

newsletter



The Bulletin of The Irish Science Fiction Association

May/June 1986

well, quite a lot has happened in the last two months - what with annual general meetings, bean feasts and general how's your father. I suppose I had better give you the bad news first. I'm still the editor of this most excellent publication - so you can expect the standard to remain at the high level to which you have become accustomed. We hope to continue publishing the newsletter over the summer months, although it may be slightly smaller for June and August.

The main news of the last two months was undoubtedly the annual Aisling Gneal prize giving, and this year's do was both a success and a failure.

The bad bit first: SEVERAL ISFA members indicated that they would be attending the supper, and meals were booked for them, but they never turned up! AND we received not a word of excuse or cancellation from them. The net (if you'll pardon the pun) result was that the ISFA had to pay for 10 meals - a tidy £20 - and an amount we would have been far better off spending on worthwhile things like Stargate. Shame on you guilty ones!!!!

But now the good news.

The evening was pronounced a resounding success by all who attended it. The meal was enjoyed by all, and a vote of thanks should be recorded to Frank Hyland of the Parliament Inn who organised it all. There was more than enough for all, and it was of a high standard. It would appear that the format of the Awards' Dinner is going to be an awards' supper for the future. We were lucky to have in our midst our most esteemed patrons Harry Harrison and James White. Anne McCaffrey got the evening wrong, and came on Sunday - but that's another story.

The meeting started with general drinks. John McCarthy did NOT disgrace both himself and us all this year either - the man is a wonder. Brendan Ryder was his usual efficient self on the door - nobody got in who didn't pay - and the rest of the slobbs just drank.

At 9.30 the press arrived. Eoin Bairead did his usual panic - and, again as usual, nobody noticed. It came the moment we had all been waiting for :

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THE RESULTS

The results were read out by Harry Harrison, and the winner was Graham Andrews from Belfast whose story - The Para Present - was judged by all to be well up to professional standards. Graham was on hand to accept his award from Harry, and photos were taken by all and sundry.

The full results were:

Graham Andrews	The Para Present
Donal Hurley	Child of the Age
Hugo Duffy	Ice Mice
Sean Moraghan	By the Balls
Chris O'Connell	Charlie 3 & the Brain

(personal aside: To these 'top 5', and to all those who entered, we extend our heartiest congratulations. The standard was up to the height set last year, and it was a pleasure to read all the twenty five entries.)

The award, by the way, was a really fine piece of copper sculpture by Pierce Mooney. It was suitably engraved for the event, and looked most impressive.

Immediately after the presentation the award was taken off Graham, much against his will, and was presented by James White to John McCartney, last year's winner. Then it was prized off John, and returned to a most worthy winner of this year's competition.

Although there was no meeting as such the following night, some of us turned up at the Parliament Inn anyway. This was fortunate, for Anne McCaffrey turned up by mistake. Then the second big award this year to an ISFA member was presented. At the recent European conference in Italy an award was made for the best work in English by an author writing in Europe. It was won by Anne herself for her book The White Dragon. Congratulations from us all, Anne!

The Sunday evening petered out into maudlin and drink, as seems to be the case with most ISFA affairs, but, withal, it was enjoyable. May next year be as good - but without the absentee diners!

It has been decided to present the members with a list of meeting topics for the next 6 months - from July to December. Naturally, if everything does not go aright for the speakers involved we will ensure that there is a meeting - and an enjoyable one at that!

So here we go:

July	Book Auction.
August	Bring all your unwanted books - we need the money Dr Dave Feegan - The search for extra-terrestrial life
September	Anne McCaffrey
October	John Baxter Probably on SF Film - on which John is renowned world-wide.
November	WorldCon - Boston
December	Talk by the Irish delegation The ISFA annual(sic.) dramatic presentation

Meetings
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The April meeting very nearly wasn't. Due to a misunderstanding (a **** up by the Chairman - AGAIN ed.) the guest speaker did not turn up. It was left to Brendan Ryder to once again fill the gap. This he did most excellently with a talk on his experiences at ALBACON in Edinburgh this Easter. The weekend was most enjoyable, with a wide range of events, and a number of most interesting alternative choices. The only thing that seemed to dissappoint him was the absence of a lady dressed only in a pair of fake wings, the high point, apparently, of the World Con in Brighton.

The Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting was held in Buswells Hotel on the afternoon of Sunday, the 25th of May at 3.00p.m. The meeting was fairly well attended, and proceedings opened with the reading, by the secretary, of the minutes of last year's meeting. We then proceeded to amendments to the constitution, of which there were none. However one point was cleared up which seemed to make the constitution unworkable - the necessity to have yearly meetings more than once a year.

We then had the election. The Committee for next year met after the AGM, and the offices were assigned as follows:

Chairman:	Eoin C. Bairread
Secretary:	Brendan Ryder
Publicity:	Mary Gallagher
Publications:	Rita Meehan
Lord High	
Everything Else:	Pierce Mooney
Librarian(ex officio):	P.J. Gooac

The meeting then moved onto 'any other business'. It was decided to extend membership to the newly formed Belfast Science Fiction Group, the Chairman of which - Graham Andrews - was present at the meeting. Fraternal greetings and felicitations were extended to this group.

It was felt that a conference could be held in Dublin late in 1981, but that the organisation should be initiated immediately. Contact will be made with Bord Failte, and with some central city hotels with a view to making the affair a success for all who might come.

It was felt that the STARGATE prize for the best work in SF for this year should be decided on the basis of completed voting forms, one of which is included with the June Newsletter. The result will be given in the August newsletter.

Finally, it was decided that Paddy O'Connell and Jonn McCarthy, who will be going to the world Con in Boston in August will be ambassadors from the ISFA, and they will be entitled to use the name of the society at all times at the conference.

The meeting came to a close about 4.30, when the participants retired to the hotel bar which had just that minute opened.

(A copy of the latest version of the ISFA constitution is included with this newsletter.)

CONSTITUTION OF THE IRISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

1. The name of the organisation shall be "The Irish Science Fiction Association", herein after referred to as the ISFA.
2. The ISFA shall be administered by a committee herein after referred to as the Committee.
3. The ISFA is a non-party-political, non-sectarian group having as its main aims and objectives:
 - a. To facilitate the enjoyment of SF and its related genres among its members.
 - b. To increase the awareness and status of science fiction in the country
 - c. The provision of a newsletter every two months.
 - d. The provision of a twice yearly magazine to which members are encouraged to contribute.
 - e. The provision of an SF lending library.
 - f. The provision of regular members' meetings and, where possible, to invite guest speakers to address the members on topics relating to Science Fiction.
 - g. Any other activity acceptable to the Committee conducive to the furtherance of the main aims and objects of the ISFA.

Members

4.
 - a. Any person wishing to become a member of the ISFA shall apply to the Secretary in writing, and shall, as a condition of membership, accept the aims and objects of the organisation.
 - b. No person under the age of 16 years shall be admitted to membership without the written agreement of a parent or guardian.
 - c. Every member shall pay an annual subscription of an amount which shall be fixed by the Committee. There shall be a junior membership rate. A person shall be deemed a junior if he or she is under 16 years on the date of application or renewal.
 - d. New memberships shall be from the date of application (subject to subsequent acceptance of application); renewed memberships shall run for one year from the date that renewal fell due.

General Meetings

5. The ISFA shall in each year hold a General Meeting of members as its Annual General Meeting, and not more than thirteen (13) months shall elapse between the date of one Annual General Meeting and that of the next. The Annual general Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint.
6. All General Meetings other than the Annual General Meeting shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings.
7. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the

Committee or by written request to the secretary of twenty (20) members of the ISFA.

8. An Annual General Meeting, Extraordinary General Meeting and a meeting called for the passing of a special resolution shall be called by at least 21 days notice in writing to those entitled to receive such notice, specifying the place, day and hour of meeting, and the general nature of the business.

Procedure at General Meetings

9. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of ten (10) members shall be present.
10. The Chairman of the ISFA shall preside at any General Meeting of the ISFA, or, if he is unwilling to act, or is not present, the Committee shall elect one of their number to be Chairman of the meeting. If a Committee member is unwilling to act, the members present shall choose one of their number to be Chairman.
11. The Chairman may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, providing always that no business not already forming part of the Agenda of the meeting so adjourned be discussed at the re-convened meeting.
12. At any General Meeting, a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded by at least one (1) member present in person or by proxy, and, in the case of a poll, the Chairman shall appoint Tellers, nominated by the those present at the meeting from among their number.
13. Resolutions shall be decided by a simple majority vote, and recorded in a book of minutes which shall be kept by the Secretary.
14. Where there is an equality of votes, the Chairman of a meeting shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.
15. The Annual General Meeting shall consider Accounts, Reports from the Committee, Election of Committee members and appointment of Auditors, and other business.
16. Alteration to this Constitution shall be affected only by a Special Resolution of a General Meeting.

Votes of Members

17. Every member of the ISFA shall have one vote. However, individuals must have been a member of the ISFA for at least two months preceding an Annual General Meeting, subject to the verification of the Committee.
18. No member of the ISFA shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting unless all monies immediately payable by him to the ISFA have been paid.
19. No objection to the qualification of any voter shall be made except at the meeting at which the vote is being cast. The Chairman of the meeting shall decide finally and conclusively on the validity of the objection, subject to a two-thirds (2/3) majority poll vote of those members present.

- 20. The first order of business at a General Meeting shall be the presentation and verification of proxies. The total amount of proxies outstanding shall then be announced to the meeting at large. Votes may be given personally or by proxy; in the event of a vote by count of hand, if the sum of the number of minority votes cast plus the number of proxies presented exceeds or equals the number of majority votes cast, a poll shall automatically result. Therefore, a count of hand votes must be announced. The second order of business shall be that the meeting adopt an Agenda.
- 21. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form, or as near thereto as circumstances permit, and shall be sent with all notices of General Meetings to those entitled to receive such notices.

The Irish Science Fiction Association

I, of
 being a member of the ISFA, hereby appoint
 (being a member of the
 ISFA) of, or, failing him,
 (being a member of the ISFA) as
 my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the (Annual or
 Extraordinary, as the case may be) General Meeting to be
 held on the ...day of, 19... and at any
 adjournment thereof. Signed this ...day of,
 19...

(Signature)..... This form is to be used *
 in favour of / against the resolution(s). Unless
 otherwise instructed, the proxy will vote as he thinks
 fit. (* Strike out whichever is not desired).

- 22. The instrument appointing the proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll.

The Committee

- 23. Not more than six (6) members of the ISFA shall be elected either by personal vote or by proxy at the Annual General Meeting of the ISFA.
- 24. No member shall be eligible for membership on the Committee unless such member has been a member in good standing at least through the calendar year preceding the date of the AGM, except when there is a two thirds (2/3) poll vote in favour of extending special qualification to a member who might not meet this criterion.
- 25. The Committee shall keep minutes of all meetings. A record shall be kept of (a) all appointments of officers made by the Committee, (b) of the names of those present at each meeting, and (c) of all resolutions and proceedings at each meeting.

Disqualification of Committee Members

26. The office of Committee Member shall be vacated if the member (a) resigns his office in writing, (b) is convicted of an indictable offence, unless the Committee otherwise determine, (c) is adjudged bankrupt, (d) over a period of time and for no specified reason fails to carry out the duties agreed to on membership of the Committee, when so determined by a majority vote of the Committee, or (e) behaves in a manner detrimental to the aims and objects of the ISFA.
27. A Committee Member shall vacate his office under (b), (c), (d) or (e) above on a majority decision of the Committee requesting him, in writing, to do so, and conveyed to him by the Secretary, and he shall have the right of appeal to an Extraordinary General Meeting of the ISFA called under section 7 of this constitution.

Powers of Committee

28. The Committee may, at its discretion, and with the consent of those so co-opted, co-opt on a majority decision not more than four (4) persons to its membership --- to serve until the following AGM. Those co-opted shall have no voting power upon the Committee, unless they are so co-opted to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation or removal of a Committee Member.
29. The Committee may, at its discretion, appoint (subject to the person's or persons' agreement) subcommittees for specific purposes. Any such subcommittee shall continue in office until dissolved by the Committee, and shall conform to any regulations that may be imposed on it by the Committee, and may co-opt to its own membership subject to the approval of the Committee. Subcommittees so formed shall keep records of all business transacted, and shall submit reports to the Committee for presentation to the Annual General Meeting.
30. The Chairman shall be, and a Committee Member may be, ex officio, a member of any subcommittee formed under section 29 above.
31. The Committee may meet together to conduct business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority vote of those present. Where there is an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
32. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the Committee shall be no less than three (3).
33. As soon as possible after each Annual General Meeting the Committee shall meet and shall elect from its number a Chairman who will be Chairman of the ISFA.
34. The Chairman, or his appointee, shall be chairman of all meetings of the Committee.
35. At the meeting at which the Committee shall elect the Chairman they shall also appoint from their number a Secretary, Financial Controller, Librarian and other such offices as they deem desirable. The Committee may likewise remove the persons so appointed from such offices.
36. The Chairman, Secretary and Financial Controller shall serve

for one year, and the Librarian for two years, and all four shall be eligible for re-election to the Committee on the expiry of their offices. All other Committee members, including those who may have been co-opted, shall retire at the AGM following their assuming office, but shall be eligible for re-election.

37. The Committee shall cause proper books of account to be kept relating to (a) all sums of money received and expended by the ISFA and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure took place, (b) all sales and purchases of goods by the ISFA and (c) the assets and liabilities of the ISFA.
38. Access to all records of all Committee, subcommittee, AG and EG meetings shall be available only to members of the Committee, who shall treat such records as wholly confidential. (For the purposes of this article "records" shall be taken to mean all correspondence, minutes of Committee meetings and any document in the possession of Committee or subcommittees of the ISFA, whether written or recorded electronically or by any other means)
39. The Committee may, at its discretion, however, and within the bounds of confidentiality, determine the conditions and regulations under which the accounts, books and records of the ISFA shall be open to inspection of members not being Committee Members, or to non-members.
40. The Committee shall cause to be laid before the Annual General Meeting of the ISFA all profit and loss accounts, balance sheets, group accounts and reports.
41. A copy of every balance sheet, report etcetera as in section 40 above shall be circulated not less than twenty one (21) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting to every member entitled to receive such.
42. When an Auditor has been demanded by a majority vote of an AGM or EGM, such person shall be a qualified accountant requested by the Committee, on behalf of the members of the Association, to certify the accounts of the Association.
43. Notice of every General Meeting shall be given to every person entitled to receive such notice.
44. The Committee may not refuse the application of a new member without good reason which must be given to the applicant in writing. This refusal may be overruled by a majority vote at the AGM or EGM.
45. Honorary Life Membership of the ISFA shall be offered subject to the approval of the members present at an AGM.
46. The Library shall be administered by the Librarian subject to the discretion and within the approval of the Committee.