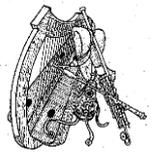




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September 20-12 Newsletter of the

The Darling Downs Irish Club Inc

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1. A.G.M. At members' night last month, the A.G.M was held including the election of officers. Here are the results:

President – Derm Guerin; Vice President. – Paul McGowan; Secretary – Ian Chase; Treasurer – Michael Morison; Committee members – Della Ravenscroft-Mash; Rob Warner, Max Winter, Bob Triggs, Tomas Guerin, Phil Cash, and yours truly, Peter Kenny.

The Report to members included the following matters – in Derm's absence, V.P. Paul chaired the meeting - Bloomsday celebrations; the Annual Dinner; St Brigid's Day luncheon; no Rose of Tralee entrant this year. Do any members know a young lady whom we could nominate?; the Annual St Patrick's Day parade; the inaugural movie day; the need to push for new members especially younger ones; Derm represented the Club at the Ambassador's meeting at Q.I.A; the new hotel roof was completed. David Hooper was once again appointed as the Club's auditor.

Recognition of Derm's presidency and of Fran Frawley's contribution to the Club (Fran is not on the Committee as she is going o/s) were recognised by applause, Greg Gall didn't re-nominate. In general business there was a lot of discussion about the proposed club rooms for members.

2. Club Matters & Members' News & Stories.

- Heard at the August members' gathering:

Paddy and Seamus were hitchhiking. "It's best if we split up," said Paddy. "I will meet you in the next city under the town hall clock.

Later that night Seamus was waiting at the appointed place when Paddy drove up in a Mercedes. "Where the hell did you get that?" Paddy explained that he had just walked a little way when a beautiful woman picked him up and drove off into the woods whereupon she began to take off all her clothes.

"She said I could have anything I wanted, so I took the car."

"Good choice too," said Seamus. "You'd look ridiculous in her clothes."

▪ **The September diary: Full Committee – Thurs. 13th, 7.00pm; Members' night – Friday 28th between 5 & 8 pm** – remember that **drinks vouchers** will be handed out on the night to financial members; **Music sessions** at 7 p.m. on Tuesday **4th** and 18th at 7 p.m. in the Michael Collins Bar. On-lookers welcome.

▪ Last month we held one of the most successful **Annual Dinners** on record. The dinner was enhanced by the attendance of Paul's party celebrating one of his more significant birthdays. Jerry and Duncan provided great music, and the guest speaker, the Hon. John McVeigh, did a good job too. Thanks especially to Fran who did all the decorations and to the hotel staff who prepared a sumptuous meal.

▪ **The planning committee:** Celtic art work in the Celtic Bar now completed. Worth a look next time you are in the hotel; still waiting on quotes for replacements of parts of the flooring in the main bar; we may be cranking up this sub-committee again to look at the [possibility of developing our own club area.

- News from the **August Committee Meeting**

- **1) Membership renewals are due NOW. Some members seem to have missed out on their renewal notices. If this is the case, please send in your fees due anyway;** 2) we will purchase a new cupboard to help with storage of Club materials; 3) Celtic art work in the Celtic Bar was discussed; 4) the menu for the Annual Dinner was agreed upon; 5) arrangements for the AGM were discussed.

3. WWW Sites:

Looking up family? Try the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations at <http://www.cigo.ie/>
<http://www.cigo.ie/wills.html>

You may even find information about wills, date of death, the address, who the executor was and the value of the estate.

Some of this information may be available too from www.nationalarchives.ie

(If you find you have inherited a fortune, I am sure we can come to some arrangement seeing I have put you on the trail!! – ed.)

4. News from Ireland: A couple of months ago in June, Ireland hosted the 50th International Eucharistic Congress. Ireland had hosted the 31st Congress back in 1932 when the whole country came to a standstill with the arrival of the Papal legate, Cardinal Lauri. The present day arrived with little publicity. Nowadays people are increasingly disillusioned with that dominant Church and all the scandals about child abuse that continue to hit the headlines. How things have changed!

5. Know your rule: Item 18 – Meetings of the Management Committee: 12) The president or, if there is no president or if the president is not present within ten (10) minutes after the time fixed for a Management Committee meeting, the vice – president is to preside as chairperson at the meeting.

6. 'Tings 'Oirish.

- **Who said this?** “All the world’s a stage and most of us are desperately unrehearsed.”

(The answer at the end of this newsletter.)

- **This month’s Irish Blessing:**

May the Lord keep you in his hand and never close his fist too tightly.

- **Irish wisdom:**

Circumstances are the rulers of the weak; they are but the instruments of the wise.

- **Oscar Wilde(1854-1900) - monthly comment:**

Morality is simply the attitude we adopt towards people we personally dislike.

- **Another W. B. Yeats’ poem:** “The Circus Animals’ Desertion.” – cont’d:

And then a counter-truth filled out its play,
The Countess Cathleen was the name I gave it,
 She, pity-crazed, had given her soul away

But masterful Heaven had intervened to save it.
 I thought my dear must her own soul destroy
 So did fanaticism and hate enslave it,
 And this brought forth a dream and soon enough
 This dream itself had all my thought and love.

- **This Month’s Limerick:**

There once was a dancer called Jim
 Who was asked, “What keeps you so trim?”
 He replied very gaily,
 “Oi dance a shellalee
 Wid a beginner just tied to each shin.”

7. A bit of Irish History (Mediaeval Ireland) – continued:

This Gaelic infiltration of the Norman colony led to the passing of the Statutes of Kilkenny (1366), an attempt to forbid by legislation the wearing of Gaelic dress, the speaking of Irish or the adoption of various other unspeakable Gaelic attributes by the Anglo-Normans. The statutes were largely ignored.

8. Words from President Derm:

Well it seems I’m your Club President for another year; thanks for your confidence & support. We have one new committee member Della Ravenscroft-Mash, who many of you would have met at our monthly member’s functions; welcome Della.

On a sobering note we are losing two long serving Committee members Fran Frawley & Greg Gall. Fran has been a pillar of strength for the Club being both head of our Social sub-committee, responsible for organising most of our social events, our Rose of Tralee involvement and being our Club Registrar looking after membership matters; Fran’s shoes will be hard to fill. Greg has always been ready to help and led the group who re-wrote our Rules /Constitution. I take this opportunity to thank you both on behalf of the Club and hope you can join us at future Club functions where I can shout you a drink (or two)!

Our first meeting for the new committee will be on the 13th September. One of the tasks at this meeting will be to re-form our Sub-committees, Social, Building & History and to select a new Registrar. Peter Kenny is prepared to continue as editor of “The Shenanigans”, and to head the Building Sub-committee; Tomas Guerin will head the History Sub-committee.

Your Committee will also be investigating the feasibility of establishing our own Club Rooms within the hotel for exclusive use by members.

Diarmuid Guerin



(Answer – Sean O’Casey.)