Phase III was a middle lounge which could be left over. The site for flats was sold to a housing corporation. Irish Centre hostels ltd bought it for £50,000 and handed the site to the Irish Centre. Irish Centre had to pay Irish Centre hostels and had to pay for the raft.

There might be a new bishop to deal with in Ireland in the near future and that might change things..

On the question of the London Irish Festival Mr Moroney stated that the accounts were with the auditors and that it would be published as soon as they had finished with it. Mr Moroney then left the room. A vote of sympathy was passed re James Fox who lost his mother. RIP.

The next meeting was to be at the Irish Centre on Monday 3rd November 1980 at 8:30 pm.

Before Mr Moroney left the meeting he said that £20,000 was paid to Murphys during the past year. He asked that the association did not give up and that their support was appreciated. They had started with a £300,000 expenditure ceiling but inflation and the interest boosted this. The interest to the brewers would be waived once a certain barr ellage was attained. He admitted there was no manager, the golf tournament was a flop. Mr Moroney said they had chequed the financial consultants credentials and looked at their past records and successes. They had approached Craigmoyle (but the client had to do all the work). The two consultants (one was with Craigmoyle and the other was on his own) had experience. They would probably have to 'go' and the committee would have to do thier own thing in the New Year. Of the £212,000 raised in Ireland last collection, the Irish Centre did not benefit. £75,000 went to Birmingham, £16,000 went to Tooting and down the drain. The Irish Chaplins got a %age for travel. And the man who pushed the collection the last time was against it now.

Proposed by. Yuhvanech

see. A Fleming

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