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**Transcript**

The Annual General Meeting of the Leitrim Association in

London took place at the Irish Centre Camden Square, London

NW1 9XB at 3:00 pm on Sunday 4th March 1979. Present were

Adrain Fleming, Chairman, ~~J~~ John McGarry Treasurer and

Acting Secretary, Michael Mulvannerty, Jim Fox, John Bannon,

Jim Murphy, ~~John~~ *Tom* McCartin, Mrs McGreal, Tommy Maguire,

Michael Winters and Fr Butler OMI (Pro). *+ ROSE ANNE MASTERSON*

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were

read and adopted.

Mr Fox *^* *PRESIDENT* in his address welcomed those present to the AGM

and commented that it was the 24th AGM for him to attend.

He was delighted with the success of the Association down

through the years and always saw the Leitrim Association

as being within the top three county Associations in London.

Other Associations had come and gone -other representatives

of counties had come on gone but the Leitrim Association

remained strong down through the years. Sadly, though,

even the Leitrim Association lost valuable workers through

no fault of their own – The past two chairmen ~~s~~ and the

past secretary had left the area and the association was

the poorer for their departure. Mr Fox thanked them for

their wonderful work. But the Association should endeavour

to keep up contact ~~w~~ with them. Mr Fox also asked all

representatives of the Association to share the work load

throughout the year and not leave it to the faithful few.

Committee meetings become poor through absenteeism. Some

people take on officerships and then do not fulfil their

obligations. Efforts should be made to increase membership

at the monthly meeting and this should be easy if people

were reminded that the Association was for Leitrim people.

Perhaps too much time was spent of the dinner/dance and other

functions when in fact emphasis should be put on the welfare

side of the Association. There should be some open meetings

in order to get the interest of more people and no one should

be deprived of the benefits of the Association Just because

they have not been members. The Association needs more

publicity. Meetings should be better publicised. The

Association has a lot to offer. It can hold its head high

and therefore publicise itself.

The Secretary (Acting) John McGarry commented on the more

Important functions during the past year – The Bacon & Cabbage,

the Wild Rose competion in Manorhamilton which was cancelled,

the inter county quiz, the London Irish Festival, the Boat

Trip, and Annual Dinner Dance and the Leitrim County

Development Project held in the Irish Club in London. All

functions were well supported and there was a good encouraging

response from the County Development project

In his Treasurer’s report John McGarry issued copies of the

accounts to all present. The accounts were very detailed,

and showed a healthy balance. A new flag was purchased

during the year, new costumes and shawls for the parade were

made and County ties were also purchased. These items

greatly contributed to the prestige of the Association.

Commenting on the finances the Chairman mentioned that it

was a hard year on finances but that with greater co-operation

and an enlargement of membership there would be no need to

worry.

Fr Butler commenting on the reports thanked all present

for the wonderful work done during the past year and the

appreciable achievement attained.. He said he was very

proud to be associated with the County Association and could

only wonder at the dedication of the present committee

as witnessed by the very successful year and the thoroughness

of the reports presented. He expressed his gratitude to

the Leitrim Association for all the financial aid given

to the Irish Centre by the Association particularly during

the past year.

Michael Mulvenneerty said he wanted to be associated with

sentiments expressed by Fr Butler, he expressed his own

thanks and felt he was very ~~r~~ proud to the associated with

such an efficient organisation.

Adrain Fleming Chairman wished to thank all who helped him

during the past year and far from being despondent he said there

was a great future ahead and all would endeavour to improve

the Association in the coming year.

Michael Mulvennerty read a letter from Senator McCartin

advising him of his work to obtain financial assistance

from the Irish Government for the Irish ~~S~~ Centre. The

question had been brought up in the Dail by Deputy

Austin Deasy, but the minister was not yet in a position to

make a decision. Comments from the floor indicated that

the feeling of the meeting was that the attitude of the

Irish Government was a very nega*~~l~~*tive one. Michael Mulvennerty

then read a letter from Gregory Dunne. Mr Dunne had

been to the Annual Dinner Dance with a family party. He

was delighted to be present at the function and offered

some suggestions for the future. He felt sure that a coach

load of people could be organised *^ for* other Leitrim Functions

in London particularly if they co-incided with important

soccer, rugby or racing events. *^ in the London area* Mr Dunne offered to help

out in every way he could. It was thought that the Irish

Centre should now get on with providing the funds itself

for the New Development. The Bishops in Ireland should

be approached individually. It was felt that several

of those were willing to help out. Approaching the Bishop’s

secretariats got a negative response.

The election then followed :- In Ireland…President : Josie

Martin XXXXXXXXXX Vice Presidents- Seamus Fox and Frank Murphy.

In London : - Hon President Michael Mulvannerty. Hon

Life President Jim Fox and Tommy Maguire. Hon Vice President :-

Mrs McGreal and Mrs Eames. \* Secretary – Michael Winters.

Treasuerer : - John McGarry. Assistant Treasurer – John Bannon.

INSERT \*Chairman Adrian Fleming Vice Chairman J Murhpy.

AT \* Assistant Secretary XXX Tom McCartin. PRO Fr Butler OMI.

PATRONS : - Most Rev Dr F McKiernan, Bishop of Kilmore

Most Rev Dr Cathal Daly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmannoise,

Gregory Dunne, Raymond Laird and Senator McCartin.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the team which worked so

hard at the Irish Club to bring delveopment to County Leitrim,

Mr Patrick Doyle, ~~xxxxxx~~ Manager Leitrim County Council,

Mr Josie Martin, Chairman, Leitrim Development team,

Senator Mc J J McCartin, Mr~~s~~ C S Laird, A vote of thanks

was proposed to Gregory Dunne for his interest and support

of the Association in London. A vote of ~~g~~ congratulations

was proposed to Mr Laird on being chosen as Leitrim Man – of –

the Year. A vote of thanks was proposed to the Leitrim

Observer, to the Irish Post (and the Peter Kennedy column)

for their continued support and for the publici*~~i~~*ty. A vote

of thanks to Senator McCartin for his efforts to get financial

support from the Irish Government for the Irish Centre in London

and to Gregory Dunne for his offer of help and support.

Forthcoming functions ; *~~?~~* 25th Ma*~~r~~*y – Bacon & Cabbage at the

Irish Centre. 4th July 1979 – London Irish Festival at

Roundwood Park. 27 the November 1979 – Annual Dinner Dance.

16th March 1979 – Ceili and Old Tyme dance at the Irish Centre

For the Carolan Memorial in Mohill.

The meeting expressed grave concern about certain matters

In County Leitrim. It was concerned that County Leitrim

as a unit*~~y~~* now had no representative in Dail Eireann. It

was concerned that there appeared to be still in the County

a division (long existing) whereby one part of the County

got preference to the other principally because local offices

were situate in the prior half. It was also concerned

that a faire allocation of opportunities be made at County

Council level. To treat on these and other matters the

meeting proposed to hold a conference in Ireland in August

of 1979 and that Leitrim Associations from the various centres

in Britain, America and Ireland itself be invited to

attend and that the Leitrim Association in County Leitrim

itself be revitalised.

There was an appeal to Leitrim People in General in London

to support the various Leitrim Functions but especially to

join the Association and become active in order to support

the County and People of Leitrim.

Members were reminded that the St Patrick’s Day parade would

be held this year on Sunday 11th March 1979 starting at

Hourseguards Parade at 2:30 pm and ending in Southwark Cathedral

for Mass in Irish at 3:45 pm., and that the County flag would

be carried and all members to march behind the Leitrim flag.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Dr McKeirnan and Dr Cathal

Daly for their very personal interest in the Leitrim Association

in London and also the Parish and Deanery Associations.