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Kieran Rose

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT
1980



IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT,
POST OFFICE BOX 739, DUBLIN 8.
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TELEPHONE (01) 786593

IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT
P.O. BOX 739
DUBLIN 8,
IRELAND.

National Headquarters:
18 North Lotts,
(off Batchelors Walk)
Dublin 1.

Cork:
4 McCurtain Street,
(First Floor)
Cork.

Phone (01) 786593 Mon. – Fri. 7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.
Saturday 3.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

CLÁR

SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

SATURDAY 28th. FEBRUARY, 1981 AT 2.30pm. IN THE I.G.R.M. CORK BRANCH PREMISES, 4 McCURTAIN STREET, CORK.

1. REGISTRATION.
2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.
4. CHAIRMANS REPORT.
5. GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.
6. FINANCIAL CONTROLLERS REPORT.
7. NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
8. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
9. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS.
10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT, 1980.

1. 1980 has, in my opinion, been a reasonably successful year in the operation of the I.G.R.M. As the last A.G.M. convened in our Camden Street offices in February, 1980, who could have foretold that the Movement would be in it's present consolidated position a mere twelve months later?

2. One of the first steps following the opening of new offices at 18 North Lotts was the reorganisation of the telephone service. The old name of the service was dropped and Gay Switchboard substituted, partly because of it's better publicity value but also to bring our service into line with those in Europe and America. The Post Office have promised to install a phone in the Cork Branch during March, 1981.

3. An extensive advertising campaign has been undertaken by the Movement to draw attention to it's services, andadvertising was accepted for the first time by the Sunday newspapers, viz. the Sunday Tribune and the Sunday World, thus opening up large publicity opportunities for the I.G.R.M. Advertising has been placed in trade union journals - (I.T.G.W.U., C.S.E.U., P.O.W.U.) and in student journals - (USI NEWS, UCC REVIEW, BULLETIN UCD) as well as in several other papers. A months advertising with Capital Radio yielded a good response. Advertising has also been placed with Spartacus Gay Guide.

4. A telegram to An Taoiseach concerning the rate of suicides among gay people received excellent media exposure and was given full coverage on RTE radio and television news broadcasts. Several interviews resulted in the national press for Officers of the Movement. The alarm expressed over the rate of suicides has subsequently been confirmed by statistics on the general rate of suicides released by the Department of Health. Unfortunately, our representations had little effect on the Government, although Dr. Noel Browne T.D. raised the matter in the Dail on 11th. December, 1980.

5. The Movement was represented at several conferences during the year including the "Friend" gay counselling conference in Belfast (May, 1980), Gay Christian Weekend in Glencree (November, 1980), and the A.G.M. of the Scottish Homosexual Rights Group (January, 1981).

6. I.G.R.M. applied for membership of the International Gay Association in October, 1980. We will be represented at the next I.G.A. meeting in Turin in April, 1981.

7. The L.G.S. Befriending Group applied for use of I.G.R.M. premises in July, 1980. The group have been meeting twice-weekly since then, and have made a valuable contribution to the befriending of new contacts referred by the Gay Switchboard.

8. The Cork Branch reopened it's premises in 4a McCurtain Street, Cork in May, 1980. Financial support was made available from central funds, and the premises has been completely refurbished through voluntary work by Dublin and Cork members. Separate reports on the Branch will be furnished by the Branch Chairman.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT, 1980.

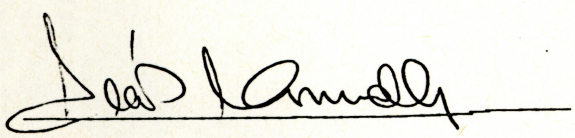
FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES OF THE IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT,
THE FUNCTION OF THE I.G.R.M. NATIONAL CHAIRMAN IS MERELY TO ACT AS A CATALYST BETWEEN THE VARIOUS FORCES AT WORK IN THE MOVEMENT. IN THIS, MY FUNCTION IS INDEED A HAPPY ONE AS I INTRODUCE THE CONTINUING SUCCESS STORY WHICH WILL BE OUTLINED IN IN DEPTH BY THE OTHER NATIONAL OFFICERS.

IN THIS OPENING ADDRESS, I WOULD ONLY ASK YOU TO REMEMBER THAT I.G.R.M. IS MANDATED TO PROVIDE A SERVICE FOR THE HOMOSEXUAL POPULATION AT LARGE AND ACT AS A SPEARHEAD TO PRESS FOR TRUE EQUALITY- EVOLUTION NOT REVOLUTION HAS BEEN OUR MOTTO: WE ARE CONSCIOUS THAT GAY PEOPLE THEMSELVES MAY BE UNSURE OF WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY THEIR'S AND WE HOPE THAT THIS A.G.M. WILL PROVIDE A CONSENSUS OF THOUGHTS AND IDEAS, AS WELL AS THE PRAGMATIC COMBINATION OF METHODS AND INDIVIDUALS NECESSARY TO CARRY ON THE PROGRAMME OF THE MOVEMENT FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

OUR PUBLIC IMAGE CONTINUES TO STRIKE WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE RIGHT BALANCE, AS WILL BE ILLUSTRATED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT. WE HAVE, I FEEL DWELT TOO LIGHTLY ON THE POSITIVE TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP THAT THIS NEW AWARENESS OF THE ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE COULD FOSTER. I HOPE THAT THIS A.G.M. WILL DWELL MORE ON THIS ASPECT OF HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES. IT WOULD BE EASY TO BE NEGATIVE ABOUT THIS ASPECT : ON A COMMUNAL LEVEL THE esprit de corps IS EXCELLENT. FRIENDSHIPS PROVIDE REAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AMONG THOSE WHO WERE STRANGERS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. THIS "EXTENDED FAMILY" CAN BE SEEN IN THE DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING OF THE I.G.R.M. WHERE CONTACT IS MAINTAINED EACH AND EVERY DAY ON MANY LEVELS. HOWEVER, MOTIVATION TO INDIVIDUAL PAIR BONDING- IF THIS BE THE DEFINITIVE INTERPERSONAL ARRANGEMENT, AND I AM OPEN TO IDEAS ON THIS, SEEMS TO BE GIVEN LIP-SERVICE ONLY. THIS MAY NOT AUGUR WELL AND REFLECTS MY IDEA THAT THE IMAGE NEEDS TO BE RIGHT.

YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED THAT, IN THIS REPORT I HAVE SPOKEN SPECIFICALLY OF THE PAST: DELIBERATELY SO, FOR THE FUTURE LIES NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE RE-CONSTITUTED AND EXTENDED COMMITTEE IN WHICH I, AND I AM SURE YOU WILL ALSO, PLACE THE FULLEST CONFIDENCE.

FINALLY, IT IS MY HOPE THAT WE WILL NOT BE DIVERTED FROM THE WORK BEFORE US BY TRIVIAL ASIDES: RECONCILIATION IS THE KEYWORD OF THE EIGHTIES- LET US ALL WORK FOR IT!



SEAN J. CONNOLLY,

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN,

FEBRUARY, 1981.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY/ CONTINUED.

9. As a result of an increase in the number of members living outside either the Dublin/ Cork catchment area, several meetings were arranged in various towns and cities including Drogheda (25 October, 1980), Dundalk (26 October, 1980) and Galway (November, 1980).

10. A new Regional Convenor, Mr. Stan O'Grady has been appointed to deal with correspondence in the Limerick and Clare area. Existing convenors continue to operate as usual, and their dedicated service to the Movement is much appreciated.

11. The English newspaper "Gay News" continues to refuse to list the I.G.R.M. among other national gay organisations, and under gay switchboards, despite the assurances of it's late News Editor Harry Coen. There has been a protracted correspondence with Denis Lemon, Editor of G.N. who has refused to answer recent correspondence and has refused to give fair coverage to the Movement's activities. The matter will receive the attention of the incoming Executive Committee.

12. A submission was made to the Law Reform Commission in September, 1980 regarding the question of a review of the Offences Against the Person Act, 1861 and the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1885. The review of statute law as it concerns assaults to the person will be considered soon by the Commission and representations by the I.G.R.M. will be submitted at that stage.

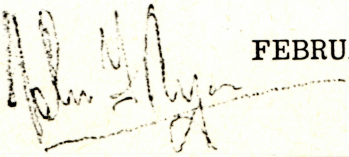
13. The Movement's newsletter In Touch, first published in 1977, is now published in an improved colour format. There is now a greater emphasis on regional news and political items, while a contact page and book review column have also been introduced. Circulation of the newsletter is now at it's highest ever, and the total print order for the February 1981 edition was 3,000.

14. The London Gay Irish Group has made initial contact with the I.G.R.M. and it is proposed to seek as much cooperation as possible between both groups. It is also proposed to make a monetary grant to the London group to enable it to develop it's activities.

15. Discussions have been held with the Eastern Health Board's Psychiatric Services to enable I.G.R.M. to consider the Board's attitude to patients with psycho-sexual problems. Particular attention is being paid to the use of aversion therapy and hormone treatment in the Board's clinics. Discussions are also in progress regarding an introductory lecture by I.G.R.M. Officers on the subject of homosexuality to doctors and other workers in the Psychiatric Services of the E.H.B.

16. The foregoing report has indicated some of the main activities of the Movement in the past year; I hope that more members will take an active interest in the running of the I.G.R.M. over the next year so that we may expand still further on our activities. I would like to thank my colleagues and friends for their support and encouragement.

JOHN RYAN, GENERAL SECRETARY. FEBRUARY, 1981.



REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT, 1980-1981.

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MOVEMENT ON 16th. FEBRUARY, 1980 THE FOLLOWING WERE ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: CLEMENT CLANCY, JOHN COUGHLIN, WILLIAM EASTWOOD, JOHN FOX, RAYMOND KAVANAGH, PATRICK MAHONY-RYSH, JOHN RYAN.

AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON 19th. APRIL, 1980 THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS WERE ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY: CHAIRMAN, TO ROTATE AMONG COMMITTEE MEMBERS. GENERAL SECRETARY, JOHN RYAN. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER, CLEMENT CLANCY. MINUTES SECRETARY, RAYMOND KAVANAGH. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE HELD MONTHLY.

JOHN RYAN RESIGNED HIS POSITION AS GENERAL SECRETARY ON 1st. AUGUST, 1980 BUT RETAINED HIS POSITION ON THE COMMITTEE.

TREVOR NOBLE WAS CO-OPTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON 14th. SEPTEMBER, 1980.

RAYMOND KAVANAGH RESIGNED HIS POSITION ON THE COMMITTEE WITH EFFECT FROM 14th. SEPTEMBER, 1980.

AT THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 3rd. OCTOBER, 1980 THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS WERE RATIFIED: NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, SEAN J. CONNOLLY . GENERAL SECRETARY, JOHN RYAN. FINANCIAL CONTROLLER, CLEMENT CLANCY. MINUTES SECRETARY, WILLIAM EASTWOOD. SOCIAL DIRECTOR, JOHN COUGHLIN.

WILLIAM EASTWOOD RESIGNED HIS POSITION ON THE COMMITTEE WITH EFFECT FROM 6th. NOVEMBER, 1980.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEER HELPERS WHO HAVE HELPED THE MOVEMENT IN IT'S VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN US THEIR SUPPORT OVER THE PAST SEVEN YEARS OF THE MOVEMENT'S OPERATIONS.

ATTENDANCE LIST OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I.G.R.M. 1981/1982.

NAME OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER:	NUMBER OF POSSIBLE ATTENDANCES:	NUMBER OF ACTUAL ATTENDANCES:
CLANCY CLEMENT	11	10
CONNOLLY SEAN J.	11	8
COUGHLIN JOHN J.	11	7
EASTWOOD WILLIAM	7	7
FOX JOHN	11	7
KAVANAGH RAYMOND	5	4
MAHONY-RYHS PATRICK	11	2
NOBLE TREVOR	6	5
RYAN JOHN F.	11	11

THE ABOVE LIST IS FOR RECORD PURPOSES ONLY, AND SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS INDICATIVE OF INTEREST. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT ALL THE ABOVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS WERE CONVENED IN THE DUBLIN AREA.

Trevor J. Noble

TREVOR NOBLE, MINUTES SECRETARY.

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL CONTROLLER OF THE IRISH GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT 1980.

YEAR TO 31st. DECEMBER, 1980

OPENING BALANCE:	461.00	BRANCH PROMOTION:	3974.48
MEMBERSHIPS AND		GAY SWITCHBOARD:	245.05
DONATIONS:	8761.12	POST AND TELEGRAPHS:	542.95
CASH IN BANK:	564.50	OFFICE EXPENSES:	570.53
		ADVERTISING:	2084.77
		ADMINISTRATION:	382.57
		ANNUAL MEMBERS PARTY:	499.72
		CONFERENCE AND GAY	
		WORKSHOPS:	495.57
		CHARITABLE DONATIONS:	260.00
		OTHER ITEMS:	166.48
			9222.12
			564.50
	9786.62	BALANCE:	9786.62

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK:	87.89
BANK OF IRELAND:	296.61
PRIZE BONDS:	180.00
Balance	564.50

SIGNED: J.C. CLANCY,
FINANCIAL CONTROLLER.
FEBRUARY, 1981.